

Mountain Home School Charter

August-September 2011 News



Welcome Back to School!

The official start of school begins on Monday, August 15th. We look forward to seeing our returning families and meeting our new ones! If you are one of our new families to Mountain Home, welcome!

We've organized a field trip to Wild Waters Waterpark the first week of school—see information on page 2 of this newsletter.

A Back to School night is planned for Thursday, Sept. 8th at 5:00 pm. It will be held on site this year with hotdogs, chips, & drink provided. Staff will also conduct break-out sessions on various schooling topics related to homeschooling. We'd love to see you all in attendance!

Newsletters are posted monthly on our website but if you require one to be mailed, please let your charter teacher know & we're happy to mail one to you! Check out our website at: www.mountainhomecharter.org

Enjoy the rest of your summer vacation & we'll see you soon!

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Wild Water Day



It's time to have some fun! On **Friday, August 19th**, we will begin our new school year with a trip to Wild Waters Park. This is a rescheduled trip we had planned for last June. When the weather didn't cooperate, we decided to hold it in August. **The cost is \$12.50 per person and the deadline to sign up & pay is Tuesday, August 16th. The fee is nonrefundable.** Even if you didn't originally sign-up for June, we'd love to have you attend.

We will meet at the park entrance at 10:00 a.m. to distribute tickets, so please arrive on time. Families may bring their lunch and drinks as in past years but need to remember that no glass containers are allowed inside the park. Wild Water's address is 11413 East Shaw Avenue, Clovis, CA. If you need more information or driving directions, please go to www.wildwater.net.

Feel welcome to contact Skip or Mindy if you have any other questions!

Around the World in 180 Days

That's our theme for this year! The MHSC staff is excited about it and hope that our families get "into it" too. Classes will reflect the study of different continents and cultures with music, art, writing, books, and we plan on having two all-school International Expo Days in November and March. These days will be public speaking venues for students to present reports, food, art, traditional costumes...whatever they studied for a particular country.

Some fun ideas that the staff have discussed are: a pen pal exchange, guest speakers, multicultural festival field trip, and Olympics sports activities. If you have more ideas, please email or tell your charter teacher.

8th Grade Meeting

The first 8th grade meeting will take place on **Tuesday, September 6th at 12 noon**. If you are an 8th grader, please try to attend as we will be talking about the 8th grade trip to Catalina Island Marine Institute, the school sponsored fundraisers, exchanging phone numbers, extra get-togethers, mosaic class, etc. **Bring a sack lunch and parents are encouraged to attend this first meeting too.** Please bring your datebook/planner.

Questions? Call or see Joanne or Joanie 642-1422 ext.13.

Western Sierra Charter Schools Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 7th at 1:00 pm. This is Mountain Home & Glacier High School Charter's governing Board made up of parents, staff, & community members. Parents, you are always welcome to attend!



Flower Power is coming! Sept. 7-Oct. 7



Classes



Book Club

This year our Book Club will read and discuss a great selection of books from different genres. Our three separate clubs will begin meeting in September. 3rd/4th grade club will meet Thursday, September 15th. 5th/6th grade club will meet Thursday, September 22nd. 7th/8th grade will meet on Tuesday, September 27th. We will meet from 2:45 – 3:45. Don't miss the first meeting, since this is when we will choose our book selections.

Call Kathi @ 642-1422 ext. 12 with questions.

SEWING CLASS

Sewing class for 4th through 8th Graders will begin in September and is led by Claudia Reeve and Susan Mackenzie. The first project will take two or three weeks. Mountain Home School has four sewing machines and two students will share one machine, so the class is limited. Sign up on the bulletin board at school.

Please call Susan for more details and/or to sign up at 642-1422 ext. 14.

P.E. in the Park

Parent teacher, Cari Rumohr will lead a physical education class on Fridays, beginning September 9th from 10:00-11:30 a.m. at the Oakhurst Community Park. This program requires parent support as this is not a drop-off class. Body awareness, skills for K-3, sports and activities for 4-8. A hike is planned once each month.

K-3—class size limited to 16; 4-8—class size limited to 20. A sign-up sheet is posted at the school.

Essay Writing

In preparation for the State's essay writing portion of STAR testing, classes for 4th and 7th grade students will be held once again. Tuesdays will be held for 7th graders and Thursdays for 4th grade students. Questions? Contact Principal & Charter Teacher, Mindy Klang @ ext. 15.

Math Classes

The following math classes will be taught this year by the following charter teachers:

Skip Bullock—6th grade math

Kim Meeks—Pre-Algebra

Bill Shennan—Algebra

The above math courses will be taught 2 days/week on Tuesday & Thursday mornings throughout the school year. Each charter teacher will instruct & grade students' work. Regular attendance is required. ***Math classes begin Tuesday, August 23rd.**

Classes

MUSIC, MOVEMENT and MORE FOR KINDERGARTNERS

The Music, Movement and More class for Kindergartners will be held on Tuesdays, beginning September 13, from 10:30 to 11:45. It will be taught by Susan Mackenzie with assistance from Kathi Bales. Parents are always welcome to help, especially during craft time.

The class format will include songs, literature activities, seasonal activities, listening to and sharing ideas, physical education games, art and crafts, and musical activities with numbers, the alphabet, the calendar, Spanish words, etc. Field trips will be planned from time to time.

During the first few weeks of school it would be great to meet any Kindergartners and their parents who are interested in meeting us and seeing the room where the class will take place.

Please sign up on the class bulletin board and/or call Susan Mackenzie for questions at 642-1422 extension 14.

Music, Movement and More for *First Graders* TUESDAYS 12:30 – 2:00

The MM&M 1st Grade class is taught by Kathi Bales with assistance from Susan Mackenzie. This class will begin Tuesday, September 13th. It will include Literature & seasonal activities, calendar, sharing, songs, games, art & crafts and Physical education for continued development of large and small motor, speaking and listening skills. The varied activities are divided between rug time, table crafts, outside games and movement to music. Parents may help especially during craft time.

Call Kathi Bales w/questions @ 642-1422 ext. 12.



Variety Class - offered to 2nd & 3rd graders on Thursdays beginning September 15th. Your child may come to any or all of the classes where instruction in art, math, drama, music, dance, science, poetry, writing and literature may be included.

Music Class- offered to 1st-4th graders on Thursdays beginning September 15th. We will be covering basic music skills, singing, and playing handbells. Space is limited. A second session will be offered during the Spring Semester to those on the waiting list.

The First Tee National School Program

Mountain Home School is excited to bring The First Tee Golf training program to our students this year! This golf program consists of basic information and skills to introduce your child to a lifelong health and fitness activity. Each lesson incorporates one of nine core values: *honesty, integrity, sportsmanship, respect, confidence, responsibility, perseverance, courtesy, and judgment*. The program will be offered to 4th-6th grade students and the class will be limited to 30 spots. This class will be held on Tuesdays from 3-4p.m. at an off-site location to be announced on the first day of school. Should you have any questions please contact Kim Meeks.

Art Class

Charter Teacher, Joanie Madaus will once again teach art classes to students in grades 4th—8th. Look for more information on the class sign-up board the first week of school!

Robotics

Lego Robotics classes for 3rd-5th grade and ROV Robotics for 6th-8th will continue this year with Charter Teacher, Eric Hagen. Look for more information on the class sign-up board the 1st week of school!

Important Information

Classes:

- ⇒ Only math classes begin Tuesday, August 23rd
- ⇒ Enrichment classes will begin the week of September 12th, either the 13th or 15th depending on the class.
- ⇒ Some classes have a student limit so that class sizes don't get too large. If you find there to be a waiting list when you sign up your student, we will do everything we can to create an additional session if necessary.
- ⇒ Class sign-ups begin the first day of school, Aug. 15th. A complete schedule of classes with exact dates & times will be posted on the class bulletin board on Aug. 15th.
- ⇒ Even though many of the classes are enrichment only, attendance is important so please make sure this is a class you will be able to bring your student to on a regular basis.

If you haven't already heard, Mountain Home School Charter purchased an **online curriculum program** for interested families. MHSC has always prided itself on providing our students with many curriculum options of books and materials, but we also knew that some of our parents wanted an on-line option. Compass Learning's Odyssey program seemed the best choice & flexible fit for our type of school. It is also fully aligned to California's State Standards. If this option is of interest to you for your student, please let your charter teacher know.

The following dates have been set aside for training: those who have already begun to use the program & need extra assistance, and those who will begin the program once school begins.

Friday, Aug. 12th @ 10:00 am (those who began the program but want extra support)

Friday, Aug. 19th @ 10:00 am (those who are brand new to the program)

Friday, Aug. 26th @ 10:00 am (those needing extra support & those new to the program)

Smile and Say "CHEESE"

Michael Jones Photography will be here to take pictures of all MHS and GHS students. Packets or individual prints will be available for purchase. Younger children and siblings are welcome to take pictures as well. ALL students that take a picture will receive an I.D. card (you do not need to purchase a package for this). We encourage ALL the students to take a picture on one of the following dates so they will be a part of our yearbook that comes out in the Spring.

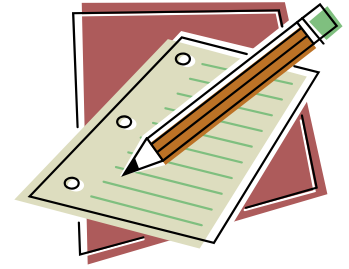
Monday, September 12 at 8:30-12:00

Thursday, September 15 at 8:30-12:00

**The 2010-11 Parent Survey Results are posted at the school.
Take a look & thank you again for taking the time to fill out a survey!**

What Standardized Tests Measure

(by Merideth Fisher, Spring Valley Elementary in McLean, VA)



We all know what standardized tests measure, but have you ever thought about what they DON'T measure?

- Creativity
- Confidence
- Critical Thinking
- Motivation
- Ambition
- Persistence
- Humor
- Attitude
- Reliability
- Politeness
- Enthusiasm
- Civic Attitudes
- Compassion
- Passion
- Generosity of Spirit
- Hard Work
- Physical Fitness
- Gentleness

The size of your environmental footprint

Please feel free to add to the list!

In spite of the above list, the state does require Mountain Home School students to test and that is why we thank you for your continued support of this guideline! If your student tested with us last year, you should be receiving your student(s) scores in the mail by the first of September or before. Please see your Charter Teacher if you haven't received results by September.

While state testing doesn't begin until the Spring, below are the grade levels and tests your student will be expected to take. If you have any questions about the tests, please talk with your Charter Teacher.

Grade 2	English/Language Arts	Math		
Grade 3	English/Language Arts	Math		
Grade 4	English/Language Arts	Math	Essay	
Grade 5	English/Language Arts	Math	Science	P.E.
Grade 6	English/Language Arts	Math		
Grade 7	English/Language Arts	Math	Essay	P.E.
Grade 8	English/Language Arts	Math	Science	History

Contacts

To contact a staff member by phone, dial 559-642-1422 and press the extension number for the person you need.

Executive Director

Michael Cox Ext. 11

Principal/Charter Teacher

Mindy Klang Ext. 15

Secretary

Melissa Napier Ext. 10

Librarian

Diane Kraft Ext. 22

Custodian

Mike Lamb Ext. 23

Charter Teachers

Kathi Bales Ext. 12

Skip Bullock Ext. 16

Joanne Cable Ext. 30

Eric Hagen Ext. 20

Susan Mackenzie Ext. 14

Joanie Madaus Ext. 13

Kim Meeks Ext. 19

Bill Shennan Ext. 27

Sylvia Sloas Ext. 18

Speech & Lang. Specialist

Sharon Miller Ext. 32

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