



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

December 2019 / January 2020



MARK YOUR CALENDAR IMPORTANT DATES

DECEMBER

- Dec. 2 - 6 • Only MHS Math Classes and GHS Classes in session (no other K-8 MHS Enrichment Classes)
- Dec. 9 - 13 • Only MHS Math Classes, Friday Enrichment Classes & GHS Classes (no other K-8 MHS Enrichment Classes)
- Dec. 4 • GHS Poetry Out Loud Competition @ Oakhurst 2-4 p.m. (participants & families)
- Dec. 5 • Endeavor Charter Q & A 10:00 a.m.
- Dec. 6 • MHS P.E. Day: No On-Site MHS Enrichment Classes
• Attendance 4 due
- Dec. 9 & 11 • MHS Kids Gift Workshops (MHS Math Classes and GHS Classes in session)
- Dec. 10 • Endeavor Charter Q & A 5:30 p.m.
- Dec. 11 • Catalina \$30 deposit due
- Dec. 12 • Last day of GHS (Cinnamon Roll) Fund-Raiser
• GHS Holiday Party @ Oakhurst 6-8 p.m.
- Dec. 13 • Orchard Park Seasonal Caroling 2-3 p.m.
- Dec. 18 • GHS Parent Submitted Grades Due
• FUSD Board officially receives our Charter
- Dec. 19 - Jan. 3, 2020 • Winter Break: No school

JANUARY 2020

- Jan. 6 • School resumes
• Attendance 5 due
• MHS Math Classes resume
- Jan. 7 • GHS Classes & MHS 8th Grade Classes resume
- Jan. 13 • All MHS Enrichment Classes resume
- Jan. 15 • FUSD Board Public Hearing
- Jan. 16 • GHS Speaker Day
- Jan. 20 • Martin Luther King Holiday: No School
- Jan. 22 • MHS & GHS STEAM Fair 5:30 p.m.
- Jan. 23 • GHS Senior Community Award Meeting 4:00 p.m.



“Nothing is stronger than an idea whose time has come.” (Victor Hugo)

PUBLIC NOTICE

WSCS BOARD MEETING

January 16th, 2020 at 2:30pm • Oakhurst Campus
The agenda will be posted by the front door; also available @ wscsfamily.org
Teleconferencing available at Fresno Campus in Rm. 3

ATTENDANCE
FORMS





FEATURED FAMILY

The Winrow Family



Homeschooling the Perfect Fit for Winrow Family

The Winrow family stands out as one of Western Sierra Charter School’s long-time attending families, having started with the school at the Kingsburg location then transferring to Fresno when it opened.

The Winrow family includes parents Raven and Micah, and children Willow, Autumn and Violet – and the elder Mr. Darcy, the family’s lovable miniature poodle mix. Autumn and Willow attend Glacier High School, grades 9 and 12 respectively, and Violet is now in first grade at Mountain Home School.

According to Raven, while they were apprehensive at first because this was new territory for their educational needs, WSCS turned out to be everything they wanted in a school and they never looked back.

“One of the things that impresses me most about this school is the prevailing thought that parents are the child’s best educators; they know how their child learns and how to teach them. I appreciate that,” she said.

Homeschooling seemed to be the best option for the family, said Raven, pointing to the individual structure in learning along with built-in support and time. On-site classes are smaller and there can be more time spent one-on-one with teachers to supplement at-home educational needs.

Any initial apprehension soon faded once the family became familiar with the program and saw how the girls were improving, she said. “I appreciate the constant support, the school asking, ‘What do you need from us to help you help them learn the best – and help you have fun

teaching them?’; that isn’t a school where there’s one box they put kids in,” she said.

While school is a family affair, so is home life where there is a tremendous value put on quality “family time.” Whether it’s at the dinner table, in church, or watching a movie together, the Winrows make sure they connect on a personal level to keep unity and strength as a family, said Raven.

“We are very family-oriented,” said Raven. “We eat a meal together every night and Fridays are movie nights. It is very important for us to spend time together.”

The WSCS schedule also works well with Raven and Micah’s career schedules. Micah works as a successful sales consultant for HVAC Company, and Raven is a personal stylist for Stitch Fix, an online personal styling service. The day can be managed so that all needs can be fulfilled from academics and work to family time and entertainment.

Willow, now a senior at GHS, began at MHS in eighth grade, five years ago. She attributes her success to the individualized learning and pace which allows her to spend more time on subjects she finds difficult. It is also a safer place to go to school, she said.

“I came to this school from a traditional public school and this is the best of both worlds,” said Willow. “I am a social person and I liked being in classes with other people. Here I get to come to classes but most of the schooling is in the safety of my own house.”

While at GHS, Willow has participated in Leadership which helped her community involvement, as well as taking several art courses and drama. She is looking forward to graduation and currently leaning toward a career in graphic design.

Autumn also spoke to the importance of individualized learning and pacing as some of her favorite aspects of WSCS. “I like how the school allows me to be able to do the work at my own pace. There’s also a wider range of things you can do. For instance, I like cooking and I was able to take Culinary Arts as an elective class,” she said. “It is very comfortable here; the students are really nice – it is a very wholesome school and I like it.”



FIELD TRIPS & EVENTS



Orchard Park Caroling

December 13

2:00-3:00 p.m.

Orchard Park

Come join us as we ring in the season with the senior residents at Orchard Park!

Students will also have an opportunity to pass out seasonal cards to residents.

Don't miss out on this exciting community outreach!

When: Friday, 12/13 from 2:00-3:00 p.m.

Where: Orchard Park
675 W Alluvial Ave
Clovis, CA 93611
(Cross Street: Willow)

Open to both MHS and GHS Families: Children must be accompanied by a parent.

Please contact Mrs. Hirata at bhirata@wscsfamily.org to RSVP (preferably by Dec. 12th).

Fresno Resource Center's Annual Talent Show

March 5th, 2020

Time: TBD

Bullard High School, Fresno

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!



STEAM FAIR

January 22, 2020

Share your work in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math projects.

When: January 22nd, at 5:30 p.m. Students should arrive by 5:10 to set-up projects.

Where: WSCS Fresno Site, West Building

What to bring: Your project displayed in a format that is easily visible to a crowd.

Examples:

- On a trifold board
- As a poster
- As a Google slideshow (bring your own Chromebook)
- In its original form

A one or two minute speech that explains the project, how it was created and/or the process, challenges you faced, and what you learned

Examples of STEAM Projects:

The possibilities are endless! (These are just a few examples!)

Science: An experiment you worked through with a lab write-up

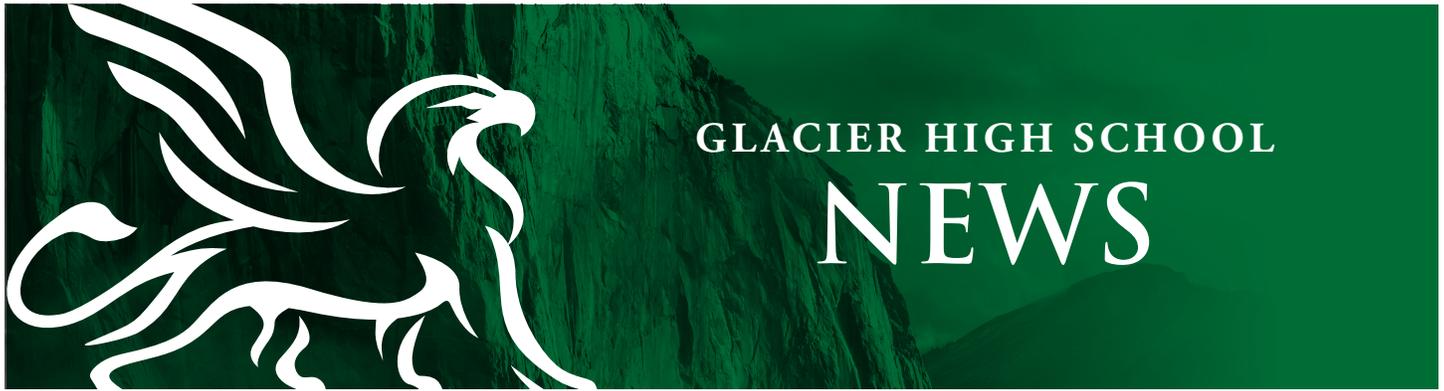
Technology: A Google slideshow or digital photograph describing a specific interest

Art: A painting, sculpture or other artistic project

Engineering: Something you've built or designed in order to solve a problem

Math: A unique way of solving a problem

Please email Mrs. Hirata (bhirata@wscsfamily.org) or Ms. Reeve (greeve@wscsfamily.org) to sign-up with the name of your project and what discipline it falls under by January 15th, 2020.



GLACIER HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Mosaic Art Fresno Resource Center

*New Spring Semester GHS
Art Class! Mosaic Art*

Only 12 spots available! Sign up via your Advising Teacher on or before Monday, December 16th at 4:00 p.m. Learn the art of mosaic using tile, stone, glass and other material set in a wood block. This class will take place on Friday mornings from 8:30 to 10:00 a.m. and be taught by Ms. Kelly Lord.

Grad Nite Fundraiser

Our Glacier Graduating Class of 2020 is selling U-Bake trays from Country Fair Cinnamon Rolls. Yes, these are the same ones from the Big Fresno Fair! We are selling them for \$25 a tray and they come with cream cheese frosting (ee get a better price than the fair). To purchase, please see our receptionist, Rosanna.

Last day of Fundraiser is December 13th.

They make great gifts and they are great for the holidays. You can keep them in the freezer for later too! Please consider supporting our Glacier graduates as they fund raise for their Grad Nite trip to Six Flags in May.



Personal Finance Class Fresno Resource Center

GHS Spring Semester Personal Finance Class

Sign up now via your Advising Teacher by Monday, December 16th, for this one-semester course designed to help students understand the impact of individual choices on occupational goals and future earnings potential.

This course will help prepare students with the skills needed for money management, college savings, and strategizing best options for any future endeavor.

Topics will include income, money management, spending and credit, as well as saving and investing.

**Only open to students who have not taken this course previously.*

This class takes place on Fridays, from 8:30-10:00 a.m., Room 1 and taught by Brandon Mallard.



ANNOUNCEMENTS
continued

Save the Date : January 16th

GHS Second Annual Speaker Day! More details will be coming soon.

Save
the
Date

**The GHS 2019/2020 Prom will be on
Saturday, March 14 from 6-10 p.m. at
the Yosemite Lakes Park Clubhouse in
Coarsegold**





ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS



GHS Fresno Fit Gym Opportunity!

*You are invited to join Fresno Fit Gym classes for FREE!
Glacier High will cover membership fee.*

WE ARE NOW ACCEPTING STUDENTS FOR
SPRING 2020 Classes!

Reasons to join:

- It is a fun way to complete PE Minutes with other Glacier students.
- An organized HIIT (High Intensity Interval Training) class, with an energetic coach to encourage you on your fitness goals.
- Mini Lessons about nutrition and health will be incorporated in each class.
- Any fitness level is able to participate.

When are these classes?

- **When:** Wednesdays starting January 8th
- **Time of Classes:** 10:15am-11:00am
- **Location:** 3093 W Bullard Ave, Fresno, CA 93711
(same parking area as the Fig Garden Library)

Please let your Advising Teacher know ASAP if you will be joining the classes.

All-Glacier High School Christmas Party! December 12, 2019, 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

*Wear Christmas apparel to be eligible for the
Most Christmas Spirit Award Staff Vote*

**FREE PIZZA & DRINKS BUT YOU MUST RSVP
ON TIME!**

**JOIN YOUR FRIENDS IN FUN ACTIVITIES
INCLUDING THE RETURN OF THE GINGER-
BREAD HOUSE CHALLENGE!**

What should you do now?

- RSVP by Tuesday, December 10th via Email/
ParentSquare your Advising Teacher or Mrs.
Friesen kfriesen@wscsfamily.org
- Bring a wrapped \$5 -\$10 gift for Secret Santa
Game
- Bring a dessert to share! (if you can)

**Parent Room will be available if you would like to relax
while your students attend the party**





COUNSELOR'S CORNER

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":

SCCCD (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

Seniors: If you have not yet turned in your "Grad Information Sheet," please do so as soon as you can. If you need another one or have questions, email me at ghill@wscsfamily.org.





MOUNTAIN HOME SCHOOL NEWS

EVENTS

The Mountain Home School Spelling Bee



February 28, 2020!

Sign up via ParentSquare or email Kathy Specht at 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 or Nancy Turner at nturner@wscsfamily.org



KIDS GIFTS WORKSHOPS December 9th & 11th, 2019 Kindergarten - Eighth Grade Fresno Site – West Building

A Mountain Home School (MHS) Event
Choose one Time Slot on One Day

**Monday,
December 9th, 2019**

9:00am - 11:00am
or
1:00pm - 3:00pm

**Wednesday,
December 11th, 2019**

9:00am - 11:00am
or
1:00pm - 3:00pm

Encourage a spirit of giving.
Drop off students for a two-hour session of creativity and camaraderie with friends and teachers!
Sign up via your Advising Teacher.
Space is limited within specific time slots and on a first-come, first-served basis. Call or write now to reserve space.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



MHS P.E. Days

Our next P.E. day will be Friday, December 6th! (no classes on-site).

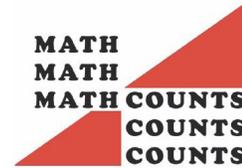
In December, we will be going bowling (deadline to RSVP for this event has passed).

Please watch for Parent Square alerts regarding this and subsequent scheduled P.E. Days.

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 or Nancy Flynn at nflynn@wscsfamily.org or via Parent Square.

Hope to see you there!



Math Counts Competition

Do you love Math? Are you in 6th, 7th or 8th grade? Do you like to work with others and enjoy competition? Math Counts may be the competition for you! Please read the attached flyer and talk to Mrs. Flynn or Mrs. Patterson ASAP if you are interested. This competition will take place at Fresno State University on February 13th. The competition is right around the corner and we only have ten spots available.

Mathcounts is a national enrichment, coaching and competition program that promotes middle school mathematics achievement in every U.S. state and territory. Students enrolled in the 6th, 7th or 8th grade are eligible to participate in MathCounts competitions.

What happens at a MathCounts competition?

The Sprint Round consists of 30 problems. This round tests accuracy, with time being such that only the most capable students will complete all of the problems. The Target Round consists of eight problems presented to competitors in four pairs. This round features multi-step problems that engage Mathletes in mathematical reasoning and problem-solving processes. The Team Round consists of 10 problems that team members work together to solve. Team member interaction is permitted and encouraged. The Countdown Round is a fast-paced, oral competition for top-scoring individuals. In this round, pairs of Mathletes compete against each other and the clock to solve problems.

What do the students get out of this?

Students have an opportunity to show their mathematical problem solving skills and to represent their schools in academic competition. The winning team will represent this region in the State competition in March. The grand finale is the Raytheon MathCounts National Competition in Washington D.C., May.



TIP OF THE MONTH

Deep Space Sparkle:

Resources to Help Encourage Creativity Across the Curriculum

Diane Vaccaro

DEEP SPACE SPARKLE

This year our school is using a new art curriculum for MHS: Deep Space Sparkle. I hope you have been able to see the incredible art that students are creating as you walk through our school. Students are learning technique as well as gaining experience working with different mediums.

We have purchased access to the curriculum, but I want to let you know that there are resources available free online at www.deepspacesparkle.com. There are free monthly lessons, videos, and tips for instructions. The creator, Patty Palmer, also has videos on YouTube.

In a recent interview with Parent Magazine, the Executive Director of the Church Street School for Music and Art in New York City, Lisa Ecklund-Flores, describes that “Creating art may boost young children’s ability to analyze and problem-solve in myriad ways...As kids manipulate a paintbrush, their fine motor skills improve. By counting pieces and colors, they learn the

basics of math. When children experiment with materials, they dabble in science. Most important perhaps, when kids feel good while they are creating, art helps boost self-confidence. And children who feel able to experiment and to make mistakes, feel free to invent new ways of thinking, which extends well beyond the craft room.”

If art is something that your children wish they could do more, Deep Space Sparkle is a wonderful place to look for ideas. Engaging in art alongside other subjects enriches education, introduces students to artists and other cultures, and is a beautiful way of expressing information and understanding. We offer most of the materials needed in our parent resource cabinets (watercolors, construction paper, watercolor paper, oil pastels, tempura paints). Please take what you need. And most importantly, have fun!

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