



## MESA Elective Class

Mrs. Dedini – Rm. 18

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- 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, and in some cases state and national contests.
  - Learn and apply effective study skills techniques for academic success
  - Maintain a minimum 2.5 GPA; 3.0 GPA for leadership students
  - Enter at least one project in the MESA Day preliminary competition
  - Attend all four 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)**

If you keep up with your work you will do well in this class. 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](http://www.mrsdedini.com)) to stay updated on important dates and project deadlines for this class. I will also send home a newsletter each month (**MESA Monthly**), which will keep you alerted to key information. You will be asked to sign a verification that you have read and calendared the information from the newsletter each month. 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](mailto: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 "MESA Buddy" 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!

**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.

**Projects:** As a part of this course, students are required to research, design, build & test at least two of the following projects. After completing each project, students will compete in an on-site qualifying competition with the projects to earn the right to compete at the MESA Day Preliminary competition at CSU Fresno in March. Students with qualifying projects may then continue working through the “Design-Build-Test” process on their own time (at home and/or during scheduled after-school work days) to prepare a competition-ready project for the Fresno State event.

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 *monthly blog reflections and monthly blog comments* 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.

**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 or after school.

**After School MESA Club:** The weekly after school MESA Club will be held **each Wednesday** from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. This year’s MESA Club focus will be LEGO Robotics and Web Design. Students wishing to participate with robotics or web competitions should plan on attending MESA Club. While students *are not required* to attend these after school meetings, they are encouraged to participate.

**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 name and phone number of a reliable students in this class. This will come in handy if you are absent, have a question, or need a “study buddy.”

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone #** \_\_\_\_\_

**RJFH MESA Blog Information:**

**Blog Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Username:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Password:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CSUFresno MESA Log-in Registration Information:**

**Username:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Password:** \_\_\_\_\_