



Dear Orchard Mesa Families,

I am excited to say that we are almost a third of the way through our school year and well into the swing of our second quarter. In this newsletter I want to share about some of the work that our different grade levels are engaged in. I also want to unpack what the months of November and December can mean for students as we support their success and progress.

Middle School cultures and student learning thrive when teams of teachers collaborate to support their students. At OMMS staff collaboration is the backbone of how we operate each week. Our teachers collaborate in two primary groupings: by grade level team and by content area team. Our three grade levels understand and support the unique developmental needs of the students they serve. For example, the sixth grade team places a strong focus on helping students make the leap from elementary to middle school. They are the foundation layers who help students understand and follow school wide expectations and processes. Our seventh grade team builds upon that foundation by layering in more complex academic content, through adding a bit of fun through student and staff competitions, and through fostering student's organizational and leadership skills. For example, our seventh grade team is currently developing a student leadership and tutoring plan that will allow students to mentor their peers during Advisory. Finally, our eighth grade team focuses heavily on broadening student knowledge and experiences in the areas of college and career readiness. One example of this is a career panel that the eighth grade team is organizing to allow our students to hear inspirational workforce stories from a number of different professions that range from law enforcement to medical and from skilled trades to local entrepreneurs.

Two other collaborative teams I want to mention are our Exploratory team and our Special Education team. These teams have diverse teaching roles, but they work in a collaborative way to meet the unique needs and interests of our students. Team work is what fuels OMMS and makes our school a professional learning community.

Shifting gears, I want to share a bit about how November and December are interesting months. At this point in the year classroom routines are now well established and students begin to bring the learning of essential skills to completion. Teaching and learning moves faster and students begin to accomplish more in shorter periods of time when compared to the first couple of months of the school year. Finally, students receive more personalized support in the second quarter as a result of their teachers, and even teams of teachers, having a better understanding of who each student is and what her or his skills and needs are. These insights result in adjustments to teaching, assignment of interventions or extensions, and even potential class shifts. The end result is that students often hit a personal groove and experience more success academically and behaviorally as we approach the mid-year point. Our upcoming November 19th Parent Teacher Conferences are designed to help families understand how their child is performing and to make plans for next steps. We do this by tailoring November conferences to have both an invite and open house format. Please mark your calendar for conferences and watch for additional communication of details.

Please read the updates section below for more specific information in these areas and plan to attend November conferences. Please also take time to review the updates from our Counseling and AVID teams, as they are leading great work that supports the success and wellness of so many OMMS students.

As always you can reach out with questions. Thank you for partnering with us in your child's education.

Go Knights!

Respectfully,

Danny

Dr. Danny Medved  
Principal - Orchard Mesa Middle School  
Home of the Knights - [Danny.Medved@D51schools.org](mailto:Danny.Medved@D51schools.org)

# ***In Class and Ready to Learn***

*Academic Support, Attendance, and Tardies*

## **Attendance:**

*Students must be at school in order to learn. Missing even one day every month will result in learning gaps. Thus, the first step in success at school is attendance. This quarter and through the rest of the school year our team will be implementing attendance support. Please check your student's attendance in ParentVUE and set a goal to have your student have an attendance rate of 95% or better, which is the equivalent of missing one day or less of school per month. Students with an attendance rate below 80% will be placed on an attendance support plan.*

## **November 19th Conferences (3:30-7:30):**

*These conferences will have an open house and invite only format. Watch for communication with more specific times and consult with your student's Advisor if you are invited to attend a conference.*

# School Counselor Newsletter

## Preparing for the Future: The Importance of Career & College Readiness

### A MESSAGE FROM YOUR SCHOOL COUNSELORS:

As counselors, one of our greatest goals is to help every student leave high school with a **clear plan for their future**—whether that means attending college, entering the workforce, joining the military, or exploring a trade. Career and college readiness isn't just about choosing a major or job—it's about building **skills, awareness, and confidence** to make informed decisions.

#### Why It Matters

Early preparation gives students **options and opportunities**. When students explore careers and college pathways early:

They can choose high school courses that match their goals

They become more motivated to succeed academically

They save time and money by making informed postsecondary decisions

They gain confidence about their future

**What Does “College & Career Readiness” Mean?**  
Being college and career ready means that students have developed the knowledge, skills, and mindset to succeed after graduation. This includes: Academic readiness: strong study habits, critical thinking, and time management. Career awareness: understanding personal strengths, interests, and values. Life skills: communication, problem-solving, teamwork, and adaptability. Planning and goal-setting: knowing the steps needed to reach future goals

#### Ways Students Can Start Preparing Now

For Middle School Students:

Take career interest inventories (Schoolinks)

Explore different career clusters

Focus on developing strong study and organization skills

### UPCOMING EVENTS

8th Grade Options Fair: November 19th

School Conferences: November 19th

#### Final Thoughts

*Career and college readiness is not a one-time event—it's a journey. Every experience, class, and conversation can help shape a student's future path. Our counseling team is here to guide, support, and empower students as they take these important steps.*

# 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>

## The **Knights' Knook**

*The Knight's Knook clothing closet is open! All items in the store are free if you need it. Currently, the following items are available:*



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



*If your students need any of these items please let the main office know and they will get them set up.*

# OMMS PTO

FUNDRAISER



715 S 7TH ST

Jump socks  
with plastic sole grips  
are required  
and can be purchased  
for \$3/pair

Get a **JUMP** on  
your  
visit by filling out  
your  
**WAIVER** at  
[www.getairsilo.com](http://www.getairsilo.com)

Orchard Mesa  
Middle  
Friday, Dec. 12

10a – 11pm

**\$15 FOR 90 MINUTES**

You are welcome  
to jump any time  
between 10am and 11pm,  
but we encourage you  
to come between  
5pm and 8pm  
so the OMMS community  
can all jump together



Make sure  
to say  
"I'm here  
to support  
OMMS!"

\$4 of your admission will be  
donated to OMMS

**BRING ON THE BOUNCE**

