

# Mountain Sky Junior High School

Christina Lee, Principal

Mark Wood, Assistant Principal

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## Principal's Message



Welcome to the 2024-2025 school year at Mountain Sky Junior High!

It is with great pride and excitement that I introduce myself as the new principal of Mountain Sky Junior High School. My name is Christina Lee; it is an honor and I am looking forward to working with the staff, parents, students and community members in making this a memorable school year.

I have spent much of my professional career working with middle school students. I taught seventh and eighth grade for 12 years in Glendale Elementary and Madison Elementary districts. After years dedicated to the classroom, I spent two years as the instructional coach at Cholla Middle School, where my experience and passion as an instructional leader grew. The last three years I was with the Paradise Valley Unified School District. I spent a year as dean of students at North Canyon High School and the last two years the assistant principal at Greenway Middle School.

### A little personal background on me:

I am originally from the Chicagoland area. I moved to Phoenix, Arizona after graduating from college in 2006. Currently, my husband of sixteen years and I live in Central Phoenix with our two children (ages 13 and 11). Our children keep us busy with competitive dance and club baseball. When I do have a little free time, I love to read historical fiction and run on the Peloton Treadmill.

My decision to become an administrator came from a strong desire to make a positive impact on an entire school community. Junior high school is a crucial time for students to develop character and is something I have built my career on by understanding these delicate developmental years. I believe that "students do not care what you know until they know you care" (unknown). Relationships are incredibly important on a school campus and my hope is to build strong relationships with students, teachers, staff, parents and the community. I am committed to creating a safe environment that promotes success and learning so that ALL students can reach their full potential. Students want to feel safe, but also they want to be known. It is my responsibility as a leader in education to ensure all students and staff are safe and seen.

As a former instructional coach in the Washington Elementary School District, I look forward to being a part of the Mountain Sky Junior High family and cannot wait to dive into a new school year. I hope we can SOAR together through all the challenges that lie ahead.

If throughout the course of the year you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Wishing you and your family a healthy and safe school year.

Mrs. Lee  
MSJH Principal



## Introducing our 2024-2025 School Year Team:

Ms. Christina Lee—Principal

Mr. Mark Wood—Assistant Principal

Ms. Rebecca Wright—Instructional Coach

Mr. Kevin Matie—Student Services Specialist

Ms. Karen Mull—Social Worker

Ms. Polly Benkstein—Psychologist

Mr. Brad Walston—SRO Officer

Ms. Jenn Hansen—Office Manager

Ms. Kathy Smith—Attendance Clerk

Ms. Carmen Jimenez—Registration

Ms. Mona Cummings—Health Tech

Mr. Mark Fortin—Facilities Manager

Ms. Janemarie Wright—Librarian/Media Specialist

We are here to help! Please reach out to us with any questions/concerns you may have.



In an effort to listen to our community and provide two-way communication, we are proud to introduce our digital tool called, We're Listening. The goal of this platform is to allow us to listen to feed-

back from our parents and guardians, students, employees and community members. Through this tool, you will have the opportunity to share your compliments, questions, comments, suggestions and concerns, and receive timely responses. We're listening, so please share what's on your mind with us! Scan the QR code to share with us today!



#AttendanceMattersWESD

As part of the #AttendanceMattersWESD campaign, our school is proud to continue spreading awareness on the importance of attendance! The theme for this year is Be Present, Be Powerful. It is a call for everyone to focus on ensuring students show up to school every day, even when it is not easy. In case you missed it, the WESD achieved an attendance rate of 92.07% for the 2023-2024 school year, which is an increase of 0.12% from the previous year. Additionally, the WESD reduced chronic absenteeism by 14%. The WESD strives to increase student attendance again while also reducing chronic absenteeism even more this school year – but we need your help!

Please help us in our efforts by making sure your child attends school each day and is on time. Remember, every day a student is absent is a lost opportunity for learning! Both unexcused and excused absences also count towards chronic absenteeism, which is typically defined as missing 10% of the school year – or just two days each month – for any reason. Chronic absenteeism can cause students to fall behind in school and affect their academic success.

Below are some tips for you to help your child achieve perfect attendance.

- Set a regular bedtime and morning routine for your child.
- Lay out your child’s clothes and pack their backpack the night before.
- Keep your child healthy by ensuring they receive their required vaccines.
- Schedule medical appointments for your child after school hours or on the weekends.

Let’s be present and powerful each day, and make attendance a priority this school year!



**Volleyball—Coach Oddo**

**Boys Tryouts** August 12, 13 & 14 @ 7:30-8:30 p.m.

**Parent Meeting** August 14 @ 4:14 p.m.

**Seventh Grade Girls Tryouts** Aug. 12, 13 & 15 @ 4:15-5:15 p.m.

**Parent Meeting** August 16 @ 4:14 p.m.

**Eighth Grade Girls Tryouts** Aug. 19, 20 & 22 @ 4:15—5:15 p.m.

**Parent Meeting** August 23 @ 4:15 p.m.

**Girls Soccer—Coach Roberts**

**Parent Informational Meeting** August 26 @ 4:15 p.m.

**Tryouts** September 2, 3 & 5 4:15-5:15 p.m.

**Cross Country—Coach Wright & Coach Hendrickson**

**Parent Informational Meeting** August 27, 4:15 p.m.

**Sign Up for ParentVUE**

Now that the new school year has begun, it is the perfect time to sign up for ParentVUE! All parents and guardians can use this free, digital tool to access their child's assignments, grades, attendance and more. If you are logging in for the first time and do not have an email, you can obtain an activation key by visiting our office. If you have an email, you can request account activation online. Please visit <https://www.wesdschools.org/ParentVUE> to get started today.

**Become a School Volunteer**

**VOLUNTEER**



Volunteers provide a tremendous service for the students and staff of the Washington Elementary School District, and the District encourages volunteer participation in its schools. The varied talents and expertise of parents, guardians and community members greatly enhance the educational process. Areas in which volunteers can help include tutoring, special presentations, assisting in the classroom, and joining District councils, school site councils and various committees. If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering, please visit the WESD Volunteer Opportunities web page for more information and to complete an application.



Parent Teacher Organization meets first Tuesday each month. 7:00 p.m. in library! Help support school-wide events, programming and fundraising! Join us!

**Save the Date!**

**Thursday, August 15**



**SOAR Matrix**

	Classroom	Hallways	Office/ Health Office	Bathroom	Cafeteria	Field
Safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Control your body, voice, and objects</li> <li>Use technology items as intended for the class</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Walking with a purpose</li> <li>Control your body, voice, and objects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain school security</li> <li>Control your body, voice, and objects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wait your turn</li> <li>Control your body, voice, and objects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stay in seat until dismissed</li> <li>Control your body, voice, and objects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stay in designated areas</li> <li>Be aware of activities around you</li> <li>Control your body, voice, and objects</li> </ul>
Organized	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have materials out and prepared for class</li> <li>Student planner is filled out</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plan and follow your route</li> <li>Keep walkways clear</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Travel to and from your destination right away</li> <li>Be prepared: Wear ID and have pass visible</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete sign-out procedures</li> <li>Clean up after yourself</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collect trash and throw it away</li> <li>Follows lines and times</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keep belongings where you can see them</li> <li>Put equipment away</li> </ul>
Accountable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Correctly use materials and classroom property</li> <li>Be an active student</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Go to your destination right away</li> <li>Be prepared: Wear ID and have pass visible</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Be aware of people around you</li> <li>Be honest</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Flush, wash, dry, goodbye</li> <li>Quickly return to your previous location</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wear ID's</li> <li>Clean up after yourself and your area</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Own your mistakes</li> <li>Clean up after yourself</li> </ul>
Respectful	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use appropriate and kind language</li> <li>Listen to others without interrupting and disrupting</li> <li>Accept different opinions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use appropriate and kind language</li> <li>Honor the space and wishes of others</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Listen to others without interrupting or disrupting</li> <li>Only share information that is yours</li> <li>Enter quietly and patiently wait your turn</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keep your hands, eyes, and phones to yourself</li> <li>Honor the space</li> <li>Use appropriate and kind language</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Listen to directions</li> <li>Take care of your cafeteria space</li> <li>Use appropriate and kind language</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Play fair</li> <li>Follow directions</li> <li>Use appropriate and kind language</li> </ul>