

Maverick - (noun) /mav-rik/ - an unorthodox or independent-minded person,

an unbranded range animal. Synonyms: individualist, free spirit, original, trendsetter.

Volume #1, August 30, 2019, School Year 2019-20

Welcome to the founding of Grand Mountain School! This is the inaugural newsletter for GMS. The future focus of this newsletter will highlight all the amazing things our students and staff will be doing here at GMS.

Since we are in the opening stages for GMS the current focus will be highlighting what we are doing to create the culture at GMS that will allow our strategies to lead to student growth, character development, and success in the future. We are hopeful you have been looking forward to sending your child to GMS this year and I would like to highlight some of the many reasons why-

* An amazing staff, the best thing we have done since arriving here in Widefield School District 3 is hire an exceptional staff who bring great personal character that is in alignment with our shared values and a strong work ethic to our school. Most of our staff have taught previously in WSD3, which has an excellent teaching and learning cycle that the staff apply with students leading to maximized student learning opportunities. We have also hired several staff from outside the district who are eager to join GMS and even a few teachers who are fresh out of college and inspired to be opening a new school in their first teaching venture.
* Innovation focus on computer science/coding integration, all staff have received initial professional development in this with ongoing opportunities available to grow in this area. Computer science needs are on the rise in this area and abroad, we will be teaching skills that apply to many future jobs creating great opportunities for our students.
* Staff focused on human growth & character development of students utilizing Responsive Classroom techniques. RC will build staff and student relationships through teaching positive social- emotional skills. It also teaches appropriate use of language to maximize efficiency and relationship building in a way that is clear, authentic, and positive. It uses 6 principles to guide this approach:

1. Teaching social and emotional skills is as important as teaching academic content.
2. How we teach is as important as what we teach.
3. Great cognitive growth occurs through social interaction.
4. How we work together as adults to create a safe, joyful, and inclusive school environment is as important as our individual contribution or competence.
5. What we know about our students-individually, culturally, developmentally-informs our expectations, reactions and attitudes about those students.
6. Partnering with families-knowing them and valuing their contributions- is as important as knowing the children we teach.

* Teachers with high instructional and management capacities for classroom projects, this will be scaffolded with supports and be an area of growth over time at GMS. Our initial focus is on the academic growth, character and relationship building utilizing RC techniques, and computer science integration, with project inclusion built in as time permits at certain grade levels.
* We will have high expectations, be supportive, and be intentional about how we interact with students. One way we will do this is by practicing Transactional Analysis communication techniques that showcase how to act as an adult and communicate without using judgmental language leading to better interpersonal relationships. TA is something I highly recommend parents learn and practice as well. It is based upon a family model and is used successfully in many schools and homes worldwide, it takes only minutes to teach, but a lifetime of practice to learn. TA is the communication technique promoted by the Discovery Program based in Fort Collins, Colorado, which is implemented in many schools including Discovery High School here in WSD3.

Please view your child’s handbook information to further clarify expectations at our new school. It is posted online on our website under information and student information.

The school spirit store closes this weekend! If you want to order Maverick gear/clothes we will not plan to open the store again until next spring or summer.

https://grandmtnfall2019.itemorder.com/

Have a great 3 day weekend!

"As a Medicaid provider, Widefield School District 3 will access Medicaid eligibility information for students enrolled in Widefield School District 3 from Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF).  HCPF is the designated Medicaid agency in the state. Directory information of name and date of birth will be released to HCPF to verify Medicaid Eligibility of students in the District.  The description of health and health-related services delivered to Medicaid eligible students will be released to Medicaid and/or the District claiming agent for proper administration of the program."