

Western Sierra Charter Schools

"Committed to family centered education"

Wscsfamily.org

Fresno Resource Center August 2018 Newsletter

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL!

School starts August 16th, 2018.

by Eric Hagen - Fresno Co-Principal

I hope you and your family had some time together this summer to play together and enjoy (maybe) a slower pace of life. Our team has been working much of the summer in preparation of the new school year. Our new Technology Coordinator, Phil Blas, has been busily implementing a variety of new technologies, from larger 3D printers, to 4K Promethean Touch Screens, to mobile computer labs, and more. Marianne and Kelly Lord have been barcoding new curriculum that seems to arrive daily and hundreds of other details for the new year. Teachers have been planning courses, our Back-To-School Carnival, and attending classes and workshops. I am sure you all know this, but we have an amazing team of creative, motivated and caring people. I am honored to work with such a great group of people who serve a wonderful group of families.

In spite of all this work I was able to escape the heat and smoke with my family at Morro Bay for a time. Devices were turned off and we remembered that we enjoyed playing board games, reading books, and jumping in the ocean together. As I return to school, I don't want to forget that emails can wait until tomorrow and texts are not always life and death. That even my two high school daughters need me to set some healthy boundaries and to play a board game with them regularly.

Another part of my summer was taken by reading the book *How Children Succeed - Grit, Curiosity, and the Hidden Power of Character* by Paul Tough. Director Michael Cox asked the Admin team and a few others to spend some time reflecting on this book. The main premise of this book is that "What matters most in a child's development... is not how much information we can stuff into her brain in the first few years. What matters, instead, is whether we are able to help her develop a very different set of qualities, a list that includes persistence, self-control, curiosity, conscientiousness, grit, and self-confidence." Teaching our children to "persist at boring and often unrewarding tasks; the ability to delay gratification; the tendency to follow through on a plan... turned out to be valuable in college, in the workplace, and in life generally."

Yes academics are important, but let us not forget why many of us have chosen the harder path of homeschooling. The desire to instill qualities, faith, and values into our children. These character traits are really what can lead to a joyful, successful, and fulfilling life. Teaching our children to persist at the hard things, to care for those around them, to be curious even in those things that at first glance seem boring. Let us remind each other this year that it is ok to let our kids struggle and maybe even experience some failure. Let us remind each other to give opportunities for that child to play with Legos or to make a mess. Let us remind each other why we entered into this venture of homeschooling. I give you permission to remind me of these things.

Thank you again for all of your support and all the hard work you do.

Welcome Back! *By Nancy Garcia - Fresno Co-Principal*

In the fall of 2015, when our Fresno Resource Center first opened its doors, I knew we had a special program to offer this community. I knew this because of the amazing founding families that joined us, and because all of the staff we hired aligned perfectly with Western Sierra Charter Schools' vision and mission. As your Co-Principal, I feel blessed to continue to serve all of you. It is an honor to meet the new families, and also to see returning families that continue to trust our program as their partner in the education. As Mr. Hagen expressed, we have been busy working through summer to improve our school in many areas. I wanted to briefly welcome all of you and simply say thank you for making this a great place! Summer seemed to fly by, but now that we are gearing up for the new school year, let us all make this the best year yet!

NEW TO FRESNO: Please welcome new staff members! **Diane Vaccaro** and **Nancy Elliot** will be new MHS Advising (we are using this term instead of Charter) Teachers. **Grace Reeve** will now be an Advising Teacher for Glacier students as well as teaching Physics, Chemistry, Leadership, and some middle school science. We are excited to have **Greg Hill** join our schools as a guidance counselor. We are also pleased to welcome new adjunct teacher **Brandon Mallard**, who will be teaching MHS 1st-4th grade Art/History, 7th/8th Leadership, 3rd-8th Drama/Theatre and GHS Drama/Theatre Arts. We are also excited to be adding adjunct teacher **Gio Mena** - to teach Music Theory, Piano, and Guitar for both MHS and GHS students.

Congratulations to Christine Neptune who is expecting her first child in December!

Nancy Garcia is now Co-Principal with Eric Hagen for our Fresno Resource Center.

WSCS Back to School Carnival



Date: Tuesday, Aug 21, 2018

Time: 6:00 - 8:00

Location: Fresno Site

Who: All MHS and GHS Families are invited

What: MHS Enrichment Class Sign-ups

Pizza, Popcorn, Popsicles

Games and Prizes

Face Painting

Bounce House and More!!!

Bring the family - Don't miss the fun!

MOUNTAIN HOME SCHOOL NEWS (FRESNO)

MEETING WITH MHS ADVISING TEACHER

New Families: Your assigned Advising Teacher will contact you during the week of August 13th to set up your first appointment.

Typically that first meeting will take about 2 hours.

You will:

- Choose and receive curriculum
- Plan the first weeks of school
- Sign additional paperwork
- Get questions answered
- You and your child will get to know your advising teacher

Returning Families: Please understand that teachers will need to meet with new families right away. If you are waiting for curriculum, your Advising Teacher can arrange for you to pick this up.

ENRICHMENT SCHEDULE

MHS Schedule is now available to view by visiting our website at <http://www.mountainhomecharter.org/fresno-schedule.html>

SIGN UPS FOR ENRICHMENT COURSES STARTING

TUESDAY, August 21st, 2018
At the Back to School Carnival
6pm-8pm

1. Rosters will be available at school for enrichment sign-ups until Thursday, September 6th.
2. First day of Monday/Wednesday Enrichment courses is Monday, September 10th or 12th for K-8th.
3. First day of Friday courses will be August 31st.
4. See schedule for all dates and times.

MHS BENCHMARK TESTING

August 27th or 29th

9am-1pm

****Sign-up with your Advising Teacher****

GLACIER HIGH SCHOOL NEWS (FRESNO)

All Glacier Onsite Courses Start Week of 8/28

MEETING WITH GLACIER ADVISING TEACHER

New Families: Your assigned Advising Teacher will contact you during the week August 13th to set up your first appointment.

Typically that first meeting will take about 1-2 hours.

You and your student will:

- Choose your classes for the year and receive curriculum
- Be advised on progress toward graduation, A-G completion, and goals
- Plan first weeks of school
- Support and training in grading and requirements.
- Sign additional paperwork
- Get questions answered
- You and your child will get to know your advising teacher

Returning Families: Please understand that teachers will need to meet with new families right away. Your advising teacher will call you to arrange meeting and if applicable when to pick up curriculum.

ALL GLACIER STUDENTS ARE
REQUIRED TO ATTEND

Glacier Day
Thursday August 23rd
9am-2pm

Students will learn more about Glacier, take Benchmark Test and more! FREE Lunch Provided!

ONSITE Schedule

GHS Schedule is now available to view. Visit our website at

<http://www.glacierhighcharter.org/fresno-schedule.html>

To sign up for on-site courses please inform your Advising Teacher of your choices during your initial meeting.

*Elective courses are subject to enrollment numbers and staff availability.

H.S. Leadership Course Mandatory

Parent/Student Meeting

This meeting is a prerequisite to enrolling in this course.

Meeting is Thursday
August 30th
1pm

*Email Mrs. Garcia to RSVP to meeting
ngarcia@wscsfamily.org

Class Start Date is
September 6th

Underwater Robotics ROV course Mandatory Parent/Student Meeting

This meeting is a prerequisite to enrolling in this course.

Meeting is Friday
August 31st

8:30am for ROV Advanced (6th-H.S.)
12pm for ROV Beginner (6th-H.S.)

*Email Mrs. Neptune to RSVP to meeting
cneptune@wscsfamily.org

Class start date is 8/31/18 for meeting and
9/14 for first class.

GLACIER HIGH STUDENTS



Come help and be part of our Back To School Carnival!

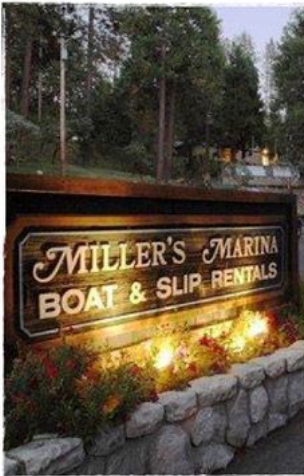
We are asking High School students to help with carnival games. To sign-up please ask one of YOUR PARENTS/Guardians to email your name, grade and phone number to Mrs. Ganzenhuber sganzenhuber@wscsfamily.org

ASAP

**Mark Your Calendars!
High School Student Carnival Volunteers are to report on Tuesday
August 21st at 5:15pm
by our school's black gate.**

Game training and assignments will be given to students once they arrive. This is Glacier's first event and a fun way to get to know each other!

AUGUST
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GLACIER HIGH SCHOOL: BACK-TO-SCHOOL HURRAH!

Rocky Point on Bass Lake August 24th, 4pm - 7pm

Glacier High School Families: Come join us at the Rocky Point Picnic Site on Bass Lake for an afternoon at the lake from 4-7pm. Bring personal beach items, plus any fun water supplies to share such as rafts or pool noodles.

At 6pm, we will walk to Miller's for dinner. Glacier Teachers will BBQ hamburgers, hot dogs, veggie patties, chips and water provided by Glacier High School.

Other Info:

Please bring a dessert to share.

No Lifeguard will be on duty.

There will be no supervision before or after event time.

If parents are not attending event, please fill out permission slip with your Advising Teacher.

Please RSVP with your Advising Teacher.

Want to volunteer? Contact parent Kim Richards at 559-676-8611.

Western Sierra Charter Schools Staff Directory

Fresno Staff

School Phone Number: **559-248-0471**

School Fax number: **559-248-0482**

**777 Shaw Ave
Fresno, CA 93704**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Extension</u>	<u>Primary Assignment</u>
Eric Hagen	203	Fresno Principal/Tech Admin
Nancy Garcia	202	Co-Principal Fresno
Marianne Lord	200	WSCS Secretary
Amanda Patterson	216	Mountain Home Teacher
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	TBD	Guidance Counselor
Irina Buca	205	Glacier High Teacher
Marcia Souza	208	Glacier High Teacher
Margaret Den Hartog	207	Mountain Home Teacher
Nancy Elliot	217	Mountain Home Teacher
Phil Blas	TBD	CTE Teacher/IT Support
Sandra Hammond	215	Mountain Home Teacher
Stephanie Ganzenhuber	209	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; Mr. Mallard - Art, History, Leadership; Mrs. Tu - Graphic Design; Mrs. Llanos - K/1 Teacher; Mrs. Brazell - Music; Mr. Mena - Music; Mr. Mallord - Art/History, Leadership, Drama; Ms. Kelly Lord - Office and TA; Mr. McGough - Integrated Drawing/Art; Kao Thao - Custodian