



The Almanac

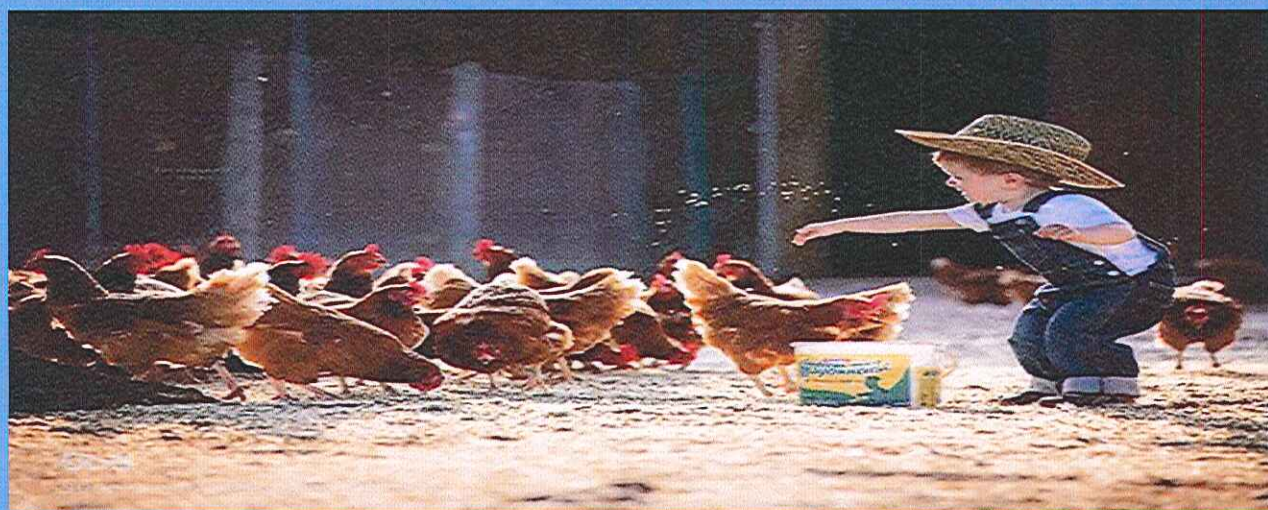
Mesa Union School District

Fall



2017

Volume 2



Honor the past, live in the present, drive to the future...The Mesa Way!

Welcome
School Beginnings
Mesa Initiatives



Welcome Back!

The sun smiles on the promise of a new school year at Mesa Union School District. The summer chores on the farm are winding down with the anticipation of the arrival of teachers and staff. During the 2017-2018 school year, I challenge each of you to find the farmer within you. I encourage you to rekindle the efforts of the last two growing seasons that set Mesa Union apart in the field of education.

The bounty from the 2016-2017 harvest provides reason to celebrate! The ongoing cultivation, nurturing, and commitment to long days on the farm have allowed new opportunities to bud and grow. I would like to thank parents for supporting our new Learning Wednesday schedule. This gift of time will allow staff to participate in essential professional development and collaboration as teachers implement new English Language Arts and English Language Development curricula. Mesa Union School is excited to announce a newly formed Special Day Class that will allow students and families the opportunity to grow up on the farm. The transformation of the District's Gifted Education and Response to Intervention models will leave a living legacy of academic excellence for years to come. Finally, the introduction of a full-time speech and music teacher will add new melodies to the landscape.

As every farmer knows, there is always work to tend to. As we prepare to get back into the field, I would like to thank the many parent and community volunteers that give of their talents, time, and financial resources to create educational and extracurricular opportunities for Mesa students. I would also like to invite all families, new or returning, to partner with the District and school by joining our Parent Faculty Organization or Mesa Union Education Foundation, or by volunteering in the classroom or one of our many parent advisory committees.

As we all know, every day is a good day on the farm!

Best wishes,

Jeff Turner
Superintendent

The **Almanac** is a publication that is published annually by the Office of the Superintendent at Mesa Union School District.

Mesa Union School District has served the children and families in this area since 1937, when Del Norte School District and Center School District merged to form one district. Eight acres were purchased for \$500 per acre from Mrs. Phillips, and in 1939, Mesa Union School was built. The original school consisted of three buildings and the custodian's home. Three teachers taught 68 students. As the number of students increased, the school facilities grew. In 1951, two new classrooms, a cafeteria, and office were added. In 1951, the first kindergarten class was started; two additional rooms were constructed in 1956. Six additional classrooms were added in 1964, followed by six more in 1968. With the advent of class size reduction, four new classrooms were added in 1997 and 1998.

Today, Mesa Union School provides a first-class education for approximately 650 students in grades TK-8. The Board has overseen modernization projects in order to create classroom environments that reflect twenty-first century teaching and learning. In November 2002, our community passed Proposition H – a local school bond. Augmented with state Proposition 47 monies, Prop H funded modernization and construction of a state-of-the-art computer lab, library, science lab and multi-purpose room. In 2008, local residents passed Measure A, which funded a PE room, playfields, parking lot upgrades and a traffic light at the school entrance.

The Mesa Way...

Mesa Union School District has enjoyed long honored traditions, academic excellence and a school community focused on providing a safe nurturing environment that fosters a well-rounded foundation for life-long success.

The Mesa Union Design Team, representative of all District stakeholders, proudly introduces Mesa Union's newly crafted core values, vision and mission statements.

Vision Statement

Honor the past, live in the present, drive to the future...The Mesa Way!

Mission Statement

The Mission of Mesa Union School District is to provide a safe, nurturing environment that fosters a well-rounded foundation for life-long successes by educating, inspiring and celebrating the minds of our student community and ensuring a better future for all.

Core Values

Community

Mesa Union, a transitional kindergarten through eighth grade school district, with deep community roots, rich traditions, and modern values fostering equitable access for our students and families.

School Climate

Welcoming to a diverse group of families that provides an innovative curriculum with caring teachers who model respect for self, others, and school; where students are challenged and motivated to succeed/persevere in a warm, friendly atmosphere where Tigers Care!

Innovation

We embrace change, support teacher and student creativity using technology to stay current with evolving educational trends. Our staff is committed to the continual advancement of 21st century learners by developing competent readers, writers, mathematicians; and cultivating scientists, explorers, innovators and masterful communicators.

What

We Love

We love reconnecting to our deep community roots and honoring our long-standing traditions.

We love celebrating the minds of our student community.

We love to inspire and develop competent readers, writers, and mathematicians; cultivate scientists, researchers, explorers, innovators, reflective learners, and communicators; and foster compassion and empathy for others.

We love to make Mesa memories!

Academic Excellence

A truly special place where all learning styles are supported and academic excellence is more than just good grades. Teachers model lifelong learning through professional development enabling them to meet each student's needs and interests.

- Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)
- Gifted learners (G.A.T.E.)
- Visual & Performing Arts
- Athletics
- Student Clubs
- Junior High Electives

The Whole Child

We are committed to meeting the needs of the whole child. We believe students deserve to be healthy, engaged, supported and challenged through hands-on learning and life experiences focused on developing well-rounded students that demonstrate critical thinking, imagination, integrity, and compassion to others.

School Beginnings



Resource Specialist Teacher

Ms. Cardenas has a Master of Science in Special Education from California Lutheran University and holds a Mild to Moderate teaching credential with authorizations in Autism and English Language Learners. Ms. Cardenas comes from the Santa Paula Unified School District where she taught a K-2 Special Day Class. She has 15 years of regular education and special education teaching experience.



School Psychologist

Ms. Charnofsky is a native Californian who earned her Master's degree in Clinical Child Psychology/School Psychology at Cal State Hayward (1996), with dual specializations in School Psychology and School Counseling. She holds a California license in Educational Psychology (1999) and a Memory Interventionist Certificate (2015). Ms. Charnofsky is beginning her 22nd year of service in the field of educational psychology.

What

We Love

We love to celebrate our students' academic success.

We love that Mesa Union students participate in a broad course of study that has infused technology into the daily instructional design that regularly includes Inquiry and Project Based Learning.

We love that Mesa Union Students demonstrate critical thinking, imagination, integrity and compassion towards others.



Speech and Language Therapist

Ms. Shin will serve as Mesa Union's new full-time speech and language therapist. She served in the same capacity during the 2016-2017 school year through the District's contract with Ventura County Office of Education. She holds a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Communicative Disorders from California State University, Long Beach. Ms. Shin has 22 years of experience as a speech and language therapist.



Seventh Grade Social Science/English Language Arts Teacher

Mr. Dekok graduated from Ferris State University in Big Rapids, Michigan, as a result of a scholarship he received after completing an Associate's Degree in History from College of the Canyons in Valencia, California. He holds a single subject credential with endorsements in English and Social Science.



Fourth Grade Teacher

Mrs. Catlett's preparation for the teaching profession has been rich and rigorous. She graduated from California State University, Channel Islands in 2012 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English Writing and Literature. Upon graduation, she worked at the Santa Barbara Zoo as an outdoor educator while pursuing her teaching credentials, which she earned in 2016.



Grades 4-8 Music Teacher

Mr. Goad has a Bachelor's of Music from California State University-Northridge and a Master's of Music from Arizona State University. He brings performance and conducting experience in concert band, orchestra, music theatre, and is an accomplished musician in his own right. He most recently completed his student teaching at Concordia International School in Shanghai, China.

What We Love

We love to recruit and retain exemplary employees.

We love that teachers model lifelong learning through professional development enabling them to meet each student's needs and interests.

We love when adults and children embrace a growth mindset and demonstrate resiliency, and grit.



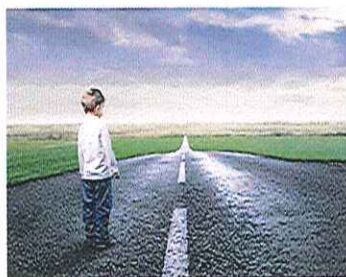
Second Grade Teacher

Miss Williams has a degree in Liberal Studies with a concentration in Spanish, as well as a Master's degree in Educational Leadership. Both degrees are from California Lutheran University. She has three years of teaching experience as third grade teacher at Leroy Anderson Village Elementary School in San Jose, California.

Mesa Initiatives

Mesa Union School District is focusing on several new initiatives this year to strengthen the academic program for students.

In addition to the new Math Expressions Program in grades K through 5 and the College Preparatory Math Program in grades 6 through 8 that the District introduced last year, students will receive instruction this year in English language arts and English language development through another new program entitled, K-5 California Journeys and 6-8 California Collections. These materials were selected after a thorough review and piloting process. Prior to the school year, teachers received professional training on these new tools.



The Road to Electives

Until 2016, middle school students participated in an exploratory class, in addition to their core content courses.

The District began to offer electives to middle school students

in 2016. Students in grades 6 through 8 were assigned an elective each semester, which met daily. In 2017, with the addition of a music program in grades 4-8, the District will be able to expand its elective offerings. Over the summer, teachers refined the master schedule, developed new course descriptions and curricula in preparation for the new electives.

What

We Love

We love building exemplary programs that provide teachers with resources and tools that bring English and math alive for students in the classroom.

We love creating new opportunities through electives that expand students' learning and prepare them for college and career.

Sixth Grade	Intro to Agriculture	Coding	Music
Seventh Grade	Oceanography	Poetry	Music
Eighth Grade	Drama/Theater	Robotics	Music



Mesa Union welcomes students and families to its newly formed K-3 Special Day Class. The primary focus of instruction in Special Day Classes is the Common Core academic standards accommodated and/or modified with specialized instructional strategies to meet individual student needs.



Last year the District convened a GATE Task Force to review Mesa's GATE Program in light of current research and best practices in gifted education. As a result, during the 2017-2018 school year, many teachers will be seeking their GATE certification and all teachers will participate in professional learning that focuses on differentiating the core curriculum for depth and complexity. Students will receive differentiated instruction within their regular classroom with push-in classroom support from the GATE teacher.



RTI is a multi-tier approach to the early identification and support of students with learning and behavior needs. The RTI process begins with high quality instruction and universal screening of all children in the general education classroom. Struggling learners are provided with interventions at increasing levels of intensity to accelerate their rate of learning.



In addition to finding us on Twitter, Facebook, and the school and District website, a new parent application called Sangha will be launched this fall. With the new Sangha mobile app, the school creates and shares events, tasks, signup requests and messages. Parents can view, signup or respond.

What

We Love

We love strengthening the academic program for all students.

We love to discover, celebrate and develop students' gifts and talents.

We love partnering with our families to create opportunities both within and outside of the classroom that support learning.

