



WESTERN SIERRA CHARTER SCHOOLS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

WSCS News	1
Glacier High School News	5
Mountain Home School News	8

MOUNTAIN HOME SCHOOL CHARTER & GLACIER HIGH SCHOOL CHARTER
Personalized Learning Public Charter Schools

Fresno Resource Center

NEWSLETTER

April 2020



MARK YOUR CALENDAR IMPORTANT DATES

APRIL

- April 6 - 13** • Spring Break: School closed
- April 10** • SENIORS: Last day to turn in questionnaire and senior portrait
- April 17** • Attendance #9 Due

*All other previously scheduled events and activities pending federal, state and local mandates and/or guidelines

*Please see "Counselor's Corner" inside for important reminders for seniors

Please check Parent Square messages for more information on schedules and events

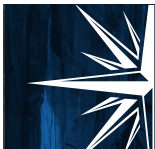
ALL SUBSEQUENT ACTIVITIES PENDING
FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL MANDATES
AND/OR GUIDELINES.



*" There is geometry in the humming of the strings,
there is music in the spacing of the spheres."
(Pythagoras)*

ATTENDANCE
FORMS





A MESSAGE *from the Administration*

Hello Fresno families,

Below are a few updates regarding communication and online classes. However, we first wanted to express our gratitude to all of you for your patience, grace and understanding as we all adjust to our new reality. We know that, for many of you, these are difficult times. Unfortunately some of our families have lost employment or are working in essential high risk jobs to help and protect our communities as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. We hope that your family is safe and healthy and that you are all able to continue “homeschooling” and spending time with your loved ones. Again, thank you for choosing us, as your educational partner!

Office Hours Update - We are currently closed (no office hours) and will notify all of you (through ParentSquare) with any changes.

Ways to still communicate with our WSCS Fresno Staff:

1. Via email (preferred method). Our Advising teachers and most of our staff is still available during normal business hours via email.
2. Leave a voicemail- you may still call the office and leave a voicemail to the staff person you are trying to contact. Staff has access to check their voicemail from home, however this might be the slowest means of communication.
3. Send a Parent Square Message. This notifies staff in the same way as an email would.

Ways to drop off attendance and student work:

1. Use “Mail Drop” located on the East building, left front door. Please make sure you place work/attendance inside an envelope and label with your Advising Teacher’s name or preferred recipient’s name.
2. Fax to **559-248-0482** (Make sure you indicate which staff member should receive fax)
3. Mail to **777 W Shaw Ave Fresno Ca 93704** (Make sure you indicate which staff member should receive mail).
4. Scan/take pictures of attendance/work samples and email to your Advising Teacher.

**Please communicate with your Advising Teacher what you have chosen to do.*

Online Classes Update:

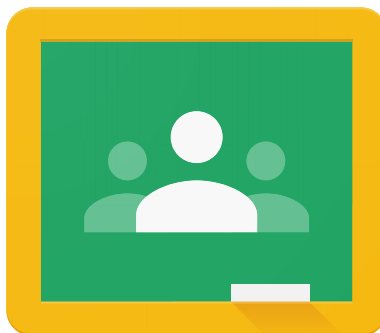
All of our *formerly onsite* math classes and Glacier High classes have transitioned to a “Google Class” and you should be in communication with the class teacher. Please do not hesitate to ask questions and keep up with communication regarding your child’s google classes.

Again thank you for your hard work and dedication. We can do this!

Eric Hagen and Nancy Garcia



WSCS *Educational Online Resources*



WSCS Educational Online Resources - Parent Google Classroom!

Western Sierra Charter Schools teachers have put together a google classroom (for parents) designed to be a centralized resource for all of our families to use to access quality online educational resources during this unprecedented time. These sites, and resources have all been reviewed and vetted as best as possible by our WSCS teachers, and are deemed as quality sites to use for your educational needs. The launch of this parent google classroom is exciting for all of us that need direction on quality online educational resources!

How can you have access to this "WSCS Educational Online Resources" Google classroom?

If you would like to be added to this google classroom, simply email your Advising Teacher. He/She will then send you an invite and add you as a "student." Please note that once you are part of this classroom, you may receive notifications when a new online resource is added/modified.

What can you expect to see in this google classroom?

You will see various educational online resources that have been organized, for your convenience by subjects.

You will notice that sites that provide a large range of materials can be found in the "General Resource" heading.

What should I do if I have an educational online site/resource to recommend?

Please email your Advising Teacher with any educational resources you would like to recommend. They will then review and vet to the best of their knowledge this recommendation and posit it in the classroom once this recommendation is verified.

What should I do if I find something wrong with any of the recommended online resources in this google classroom?

Although our teachers are vetting these online resources to the best of their ability, it is possible that some sites might not work properly or have changed since they were first reviewed. Please practice due diligence and preview these resources first before allowing your child to have access to them. Notify your Advising Teacher as soon as possible if you have any concerns with any of the resources listed in this classroom.



FEATURED FAMILY

Meet the Appleby Family!

Stephanie Ganzenhuber



The Applebys came to Mountain Home School Charter a few years ago, when their oldest child was in Kindergarten. Their decision to homeschool was made gradually from the time their first born was a toddler. Both Josh and Laura had grown up in the traditional school system and were academically successful, but they realized that the school environment had changed a lot since they were children. Before starting a family, Laura was an elementary school teacher, and although she worked extremely hard to teach all students in the best way possible, she often felt disheartened by the stress that both teachers and students were experiencing. Josh and Laura wanted the freedom to have their children learn at their own pace, using whatever method seemed to work best for each child. Their desire was that their children would have time and space to be creative and to learn and experience life together as a family. Incorporating faith into their children's education was also very important.

When the discussions first began regarding homeschooling, they had a two-year-old and a newborn and thought that they were going to be a family of 4 forever. A couple

of years later, when their oldest daughter was getting closer to school age, daughter number three arrived, and they seriously reconsidered homeschooling. Their thoughts rushed to "When in the world would Laura have time to teach lessons with a baby?" Fast forward and now with four girls, all approximately two years apart, they are still homeschooling! She stated, "Yes, it gets crazy at times". The days when her older girls get the most "schooling" done are the days when the house looks like a tornado blew through it (the two littles ones being the "tornado.") Yet somehow, she still loves the freedom that homeschooling allows.

One thing she loves about homeschooling through Mountain Home School Charter is the ability to switch curriculum mid-year if something is not a good fit for their children. She recalls that when she was taught in the traditional setting, she didn't have the option to switch curriculum even if it wasn't working well for most of the class! Another thing she loves are the enrichment classes that our school offers, and the flexibility of choosing how many classes the children will attend on their enrichment day.

Mrs. Appleby has a few pieces of advice for families that are new to homeschooling: "First of all, if your child is in the lower grades, especially kindergarten, relax and do a little less structured schoolwork than you think you need to do. Keep direct lessons short and give many breaks." Another thing that has worked well for them is setting a routine for the day, or week, but being flexible within that routine. She encourages families new to this type of schooling, to "Talk to other homeschooling parents and get good ideas, but always do what works best for you and your family. And take time to befriend other homeschool families. There are plenty of co-ops, park day meet ups, field trip groups, etc. in the Fresno area. Take your job of homeschooling seriously, but also have a lot of fun."



GLACIER HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

I WAS SAD THAT PROM WAS CANCELED TOO

Photo by Bharathi Kannan on Unsplash



*A note from Oakhurst GHS Leadership teacher,
Kaylene Friesen:*

At 9:30 in the morning on March 12, I wrote a post to the Oakhurst Leadership students telling them how much I appreciated all of the time and energy and creativity everyone had put toward this year's prom and going over the schedule for March 14th, the day of the Enchanted Forest prom. Everything was ready and we were super excited that so many students had purchased tickets!

Then we received Mr. Cox's announcement just after noon and I think he summed up the situation very well when he said, "The health and safety of our students, families, and staff is our very highest priority."

I completely understand that you might have felt a variety of emotions when you heard that prom was canceled. Frustration. Sadness. Anger. Exasperation. Some of you may have rented a tux or a limo and I hope that your money was refunded when you mentioned that your

school had to cancel prom due to the coronavirus. When we contacted various vendors to let them know about the change, we were met with understanding and grace. The money paid out for desserts was completely refunded. The deposits we had put down for the venue are being credited toward future events and we aren't being charged for the food that was already purchased for our dinners since the restaurant will be able to use it. I feel blessed by these responses and our ASB account is in good shape.

Mr. Cox also said, "There is a possibility that we will be able to reschedule the Prom for a future date, perhaps in May. However, we obviously have no guarantees that we can make those arrangements. If you would like a refund for the cost of your ticket please see Cheryl or Marianne. Alternatively, we can hold off temporarily on your refund to see if we are able to reschedule the dance."

I promise you that we will keep an eye on the factors that made it necessary to cancel prom and if they move in the right direction, the Leadership classes and staff from both sites will do our very best to make it happen. There are, of course, other factors that would need to line up as well. Things like lining up a venue, the school's calendar, the time that Leadership families and students have available, etc. We want to dance in the Enchanted Forest too and are going to do our very best to provide a fun celebration for the GHS community if that is possible. Thank you very much for understanding.



ATTENTION SENIORS

Yearbook Portrait & Questionnaire

**DUE
APRIL 10TH**

Seniors please fill out questionnaire that has been sent to your school email. Please include your senior portrait that you wish to be displayed in the yearbook. If you do not provide your own senior portrait, your student ID photo will be used.

Email your questionnaire and portrait to Yearbook teacher Mrs. Tu at
jtu@wscsfamily.org

Please provide JPG format for your portrait.

CLASS OF

2020



COUNSELOR'S CORNER

with Greg Hill

Important dates/deadlines:

Local Community College Applications

Time is ticking....Seniors interested in attending one of our local community colleges should apply with priority registration through the "Registration To Go Program": SCCC (Fresno City, Oakhurst Center, Madera Center, Clovis Community, Reedley College)

Local Community College "Registration To Go" Steps

1. Application: Do ASAP (Should be completed)
2. Online Orientation: (Should be completed)
3. Counseling / Advising : (See community college counselor now)
4. Registration for classes: April if above steps are completed

*Community College is free when you enroll in at least 12 units and fill out the FAFSA.

FAFSA AND MONEY MATTERS (APPLY ASAP)

All seniors planning on attending any college or a career technical school:

FAFSA application opened October 1st, 2019.

www.fafsa.ed.gov

JUNIORS: SAT / ACT Test REGISTRATION It's time for juniors to register for the SAT and or ACT Test if interested in attending a 4-year university directly after high school. It is a required admissions test. Collegeboard recommends Juniors take it in the Spring and Seniors take it in the Fall. Go to collegeboard.com or actstudent.org to register.

A note from collegeboard:

"We have not yet canceled the June 6, 2020 SAT administration and will continue to assess its status, with the health and safety of students and educators as our top priority. We are also exploring the possibility of adding an international SAT administration later this school year."

Resources and Support:

To help students keep their college readiness skills sharp when many schools are closed, College Board and Khan Academy will continue to provide free resources online, including full-length practice tests and personalized learning tools.





MOUNTAIN HOME SCHOOL NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS *to our Cross Country Runners!*



Great job to all
participants in the
Mountain Area Cross
Country season this
year!



I'Zaya Jones
Ciera Velasquez
Parker Lucich
Noah Ciapessoni
Antonio Fortunato
Samuel Patterson
Adee Fouch
Olivia LeRoy
Anthony Aguirre





TIP OF THE MONTH

Making Math Relevant and Meaningful

Nancy Flynn



The glory of math surrounds us every day! Encouraging your child in math is exponentially more important than just explaining homework problems. We are immersed in math in all aspects of life, whether we are young or less young. Furthermore, there are so many incredibly fun activities to stretch your child's math skills and make math meaningful and relevant. Here are just a few examples:

◆ **Reading Books that Integrate Math Concepts:**

From "One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish" to the "Sir Cumference" book series, there are many opportunities to explore literature and mathematical thinking.

◆ **Family Game Time:** Games like Uno, cards, Checkers, Chess, Connect Four, Monopoly, Chutes and Ladders, Math Bingo, all develop strategic thinking, problem solving, and number sense. Mobi and Shut the Box are two excellent math games that increase math skills while having fun.

◆ **Cooking:** Preparing food is practice in measurement, following a step by step guide and monitoring time frames. Doubling a Rice Krispie treat recipe is multiplication. Dividing pizza slices or plate of cookies so that each person gets the same amount makes division relevant. So many math life skills here!

◆ **Gardening:** Measuring how far apart or how deep to plant seeds, calculating germination rates are exercises in math skills. Allot each child a 3 x 3 area to

plant some snow peas or carrots (check out the beautiful daffodils at school! The Friday Math Lunch Bunch dug holes to the correct depth, planted the bulbs, and are measuring them weekly to document the growth!) Telling Time: Analog clocks are still around. Counting minutes, half hours and hours all describe that telling time is real-life fractions!

◆ **Using Money:** If your child gets an allowance, help them keep a chart of money coming in and money spent. Help them open a savings account. Compare prices at the grocery store. Take your child and a friend to the thrift store. Allot them each \$10 to buy an outfit for each other or to buy a gift for each person in the family. A video game is 20% off of \$50; ask your Course 2 student what the discount is! Integrate budgeting, estimating, and creativity!

◆ **Art Projects:** So much art incorporates math! Paper triangles/squares/circles turn into a collage. For older kids, help them create a tessellation (google how-to). So many ideas on-line!

◆ **Music:** Use rhythm, tempo, beats, clapping, note value and drumming to incorporate math. Music and math are so interwoven!

Math surrounds us. It teaches us to reason, think logically, and it increases our problem-solving skills. Whether you count flower petals to draw a picture, study the hexagonal shape of honeycombs in a beehive, challenge your child to buy ingredients for a family dinner with a limit, notice shapes of signs, or count the minutes for the turn lane green arrow - math becomes relevant.

Back to explaining those homework problems: Encourage your child to draw/diagram the problem if possible. Use pennies, Legos, or counters to devise a strategy. Studying parallel lines and a transversal? Park Hot Wheel cars of specific colors in specific pairs of angles. There are many ways to solve problems while having fun - get creative! In this way, all children are successful at math!

STAFF DIRECTORY

Fresno Resource Center

777 Shaw Ave • Fresno, CA 93704

Phone 559-248-0471 **Fax** 559-248-0482

NAME	EXTENSION	PRIMARY ASSIGNMENT
Eric Hagen	203	Fresno Principal/Tech Admin
Nancy Garcia	202	Co-Principal Fresno
Marianne Lord	200	WSCS Admin Secretary
Rosanna Carrasco	222	WSCS Receptionist
Amanda Patterson	216	Mountain Home Teacher
Brandon Mallard	229	Adjunct Teacher - MHS and GHS
Brook Hirata	204	Mountain Home Teacher
Christine Neptune	210	Mountain Home Teacher/Special Ed
Diane Vaccaro	206	Mountain Home and GHS Leadership
Grace Reeve	201	Glacier High Teacher and MHS Science
Greg Hill	220	Guidance Counselor
Irina Buca	205	Glacier High Teacher
Kathy Specht	225	Mountain Home Teacher
Margaret Den Hartog	207	Mountain Home Teacher
Nancy Flynn	228	Math Adjunct Teacher/Tutor
Nancy Turner	217	Mountain Home Teacher
Phil Blas	218	CTE Teacher/IT Coordinator
Sandra Hammond	215	Mountain Home Teacher
Sonny Yang	208	Glacier High Teacher
Stacey Broussard	224	Glacier High Teacher
Stephanie Ganzenhuber	209	Mountain Home Teacher
Susan Huey	226	Mountain Home Teacher
Michael Cox	(559) 642-1422 ext. 102	WSCS Director
Jody Jeffers	(559) 642-1422 ext. 117	Chief Business Officer
Cheryl Wilhite	(559) 642-1422 ext 100	Administrative Secretary
Machelle Arrington	(559) 642-1422 ext 120	Special Ed Administrator
Sarah Zimmer	(559) 642-1422 ext 123	Speech

Email addresses for all staff are: first initial and last name @wscsfamily.org (no spaces)

SUPPORT STAFF

Mrs. Gaviria - Spanish • Mrs. Llanos - K Teacher • Mr. Mena - Music

Ms. Kelly Lord - Office and TA • Mr. McGough - Integrated Drawing/Art • Bee Lor- Custodian