



monthly – September

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First Project: Popsicle Stick Bridges

1st Sat. Academy 10/21/17: Chaperones Needed

Our first Saturday Academy experience of the year is soon approaching, and we are excited to take a nice sized group of Rafer Johnson students up to Fresno State to get some hands-on experience with engineering projects. Saturday Academies give MESA students the opportunity to gain knowledge as they attend workshops and learn about engineering principles in preparation for the MESA Day Preliminaries – the engineering design competition to be held at CSU Fresno on March 10, 2018. Students attending the Saturday Academies gain exposure to a wide variety of activities – such as gliders, hot air balloons, model rockets, robotics, air powered vehicles, and many others. Through these experiences, students learn to apply these learned concepts to their own projects in hopes of earning a spot for competition at the MESA Day Preliminaries.

In order for the day to run smoothly, we are looking for several **district-cleared chaperones** for the day to assist with student movement on the Fresno State campus. Having an adequate number of chaperones at this first academy is critical, as we have a new crop of 7th graders who will need assistance as they learn the “lay of the land” of the Fresno State campus. If you are interested in chaperoning for the 10/21/17 date, please send a written note, or e-mail Mr. Bennett at cbennett@kesd.org to indicate your ability to chaperone.

Saturday Academy ~ Fast Facts:

Date: Saturday, October 21, 2017

Time: 7:11 a.m. SHARP, then returning around 4:00 p.m.

Place: KHS gym parking lot, then travel by KHS bus to CSU Fresno

Why: Hands-on academic experience with engineering concepts in preparation of MESA Day project work, and exposure to a collegial atmosphere

What: Experience a college campus first-hand, attend free workshops focused on math and science concepts through engineering design, and enjoy a free lunch!

Who: All students currently a) enrolled as a MESA student with CSU Fresno MESA Center, b) have reserved a place for this academy, and c) has a completed and returned parent permission form to ride the KHS bus

Reminders:

1. It is a **mandatory requirement** for all **MESA elective students** to attend at least 2 Saturday Academy dates.
2. It is also **mandatory** for all MESA students to attend at least two Saturday Academy dates in order to compete in the preliminary competition on March 10, 2018.
3. The dates for upcoming Saturday Academies are as follows: **12/2/17** and **2/24/18**. We will post reminders for sign up cut-off dates as they draw near.

Please clip, sign, and return this portion of the MESA Monthly

Student Name _____ Parent Signature: _____

First Project

For the first MESA project of the year, students will be working on “Stick Together” popsicle stick bridges. Students have reviewed the rules, and have taken a rules quiz to ensure all students understand the task before them. Students then participated in an interview process we called “Speed Buddies,” where rookie MESA students met with MESA veterans and they interviewed each other for 1 minute as a pre-screening process prior to pairing up as partners for this project. Students are in the beginning stages of designing and building their bridges. Most work for this project will be done in class; however, if students fall behind, outside time may be required. We look forward to testing our bridges in early October!

Google Classroom:

This year we will again be utilizing Google Classroom as a communication tool more than ever. Students have the unique ability to access information, and explore MESA-related topics through Classroom.

Remind App:

Thank you for the huge response with signing into the Remind App text communication tool. It will be used more and more this year to help with communication. If you haven't signed up please do. To sign up text the message @ktownmesa to the phone number 81010.

MESA Dance a BIG Success!

The back-to-school dance has come and gone, and immediate feedback received from students gave our dance *great reviews*. Your students did a *great job* of publicizing the dance, creating decorations, and serving as great “dance ambassadors” in promoting the event. We are pleased to announce that preliminary numbers indicate we cleared roughly \$2,750 in funds to support our MESA program! Congratulations on a fabulous effort!

This event definitely could *not have happened* without the support of **you**, the countless parent volunteers...from our ticket sellers, concessions experts, to chaperones, pizza runners, decorators, drink and money donators, and decorations committee. Special thanks to *Dianne Obert, Laura Nunez, and Tanya Davis*, who graciously coordinated the ticket sales and to *Casie Reddell*, who helped accentuate our Carnival atmosphere by bringing in cotton candy. A heartfelt **thank you** for your support of this program and dedication to your student's education. Great job, and **go team MESA!** What a privilege to work with you all!

Catalina Island Marine Institute News!

**** \$175 balance is due MONDAY, October 9th! ****

- Please contact Mr. Bennett *immediately* if you have any questions/concerns regarding the trip -

For the MESA students registered to attend the Catalina Island Marine Institute (CIMI) trip, please consider the following important facts as you prepare for your trip:

1. You are responsible for speaking with your teachers and getting your assignments in advance of the trip. We will return just in time for the weekend, so you should be able to get caught up on all your missed work then.
2. We will be leaving *after school* the afternoon of Tuesday, October 31st at 3:30 p.m.! Plan on packing your bag the night before so you will be prepared to roll out of town quickly that day.
3. You will need to pack Wednesday's lunch for the road (non-perishables, please!) – all other meals are included in the cost of the trip, including dinner on the way down Tuesday evening. If you'd like to bring some extra spending money for the CIMI store and/or incidentals, you may do so.

RJJH
MESA Leadership
2017 - 2018

Sam Chappell

Adam Erickson

Noble Kahlon

Maria Nunez

Jenna Salazar

Ava Westerling