

THE KNIGHTLY NEWS

Principal: Dr. Danny Medved

Assistant Principals:
Jason Eiding, Lisa Holst

Dear Orchard Mesa Families,

I hope you had a wonderful winter break that was full of quality time with family and friends. As we saw last few weeks, our staff and students have returned from break recharged and we are hopeful about the semester ahead. We have much to celebrate from the first half of the year, and we still have much to do in the months ahead. In this newsletter I want to take some time to share a little about our semester in review as well as what is ahead at Orchard Mesa Middle School (OMMS) in the spring.

First, OMMS is on a great trajectory for student and family engagement and student academic progress. Last week we looked at the results from our NWEA assessment, which measure student growth and achievement in math and English Language Arts. We were excited to see that the percentage of our students who met their growth goals exceeded the overall district percentage for 10 of the 12 comparison data points. This was true for both our school at general and our students in the Challenge Program; well done Knights! We also saw a positive trend in the area of student attendance and engagement with OMMS students having the second highest attendance rate in the valley and a 20% reduction in the number of students who attend less than 90%. Finally, results from our family engagement survey found that parents have overall positive feelings about: their ability to engage with our staff, the safety and climate of the school, and the fit of OMMS with their student's needs. These are great affirmations of the work that our teachers and students do every day to make OMMS be a great place to learn and belong.

We want to build on the momentum of the first semester while keeping the positive practices going. The second semester at OMMS is about being in the learning zone. Our students and teachers spent a good portion of the first semester building a foundation for learning. Students got to know the routines that make for a successful learning environment. In advisory they set personal academic and social-emotional goals. They also learned how to organize their time to hit academic deadlines. Moving forward students and teachers are able to go more deeply in and move more quickly through academic content. Our teachers are also stretching their planning practices to identify students' next steps and academic needs and provide more targeted instruction to meet those needs. I am so impressed by our staff's commitment to student success and the work ethic they show in striving to help every Knight succeed.

We have two important events coming up at Orchard Mesa in the next month. First, the School Choice window is open. OMMS does have capacity to serve more students and we want to get the word out that OMMS is a great place for students to learn and thrive, as we pursue our vision of, "Equipping Students for Life." If you know a family who is looking for a personalized, supportive, and rigorous school option, then please encourage them to consider choosing into OMMS. Secondly, please note that we will have our spring student led conferences on February 13th and 15th from 3:30-7:30. Watch for communication from your student's Advisor with more details and information on how to engage and sign up.

Lastly, we want to invite you to come be a part of our school community through participation in extracurricular experiences. Please consider attending our after school athletics, such as The Knights basketball games. We also have our Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) up and running with their next meeting scheduled to be on Thursday 1/25 from 5-6 pm. Likewise, we will have another family clay night coming up 2/14. Please consider connecting with our school community through one of these experiences.

Thanks for staying caught up on what is happening at OMMS. Please see below for a list of other important events and information to be aware of as we get the second semester underway. As always you can reach out with questions. Thank you for partnering with us in your child's education.

Go Knights!

Respectfully,

Danny



Mrs. Bloxham would like photos from sporting events, school activities, concerts, and field trips to add to the yearbook. Parents and students, if you are at an event and are able to get pictures, please send them to sarah.bloxham@d51schools.org and indicate the event.

Ms. Page and I would like to send out special thanks to all of our community partners who helped during our holiday season. Special thanks to the Eagles, Grand junction Police department, Joseph Center, Patty and Malaika Wilson Orchard Mesa Baptist Church, Valley Church, City market in Orchard Mesa, who worked in conjunction with Randy Rabito and the band families and students to gift families Thanksgiving dinner.

Our community has wonderful resources that can help families from food to shelter to medical.

If you are in need of a mental health support resource go to [psychologytoday.com](https://www.psychologytoday.com) put in your zip code and a list of therapists, their availability, and expertise will appear.

Food resources Grand junction community food Bank the phone number is 970-640-03 36.

Ms. Page and I are always willing to help provide outside resources to our families to help empower, support, and assist our families in need.

We are always wishing you the best and good health from your counseling corner at Orchard Mesa Middle School.

Mrs. Lyons

Ateties

A Note from the Health Office

With the flu/cold season upon us, microbiologists warn that it is easy to catch a cold and urge the importance of washing hands frequently. The viruses can stay alive for two hours on hands, and for 20 minutes on hard, dry surfaces those germy hands touch. So sneeze into your elbow instead and wash frequently. There is no need for special antibacterial cleansers, although alcohol-based hand gels can substitute when soap and water are not available.

How to Wash Your Hands:

- Use warm or hot running water
- Use soap
- Wash all surface-including wrists, palms backs of hands, finger and nails
- Rub hands together for at least 10 to 15 seconds (long enough to sing the Happy Birthday song twice)

Dry forearms toward hands and fingertips

In a study at a Michigan elementary school, researchers put a group of children on a regular hand-washing schedule. The test group washed their hands when they got to school, before and after lunch, and before going home. The scheduled hand washers had 51% fewer absences due to gastrointestinal symptoms, and 24 percent fewer absences due to respiratory symptoms than kids who didn't follow the schedule.

The Centers for Disease control and Prevention say that hand washing is “*the most important means of preventing the spread of infection.*”

DON'T FORGET TO WASH YOUR HANDS!!!

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.



Student Fees

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.

GIVEBACK to schools
Office Depot OfficeMax

Simply make a purchase of qualifying products, provide our school ID at checkout & we'll receive 5% back in credits for FREE supplies.

[Learn More](#)

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 online](#).

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.