

Grizzly Through & Through



"Once a Grizzly, always a Grizzly!" To a group of dedicated Mesa Ridge teachers, that's not just a catchy saying - it's a commitment to service. Five MRHS teachers - Kylie DesBouillons ('16), Jeff Thomas ('99), Cameron Van De Castele ('13), George Smith ('13), and Josh Morse ('99) - are all Mesa Ridge Grizzly graduates who have come back to teach at their alma mater, serving the community that served them.

Ms. DesBouillons is proud to be able to continue the rich Grizzly tradition of excellence through her role as a teacher, soccer coach, and mentor.

"My sense of pride in Mesa Ridge is being able to help students pursue their dreams whether it be academically, athletically, or just to be there to support them through life's endeavors."

She encourages students to be themselves and find what makes them truly happy while at Mesa Ridge, and that the real "competition" in life is "showing yourself that you can be the best version of yourself each and every day."

Mr. Thomas described his sense of pride in Mesa Ridge as a "connection to the community". His advice to current students is to not take their parents or guardians for granted while they are young. "As I've gotten older, I've realized the sacrifices and struggles they went through for me even though I wasn't aware of them all at the time."

Mr. Van De Castele is impressed by the passion, wonder, and support that he sees in today's students. "So many students at Mesa are passionate about their sports, clubs, classes, etc., but I love to see that they are still willing to try new things and support each other at the same time." He hopes students will take the time in high school to enjoy their little moments. "Life goes by fast and you will never get these high school years back."

Mr. Smith credits his wonderful teachers (many of whom are still here!) for helping him get to where he is today. His advice to future Grizzly graduates: "Work hard. Life isn't always easy and if you want to be successful you're going to have to grind and take risks."

That these Grizzlies would choose to return to Mesa Ridge to continue their careers is a testament to its deep sense of community and tradition. From Grizzly cub to Grizzly graduate to Grizzly teacher, Mesa Ridge is grateful to have these symbols of Grizzly Greatness.

