

MPS Calendar



Mesa Public Schools District
63 E. Main St., 85201
Dr. Mike Cowan, superintendent
480-472-0200

Website: mpsaz.org

- Wednesday, Jan. 6-8: Elementary parent teacher conferences
- Monday, Jan. 18: Civil Rights/MLK Day - schools and district offices closed
- Monday, Jan. 25: Kindergarten registration begins
- Tuesday, Jan. 26: Kindergarten evening registration
- Wednesday, Feb. 3: Professional development - junior high and high school late start, elementary early release
- Monday, Feb. 15: Presidents Day - schools and district offices closed
- Friday, March 11: End of third quarter grading period, early release
- Monday, March 14-18: Spring break - schools closed
- Thursday, March 17-18: District offices closed
- Monday, March 21: School resumes
- Friday, March 25: Spring holiday - schools and district offices closed
- Wednesday, April 6: Professional development - junior high and high school late start, elementary early release
- Thursday, May 26: Last day of school and graduation
- Monday, May 30: Memorial Day - schools and district offices closed



Independent Newspapers/Richard H. Dyer

Terrarium at MCC at Red Mountain

Mesa Community College wrapped a year-long celebration of its 50th anniversary with two multicultural festivals, one at MCC at Southern and Dobson and another at MCC at Red Mountain, 7110 E. McKellips Road, on Friday, Nov. 20. Darrell Woolf, a Mesa Community College lab tech and exhibit curator, explains what animals are in a terrarium at the MCC at Red Mountain campus. A snake is at bottom right.

New 2 days, 4 days or 1 day a week classes at MCC@RM

Mesa Community College at Red Mountain, 7110 E. McKellips Road, has optimized its spring schedule to help students fit college more easily into their lives, according to a press release.

“Based on student feedback, we will basically eliminate three- and five-day-per week classes, thus decreasing the number of visits to campus, without compromising instructional quality or instructional time. This represents just one of many efforts MCC is making to support student success,” said Dr. Shouan Pan, MCC president. “I commend Red Mountain Campus faculty and staff for putting students’ needs and interest first.”

Starting in the spring of 2016, a majority

of classes offered at MCC at Red Mountain will meet two days per week, with the option of Monday and Wednesday or Tuesday and Thursday classes. Certain science and math classes will meet four days per week instead of five, and some of the more popular classes will be offered in a one day, three-hour format on Fridays.

“Our students are very busy,” said Patrick Burkhart, provost of MCC’s Red Mountain campus. “Eighty-six percent of survey respondents reported working at least part time and just over one in 10 indicated that in addition to taking classes, they were married and had children.”

Students indicated they would prefer to meet fewer times per week for longer peri-

ods, according to the release.

More intense math and science classes will meet Monday through Thursday as students and instructors agree additional class instruction/support is needed for students to successfully complete. This schedule also lends itself well to offering additional lab tutoring times on Fridays.

Current and potential students are encouraged to register for spring classes now at mesacc.edu/spring. Those interested in immediately embarking on, or accelerating their college experience should register for the winter intersession; 16-week courses in a fast-paced, four-week period beginning Dec. 21, at mesacc.edu/winter.

MPS Board to adopt calendars for ‘17-18, ‘18-19

The Mesa Public Schools Governing Board will be considering the 2017-18 and 2018-19 school calendars at the regularly scheduled board meetings on Jan. 26 and Feb. 9. The 2016-17 calendar was adopted in 2014.

Board members will consider many factors before reaching a decision, including student achievement, state requirements, holidays, testing and weather. They will also consider input from parents, students, staff and community members.

Mesa parents may provide their thoughts by responding to an online survey. The survey will be available until Jan. 20.

The survey states, in part, that based on factors and feedback previously received, the district has developed three calendar models:

- A calendar similar to the current calendar, with a start date in early to mid-August, one week off for October break, one week off for spring break and ending in late May.

- A calendar starting later in August, with two days off for October break, one week off for spring break, and ending in late May.

- A modified or extended-year calendar starting in late July, with two weeks off for October break, two weeks off for spring break and ending in late May.

College of St. Scholastica launches nursing program

The College of St. Scholastica is announcing the launch of its graduate nursing program in Arizona, according to a press release.

“The College of St. Scholastica has been asked by Phoenix community members to bring our values-based nursing program, built on the Benedictine tradition, to the greater Phoenix area,” Julie Anderson, dean of the School of Nursing, said in the release. The nursing courses, to be held in the Phoenix area and online, will begin in May. Students can choose from three specialties for their Doctor of Nursing Practice education: Adult/Gerontology Nurse Practitioner, Family Nurse Practitioner and Psychiatric and Mental Health Nurse Practitioner.

The college also has evening classes at Mesa Community College’s Southern and Dobson campuses.

The AGNP program prepares advanced practice nurses in adult health care across the health continuum. The FNP program prepares nurses to be leaders who manage the primary health care needs of families, from infancy through adulthood. The PM-HNP program prepares advanced practice nurses to address both the psychiatric and medical needs of individuals (both children and adults) with serious mental illnesses and those who have common medical illnesses with concomitant mental health problems, according to the release.

For more information, call 623-694-0984 or visit <http://www.css.edu/arizona>.