



# WESTERN SIERRA CHARTER SCHOOLS

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

Fresno Resource Center

# NEWSLETTER

February 2020



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR IMPORTANT DATES

### FEBRUARY

- Feb. 3** • Early Bird Ticket Sales begin for Prom - Cost will be approximately \$50 per ticket
- Feb. 5** • 8th Grade Catalina payment due
- Feb. 6** • Peach Blossom Festival Try-outs
- Feb. 7** • P.E. Days: No Friday MHS Classes
- Feb. 12** • FUSD Board Meeting  
• Poetry Out Loud County Competition
- Feb. 13** • Deadline to RSVP on Peach Blossom Festival
- Feb. 17 - 21** • No School (Presidents Week)
- Feb. 19** • Skiing/Snowboarding Day at China Peak
- Feb. 21** • Attendance 7 due
- Feb. 28** • Spelling Bee in Oakhurst

### MARCH

- Mar. 5** • Talent Show
- Mar. 11** • 8th Grade Catalina Payment due  
• First day of Peach Blossom Festival
- Mar. 12** • Second day of Peach Blossom Festival
- Mar. 14** • GHS Prom - SAVE THE DATE FOR PROM: Enchanted Forest! GHS proms are open to ALL high school students & Guest Passes are available on the school website



*“The best thing one can do when it's raining is to let it rain.”*  
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### WSCS BOARD MEETING

March 10th, 2020 at 2:30pm • Oakhurst Campus

The agenda will be posted by the front door; also available @ [wscsfamily.org](http://wscsfamily.org)  
Teleconferencing available at Fresno Campus in Rm. 3

ATTENDANCE  
FORMS





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## FEATURED FAMILY

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### *Meet the Lor Family!*

*Kathy Specht*



Our school has welcomed many new families this year, including some who have just started their homeschooling adventure. One of these amazing families are the Lors. Dad, Bee, and mom, Kalia believe that the homeschooling experience offered at Western Sierra Charter School was the best educational option for their children Yuna (6th grade) and Tong Chi (1st grade). They also have a preschool aged son and are excited to welcome another baby soon!

The Lors feel that homeschooling allows them to provide strong adult guidance, good friendships, and the

development of moral values that are important to their family. No matter what circumstances or situations in life come their way, they want to teach their children that they “stick together as a family,” and homeschooling is an extension of this. The Lors also enjoy working as a team toward their goal of growing in their faith as well as helping and sharing with others.

Yuna and Tong Chi love their enrichment classes. The Lors appreciate the smaller class sizes and know their children are receiving individualized attention that can help them become successful learners. Yuna enjoys the fact that the other students at our school are respectful. Tong Chi loves waking up on Wednesdays because he knows he has class that morning. Sometimes he even has a hard time going to sleep on Tuesday night, or wakes up very early on Wednesday morning, because he is so excited about going to class! Bee says, “It’s a joy when you see that your kids enjoy learning.”

Bee and Kalia shared that they had a desire to homeschool their children from the start, but they didn’t have the confidence to do so, especially because English is not their first language. They also felt like they didn’t know where to start with regard to educating at home. Through forming relationships with Mountain Home School staff and parents, and having their questions and concerns addressed and supported, they now feel confident that they can successfully homeschool their children.

The Lor’s advice to others who may be new to homeschooling is: “Homeschooling is not easy, but with the help of the staff and advice from the experienced parents here at Western Sierra Charter School, new parents like ourselves can succeed. You can do it if you put the effort and patience into it!”



ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS



# Fresno Unified School District

**FUSD Board Meeting  
February 12th, 2020**



**Talent Show  
March 5th, 2020  
Bullard High School**

*Save the Date  
The Western Sierra Charter Schools  
Fresno Resource Center's  
Annual Talent Show*

An event for both Mountain Home School and Glacier High School students!

- **When:** The evening of March 5th, 2020 (specific time TBA)
  - **Where:** Bullard High School, Fresno
- Watch for more information via parent square and subsequent newsletters!



## CHINA PEAK

**Skiing/Snowboarding Day  
Wednesday February 19th, 2020  
China Peak Ski Resort**

Skiing/Snowboarding Day for MHS & GHS!

Wednesday February 19th

(during our February's Week break)

Location: China Peak

**Meeting Time: 10am-10:30am**

Student's price is \$30 each

Parent's price is \$90 each (Parents do not need to ski to attend)

*Each price includes:*

**rental of equipment, 1 hour lesson and 1 lift ticket**

Skiing/Snowboarding until 4pm

\*Only 70 spots available!

\*There is food for purchase at Ski Lodge or you can bring your own lunch.

\*Please arrange your own transportation.

*How to register to attend?*

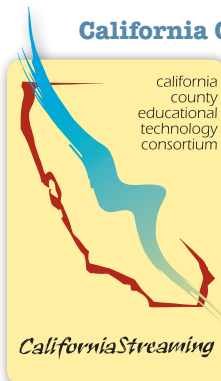
**Please pay Rosanna at front desk by February 12th she will add you to the roster.**

An email with China's Peak EZ Waiver and a school Permission slip will be emailed to you.

Any questions please email Mrs. Llanos [blanos@wscsfamily.org](mailto:blanos@wscsfamily.org) or Mrs. Flynn [nflynn@wscsfamily.org](mailto:nflynn@wscsfamily.org)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

California County Educational Technology Consortium (CCETC) Call for Entries



# CaliforniaStreaming Digital Photography Contest

**CCETC invites California K-12 teachers to submit teacher and student-produced digital photographs relating to the 2020 photo contest theme:**

**“PHENOMENA”**

**Submission Deadline:  
Friday, March 6, 2020**

CaliforniaStreaming, a collaborative non-commercial service offering the highest quality multimedia from video to images, is available through most California County Offices of Education and to all California schools. CCETC invites you to join the ever-growing community of classroom multimedia enthusiasts!

**For guidelines, resources, and submission information, go to:**

**<http://ccetc.net/photocontest>**

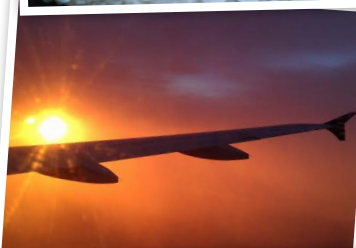
**Inspire • Empower • Transform** – that is the focus of CCETC’s CaliforniaStreaming community! Photography contest judges will select eight winners – at least six K-12 students and up to two teacher winners. Each winner receives a digital video camera!



Winners will have their photographs incorporated into a collectable CaliforniaStreaming art poster to be distributed to California classrooms. All participants will receive a certificate of participation. Submitted photographs may be made available through CaliforniaStreaming under a Creative Commons license.

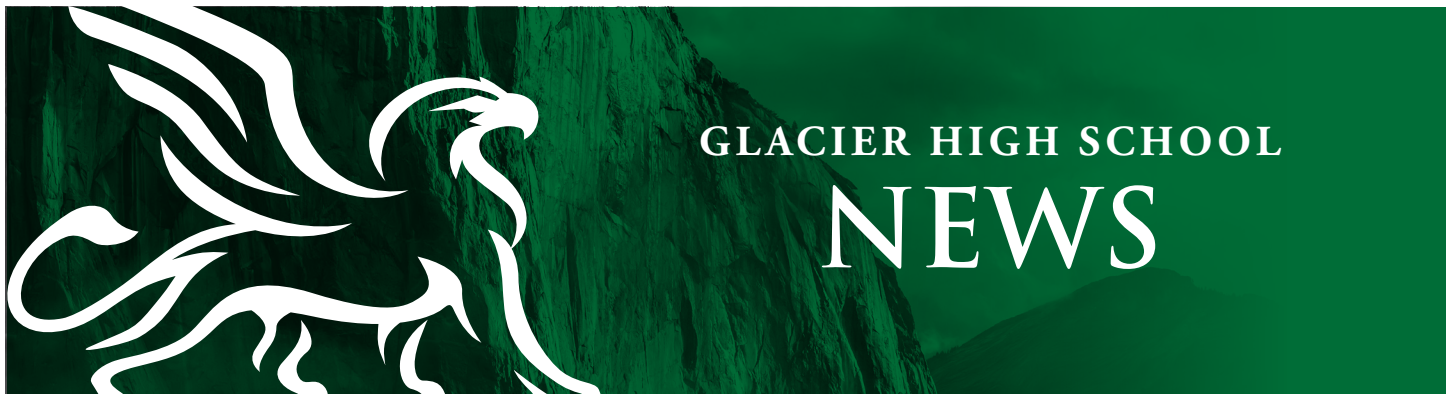
### 2020 Photo Contest Theme “PHENOMENA”

PHENOMENA are facts or events that can be observed through the senses. PHENOMENA can also be things that are rare or impressive. How do you see PHENOMENA? Impress the judges with your interpretation! Each photo entry should be accompanied by a brief essay, a poem, or expanded caption. Writing should help connect the image to the theme of PHENOMENA – your words are important to create context to the theme and the photograph for the judges. Good luck and happy photographing!



**[www.ccetc.net](http://www.ccetc.net) • [CaliforniaStreaming.org](http://CaliforniaStreaming.org) • Email: [CaliforniaStreaming@gmail.com](mailto:CaliforniaStreaming@gmail.com)**





## ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

The background image shows a lush, misty forest scene with large trees and a waterfall. A green rectangular border frames the text and images within this section.

Make your way to the  
*Enchanted Forest*

A small inset photo shows an outdoor event at night, with many string lights hanging over a table set with chairs and flowers.

**2020 GHS PROM**  
6-10 PM Saturday, March 14  
Yosemite Lakes Park Clubhouse - Coarsegold

- ◆ Ticket sales begin early February & will cost approximately \$50 each
- ◆ When tickets are purchased, you will choose an entree:
  - Grilled Chicken With Mango Salsa, Flat Iron Steak with Herb Butter, or Vegetarian
- ◆ Contact [kfriesen@wscsfamily.org](mailto:kfriesen@wscsfamily.org) for more information

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## ATTENTION SENIORS ATTENDING GRAD NITE ON MAY 21ST:

Thank you all for submitting your \$25 deposit. After calculating costs and taking into account the Cinnamon Roll Fundraiser, there is only one more payment of \$30 due by March 3rd.

More details will be sent through Parent Square to all the seniors that signed up for this trip. Be on the lookout for the Grad Nite info packet that will include permission slip, transportation details and dress code (will be sent in April).



## GLACIER HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

### ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

**Tulare County**  
**Office of Education**  
*Tim A. Hire, County Superintendent of Schools*

**PRESENTS**

# SLICKROCK


STUDENT | FILM | FESTIVAL


SLICK ROCK CHALLENGES STUDENTS TO PRODUCE VIDEOS IN A VARIETY OF FILM GENRES FOR MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL. STUDENTS DO NOT NEED TO BE IN A FILM PRODUCTION CLASS TO PARTICIPATE. PRIZES ARE AWARDED TO TOP SUBMISSIONS IN EACH CATEGORY.

CCSS CCR ANCHOR STANDARDS: SPEAKING AND LISTENING 4 & 5; WRITING 5; PROJECT.

## SUBMISSIONS DUE MARCH 6, 2020

generous support  
provided by:

 **SUICIDE PREVENTION**  
Task Force [www.sptf.org](http://www.sptf.org)

 **Kaweah Delta**  
[KAWEAHDELTA.ORG](http://KAWEAHDELTA.ORG)

AWARDS CEREMONY  
FRIDAY, MAY 8  
VISALIA FOX THEATRE

[www.tcoe.org/slickrock](http://www.tcoe.org/slickrock)







### COUNSELOR'S CORNER

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with  
Greg Hill

#### Important dates/deadlines:

##### Local Community College Applications

Seniors interested in attending one of our local community colleges should apply with priority registration through the "Registration To Go Program":

SCC CD (Fresno City, Oakhurst Center, Madera Center, Clovis Community, Reedley College)

##### Local Community College "Registration To Go" Steps

1. Application: Do ASAP
2. Online Orientation: December
3. Counseling / Advising with Student Educational Plan: March
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.*

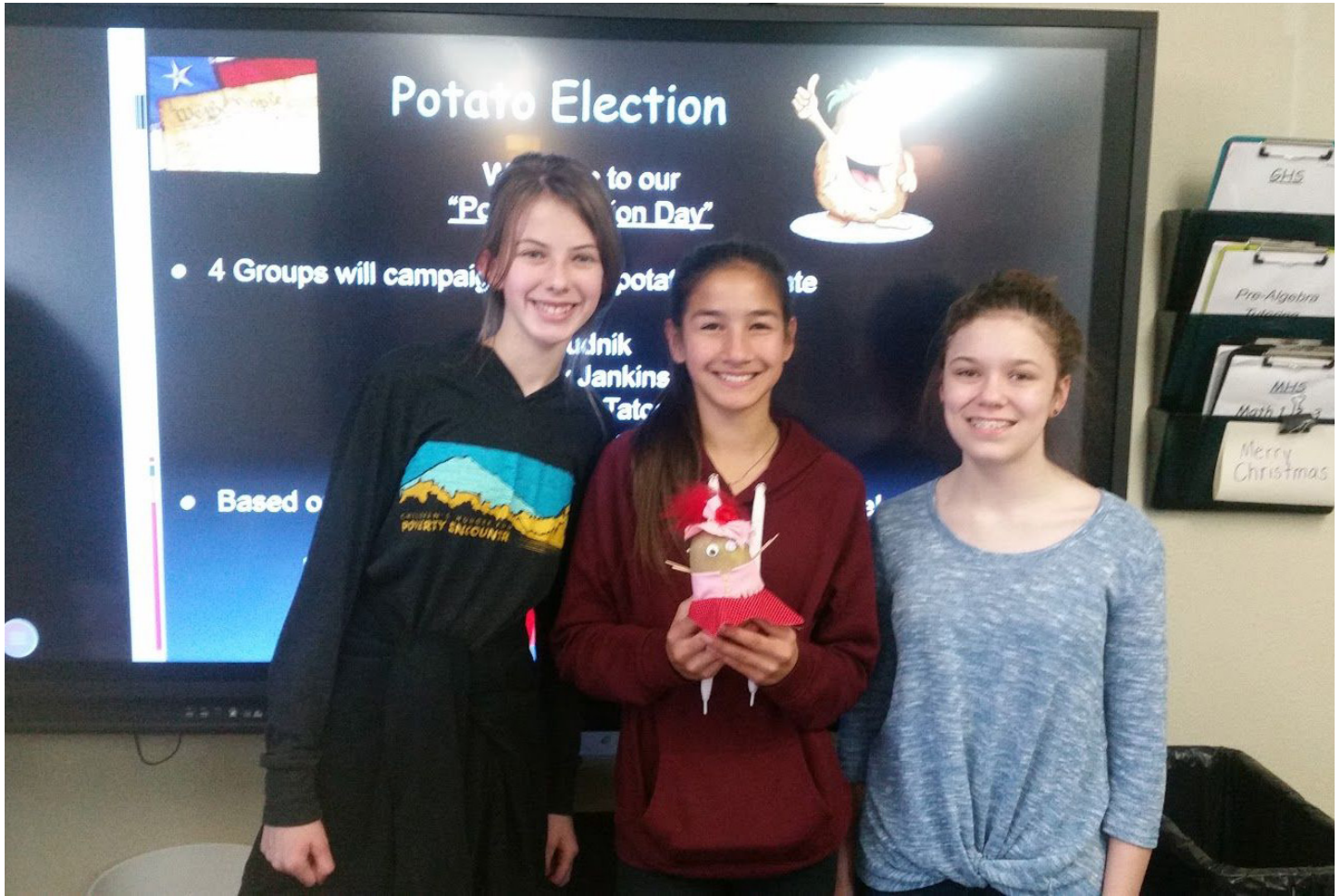
##### FAFSA AND MONEY MATTERS (APPLY ASAP)

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

FAFSA application opened October 1st. [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)

**Seniors:** Go to <http://www.glacierhighcharter.org>, then resources/college/career/community awards to access the list, application, and steps. There is also hard copies of everything as well available. See Mr. Hill for more details. I encourage all seniors to apply. **Deadline for most awards is March 24, 2020.** See cover sheets for exact due dates.





## POTATO ELECTION

Eighth Graders in our U.S. Constitution class got their first taste of the American election process recently! Inspired by the Constitution class in Oakhurst, students were grouped, given a potato, and then asked to create a look, and a campaign for the best potato award! Each group was assigned to campaign in classes at Glacier High School, with the intention of convincing the high school

students to vote for their specific potato. These students worked vigorously to create their own potato "candidate" and put much thought into what would be the most appealing campaign. Pictured here are this year's winners: Trinity Vasquez, Naomi Micu, and Elizabeth Allen, and their potato candidate "Sweetie Tator."





## EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### The Mountain Home School Spelling Bee



February 28, 2020!

Sign up via ParentSquare or email Kathy Specht at [kspecht@wscsfamily.org](mailto:kspecht@wscsfamily.org).

Please include the name and grade level of your child.

Official word lists will be distributed as soon as we receive them.

#### Spelling Bee Format/Procedure

- Students study grade level word lists at home
- Families meet at the Oakhurst MHS school site on Friday morning, February 28, 2020 (Exact Time TBA). \*Note: Families must provide transportation to and from the event.
- Students use whiteboards to spell words that are presented verbally by Bee Official. \*Note: Students do not present orally
- Students that place (more info to follow), move on to the District Spelling Bee (date TBA)

*Additional Note: Parents may watch students during the competition or wait in the lobby area.*

If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Specht at [kspecht@wscsfamily.org](mailto:kspecht@wscsfamily.org) or Nancy Turner at [nturner@wscsfamily.org](mailto:nturner@wscsfamily.org)



### MHS P.E. Days

P.E. Days will continue through the spring semester on the first Friday of each month!

Please watch for Parent Square alerts regarding scheduled activities, locations and weather alerts.

If you have not already completed a release form, please do so, and turn into Mrs. Llanos (see box in West Building office).

For more information, please contact Brook Llanos at [bllanos@wscsfamily.org](mailto:bllanos@wscsfamily.org) or Nancy Flynn at [nflynn@wscsfamily.org](mailto:nflynn@wscsfamily.org) or via Parent Square.

Hope to see you there!





## ANNOUNCEMENTS



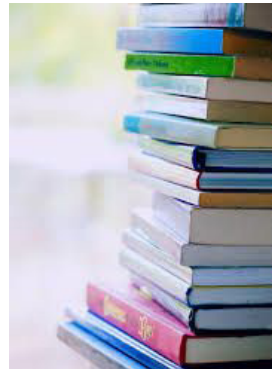
### **Fresno State Peach Blossom Festival (1st - 6th GRADES )**

*A CSUF Speech Communication  
and Theater Arts Joint Effort*

**MOUNTAIN HOME SCHOOL TRY - OUTS  
THURSDAY, FEB. 6 TH AT 10:00 OR BY APPT.  
FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT  
SANDRA HAMMOND AT  
SHAMMOND@WSCSFAMILY.ORG OR  
KATHY SPECHT AT  
KSPECHT@WSCSFAMILY.ORG  
REGISTRATION MUST BE COMPLETED  
BY FEB. 13TH  
FRESNO STATE FESTIVAL DATES:  
MAR . 12TH /13 TH  
FAMILIES MUST BE AVAILABLE BOTH DAYS**

The purpose of the Peach Blossom Festival is to expose children to oral interpretations and allow them to have a positive experience at a university. The children that attend are from all areas of the Central Valley. Previous festivals have accommodated up to 6,000 children.

The Festival was created to help young people realize the importance of reading literature aloud, to expose them to various interpretations, performances and to teach them how to be an audience member.



### **SAVE THE DATE**

The Curriculum Fair is coming!  
The Curriculum Fair is coming!  
The Curriculum Fair is coming!  
Mark your calendars and plan to stop by campus March 30th through April 3rd to begin the selection process for the upcoming school year. More information to follow!



### **SAVE THE DATE**

#### ***Field Trip to Mariposa coming in May!***

Save the date for an exciting end of the year field trip! Students will have an opportunity to visit the Mariposa Museum & History Center as well as the California State Mining & Mineral Museum. Activities include examining state minerals, gold panning, observing blacksmith demonstrations, and visiting a working stamp mill.

**When:** May 22, 2020, Time TBA

**Where:** Mariposa, CA

For more information contact  
mdenhartog@wscsfamily.org





# TIP OF THE MONTH

### Is Stress Your Friend or Foe?

*Mrs. Turner*



The daily life of personalized learning can sometimes be stressful because it affects your time, resources, energy, and physical/mental health. Here are my tips for balancing and coping with that stress:

1. **Do something that is just for you.** - This is important. As a parent and home educator, you are pulled in many directions. Find something you can regularly do that is all you and fills you up. This might be taking a short walk, creating something, watching a favorite show, listening to a podcast, going window shopping, playing an instrument, or anything that makes you feel recharged. Do something that is just for you and don't feel guilty about it.
2. **You got this!** - Stressing about your ability or your child's ability does not serve any purpose. There are so many resources online, at our school, and within our community that can help you and your children get to your goals. Stop the doubts and go for it!
3. **Work hard and play hard.** - Personalized learning is hard work. It's tiring and takes over everything sometimes. Do the hard work, then take breaks and play hard. Play is important work, too. Feel good about both your hard work and your play time.
4. **There will be bad days.** - Your best laid plans may explode in your face and nothing gets done. Things like the common cold can derail an entire school day (or week!). Do not stress about what didn't get done. Try to find educational nuggets in whatever is happening and let that bad day run its course. Tomorrow is a new day.
5. **Organization helps.** - Create goals, a schedule, and a plan to get things done. Organizing your thoughts, plans, and physical space can help reduce stress. Be proactive about your time and timeframes!
6. **Use your resources.** - Our school, the public library, and the internet are powerful resources. Someone has probably already stressed out about something you are worrying about and published their findings. Use their wisdom to lessen your stress.
7. **Stay connected.** - Community is a great way to de-stress. When people gather to share ideas and struggles, it helps demystify things that may have seemed hard or impossible. Stay connected by joining (or creating) education groups or online chat groups. A monthly/weekly book club, park date, or exercise group can do wonders for you and your student.
8. **Give yourself grace.** - You and your student are on a unique educational journey. Give yourself grace to figure out what works best for your family. Give yourself grace to make mistakes and learn from them.
9. **This time is precious.** - Your child will grow up quickly. This time is a precious season in their growth. Enjoy the moments. Don't let stress rob you of these moments. Your child is this wonderful human being and you have the privilege of being both their parent and their educator!
10. **Stress is my friend.** - Stress is a part of life that helps move us forward. Stress will always be there in some shape or form. Move through that stress to greater accomplishments and success!

# 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