



ENDEAVOR EXPLORERS

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ENDEAVOR CHARTER SCHOOL
Personalized Learning Public Charter Schools

NEWSLETTER

December 2020 • January 2021



MARK YOUR CALENDAR IMPORTANT DATES

DECEMBER

- Dec. 7 - 11** • Kids Gift Workshops (TK-8)
- Dec. 11** • Last Day of Fall H.S. & All Math Classes
• 12/11 \$30 Catalina Payment Due
- Dec. 21 - Jan. 1, 2021** • Winter Break: No School
- Dec. 25** • LP 5 Attendance due

JANUARY

- Jan. 1** • News Years Day: No School
- Jan. 4** • Semester 2 Begins
- Jan. 11** • On-site and virtual classes resume
• TK-8 Enrichment Classes Begin
• 5th-8th Math Classes Begin
• High School Classes Begin
- Jan. 15** • \$30 Catalina Payment Due
- Jan. 18** • MLK Day: No School
- Jan. 22** • LP 6 Attendance Due



PUBLIC NOTICE

WSCS BOARD MEETING January 12, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

This meeting will be by teleconference pursuant to Executive Orders N-25-20 and N-29-20.
 More information on Page 4



CLICK HERE to Follow Our Facebook Page

**ATTENDANCE
FORMS**



Elementary



High School

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WSCS Board Meeting

January 12, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

This meeting will be by teleconference pursuant to Executive Orders N-25-20 and N-29-20.

[CLICK HERE](#)
Request Form



The Western Sierra Charter Schools (WSCS) Board of Directors (Board) and employees of WSCS shall meet via the Zoom meeting platform. Members of the public who wish to view and access this Board meeting may do so at: <https://www.facebook.com/wscsfamily/live>.

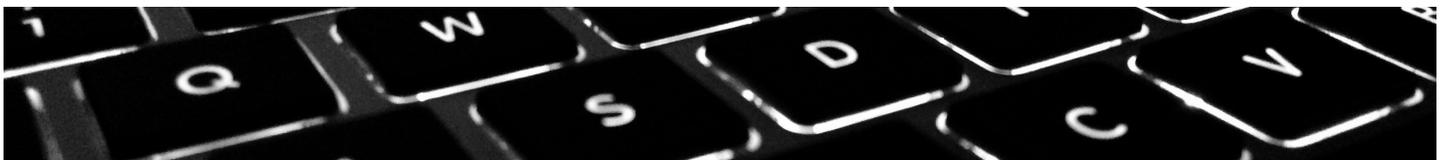
Members of the public who wish to make written comment to the Board for this meeting should make their written request at least 24 hours prior to the meeting at <http://www.wscsfamily.org/board-request.html>.

Members of the public who wish to make live, spoken comment during this meeting should make their written request at least 24 hours prior to the meeting at <http://www.wscsfamily.org/board-request.html>. Public will remain muted until appropriate time. Individual comments will be limited to three (3) minutes. If an interpreter is needed for comments, they will be translated to English and the time limit shall be six (6) minutes. The Board of Directors may limit the total time for public comment to

a reasonable time. The Board reserves the right to mute or remove a member of the public if comments or actions disrupt the Board meeting.

Access to Board Materials: A copy of the written materials which will be submitted to the WSCS Board may be reviewed by any interested persons on <http://www.wscsfamily.org/board-agenda-and-minutes.html> website along with this agenda following the posting of the agenda at least 72 hours in advance of this meeting.

Disability Access: Requests for disability-related modifications or accommodations to participate in this public meeting should be made 24 hours prior to the meeting at <http://www.wscsfamily.org/board-request.html>. All efforts will be made for reasonable accommodations. The agenda and public documents can be modified upon request as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act.



EVENTS

STEAM FAIR 2021

January 21, 2021

Location: TBD

*STEAM FAIR 2021
JANUARY 21st!!*

(deadline to submit information January 14th!)

Are you looking for an out of the ordinary activity that is both creative and educational? Encourage your K through 12th grade child to share a unique project at our annual STEAM Fair!!

Share work in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, or Math!

When: January 21st at 5:30

Where: TBA

What to Prepare: Your project displayed in a format of your choice.

Examples of format:

- Trifold board
- Poster
- Google slideshow (bring your own Chromebook)
- Original form

Additional Preparation: Please prepare a one or two minute speech that explains the project, how it was created and/or the process, challenges you faced, and what you have learned through this process.

Ideas for 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 photography display describing a specific interest



Arts (Visual): A painting, sculpture or another artistic project

Engineering: Something you have 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 by January 14th, 2021 4:00 p.m.

Please include the following:

Name:

Advising Teacher:

Grade:

Title of Project/Brief Description:

Discipline Focus: (Science/Tech/Art/Engineering/Math)

*Mountain Home & Glacier
High Presents*

BUILDING RESILIENCE IN CHALLENGING TIMES

Jolinda Thomas, MFT counselor at the Oakhurst Counseling Center will share her thoughts & strategies to help get you through difficult times.

You are not alone!

Time: 2:00-2:50pm

Date: 12/02/2020

All WSCS Parents & Staff invited!

Time will be set aside if attendees want to share strategies they use to help them navigate the tough times!



To Join this Zoom Workshop:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83712177143?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83712177143?pwd=T1hmb0cwZGxUNE1LaGtMODlvTy9BZz09)

[pwd=T1hmb0cwZGxUNE1LaGtMODlvTy9BZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83712177143?pwd=T1hmb0cwZGxUNE1LaGtMODlvTy9BZz09)

Meeting ID: 837 1217 7143

Passcode: 023811

Contact person: Mindy Klang
mklang@wscsfamily.org



WESTERN SIERRA
CHARTER SCHOOLS

FEATURED FAMILY

The Allen Family

Grace Reeve



Meet the Allen Family! They are well into their ninth year of homeschooling with both children in high school this year. The decision to homeschool was not an easy one. Much sacrifice, re-arranging of schedules, community support, prayer

and tears went into the decision, but they report that it has been worth it!

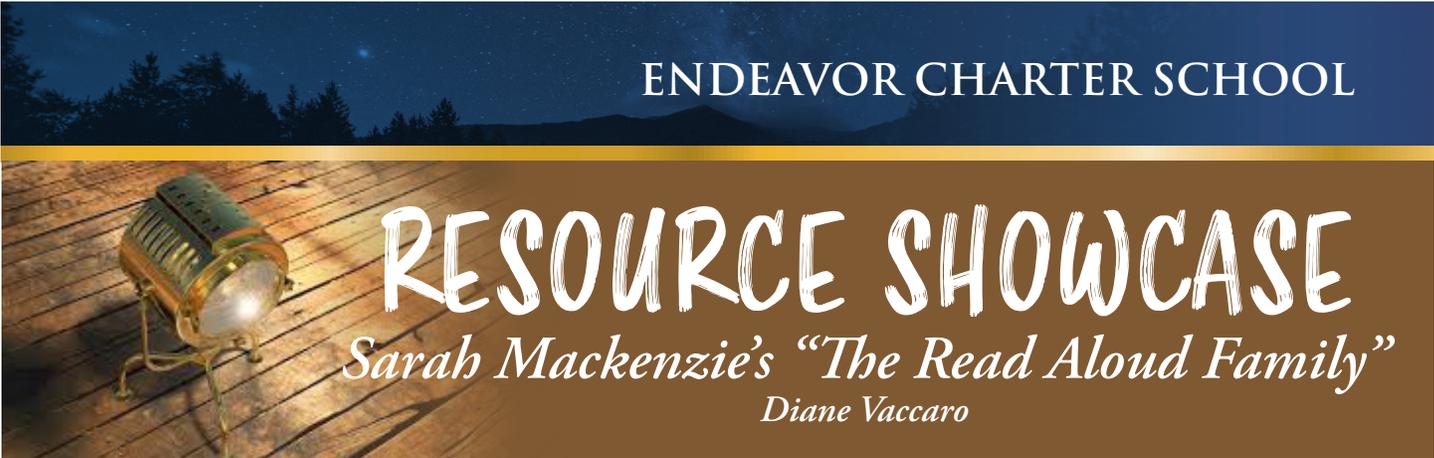
As her children grew older, Kristi desired to see them maintain confidence, contentment, and excitement in their abilities and pursuits. They needed an education model that would work for them. Kristi looked for resources that would challenge and propel her children to the next level and engage their intellect. Homeschooling has provided this and has opened opportunities to meet the needs of their unique learning styles.

Kristi says that Western Sierra Charter Schools offered small class sizes, necessary accommodations and one on one assistance that was needed for one of her children as well as outside work. The flexible schedule also gives her children the opportunity to pursue interests in the community related to music and sports.

Kristi describes that the administration and instructors at the school care not only for the academic success of her children, but also for their mental, emotional, health and well-being; as well as the freedom to pursue spiritual health. School staff realize that “success” might be different for each student. They advocate alongside her

for her children with their education and experience. But, they also acknowledge as the parent, she leads her children’s education. They support her as the main educator. They support her children. They support the entire family. Their standards for accountability and communication are high and their guidance, sincere. School staff works with Kristi to develop a personalized learning program to positively tap into her children’s abilities, talents, and skills. The instructors are readily available to meet with students to give additional help in and outside of class time, and to connect with her for questions or concerns. The atmosphere is friendly, inviting, caring and balanced with professionalism. They are an extension of family.

Kristi’s Advice to New Homeschoolers: “You don’t do it alone. I was concerned I wouldn’t find enough additional resources. Whatever! The issue is having to choose what not to do. So many opportunities, activities, and classes in the area. My friends early on warned to ‘be careful that homeschool doesn’t turn into car-school.’ For curriculum, there is so much. You can become overloaded easily. I haven’t used just one for all the subjects. What works for one subject for your child is not necessarily going to mean the next subject taught from the same curriculum is going to work for your child. What I did from the very beginning due to great advice from others was borrow a book from a friend by the author Cathy Duffy called *102 Top Picks for Homeschool Curriculum: Choosing the Right Curriculum and Approach for Your Child’s Learning Style*. You read through it and realize there are different learning styles, different teaching styles, and certain curriculums that meet one learning style but may not meet another. It also helps you decide the way you’re going to educate (yes, there are different ways). From my first year to my fifth it changed because your children change, you change, and you find out what works and doesn’t.”



RESOURCE SHOWCASE

Sarah Mackenzie's "The Read Aloud Family"
Diane Vaccaro

The Value of Read-Aloud

My favorite read aloud books are “The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe” and “Wonder.” The first book I simply love. The second book is special because of the conversations my children and I would have about being a good friend during, and after reading. It was powerful. I have shelves full of beautiful stories, and I’m sure you do, too.

Having the books around, however, did not always lead to reading books aloud. I often had grandiose plans of us (my 3 children and me) sitting together, snuggled up on the couch, gathered around a book, hearts deeply connected to a story and each other. In reality, it rarely looked like a Norman Rockwell painting. Someone usually didn’t want to be there, one passionately didn’t want to sit next to another, and I preferred to use the couch for a nap. We tried to do a read aloud when the shutdown began. With children who are 18, 16, and 14, it turns out I find it just as hard to commit to the read aloud. We made it about two-thirds of the way through the book. It still sits next to the dinner table as a reminder of our unfinished business. Perhaps you can relate?

I want to encourage us to pick up a book and keep reading, whether you are picking up your 57th book to read aloud or struggling to finish the 3rd. Let’s pick up a book and keep reading aloud to our children. Here are some reasons why we shouldn’t give up:

The Value of Reading Aloud

1. Builds vocabulary
2. Improves comprehension
3. Assists in bonding
4. Provides a model of reading
5. Improves listening skills

6. Introduces new genres
7. Motivates students to read on their own
8. Provides opportunities for questions and discussions
9. Provides an activity that all grade levels can do together
10. Builds imaginations
(from <https://readaloudrevival.com/>)

I recently came across Sarah Mackenzie’s book, “**The Read-Aloud Family.**” The book includes a lot of encouragement and ideas as well as lists and lists of great read aloud books. This book is now available in our school library (as well as “**The Read-Aloud Handbook**” by Jim Trelease). I hope you’ll check it out, glean a few tips, and get some book suggestions. Then, sit together, snuggle up on the couch, gather around a book, and let your hearts deeply connect to a story and to each other.

10 Questions to Ask About Any Book
From Sarah Mackenzie's
“*The Read-Aloud Family*”

1. What does the character want, and why can't he/she have it?
2. Should he/she have done that?
3. How is X like/different from Y?
4. Who is the most _____ in this story? (insert any character trait)
5. What does this story or character remind you of?
6. What is the character most afraid of?
7. What would you change about the setting or main character if you were writing this book?
8. What surprised you most?
9. Which character most reminds you of yourself?
10. What is something you don't want to forget from this book (or chapter)?

THE BREAKROOM

Staff Feature

BROOKE LLANOS

Meet the teacher who works with our youngest Explorers, Brooke Llanos!

Interview by Sandra Hammond



Brooke is pictured with her husband, Kevin and daughters Lilly and Felicity.

Role/Position: TK-1 Adjunct Teacher

What is your background/education? Teaching Credential through Fresno State (fun fact: Nancy Garcia and I went through the teaching program together!)

What does a typical work-day for you look like? When it's not COVID, I teach 2 full days (and last year helped teach PE). I usually get to school early to prep the room, then spend the rest of the day with the sweetest, funniest, cutest kids! I get to teach a bit of my favorite subjects: art, reading, music, PE, and science. I homeschool my own children, who take a lot less time now that they are both in high school, on the days I'm not at school.

What is the most challenging part of your position? Right now, it's not seeing the kids. It's definitely harder to teach a lot of the early skills when you're on Zoom.

What do you like best about your career choice? I get so much joy out of teaching the youngest grades. They make me laugh ALL the time. They have such fun, unhindered things to share. They share love just as easily as they do their hilarious stories and it just fills my heart.

What is the first career goal you remember having as a young person? Being an airline pilot or surgeon.

Did you follow any part of that original goal? Nope! Teaching was my next dream (at quite a young age as well) and I am so thankful that's where I ended up!

Family Make-Up: An amazing husband named Kevin, who is the lead chaplain for the Clovis Police Dept., Lilly who is 16 and a junior at Endeavor, and Felicity who is 14 and a freshman at Endeavor.

Do you have any other interests/pursuits? I am very involved in my church and community. My faith in Jesus and love for Him is what gives me purpose and joy. I love to bake (and eat what I bake) and I love to do pretty much anything with my family and friends. I especially love a good game night.



COUNSELOR'S CORNER

with Greg Hill

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) If this is not your first plan, I encourage the community college option to be a great "back up" plan for all seniors.

Local Community College "Registration To Go" steps

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: (Should have applied by now)
2. Online Orientation: November/December
3. Counseling / Advising with Student Educational Plan: Feb/March
4. Registration for classes: April if above steps are completed

FAFSA AND MONEY MATTERS

All seniors planning on attending any college or a career technical school: FAFSA application is open now! All seniors should apply.

[CLICK HERE](#)
to Apply to FAFSA

Look for college/trade school scholarships wherever you apply. Both community colleges and universities have opened their scholarship application window.

Seniors: The GE-Reagan Foundation Scholarship Program rewards college-bound students who demonstrate exemplary leadership, drive, integrity, and citizenship with financial assistance to pursue higher education.

[CLICK HERE](#)
to Apply to
GE-Reagan Foundation Scholarship

Each year, the Program selects numerous recipients to receive a \$10,000 scholarship renewable for up to an additional three years – up to \$40,000 total per recipient. Awards are for undergraduate study and may be used for education-related expenses, including tuition, fees, books, supplies, room, and board.

ASVAB Test: 10th, 11th, 12 grades: Coming in February, date TBD

ASVAB stands for the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery, which is a multiple-choice test that helps you identify which Army jobs (Military Occupational Specialties) that would be best for you. This test is an excellent resource even if you are not planning on enlisting in the military.

PSAT for 8,9,10,11th graders : January 26th. \$17 payable to Front Desk.

This is a practice test for the SAT. The SAT is a test that 4-year universities use as part of their admissions process (However, it is not being used in the 21-22 school year due to COVID).

We are in the process of getting Endeavor approved to administer the test. Look for an upcoming Parent Square message with more information to come.

continue to next page



Counselor's Corner continued...

10th, 11th, 12 graders: Community College High School Enrichment Information

The High School Enrichment program at the Community College offers students in the 10th, 11th, and 12th grades an opportunity to enroll in college courses to receive college credit along with high school credit.

Students admitted to the program are treated as new students each semester attended, and are eligible to register during the open enrollment period. The enrollment period for the Spring semester is open now.

Link for available classes

[CLICK HERE
for available classes](#)

Below are the links to each of the local community college HSE packets

[FRESNO CITY](#)

[CLOVIS COMMUNITY](#)

[REEDLEY COLLEGE](#)

[OAKHURST CENTER](#)

[MADERA COMMUNITY
COLLEGE](#)

If you have any questions please email Greg Hill at gill@wscsfamily.org



Photo by Tirachard Kumtanom from Pexels

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

KIDS GIFT WORKSHOPS
DEADLINE TO SIGN UP DECEMBER 1st!!



We can't wait for the opportunity to see your children and create some special holiday gifts!

On-site Session Options:

Mon. 12/7 8:30-10:00
Mon. 12/7 11:30-1:00
Tues. 12/8 8:30-10:00
Tues. 12/8 11:30-1:00
Wed. 12/9 8:30-11:00
Wed. 12/9 11:30-1:00
Fri. 12/11 8:30-11:00
Fri. 12/11 11:30-1:00

Virtual Sessions

Two virtual sessions will also be offered for families who do not wish to come on-site.

Kits for the virtual sessions will be available for pick-up on Monday, 12/7 in the east building.

Virtual Sessions via Zoom (Link to follow)

Tues. 12/8 8:30-10:00
Wed. 12/9 11:30-1:00

In order to follow COVID 19 guidelines, the following safety measures will be taken:

- All students and staff are required to wear masks when on campus.
 - Check-in for KGW will be facilitated outside (weather permitting). There will be several sign-in sheets located on carts for parents to sign in their child. Students will sit at a table with their class group and be walked into the classroom by a teacher.
 - Rooms will be limited to 6 students. When possible, we will try to put all of the same family members in the same room to limit exposure.
 - Most materials will be used only one time. Materials that are shared will be disinfected before and after each use.
- Please contact your advising teacher to sign up by December 1st ! Due to COVID safety measures, we will not be able to add students to workshop sessions after December 1st.

STAFF DIRECTORY

Endeavor Charter School

777 Shaw Ave • Fresno, CA 93704
Phone 559-248-0471 **Fax** 559-248-0482

NAME	EXTENSION	PRIMARY ASSIGNMENT
Eric Hagen	203	Co-Principal/Tech Admin
Nancy Garcia	202	Co-Principal Fresno
Marianne Lord	200	Admin Secretary
Rosanna Carrasco	222	Receptionist
Amanda Patterson	216	TK-8 Advising Teacher
Brandon Mallard	229	Adjunct Teacher
Brook Hirata	204	TK-8 Advising Teacher
Katelyn Carter	210	RSP Special Ed
Diane Vaccaro	206	TK-8 Advising Teacher and 9-12 Leadership
Grace Reeve	201	9-12 Advising Teacher
Greg Hill	220	Guidance Counselor
Irina Buca	205	9-12 Advising Teacher
Kathy Specht	225	TK-8 Advising Teacher
Margaret Den Hartog	207	TK-8 Advising Teacher
Nancy Flynn	228	Math Adjunct Teacher/Tutor
Nancy Turner	217	TK-8 Advising Teacher
Phil Blas	218	CTE Teacher/IT Coordinator
Sandra Hammond	215	TK-8 Advising Teacher
Sonny Yang	208	9-12 Advising Teacher
Stephanie Ganzenhuber	209	TK-8 Advising Teacher
Susan Huey	226	TK-8 Advising 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
Karen Fruth	(559) 642-1422 ext 110	WSCS SPED Coordinator

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

SUPPORT STAFF

Mrs. Chugg - Math • Mrs. Friesen-English • Mrs. Gaviria - Spanish • Mrs. Kelly - Science • Mrs. Llanos - K Teacher
 Kelly Lord - Office and TA • Mr. Mena - Music • Ms. Mr. McGough - Integrated Drawing/Art • Mrs. Richards - English
 Bee Lor - Custodian