

# Mount Garfield Middle School



Bill Larsen, Principal | Rocio Roybal, AP | Jared Burek, AP | Lori Thompson, Secretary | Kim Chambers, Secretary

## Important Dates

**NO SCHOOL -**

**Winter Break**

December 19th -  
January 2nd

**NO SCHOOL -**

**Teacher Workday**

January 3rd, 2017

**SCHOOL RESUMES!**

January 4th, 2017

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## A Message From The Principal

Dear Mount Garfield Families,

During this past month we have all noticed increased tensions and stressful situations within the nation, the state, and our Grand Valley. Along with the current tensions, the holiday season might bring joy and hope for some, but may also bring stress and disappointment for others. Our staff at M.G.M.S. continues to provide a safe learning environment by striving to filter out any outside influence that may cause stress for your student while attending school. As M.G.M.S. staff, parents, and community, we realize these stresses and tensions will create barriers to our students' learning. Together it is our responsibility to listen to our students for any possible concerns they might be feeling, whether at home or at school. If at any time you believe we can be a resource at M.G.M.S. to help your student with a stressful situation, please let us know.

With the importance of listening mentioned above, we continue to help our students establish a "Growth Mindset" through a support system called "Habits of Mind." The Habits of Mind are an identified set of sixteen (16) problem solving life related skills that are necessary to effectively operate in society. The Habits of Mind promote strategic reasoning, insightfulness, perseverance, creativity and craftsmanship. The understanding and application of these sixteen (16) Habits of Mind serve to provide our students with skills to work through real life situations and equip them to respond using awareness (cues), thought, and intentional strategy in order to gain a positive outcome.

In each month's newsletter, I intend to share with you a few Habits of Mind your student may have already reviewed at school. Our hope is the common vocabulary between home and school might deepen your conversations at home about the best way your student is learning. The first three Habits of Mind include:

### *Persisting:*

- Sticking to task at hand;
- Follow through to completion;
- Can and do remain focused.

### *Managing Impulsivity:*

- Take time to consider options;
- Think before speaking or acting;
- Remain calm when stressed or challenged;
- Thoughtful and considerate of others;

- Proceed carefully.

**Listening with understanding and empathy:**

- Pay attention to and do not dismiss another person’s thoughts, feelings and ideas;
- Seek to put myself in the other person’s shoes;
- Tell others when I can relate to what they are expressing;
- Hold thoughts at a distance in order to respect another person’s point of view and feelings.

Thank you for your partnership with our M.G.M.S. Staff. Together we will help all of our students reach their highest potential for learning.

Sincerely,

Bill Larsen  
Principal

**CORE 8-2 NEWS:**

Core 8-2 would like to thank the parents and staff who supported our Butter Braids Fundraiser this month. We have a great start on funding our fieldtrip in May that will take us to Glenwood Caverns! We appreciate how hard our parents and students worked together on this endeavor!

**Ready, Set, Smile! Get your yearbook now**

The push is on to purchase a yearbook. Yearbooks are still available! The only way to guarantee that your student will get one is if it is prepaid and there are many payment options available. You may purchase a yearbook by paying with cash, check or with a credit/debit card at the MGMS budget office. You may also pay with a credit/debit card over the phone by calling (970) 254-4720 Ext. 37112. In addition, you may order on-line at [jostensyearbooks.com](http://jostensyearbooks.com). This option gives you the ability to personalize the book with a name, slogan, quote or whatever you wish, as well as select up to four (4) icons to have printed on the book. This will be done in metallic print! Icons include sports and academics as options. There is also a link to purchase a yearbook on the MGMS home page at the very bottom.



The current cost of a yearbook is \$25.00, but will increase to \$28.00 on January 3rd, 2017. So, order your yearbook prior to the holiday break!

Once the books are sold out, we cannot order any more. Your student will have a lifetime of memories in this forty (40) page, full color, hardback book!

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## BAND NEWS:

The MGMS Bands have had a busy fall season and are currently preparing for our annual Winter Concert, which will be held Monday, December 12th at the Palisade High School Auditorium at 7:00 pm. We hope you can join us! Keep up-to-date with the band program by “liking” our Facebook page. Just search for “Mt. Garfield Middle School Bands.”

Congratulations to the Mt. Garfield Middle School Band students chosen to participate in the Western Slope Select Band. These musicians join students from middle schools across the western slope to create a fantastic weekend of music. Congratulations to Mason Braden, Evangelina Chacon, Jake Miller, Sydney Mosby, Alondra Martinez, Billy McLaughlin and Isaiah Swank.

Finally, please encourage your student to practice the skills they need to be successful. From flash cards to scales, each minute pays off in the performance.

## Text alerts & notifications from MCVSD 51:

MCVSD 51 has invested in a district-wide communication system (called SchoolConnects) that will allow all schools and the district to contact you regarding important news, events, and emergency or safety-related situations. Schools and the district can only send texts to phones who have subscribed to receive the messages. If you want to receive SMS text messages from the school or district, you must first do the following:

1. Ensure that your child’s school has your cell phone listed in the student database under “Mobile.”
2. From the SMS-capable telephone where you want to receive the text messages, text the word “Join” to the number 56360. If our messaging system finds a match for your phone number in its database, you receive a confirmation message thanking you for joining school alerts. If our messaging system does not find a match for your phone number in its database, you will receive a message that the number could not be found, and then you should contact the school to add the number to the school’s Student Management System.

In order to receive the quickest and most accurate information in an emergency situation, parents need to be sure that all home phone, cell phone, and email addresses are up-to-date in the student information system, Synergy. Contact the school office if you have any questions. The texts, calls and emails will only go to those families who have those fields completed in the database.

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## From the GRIT Desk:

The GRIT students have been working on claim, evidence, and warrant to help support their learning in Social Studies and Literacy classes. The 7th graders wrote a short speech on the “Best Career for me,” after figuring out criteria for a good career and doing some research to see if their dream career meets those criteria. The 8th graders researched real Dumb Laws that exist around the United States and wrote letters in support of maintaining or rescinding them—learning about the types of evidence and how to warrant that. Currently the students are making infomercials selling a product they create to showcase their claim, evidence and warrant skills. We are also reading our novel and talking about the impact of their actions on other people. Our learning behavior targets have been focused on being kind to our classmates and acting with gratitude. I know these are not traditional classroom behaviors that are focused on but I would like these kids to walk away with some solid life skills and feeling appreciated and respected.

## October Scholastica Tournament:

Thirteen students involved in the Mt. Garfield’s Gifted and Talented Program attended the D51 Scholastica Tournament in October. The Scholastica Tournament includes students from all nine D51 middle schools and had approximately one hundred (100) students competing in games involving logic, strategy, spatial awareness, math skills and combinations of these areas. The Mt. Garfield Middle School students placed 3rd as a group and had three (3) students who placed in the top eighteen (18). Final results were: 5th place, Isaiah Swank, 6th place Sydney Mosby, and 11th place Caden Hinshaw. Way to go Gators!



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