



OCTOBER
2022

NEWSLETTER

MOUNTAIN HOME SCHOOL CHARTER & GLACIER HIGH SCHOOL CHARTER

Table of Contents

- 1** Staff Spotlight/Important Dates/Back to School Community Breakfast
- 2** Stem for Girls
- 3** Fresno Fair/Book Fair
- 4** Writing Wall/Home Connection
- 5** Science and Math/Spelling Bee/Tech Corner
- 6** Calvin Crest Field Trip
- 7** Field Trip Report
- 8** Student Recruitment -AcaDec, Cross Country/Reagan Library Field Trip
- 9** Academic Lab/GHS Leadership News
- 10** Community Service/Yosemite-Mono Lakes Field Trip
- 11-13** GHS Counselor's Corner
- 14-16** School Directory



Staff Spotlight



Melissa Culver comes to us from Clovis Unified. She brings with her 21 years of teaching expertise. Across her career, she taught grades 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8. For nine semesters, she was at the collegiate level facilitating a 65-computer Tech Lab. And for the last five years, she trained teachers in diverse technology tools including Virtual Reality, programming robots, and 3D printing. She has a Master's Degree in Teaching and Learning with an emphasis in Technology. Her Master's Thesis focused on computer programming in the second-grade classroom. Her position here at Western Sierra Charter Schools is that of IT Coordinator. She serves teachers and families behind-the-scenes when it comes to all things tech. When Melissa isn't designing a YouTube video, fixing a software issue, researching new technology, or updating any of our six websites, you can find her with her family. Her homeschool journey started 13 years ago when her children were 6, 4, 2, and brand new. Now her children are 20, 18, 16, and 14. She has two at home, and two are away at college. Melissa is so very glad that her journey included homeschooling. According to Melissa, "Those precious memories are irreplaceable." If she were to share one piece of advice with any new families who are transitioning into at-home, personalized learning, she would say: ***"It isn't about the destination. It's about the journey. Smile more. Worry less."***

Important Dates:

- 10/1** FAFSA Application Opens
- 10/6** Mono Lake Field Trip-Earth Science Class
- 10/6** GHS Cross Country
- 10/7** Big Fresno Fair - K-8
- 10/12** PSAT
- 10/17-10/21** October Break-campus closed
- 10/27** GHS Leadership Class to Fresno State
- 10/28** Back to School Community Breakfast
- 10/31-11/4** Scholastic Book Fair
- 11/4** Grad Nite \$25 Deposit Due
- 11/10** GHS Leadership Class to Reagan Library
- 11/30** CSU & UC applications due

Back to School Community Breakfast

When: Friday, October 28th

Where: Mountain Home/Glacier High

Time: 9:00 am to 11:00am

Event: Parent workshops & visiting inside - kids games outside!

While participation is not mandatory, we encourage all families to attend.





STEM FOR GIRLS

On October 29, the STEM Team from the Office of the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools is holding our annual STEM for Girls Conference at Fresno Pacific University. This year's keynote speaker is Erica Toussaint, Pipeline Management Regional Manager (Africa/Latin America) for Chevron Pipe Line Company.

This is a conference for girls in 5th-12th grades. This event will include hands-on activities in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). At the conference, girls will get a chance to meet STEM role models and learn more about careers in those fields. Our ultimate goal is to motivate all students to become innovative and creative thinkers.

Students cannot attend on-their-own, and must be accompanied by a teacher or parent. Chaperones are expected to join as full attendees in order to help connect the students to the topics being presented. Register now to attend. registration opens at 8:30 with a breakfast provided. Conference kick-off is at 9:00, and closes with lunch and a raffle at 1:00. **Register here:** <https://fresno.k12oms.org/141-224475>



Come enjoy the Big Fresno Fair

Digital Sign-up - <https://forms.gle/H52YcDWJKWtSvTLh6>

Deadline to sign up Friday, September 30th

When: Friday, October 7th (see times below)

Where: 1121 S. Chance Ave. Fresno

FREE parking available ONLY at the Butler/Chance Lot near Gate 1

Cost: Free for students & 1 Chaperone \$5.00 for each additional guest.

This is a self-guided educational field trip. The fair days program is designed to bridge the gap between rural and urban life - exposing students to the rich and diverse agriculture that powers our region, as well as the history of Fresno County and its talented residents!

- Parking lot opens at 8:00 a.m.
- Arrive between 8:30 am and 10:00 a.m.
- Buildings are open between 9:00 a.m. and Noon.
- Special Germ Glow Presentation at 11:00 a.m. on the Save Mart Beer & Wine Garden Stage.
- Lunch and Entertainment from 11:30 a.m. to Noon

***Fair tickets will be distributed at MHS main building to your student mailbox by Wednesday, October 5th. Please have your tickets in-hand prior to departing for the fair. Students cannot enter without a ticket. If you don't have a pre-arranged ticket, you will need to pay the \$5 entry



The Scholastic Book Fair is coming to MHS October 31-November 4

<https://www.scholastic.com/bf/mountainhomecharterschool1>



Come our Writing Wall

This year we are focusing on creating strong writers. How do we do that? By providing students with ample opportunities to write! Encourage your child to write about topics they are interested in. If your child struggles with penmanship, let them type it on their Chromebook. If they are not proficient in typing, let them use speech-to-text. Our writing wall has excellent ideas to help you get started and grade-level writing examples! For more ideas visit Scholastic Story Starters at <http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/story-starters/index.html>

Home Connection

“Demystifying Reading”

Children at a young age begin learning the ABC song. However, not all children grasp the concept that each letter makes a distinct sound and that when letters are combined, those letters can create a word. Here are a few strategies to help students learn the sounds:

- Teach a few letters each week, starting with your child’s name!
- Have an alphabet chart available for your child
- review the letters with your child every day “chanting the chart.” Ex. A, apple, /a/ B, book, /b/ Laminated charts are available in the parent copier room!
- Have your child use their hands & body to identify letters & sounds (think YMCA song, molding letters with play dough, incorporate art)
- Play “matching,” “letter Bingo” and “I Spy” games
- Have your child feel, trace, write letters



Science & Math

New On Line Science and Math Learning For K-8

Generation Genius is a new online science and math teaching resource that we think you & your students will love! It brings science and math to life with fun & educational videos paired with lesson plans, activities, quizzes, vocabulary, & reading materials.

Contact your Advising Teacher for access info.



Spelling Bee

Mountain Home School is pleased to host the 2022/23 Spelling Bee in the Winter/Spring Semester- The date is to be determined. **Word Lists will be available by October 15th in the main building.**



Tech Corner

A new **Learn to Type program, called Nitro Type**, has been added to Clever ! To learn more: <https://bit.ly/wscsnitrotype>

What is Clever? a useful tool for students! Websites you use often can be found in one place! You do not need to make bookmarks to locate important resources. a) Some of the links in Clever do not need a username or password. They simply direct the user to a website. b) For other tools in Clever, our school loads the student's username and password into the "app" so that the family does not need to memorize this information. It's always right here. c) In some situations, the user enters the username and password for the app and that information is stored all year long.

How to Get into Clever? Your school's website has the direct link if you ever misplace the link to Clever. It is located in the Resources tab. You can also go directly to clever.com. Choose Log in as a student in the top right corner. Here is a link to the full tutorial that was sent on Parent Square a couple of weeks ago. <https://bit.ly/wscsclever>



Calvin Crest Field Trip

Thank you to all of the families, students, and staff that made our Calvin Crest Field trip so wonderful. From hiking, archery, rock climbing, boats, to Miwok village, we enjoyed sharing this special opportunity with all of you.



If you would like to have your child create a piece of writing about their experience at Calvin Crest, please see Denise Jones for this fun and easy field trip form that she used after taking a field trip with Mr. Mendoza to H&L lumber. (see below)

FIELD TRIP REPORT!

By Denise Jones

On Thursday, Sept 8th, 2022 I went on a field trip to H&L Lumber with Ramón Mendoza, Mountain Home School Charter & Glacier High School Charter's terrific building & grounds keeper.

What We Did:

Mr. Mendoza gave me a tour of H&L Lumber's hardware supplies, building materials, paint section, and their expansive lumber yard. Ramón then helped me gather the items I needed for a special project I had in mind for school.



... FIELD TRIP REPORT

A Cool Thing I Learned:

A cool thing I learned was that Mr. Mendoza is very knowledgeable about all things H&L! He understands both the inside world of hardware and building supplies and the outside world of lumber. I also learned Ramón is a jokester! It turns out that the staff at H&L do not know Ramón as our school's custodian, but believe he is our school's English professor! I played along and only referred to him as "Mr. Mendoza," speaking of his incredible classroom instruction so I would not ruin his story! I have concluded I can only go to H&L if Ramón accompanies me, because he is so helpful and funny.

My Favorite Part Was:

My favorite part was making Randy smile! Randy is the paint guy. I brought samples of custom paint colors I wanted and he created perfectly matched paints for me. When he was done, I sang to him, "Did you ever know that you're my hero?" Though Randy is a very serious man, I saw him crack a smile!

I Brought Home:

I brought home the supplies to create the "Welcome Home" wall for our school's entry. It is my hope this wall will cause every child and adult who enters our doors to feel warmly greeted. I also hope it will be a constant reminder that each one is a significant member of our family.





STUDENT RECRUITMENT

ACADEMIC DECATHLON 2022-23 -

5 credit class in fall semester

Calling all GHS students - A Team of 10-20 students is now forming! This Year's AcaDec **Theme: *The American Revolution & the New Nation.*** Interested students need to contact GHS Advising Teacher, Mr. Boe at **bboe@wscs-family.org**.

Academic Decathlon Art Competition

The Academic Decathlon is a 10-event competition for high school students. The purpose of the Decathlon Art Competition is to promote art in Madera County and to select artwork that will be used to create the program book cover, posters, and other printed materials for the 2022-2023 Madera County Academic Decathlon and Academic Pentathlon. **This year's theme is "The American Revolution and The New Nation."**

Click on this link to learn more and register:
<https://www.mcsos.org/Page/7508>

CROSS COUNTRY

Come join the Glacier High School Cross Country Team! **Contact Mrs. Alvarez at dalvarez@wscsfamily.org**



REAGAN PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY TRIP

Please set aside all day Thursday, November 10 for your student to attend our trip to the Reagan Library and Museum in Simi Valley.

This is a mandatory event for Leadership students and one that is often mentioned as the highlight of the year by many students. We will leave from the GHS campus early in the wee hours of the morning and return late in the evening.

We will be joined on this trip by Mrs. Vaccaro and the Endeavor High School Leadership class.

Mrs. Friesen will announce all of the details of this amazing day over the next month.



ACADEMIC LAB

A wonderful opportunity for GHS students!! Twice a week, GHS students who are on campus will find a quiet place to study and get help on assignments in our ACADEMIC LABS (AL).

Mrs. Friesen will host these "study hall" sessions:

Mondays from 12:15-1:45 in the Brick classroom

Wednesdays from 10:15-11:45 in Mod C

- NOTE - Any student enrolled in an on campus core class (math, science, and/or English) who is receiving a C- or lower must attend at least one Academic Lab per week until their grade improves.
- Students can attend AL for a quiet place to work on Edgenuity or any other courses. Students who become a distraction to others will be asked to leave AL.
- Mrs. Friesen is a credentialed English teacher so she will be able to provide quite a bit of help in this subject area and she will be able to coach students to understand directions and search for answers for many other topics.
- Students may bring snacks or lunch to AL as long as they don't become a distraction to others...*and Mrs. Friesen enjoys chai and dark chocolate. Just sayin'!*

GHS LEADERSHIP CLASS NEWS



TEAM BUILDING & CAMPUS TOUR @ FRESNO STATE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27

All details will be discussed in class and available in our GClass over the next few weeks and here is an overview:

ARRIVE at Fresno State by 9:30 - Families will need to provide their own transportation and are encouraged to carpool

10:00-noon - Low ropes course Team Building activities

Noon-12:45 - Lunch - Students may bring a sack lunch or \$\$ to purchase their lunch from the Student Union

1:00-2:30 - Campus Tour

- MORE DETAILS WILL BE SENT TO PARENTS OVER PARENTSQUARE INCLUDING PERMISSION SLIPS. FEEL FREE TO CONTACT MRS. FRIESEN IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR NEED MORE INFORMATION.



COMMUNITY SERVICE

Make a Difference That Matters

Did you know that you don't have to be in the Leadership class to do community service? In fact, every GHS student should be spending time volunteering their time to help others throughout their years in high school. Why? I'm glad you asked!

Reasons to be involved in Community Service include:

- It's great to help others!
- You can earn elective credit if you follow the steps for creating a Community Service elective. Check with your Advising Teacher about this.
- It can help you pay for next steps after high school. Tons of Community Awards, grants, and scholarships factor in time spent volunteering when they are deciding who should receive their awards and these organizations LOVE to see that students have volunteered throughout their years in high school.

If you're wondering how you can find opportunities to volunteer, the best advice is to open your eyes and look! Families in your community need help with yard work and other tasks. Churches and non-profit organizations like Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Eastern Madera County SPCA, and many others are waiting for people just like you to call them and talk about how you can help. Look for the GHS Community Service Log on the GHS website if you need a way to track your hours since it is essential that you do this rather than trying to remember each little thing that you did 3 and 4 years ago.

https://www.glacierhighcharter.org/uploads/1/3/4/6/13462031/ghs_community_service_log.pdf



Glacier Earth and Space Science Class is headed to Yosemite and Mono Lake!

The Glacier High Earth Science class is headed out for their second annual Yosemite/Mono Lake field trip. The class will be witnessing first hand such geologic processes as glaciation, volcanism, plate tectonics, erosion, and the concept of Yosemite granite. We can't wait to get out there and enjoy one of the best classrooms in the world, Yosemite National Park. **The date of the field trip is October 6th.**



Counselor's Corner

Important Announcements:

Meeting with Mr. Hill

My goal is to meet individually with all seniors. If you do not have a "one on one" meeting date scheduled with me, please email me at ghill@wscsfamily.org.

College Application Information:

California State University & University of California applications open on October 1st! They are both due on November 30. Apply online.

CSU: www2.calstate.edu

UC: www.ucop.edu/pathways

Private University: Deadline varies

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:

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

Local Community College "Registration To Go" steps

1. Application: October
- 2.. Online Orientation: November
4. Counseling / Advising with Student Educational Plan: Feb/March
5. Registration for classes: April if above steps are completed

FAFSA and money matters

All seniors planning on attending any college or a vocational school the FAFSA application opens October 1st. www.fafsa.ed.gov

Glacier High School Website: <https://www.glacierhighcharter.org/counseling.html>

Check out the new Counseling / College & Career Readiness Tab located on the school website. It has information regarding:



Counselor's Corner Continued

- 9th-10th Grade
- 11th Grade
- 12th Grade
- Career Exploration
- College Entrance Testing Information
- College Info and Resources
- Community Awards
- Earn College Credits
- Military
- Scholarships/Financial Aid

All High School Students - "Counseling Connection"

I am hosting a weekly "College & Career Counseling Connection" for students. It is an informational meeting for high school students every Thursday morning from 10AM-10:15AM via Zoom. A zoom link was sent out through ParentSquare with information about the topics I will be covering. The topics will include College/Career and postgraduate information. Here are the topics for the month of October:

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 10/6 | Time Management Skills |
| 10/13 | Why attend a community college & How to apply |
| 10/27 | Careers with Cal Fire - Guest speaker |

The Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test

PSAT test for 8th - 11th graders:

The PSAT will be offered and administered on **October 12th, 2022 at 9 AM** (onsite)

Please register at the front office by October 5th. Test Fee: \$20 - payable to the front office. Exact cash or check is acceptable. The PSAT tests students in reading, writing and math skills. This test is designed to help students prepare for the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT).



Grad Nite Deposit at Magic Mountain: \$25

\$25 is due by November 4th, 2022 to secure your spot. Please submit payment to Denise at the front desk.

Grad Nite will be Friday, May 19th, 2023. Total ticket price to be determined. Look for more details to come on parentsquare that will have information about the trip, charter bus, and fundraising.

Six Flags Magic Mountain Grad Pass (a season pass that allows students to come back to the park for the rest of 2023 with only black out dates during Fright Fest.

Career Spotlight : HVAC Technician

Do you want a job that starts around 50K and is projected to increase in opportunities by 15% over the next three years? Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning are collectively referred to as HVAC, and the professionals who work in this industry are called HVAC technicians.

A qualified HVAC technician installs, maintains, and repairs heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and refrigeration systems that control the temperature and air quality in buildings.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the average annual median salary for HVAC technicians, mechanics, and installers is \$48,730. With quality experience and the right set of skills, you can build a solid career in the HVAC industry. The top 10% of this industry's professionals earn an annual salary of over \$76,230.1

HVAC technicians typically do the following:

- Reading blueprints and HVAC equipment specifications
- Assembling and installing HVAC/R units in residential or commercial buildings
- Installing solar panels, thermostats, humidistats, and timers
- Connecting HVAC systems to electrical, water, and fuel sources
- Ensuring that the HVAC units are working perfectly
- Testing HVAC components and systems according to the manufacturer's specifications
- Troubleshooting common HVAC system problems



Western Sierra Charter Schools Oakhurst Staff Directory

Oakhurst Main Number: 559-642-1422

Oakhurst Fax Number: 559-642-1592

Name	Extension	Primary Assignment	Email
Mike Cox	102	WSCS Director of Schools	mcox@wscsfamily.org
Mindy Klang	104	WSCS Oakhurst Principal	mklang@wscsfamily.org
Jody Jeffers	117	Chief Business Officer	jjeffersf@wscsfamily.org
Angela Moons	120	SPED Coordinator	amoons@wscsfamily.org
Reception			
Denise Jones	100	Registrar/Receptionist	djones@wscsfamily.org
MHS Advising			
Julie Davis	103	MHS Advising Teacher	jdavis@wscsfamily.org
April Hill	108	MHS Advising Teacher	ahill@wscsfamily.org
Kim Meeks	105	MHS Advising Teacher	kmeeks@wscsfamily.org
Daniele Oliphant	124	MHS Advising Teacher	doliphant@wscsfamily.org
John Rumhohr	106	MHS Advising Teacher	jrumohr@wscsfamily.org
John Sloas	110	MHS Advising Teacher	jsloas@wscsfamily.org
Rachel Proto	111	MHS Advising Teacher/ RSP Teacher	rproto@wscsfamily.org
Joyce Vind	109	MHS Advising Teacher	javind@wscsfamily.org
GHS Advising			
Denise Alvarez	123	GHS Advising Teacher	dalvarez@wscsfamily.org
Bruce Boe	121	GHS Advising Teacher	bboe@wscsfamily.org



Name	Extension	Primary Assignment	Email
GHS Advising			
Kaylene Friesen	122	GHS Advising Teacher	kfriesen@wscsfamily.org
Katie Kelly	116	GHS Advising Teacher	kkelly@wscsfamily.org
Counselor			
Greg Hill	129	WSCS Academic Counselor	ghill@wscsfamily.org
Technology			
Eric Hagen	107	WSCS Tech Administrator	ehagen@wscsfamily.org
Phil Blas	128	WSCS Tech Coordinator	pblas@wscsfamily.org
Melissa Culver	114	WSCS Tech Coordinator	mculver@wscsfamily.org
Support Staff			
Diane Neulinger	112	Librarian/Office Support	dneulinger@wscsfamily.org
Tiffany Palmer	133	WSCS Accounting Clerk	tpalmer@wscsfamily.org
Ramon Mendoza	113	Maintenance	rmendoza@wscsfamily.org
Amy Taylor	132	Speech	ataylor@wscsfamily.org
Adjunct Teachers			
Lisa Boe		GHS Art Teacher	lboe@wscsfamily.org
Tamara Dent		MHS Enrichment Class Teacher	tdent@wscsfamily.org
Tammy Eberle		Graphic Designer/Yearbook	teberle@wscsfamily.org



Name	Extension	Primary Assignment	Email
Adjunct Teachers			
Barbara Graas		MHS Enrichment Class Teacher	bgraas@wscsfamily.org
JoAnn Heidebrecht		MHS Enrichment Class Teacher	jheidebrecht@wscsfamily.org
Sandy Johnson		MHS/GHS Math Teacher	sjohnson@wscsfamily.org
Kim Richards		GHS English Teacher	krichards@wscsfamily.org
Daniel Takanishi		GHS Chemistry Teacher	dtakanishi@wscsfamily.org