



Orchard Mesa Middle School Newsletter

Principal: Danny.Medved@d51schools.org

(970) 254-6320

2736 C Rd, Grand Junction, CO 81503

“Every Knight Needs their Armor”



Come One, Come All!

The Knights Knook clothing closet is open! All items in the store are free if a student needs it.

Currently, we have the following items available:

- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Body wash/soap
- Backpacks
- Shoes
- Miscellaneous Toiletries
- Shirts
- Pants/shorts
- Coats/jackets
- Hats
- Accessories

Accessing the Store

Students can find the Knights Knook order form on Classlink. Someone will contact the student ASAP to hopefully get you what they need!

The student can also talk to any trusted adult in the building and they will get a hold of Ms.Woods.

Dear Orchard Mesa Middle School Families,

We are excited to be moving into the middle of the month of September at Orchard Mesa Middle School. Students and teachers are now half way through the first quarter of the school year. We are seeing many encouraging signs that students are engaged in learning and feeling good about being members of the OMMS school community. Our teachers have worked hard to establish safe and inclusive classroom environments that also prioritize learning of important content. We are seeing our students meet these high academic and behavior expectations. This work is not easy and teachers meet and plan intentionally each week to ensure the success of each student. I am so proud of our staffs' positive attitudes, level of commitment, and intentional actions. They really are an awesome and committed team.

One example of our teacher's student centered approach is our OMMS Advisory Program that students end each day in. Advisory has been intentionally developed to equip students for academic and social success. In Advisory students build specific social and organization skills through engaging in lessons and participating in team building activities. Students also develop skills during our Guided Work Period (GWP) time which is a structured study hall that also includes 1-1 conferencing check ins between students and their Advisory Teachers. Finally, each week our students and staff take time to celebrate as grade level communities during Knights' Round Table meetings that our teachers lead each week. These meetings happen weekly to bi-weekly and they entail the gathering of a whole grade level of students for about 15-20 minutes. During this time staff recognize students of the week, they engage in shouting out specific positive actions that they saw students engage in, they share important information, and they help students look ahead to upcoming events.

Another big thing happening at OMMS is the ramp up of athletics, clubs, and our music programs. Our music programs provide a special space for students to apply learning in a kinesthetic, creative, and performance based setting. There is nothing quite like watching student progress from first picking up an instrument in 8th grade to mastering complex notes and songs in 8th grade Jazz Band. Music is underway at OMMS and our first performances will be coming up soon! Another performance opportunity is girls Volleyball, which is now well into their season. Consider coming out to a music or athletic performance this month! Finally

Other extracurriculars at OMMS that are ramping up include REC, Lego League robotics, and the MESA STEM club. These extracurriculars give students a venue to have fun, make new friendships, and engage in different types of learning. REC is actually seeing record numbers with over 40 students attending each day! Please reach out to our front office if you want to know more about how to sign your student up for these extra curricular experiences.

Thank you for supporting your child's education. Continue reading below for essential information on a few important topics. As always, you can also reach out to our front office, school administrators, or your child's Advisor with questions. We look forward to another great month in the OMMS kingdom!

Go Knights!

Respectfully,

Danny

Dr. Danny Medved
Principal
Orchard Mesa Middle School
Home of the Knights
Danny.Medved@D51schools.org



Student Fee's

There is a \$42.00 instructional fee for every student. The instructional fee covers a portion of the cost of materials that are expendable and consumable and/or items students will retain after the class, such as art supplies, computer and technology supplies, planners, and science lab supplies. Fees can be paid at the Main Office or online at MyPaymentsPlus.com.

Other Student Fees

\$100 instrument fee (Band/Orchestra Students)
 \$70 Athletic Participation (If your student is playing a sport 7th and 8th grade only)
 \$25 Yearbook (Optional)

Please reach out to Lindsey Wyser -
 Lindsey.Wyser@d51schools.org with any questions or concerns regarding student fees.

Attendance Reminder

All student absences must be called in by 9:00 am. If you aren't able to speak to a secretary then please leave a detailed message. Please include the student's first and last name and specific reason that your child is absent. Please notify the office within 48 hours of the absence.

Attendance Office number: 970-254-6320 ext: 38100

Thank you.

GVT Bus Passes

Our partners at Grand Valley Transit will again offer free GVT bus passes for D51 middle (need to verify middle school) and high school students this year. In order for your child to receive a free bus pass, you must first fill out a form at <https://gvt.mesacounty.us/student-pass-program/>. Everything you write on the form is completely secure and confidential. The form will be used to determine TANF eligibility, which will help GVT recoup funding and keep the program going. You or your child can pick up the bus pass (which is a sticker for their student ID) from your child's school, any Mesa County public library, GVT Downtown or West Transfer Facility.



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OWL Program is Suspended Indefinitely : We are sorry to say that due to wildfire impacts and possible flash flood danger, the OWL program near Gateway has been suspended for the time being. We are sad to have this experience put on hold for our 6th grade students. We will share more information as we know more about the status of the OWL program.

PTA and School Accountability Committee Meeting (4th Wednesday of each month, 9/24 5-6 p.m.): We are looking forward to having our second Parent Teacher Association Meeting, which will run from 5-6. This kickoff meeting will provide a chance for parents to meet one another and a venue to discuss ways to support OMMS. This meeting will also encompass our School Accountability Meeting (SAC). SAC meetings provide parents and the community an opportunity to understand how our school is performing and what our goals are so we can continue to improve. We should be unpacking the initial draft of our School Performance Framework (SPF) rating from CDE at that time.

Important Dates/ Parent Tasks

Free and Reduced Lunch Paperwork: It is essential that we have all parents complete this form on this website prior to October 1st. There are two primary reasons for this:

1. Free lunch for all students will end half way through this year. Students will only be able to obtain a free or reduced lunch by completing this paperwork.
2. OMMS relies heavily on resources that are linked to family completion rates for FRL paperwork. In recent years we have lost a large amount of resources that directly support students. Even if you know that you do not qualify, it helps to have this paperwork completed.

Pay student fees, which support our Exploratory programs
 Sign up for REC Riverside Education Center

Kids Aid

The Backpack Program

Orchard Mesa Middle School proudly partners with the Kids Aid Backpack program for any student who is in need of extra food over the weekend.

Kids Aid typically distributes 10-14 items in each bag—two to three dinner items, two to three lunch items, two to three breakfast items and some nutritious snacks. The items are selected and paired so children can easily prepare meals (e.g., canned chicken is paired with refried beans and tortillas to make burritos.)

If you would like for your student to receive a food bag on Friday please fill out the google sheet below and we will get them signed up

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1AfsbzJgnUccu026Yq9VDsT8oV2foaXgj5zpFzy5-z9E/edit>

September:

September Newsletter: Suicide Prevention & Mental Health Awareness 🌟

From the Desk of Your School Counselor

Dear Students, Families, and Staff,

September is National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month—a time to come together to learn how we can support our students' mental health and build a safe, caring school community.

Middle school can be an exciting time, but it also comes with new challenges. Students are learning how to manage friendships, increased schoolwork, and big emotions. These growing pains are normal, but they can sometimes feel overwhelming.

💬 What Students Need to Know:

You might be feeling...

- Stressed about schoolwork, tests, or grades 📚
- Nervous about making or keeping friends 🤝
- Pressured by social media or fitting in 📱

These feelings are real—and you don't have to figure them out alone. You are never alone. There are people who care and want to help.

Here's what you can do:

- Talk to a trusted adult (a parent, teacher, counselor, or coach)
- Write down how you feel
- Take breaks, get sleep, and do something you enjoy
- Ask for help—it's always OK to ask

👨👩👧👦 Tips for Parents & Guardians:

Middle schoolers may not always show when they're struggling. Be aware of common stressors at this age:

- Academic pressure or fear of failure
- Social comparison (especially via social media)
- Bullying or friendship struggles

What you can do:

- Check in without judgment—listen more than you talk
- Create space for daily connection (meals, walks, screen-free time)
- Watch for shifts in sleep, mood, appetite, or energy
- Remind your child that mistakes are part of learning
- Reach out to the school counselor or mental health support if you notice ongoing struggles

🧠 Mental Health = Whole Health

We're working together at OMMS to:

- Promote positive peer relationships
- Teach healthy coping skills and emotional literacy
- Prevent bullying and exclusion