

Mount Garfield Middle School



Hal Templeton, Principal | Rocio Roybal, AP | Jared Burek, AP | Lori Thompson, Secretary | Valerie Mendoza, Secretary

Important Dates

Fall Break – NO SCHOOL

October 3rd- 7th , 2016

Girls Basketball begins

October 10th, 2016

Teacher Work Day – NO SCHOOL

October 17th, 2016

Student Picture Retakes

October 19th, 2016 7:30 am

Parent/Teacher Conferences

October 26th, 2016 PM only
(3:00 to 7:00 pm)

Parent/Teacher Conferences

October 27th, 2016 (7:30 –
3:30 pm) NO SCHOOL

Non-Contact Day – NO SCHOOL

October 28th, 2016

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A Message From The Principal

Dear Mt. Garfield Families,

Time flies when you are having fun. We are already winding down 1st quarter. Fall break, volleyball, and concerts (Band, Choir, and Orchestra) all took place the week before break. October 14th marks the end of 1st quarter. Our staff and students have been busy! Throughout the quarter our students have worked very hard and have been focusing on various classroom learning targets and activities. We held our first Parent Teacher Conferences mid-September. If you were able to attend, we thank you and look forward to seeing each of you at the next conference. Please mark your calendars for our next round of Parent Teacher Conferences, Wednesday, October 26th, from 3:00 to 7:00 and Thursday, October 27th from 7:30 to 3:00.

In order to learn more about student's perceptions of their own Social Emotional Learning (SEL) skills in District 51, we will be asking our students to complete a SEL self-assessment this month. Education research has shown that social and emotional learning matters for student achievement and well-being. It is no longer enough to focus only on developing and measuring academic competencies in school because success in today's society requires a broader set of skills. The district has chosen the Panorama self-assessment tool to strengthen our understanding of student needs. The tool offers students the opportunity to voice their needs and guide our efforts to support them. It shouldn't take students more than a few minutes to complete, and will be an invaluable source of information for us as we work to make our school better than ever. If you have any questions about the administration of this assessment, please don't hesitate to contact us.

A big thank you to all of the families that helped with our annual fundraiser. The students had a successful event and the funds will be used to purchase items to enhance outside lunch recess for all. Consumables like basketballs, frisbees, and footballs are on the list. As well as, consideration of more permanent structures like picnic tables.

The Mount Garfield staff would like to thank you for your partnership in the education of your children. As a staff, we are dedicated to helping your student grow academically and socially.

Regards,
Mount Garfield Staff

From the GRIT Desk:

The GRIT students have been hard at work learning and applying the tutorial process—mostly to get assistance with math! The 8th graders especially are rocking at getting those questions answered and then retesting on their computation quizzes—it is great for the students and myself to see their improvements each week. We have done some fun team building like emoji pictictionary—where students created emoji “stories” that the rest of us had to guess about.

Another big learning focus has been our brain—how does it work, how do we grow it, what effort means, how to be meta-cognitive—so ask your child about these and how you can support them!

I would like to start some career exploration with the classes...If you or anyone you know might be good career speakers for our students, please get in touch with me at the school—we would love for you to come in (amy.deschamp@d51schools.org).

Check it out... some of our whiteboard Wednesday discussions:



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CORE 8-2 NEWS:

Core 8-2 and Mrs. DeCavitch, Ms. Piccillo, Ms. Walker and Mr. Shelp will be hiking to Colorado National Monument on Thursday, September 29th to view the desert big horn sheep with Park Rangers on the Lower Monument Trail. A separate bus will be going to the Mica Mine to work with the DOW on the geology and water quality of the area. Students should expect a great show of fall foliage, wildlife and experiencing the thrill of an outdoor “classroom”. Funding for these trips comes from the DOW and the Colorado National Monument. We would like to thank each of them. This is a wonderful opportunity for our students.

HONORS:

Greetings from Honors Math land. We’re still working hard remembering that struggling and mistakes grow our brains and help us achieve more. Here’s what’s happening in each class:

6th grade: We are learning order of operations and using it to solve problems.

7th grade: We are working on surface area and volume of prisms, and in a few weeks will be transitioning into linear equations.

Math 1: We are spending time learning what defines a “function” and how to determine whether a relation is a function. We will be working on features of functions for a few more weeks.

As always, it is my pleasure to be able to spend time with your students. Please don’t hesitate to contact me if you have questions or concerns.

Rebekah

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T H E R E ' S O N L Y O N E

MESA CLUB NEWS:

MESA Club is off to a great start this year. We have our largest group of students yet, and we couldn't be happier.

We have our first competition coming up on October 13th. It is our Milk Jug Boat competition that is being held at the Orchard Mesa Pool. Teams of 6-8 students design and build a boat from two 8-foot pieces of 1"x2", about 2 meters of duct tape, and 20 milk jugs. The teams have to push their boat across the pool while swimming. On the opposite side of the pool they have to have their castaway climb onto the raft and then push the boat back to the opposite side. The team that completes this journey the quickest without having the passenger fall into the water is our winner!

Our next competition is set only a week later on October 20th. It is our Pop Bottle Rocket Competition at Fruita 8/9. We've had our teams researching and planning designs for several weeks, and we're now in the building stages of our rockets.

Each year MESA Club hosts an after school dance as our fundraiser. This year the dance is scheduled for Friday, December 9th. It is held here at Mt. Garfield Middle School in our gym. There will be a DJ, lights, music, smoke machines, and snacks. Tickets go on sale the week before the dance. Check back next month for more information.

Ready, Set, Smile! Get your yearbook now!

The push is on to purchase a yearbook. Yearbooks are still available! The only way to guarantee that your student will get one is if it is prepaid and there are many payment options available. You may purchase a yearbook by paying with cash, check or with a credit/debit card at the MGMS budget office. You may also pay with a credit/debit card over the phone by calling (970) 254-4720 Ext. 37112. In addition, you may order on-line at jostensyearbooks.com. This option gives you the ability to personalize the book with a name, slogan, quote or whatever you wish. As well as select up to four (4) icons to have printed on the book. This will be done in metallic print! Icons include sports and academics as options. There is also a link to purchase a yearbook on the MGMS home page at the very bottom. The cost is currently \$25.00, but will increase to \$28.00 on January 3rd, 2017. So, order your yearbook prior to the holiday break!



Once the books are sold out, we cannot order any more. Your student will have a lifetime of memories in this forty (40) page, full color, hardback book!

Don't wait any longer. Order today by calling or stopping by the MGMS budget office, or on-line with Jostens!

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M.G.M.S. P.E. Happenings

Gators Physical Education is off to a strong start. We have a boys P.E. Teacher, Mr. Reiners joining our program!!!! He will join Mrs. Edmiston in teaching 6th, 7th, and 8th grade co-ed physical education. We are so lucky to have him. It allows the P.E. setting to offer more variety, flexibility and safety! Welcome Mr. Reiners!!!



In the first quarter, students have been busy performing fitness assessments to measure flexibility, cardio vascular strength and endurance, upper body strength and endurance, lower body strength, speed and agility. As the assessments were completed the games began, where students work cooperatively to become successful team members. Activities done this quarter have been flag football, volleyball, Z ball and spike ball. Upcoming activities are gator ball and basketball.

Physical education students are required to dress out daily in shorts, t-shirt, and tennis shoes that tie and come with a good attitude ready to be challenged and have fun.

We have students that may not have the necessary clothing to be successful in P.E. Although we do have limited clothing for their use, if your family has shorts, t-shirts or shoes that are not needed or being used, we would encourage you to donate them to our program.

If you have M.G.M.S. P.E. clothing at your home that your student has borrowed, please return them to our P.E. Department so other students may use them.

Thanks,
Eve Edmiston & Erik Reiners
MGMS P.E. Teachers

BAND NEWS:

The MGMS Bands have had a busy fall so far! The 6th grade first recital was a success again this year, with the kids having an opportunity to show what they have learned so far.



The 7th and 8th grade bands performed their annual Combined Clinic/Concert with Orchard Mesa Middle School. They performed some challenging pieces.

The Rock and Lock fundraiser is coming up on October 26th, so please help our program any way you can by supporting these students. Also, make sure to “like” the Mt. Garfield Middle School Bands Facebook page. You will find schedules, updates and other fun things on there!



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