



MOUNTAIN OAKS SCHOOL

K – 12 CHARTER SCHOOL

“The World Is Our Classroom”

Website: www.mountainoaks.org

HOME OF THE EAGLES

Fall 2018

RE: Mountain Oaks School Annual Retreat

Dear Families,

Mountain Oaks School (MOS) is many things, a K-12 independent study school, an alternative education setting, a charter school, a community of like-minded parents and educators, and a non-profit corporation. The organizational structure of Mountain Oaks is somewhat unique among charter schools as every family who joins the school automatically becomes a member of the Mountain Oaks School non-profit corporation. Each family has one vote as a member of the MOS Corporation, and is encouraged to participate in all decisions impacting the corporation. For example, the annual Board of Directors elections are done through a vote of the corporation membership, as are any changes to the organizational structure of the school. Mountain Oaks has always been proud of being a parent-choice school. Since we have no official district of residence (with automatic enrollment based upon where the student lives) a parent must apply for admission to Mountain Oaks, making it a parent choice to enroll here. We have also tried hard to be a parent-driven school, where parents are welcome to join the school committees, particularly the Steering or Advisory Committees for the site their child(ren) attend, and to make recommendations for the school's and staff's consideration on everything from workshops, to curriculum, to special events and field trips. Parents are actively encouraged to organize the special events, clubs, outings and field trips...particularly those they feel of interest to their own children as well as others. Some of our best ideas have come from our parents. We strive to listen, honor and give due consideration to all parent suggestions.

As a non-profit corporation it is necessary for MOS to have at least one annual business meeting each year. This is held on the fourth Friday in January each year. The elections for the Board of Directors are a focus of the business meeting. A slate of proposed candidates is created by the Board Development Committee, approved by the Board of Directors, and presented to the membership at the Annual Retreat. After the slate is presented, nominations of other candidates may be made by those members attending the meeting. If a majority of those attending the meeting confirm the nomination, and the candidate agrees, then that candidate is added to the ballot.

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In addition to the Board of Directors election, the annual retreat is an opportunity for the school to address families about significant issues we are facing and celebrate the good things we do. To showcase student achievements, and to recharge as parent and mentor teachers with new ideas. The breakout sessions are opportunities for the parents to discuss topics and issues with others, formulate plans, prioritize needs, make suggestions, and truly be heard directly by the membership attending the Retreat, the Board of Directors and the school staff.

This year's Keynote Speaker will be Alex Kajitani, "The Rappin' Mathematician." He will be offering teaching tips to parents, strategies to approach math, how to make math (especially those multiplication tables) fun, engaging and memorable. Some links for more information and videos about Alex are:

www.alexkajitani.com

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QmQopduKG1E>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VZQDvb5Yjvw>

A continental breakfast will be available from 9-9:30 a.m., and this year's lunch will be catered by Griff's Bar-B-Que in Copperopolis (one of our MO families). Childcare will be provided, and if you have children in childcare please remember to pack a lunch for them.

RSVPs are due by Friday, January 18, 2019 at Noon

We look forward to seeing you there and sharing a day of reflection,

Anne Colman

Anne Colman
MO Administrator