

Mark West Charter School Newsletter

Important Dates:

Dec. 21– Jan. 4th
No School
(winter break)

Music and Drama
Show this
Thurs, 12/10 at 6 pm
in the gym

Talent Show,
Award Ceremony,
Violin Performance
on Jan 7th, 6 pm in
the gym

Homework Help

Removing homework hurdles does not mean doing homework for (or even with) your teen, that level of support should not be necessary. Let your teen know when you are concerned about their progress. Tell them that **completing homework is a top priority** and ask how you can help. Try to engage your teen in the conversation, rather than lecturing. Suggest some things they can do to help keep them on track. Have them make a **to-do list** each day and check off completed work. Check the **TeacherEase** information regularly and be sure your teen is **using his/her planner daily**.

December 7, 2009

School Supplies Make Great Holiday Gifts

If you can believe it...we have already reached the mid-point of the school year. **Most students need to replenish the items listed on their school supply list from the fall.** With the holiday season here, consider these items for small gifts or stocking stuffers!

The entire list may be viewed (along with lots of other interesting and valuable information) on our website at mwcharter.org

Some of the items we find are often in short supply by this time of year are:

- Pencils with erasers
- Erasable pens
- Set of water based Markers (no permanent)
- Set of colored pencils
- A pair of scissors
- A calculator
- Folder for finished work

A few items that should not be in backpacks include:

- Permanent Markers (like “Sharpie Markers”)
- Permanent paints (like spray or acrylic)
- Any type of blade
- Any type of lighter or matches
- White Out (unhealthy fumes)
- Rubber Cement (or any glue with toxic fumes)

A Word From MWCS Board of Directors

The MWCS Board would like to remind parents that regular attendance at school is VERY important for your teen. If a student needs to be absent for 2 consecutive days or more (not 5 days as many parents think) please call the school office to request **Independent Study**. This way your teen keeps up on their work and the school keeps attendance numbers up. It's a win/win for everyone! Also, if your child must be absent for vacation, or other unexcused reason, please consider donating \$42.00 per day to help the school. With the tight budget every day that is missed means critical money is eliminated from our operating fund.

With winter upon us it is more critical than ever that your teen **stay healthy!** Be sure to remind them about washing their hands regularly, sneezing and coughing into their elbow, eating right and getting enough rest to fight germs! Get you and your teen vaccinated against the flu and the H1N1 virus. This is the easiest and safest single thing you can do to help prevent these illnesses.

Adopt-A-Class for the holidays! Instead of buying teacher gifts, consider adopting one of our classrooms for the holidays! There are so many items needed with such severely reduced state funding.

Attached to this newsletter are lists of the items needed in each classroom and a list for the whole school. Please either donate the suggested dollar amount for your teen's home room, or an item from the list. We know it is a difficult financial time for all and appreciate any support you are able to offer.

If every student in the class is able to make a donation, the small amount listed at the bottom of the page would be enough for the teacher to acquire all items on the “wish list”! Thank you.

Report Cards

Report cards will be mailed home right after school is out for the holiday. Expect them sometime around **Dec 21st** depending on mail service. Over 70 students were eligible for honor roll at the end of first quarter and have had their names posted on the "Wall of Fame" in the office and in the trophy case.

Second quarter we will print certificates for maintaining a 3.0 GPA for the whole first semester. We are hoping to have a large group ready to receive certificates at an award

ceremony the evening of January 7 at 6 pm in the gym. There will also be a performance by the violin class and a talent show that evening. It should be a very entertaining event. We hope all our families will be able to join us.

Perfect attendance is another accomplishment that will be recognized that evening. Students who have been able to achieve that will also receive certificates at the award ceremony.

Students eligible for an award will be given an **invitation** our first day back at school, **Jan. 5th**, so parents will

know it is important to attend the award ceremony. (If you are unable to attend, the award will be presented at a school assembly).

Please put the date on your calendars now if you anticipate an award for your teen this semester. All families are welcome to come to the talent show and violin performance and to help recognize those receiving an award. We look forward to seeing you that night!

New Electives for 3rd Quarter

Students have forms now to select new elective classes for the third and fourth quarters. They have been asked to discuss their choices with parents. **Please be sure to ask your teen about their class choices and give them any advice you may have.**

Students are not allowed to leave an academic support class without parent permission. We also ask a parent or guardian before a student leaves a year

long class such as music or Spanish. Otherwise, all students are required to take one quarter of PE/Health and Leadership. We also strongly recommend a technology class for any student not familiar with Microsoft office programs. Anything else is guided by the student's interest.

Parents are welcome to call at any time to check on the class schedules. We always appreciate communication. Thanks!

*"A healthy attitude is contagious, but don't wait to catch it from others. Be a carrier."
Tom Stoppard*

Washington DC for 8th Graders

In eighth grade, students study US History in their Social Studies class. During spring break, we offer an optional trip to Washington DC as an exciting extension to their learning. It takes commitment and determination, but we have a group of students working toward raising the money to fund the trip. Mr. Crawford will be the teacher in

charge this year. He has travelled extensively and is looking forward to sharing this experience with students. The educational tour group he has chosen is called Close Up. They are very focused on learning as opposed to simple sight seeing. They offer specially trained guides who work well with teens.

Students in 7th grade this year should start making plans now for the trip next spring. If you start early, it is much easier to raise the money for your trip. You can do extra chores around the house or for a neighbor. Offer to wrap gifts or put up decorations for the holidays. You could also ask for donations in place of gifts.

Handbook Rule

Reminders:

Students need to write their assigned homework in their planner every day.

Each teacher has a designated spot on the white board where the assignments are recorded. They also provide time in class and remind students to write in the planners. They check for accuracy periodically. Some teens are very proficient at planner use, others are not yet consistent. This is a beneficial life skill that will be of great benefit in high school.

Parents' Role:

Parents can help by regularly checking now to be sure your teen is developing the important habit of consistent planner use.



Dream, Learn, Achieve!

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Phone: 707-524-2741
Fax: 707-524-2782

For attendance please call the school office
or E-mail: mcameron@mwcharter.org

We're on the Web!
www.mwcharter.org

Parent Volunteer "Jobs" - These are positions that require attendance at a meeting on a regular basis. They will fulfill your volunteer commitment .

- 1- **Site Council** -Held quarterly on a Wednesday afternoon. Next meeting on Feb 3 at 3:00 pm
- 2- **Education Foundation Parent Representative** - Meeting are at 6 pm the first Monday of each month
- 3- **PTA Representative**-Meets 2nd Monday of each month 6 pm.

Volunteer Hours For Families

By the end of the second quarter, you should have about 20 hours of volunteer time logged in the volunteer binder. Totals were sent with students 1st qtr. and will be in 2nd quarter report cards again. If volunteer time has not been logged, please come into the school office and fill out the page in the Volunteer Binder located on the bookshelf near Mrs. Cameron's desk. We do our best to keep up, but sometimes need your help to keep the hours accurate.

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities:

1. **After School Movie- chaperones needed-** Jan. 13th from after school until 5pm we will be showing a movie for students who would like to stay.
2. **Healthy snacks**, bottled water, juice, nuts, crackers etc. are needed for our student store. Profits support student activities and sports.
3. Volunteer to bring treats or punch before **Tues, Jan. 12th** for our **information night on Jan. 13th at 6 PM** and/or volunteer to speak or answer questions for parents of 6th graders that evening.
4. **Adopt a Class** - Available in classroom or office. One hour is given for each \$10 you are able to donate. No pressure, just a needed option.
5. **Talent Show and Violin Performance** -help will be needed setting up at 5 pm, supervision from 6-7:30 pm, and clean up 7:30-8 pm. Please call or email the school office to sign up. 524-2741, mcameron@mwcharter.org
6. **Supervision Assistance** - Along with the teachers or regular supervisors parents can help to offer extra activities at morning break or lunch. Students love this! You can open the student store to sell snacks and supplies, open the field to supervise play, set up a soccer or volleyball game and help referee.
Times: 10:40-10:10—Morning Break, 11:30-12:10—Lunch Break

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Dec. 2- Boy's Basketball Game, 5:30pm, Mark West Elem. MPR

Dec. 3- Boy's Basketball Practice 5:30pm, San Miguel MPR

Dec. 5- PTA Elves Workshop, 9am-1pm, San Miguel Elem.

Dec. 7- Boys Basketball Game, 5:30pm, Mark West Elem. MPR

Dec. 8- Boys Basketball Practice, 5:30pm, San Miguel Elem.

Dec. 10- Drama/Music Performance, 6pm, San Miguel MPR

Dec. 14- Charter Board Mtg, Charter school office, 5:30pm

Dec. 14- PTA MTG. 7pm, San Miguel MPR, The Future of MWPTA will be discussed.

Dec. 14- Boys Basketball Game, 5:30pm, Mark West Elem. MPR

Dec. 16- Boys Basketball Game, 5:30pm, Mark West Elem. MPR

Dec. 18- End of 2nd Quarter, Report Cards will be mailed home

Dec. 21- Jan. 4- Winter Break, School closed.

January Highlights

Talent Show, Jan 7

Boys Basketball Final Games and Tournament

New Electives Begin, Jan 5

After School Movie, Jan 13

2010-2011 School Year Information Night (for 6th grade parents) Jan 13

