



# ENDEAVOR EXPLORERS

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**ENDEAVOR CHARTER SCHOOL**  
*Personalized Learning Public Charter Schools*

# NEWSLETTER

November 2020



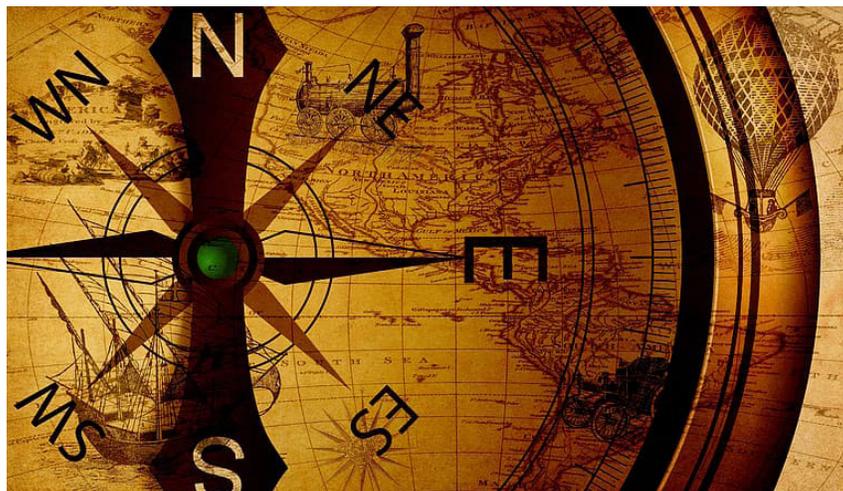
## MARK YOUR CALENDAR IMPORTANT DATES

### NOVEMBER

- Nov. 3** • Board Meeting 2:00 p.m.
- Nov. 4** • \$25 Grad Night deposit due
- Nov. 6** • Deadline to sign up for Spelling Bee
- Nov. 11** • Veterans Day: No School
- Nov. 16 - 20** • Last Week of Fall K-8 Enrichment Classes  
*Please note ALL 5th-12th Grade Math Classes follow the High School Schedule*
- Nov. 17** • K-3 Parent Workshop 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
- Nov. 23 - 27** • Thanksgiving Break: No School
- Nov. 27** • LP 4 Attendance due

### DECEMBER

- Dec. 11** • Last Day of Fall H.S. & All Math Classes
- Dec. 21 - Jan. 1, 2021** • Winter Break: No School
- Dec. 25** • LP 5 Attendance due



*"Not all who wander are lost" -J.R.R. Tolkien*



### PUBLIC NOTICE

## WSCS BOARD MEETING November 3, 2020 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

## ANNOUNCING ENDEAVOR'S SCHOOL

### COLORS AND MASCOT



# ENDEAVOR EXPLORERS

#### School Colors Navy & Gold

*Navy Color* - The Navy color is a deep blue color that represents our profound commitment to the families and students we serve. It is also a color that truly embodies an endeavor to explore by sea, sky or space. This color was first introduced by the Royal British Navy and was later adopted by other countries. This is probably why a diverse group of people can agree, that the color navy represents strength, reliability, bravery and honor.

*Gold Color* - The color gold is a unique color just like our school. Gold represents "light" and "illumination." This radiance can be seen by Endeavor's wonderful students, families and staff. Like the element of Gold, our school has great value and appreciation. Gold can also represent longevity, which is what we all desire and envision for Endeavor Charter School!

#### School Mascot - The Endeavor Explorers

The Endeavor Explorers mascot represents our home-school and personalized learning mindset. The shuttle in the logo represents the Endeavor exploration.

#### Endeavor Explorers are:

- Interested and curious
- Adventurous and brave
- Ready to try things no one has before

#### Endeavor Explorers can be:

- Pathfinders
- Travelers
- Scientists
- Artists
- Deep thinkers

Endeavor Explorers are not afraid to fail because they can appreciate the great wisdom that comes from hardship. Endeavor Explorers do not set limits created by others, instead aspiring to do great things and to chart their own course.



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to Follow Our Facebook Page

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### WSCS Board Meeting

November 3, 2020 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>.

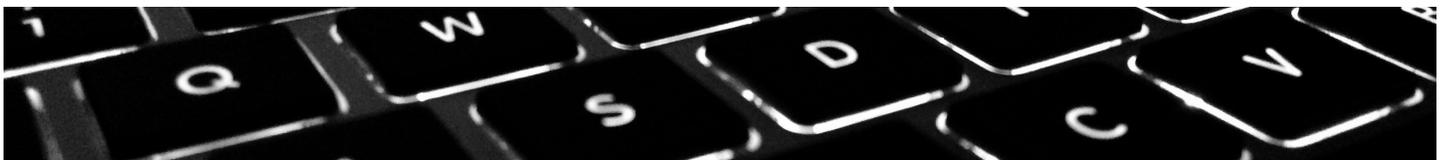
Members of the public who wish to make written comment to the Board for this meeting should make their written request at least 24 hours prior to the meeting at <http://www.wscsfamily.org/board-request.html>.

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.



## FEATURED FAMILY

### *The Bernstein Family*

*Diane Vaccaro*



Michael and Veronica Bernstein moved their family to the Fresno/Clovis area from the Midwest and chose Endeavor (then Mountain Home School) for their children. “Homeschooling had been our plan since before even having children. We were drawn to it for many reasons. We appreciate the kids being able to work at their own pace. There’s a lot of value in the ability to choose our own curriculum and supplement it with many fun adventures and activities. We are able to get through the core curriculum in a shorter amount of time than is the case in traditional schooling, therefore leaving more time for extracurricular activities, world schooling, travel, life skills education, and so many other experiences that benefit for our kids in ways tradition school cannot offer. Oh, and this happened in February, 2020! None of us had any idea what the coming months would bring, but our model of instruction helped assure some normalcy in the midst of so much change. Lucas, now 5th grade, and Jacob, now 2nd grade, kept right on going with their education.”

As part of their schooling, Veronica is often trying to find local places to visit to enhance learning. She wants to make the most of the resources around her and connect what the boys are learning to what they can experience.

Our program has also allowed for Lucas to continue his involvement in competitive golf. Veronica shares, “Homeschooling allows him to be on the course daily, often for many hours at a time, and we are able to work our homeschooling schedule around his golf schedule. We travel quite a bit for his golf, and for pleasure, and being able to take our curriculum along with, or adjust our schedules based on our travels, is very helpful.”

Endeavor school offers more than flexibility and choices. Veronica shared that she appreciates how homeschooling has helped her boys to be more independent, self-motivated learners; skills she believes will benefit them throughout the rest of their education and into their careers.

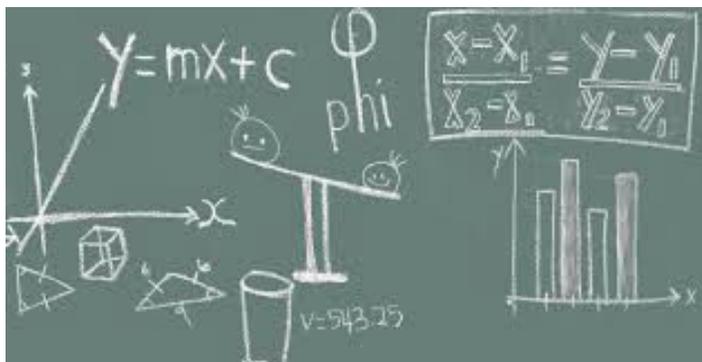
What is her advice to other homeschooled parents? “Don’t be afraid to ditch curricula if it isn’t working out for you. Some days will be challenging, and on those days there’s nothing wrong with taking it easy and enjoying a little more snuggle reading time. Get creative and have fun with things.”

Someday we will all be back on our campus, grateful for our school community to gather again. We will see old friends and finally see our new friends in person. When you see the Bernsteins, ask them about recent field trips, or share your own favorites spots. They are always looking for opportunities to get out and allow the family to experience first hand, the things they learn in books.

## RESOURCE SHOWCASE

### *Khan Academy*

*Irina Buca*



Khan Academy is a great, free, supplemental resource covering a wide range of K-12 subjects. Sal Khan, former hedge fund analyst and creator of the nonprofit Khan Academy, started this organization following his experience in providing virtual tutoring for his cousin. The organization has now evolved to include tens of thousands of videos covering math, and a broad range of science topics such as biology, chemistry, cosmology, astronomy, and physics. The site also has topics in finance and history. A recent partnership with Smarthistory has also added hundreds of art history videos to the library. The content is created in 10 to 20-minute chunks and students are encouraged to complete practice exercises and assessments. The videos are presented in a conversational style; unique to most resources.

Sal describes this teaching style as follows: “I teach the way that I wish I was taught. The lectures are coming from me, an actual human being who is fascinated by the world around him” (Sal Khan).

I have always believed that a great teacher should offer a blended curriculum that takes into consideration each individual student. Focusing on the individual needs of each student is a priority at Western Sierra Charter school. I use Khan Academy in my classes for the following reasons:

- Students are free to learn anytime, anywhere
- Students can jump to where help is needed most, and spend as much time as necessary to master concepts
- The content is brief, fun, approachable, and easily digestible
- There is a clear and continuous path to learning complex topics
- Students feel an increased sense of ownership - they are learning, not “being taught”

Additionally, because of the exclusive partnership between Khan Academy and the College Board, students and teachers now have access to world-class PSAT/ SAT preparation. See the links below to get started!



**CLICK HERE**  
for Khan Academy



**CLICK HERE**  
for Khan Academy SAT



**CLICK HERE**  
for Khan Academy PSAT

# THE BREAKROOM

Staff Feature

PHIL BLAS

In addition to our Featured Family article, this month we begin The Breakroom. We hope that during this time of social distancing, it helps us stay connected and get to know each other a little better! Our first interview is with Phil Blas, IT Coordinator/CTE Instructor. Phil is the author of numerous Parent Square messages regarding Chromebook issues, virtual meetings, policies regarding digital citizenship and many other topics in the language of what I like to call “Technese”. Pictured below with his son, Aden, meet Phil Blas!

*Sandra Hammond*



**What is your background/ education?**

BSTM – Business Information Systems, MISM – Information Systems Security, 20 years working in IT starting at a small business and, at the peak of my involvement in the industry, working as a Chief Information Officer for a health-care district.

**What does a typical work-day for you look like?** BUSY! I have a lot of fun though. I work with a great group of people and love the student interactions.

**What is the most challenging part of your position?** Finding a balance so that I can help everyone timely and efficiently.

**What do you like best about your career choice?** I get to play with all the cool toys!

**What is the first career goal you remember having as a young person?** Playing at the Lincoln Center as a professional trumpet player.

**Did you follow any part of that original goal?** I did, sort of... I was, and am still, a professional trumpet play-

er. I have played in bands led by Lincoln Center musicians and have physically made it as far as the Reno International Jazz Festival.

**Family Make-Up** Myself and my son Aden.

**Do you have any other interests/pursuits?** I love cybersecurity stuff and have a passion for sound engineering. I’ve spent a lot of time doing sound for several live bands and have been mentored by some great sound engineers currently working for Pac-West Sound and the Crystal Palace, to name a few.

Phil travels between both school sites and works with both K-8 and high school staff on each campus. In addition to teaching the CTE class, he also homeschools 6th grader, Aden; but he always manages to stop and say hello as we pass each other in the parking lot or around the water cooler. We feel fortunate to have Phil as part of our Western Sierra Charter Schools family!



## HIGH SCHOOL



### COUNSELOR'S CORNER

with Greg Hill

### ATTENTION SENIORS

Grad Nite \$25 deposit is due. Deadline extended to November 4th. Please drop off deposit at the front office.

### COLLEGE APPLICATION INFORMATION

#### Cal State/University of California:

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

**CSU:** [www2.calstate.edu](http://www2.calstate.edu)

**UC:** [www.ucop.edu/pathways](http://www.ucop.edu/pathways)

**Private University:** Deadlines 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/November
2. Online Orientation: November
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 opens October 1st, 2020.

[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 January, 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) would be best for you. This test is an excellent resource even if you are not planning on enlisting in the military.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

YELLOWSTONE VIRTUAL FIELD TRIP

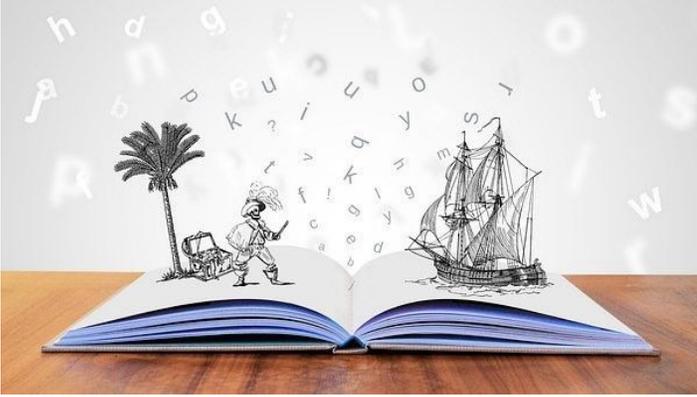
*Amanda Patterson*



During the month of October, families visited Yellowstone National Park (virtually). They began by seeing where Yellowstone was located on Google Earth. Then families watched various videos provided by the National Park. Families explored the park and learned a lot about this gem. On October 16th we did a Zoom share out. All students who attended shared what they learned. Mr. Hagen even dropped in to share his family's pictures from their trip to Yellowstone! We hope you all will join us on our next trip to the Great Barrier Reef!



## EVENTS



### **Endeavor Parent Workshop Developing a Balanced Literacy Program November 17th • 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Zoom**

This workshop is designed for the parents/guardians of children 5 to 8 years old.

**WHEN:** Tuesday, Nov. 17th 10:00-11:30

**WHERE:** Due to social distancing concerns, this workshop will be facilitated via Zoom (link to follow RSVP)

**RSVP:** Please send your request to attend to Advising Teacher, Sandra Hammond at [shammond@wscsfamily.org](mailto:shammond@wscsfamily.org) before Monday, Nov. 16th 4:00

**Goal:** To help build your language arts program through practical recommendations that can easily be added to any curriculum

#### *Topics include:*

- Intrinsic vs. Extrinsic Motivation to Read & Write
- Choosing & Developing Curriculum
- Implementing Reading Strategies
- Comprehension vs. Critical Reading & Thinking
- Formal & Informal Assessments that Drive Instruction
- Integrating Art & Science with Literacy Activities
- Deciding When to Explore the Possibility of a Special Need



### **Kid's Gift Workshop December 2020 Location: TBD**



Kid's Gift Workshop is coming in December!

Please be on the look out for a Parent Square with all the important details.



## EVENTS



### Spelling Bee January 9, 2021 Location: TBD

**Attention Families with 4th through 8th graders!!  
Please participate in the first annual Endeavor Charter School Spelling Bee**

**WHEN:** Friday, January 29, 2021!  
**WHERE:** Format TBA  
(COVID 19  
Mandates/Concerns)

#### **DEADLINE**

**TO SIGN-UP:** Friday, Nov. 6th at 4:00 p.m.  
**CONTACT/SIGN UP INFO:** Email Nancy Turner at [nturner@wscsfamily.org](mailto:nturner@wscsfamily.org) (or via ParentSquare) with the name and grade level of your child.

#### **Important Information**

- Spelling word lists to study will be available in November
- The top 2 Endeavor Spellers from the 4th-6th grade division and the top 2 Endeavor Spellers from the 7th-8th grade division will advance to the Fresno County Spell-Off in March, 2021
- The Fresno County Spell-Off is a qualifier for the Scripps National Spelling Bee!

Spelling is fun and this will be a great learning experience!

I look forward to guiding our Endeavor spellers!

### 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](mailto:bhirata@wscsfamily.org)) or Ms. Reeve ([greeve@wscsfamily.org](mailto: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)

# 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