



MESA Elective Class

Mrs. Dedini – Rm. 18

www.mrsdedini.com

Goals:

- Follow MESA-developed guidelines (reinforcing California State Math and Science Standards) to build hands-on projects, which will be entered into rigorous local, regional, state, and in some cases national contests
- Learn and apply effective study skills techniques for academic success
- Maintain a minimum 2.0 GPA
- Enter at least one project in the MESA Day preliminary competition
- Attend at least two MESA Saturday Academies at California State University, Fresno

Materials:

- Composition notebook**, to be used as a MESA journal *exclusively for this class*
- Several sharp **pencils** with **erasers** (mechanical pencils with lead refills work nicely)
- Sticky notes** or **book tabs**
- Ruler** and / or protractor
- Colored pencils**
- Dry erase marker** and **personal white board**

Grading:

- 20% attendance and participation**
40% projects
40% MESA journal (including ABI checks, notes, organization, and project reflections/blogs)

I do not give extra credit. If you keep up with your work you will do well. If you fall behind, you will have problems. **It's that simple!** **Parents:** please ask to see your student's agenda or check the MESA web calendar (www.mrsdedini.com) to stay updated on important dates and project deadlines for this class. If there are any questions about MESA activities or projects, do not hesitate to contact me via e-mail: ddedini@kingsburg-elem.k12.ca.us. Please realize that it is the *student's responsibility* to write important information and/or dates in their agenda each class session. Every student should also have the name and phone number of a reliable classmate from which they can obtain information, if necessary. *I maintain my website with current information* about my class, including project timelines, important dates, links, and upcoming topics; therefore, it is a good idea to **check the site regularly.**

Attendance and Participation: Outstanding attendance and participation are key to success in this class. Students should come to school ready to learn each class session. Participation refers to a student being actively engaged in classroom lessons and activities, as well as participating in MESA Saturday Academies / MESA Day competition(s). Students must follow classroom procedures and do the required work each class period. If you are absent, you will **not** be able to make up the work. This is why attendance is very important!

Projects: Students are required to do **one MESA project per quarter**. You may choose from the projects below:

Wind Energy Challenge	Mousetrap Car	Stick Together / Manila Mechanics
Web Design	EggXpress	Model Science – Eye
Speak Up	Balsawood Glider	LEGO Robotics

MESA Journal: The MESA Journal is important part of your success in this class. Students will take notes and maintain careful records (**in pencil only**) of the projects they are working on in this journal and submit *bi-weekly blog reflections* as evidence of progress. Most MESA projects require detailed, dated descriptions and/or measurements to be considered for the MESA Day competition. Therefore, study and organizational skills are included as a key part of the curriculum. A goal of the MESA elective is to help you be very successful in school! To support this goal, monthly ABI checks with parent signature will be required in this portion of the grade.

Tardies: Students will be marked tardy if they are not **sitting at their seat, starting work** when the bell rings. It is very important that each student begin the day’s work as soon as they enter class.

Bathroom / Water Fountain: Students should take care of their personal needs of using the restroom or getting a drink **before** coming to class. If using the bathroom is an emergency, the student may be required to make up the time during lunch.

After School MESA Club: The weekly after school MESA Club will be held **each Tuesday** from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. While students *are not required* to attend these after school meetings, they are encouraged to participate. During the after school meetings, students will take part in supporting activities and/or work with other MESA club members on their selected projects and assignments.

Tips for Success in the MESA Elective Class:

attend regularly / come to class prepared / participate in class discussions and activities
attend MESA Academies / take careful notes / do project work / give your best effort / have fun!

MESA Buddy

Write the names and phone numbers of a couple of reliable students in this class. This will come in handy if you are absent, have a question, or need a “study buddy.”

Name _____ **Phone #** _____

Name _____ **Phone #** _____

MESA Blog Information:

Blog Address: _____

Username: _____ **Password:** _____