

# MOUNTAIN EMPIRE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT PORTRAIT OF A GRADUATE



**PORTRAIT OF  
A MEUSD GRADUATE**



**PORTRAIT OF  
AN ADULT**



**SYSTEM  
PORTRAIT**

# What is a vision?

A vision is like our mountain community that rises proudly in the eastern portion of San Diego County. It represents a mental image of our future, a summit to be reached. Just as our mountain community stands tall in our county, our vision stands as a beacon of purpose and direction.

Like the mountain peaks that rise in the east, our vision is clear and distinct, standing above the clouds of uncertainty. Mountains captivate and inspire, they draw a person's gaze and create a sense of wonder and beauty. Just as the mountains inspire, a vision evokes a sense of wonder and possibility.

Reaching the mountain peak is a symbol of achievement and accomplishment. It represents the desired future state that lies beyond the climb. Similarly, a vision embodies aspirations and dreams, painting a picture of what is desired to be achieved.

Just as climbers face challenges in their journey to the summit, working toward a vision requires perseverance, dedication, and

a willingness to overcome obstacles. At times the path is steep and the terrain can be difficult, but standing on the peak of the mountain is worth it.

Our vision for our students in Mountain Empire Unified School District focuses on what we want to be true for all graduates. Our vision is a climb to the top of the mountain, one of perseverance and dedication that inspires our students to want to stand atop the peak and look out to the world of endless possibilities.



## Why this vision, why now?

The Mountain Empire Unified School District is the Southeastern most school district in San Diego County, bordering the Mexican State of Baja California on the South and Imperial County on the East. The District is in mountainous terrain, which varies in elevation from 2,500 to 6,000 feet above sea level. Mountain Empire Unified School District encompasses over 660 square miles. Our community is diverse in its people and the communities in which they live.

Our community is resilient and adapts well to the ever changing environment around it. The rural setting and the sparsely populated area requires extensive busing of students; however, it also provides a healthy, cheerful surrounding, which strengthens educational opportunities.

Although the communities of MEUSD are spread out over many miles, they are not immune from the rapidly changing world around it. Many of our graduates happily stay in our local mountains and forge their careers and raise their families in our mountain communities, while others forge a new path elsewhere in the world while staying connected to the values and experiences gained through their experiences in our school district.

Regardless of where our graduates choose to live, one thing we know for certain as a school district is that the world our graduates are entering is one of constant learning and change. Our graduates will compete globally for jobs and post-secondary opportunities. We must recognize that some of these jobs and opportunities that exist now did not exist five years ago and that trend is likely to continue.

Our vision reflects the values of the communities we serve and has been informed by input from students, staff, parents, and community members. Involving multiple stakeholders was key to creating a vision in which all members of the communities of MEUSD had an opportunity to have input. Our vision includes the aspiration for our graduates to be adaptive, creative, curious, compassionate, and self-directive.

As a school system, we recognize the power our actions have on the trajectories of our students' lives. We play a critical role in preparing our graduates to both thrive and improve the world in which they live. We understand that our role in our graduates' lives is a shared one and that our graduates will succeed only if we work together as a community.

## Process



During the Summer of 2022, our Superintendent, Board of Education, and Leadership Team began the process to develop a long-term vision for MEUSD. This process included the development of the Portrait of a Graduate, Portrait of an Adult and our Systems Portrait for MEUSD. These Portraits are aspirational and represent our dream for the long term success and planning for our school district and its future.

These portraits were developed using the input from a variety of methods including two student summits consisting of students from 5th-12th grade in the Fall of 2022, empathy interviews with district leaders and community members, listening sessions with parents and students, surveys of the community, and four all-day Guiding Coalition sessions. The Guiding Coalition was made up of staff, students, parents, and members of various communities of MEUSD.

This work included reflective conversations, exploration of future trends, and design exercises which considered the needs of all members of Mountain Empire.



## Timeline

In July 2022, Mountain Empire Unified School District partnered with the San Diego County Office of Education to begin the process of developing our Portraits. We began with interviews of District Leadership including members of the School Board.

**STUDENT SUMMITS:** In September of 2022, we engaged students from 5th grade through High School in sharing their ideas of what knowledge, skills, and hopes they have of the future over the course of two days.

**COMMUNITY SURVEY & INTERVIEWS:** The strategic visioning team developed a community survey and interview questions to gather input from all members of the MEUSD community. The survey and interviews objectives were to identify key knowledge, skills, and characteristics of the future graduates of our district needed to be successful in their future beyond high school.

**GUIDING COALITION DAY 1:** The Guiding Coalition, made up of staff, students, parents, and members from the various communities of MEUSD listened to Future Ready Panelists describe the trends, skills, and technology of the future. The members worked through the 3 Horizon Model to identify the status of where we currently stand and move through what we would need or like to eliminate, solve, or improve to move forward to our future ideal state.

**ALUMNI PANEL:** Alumni from Mountain Empire High School dating back into the 1990s through recent graduating classes participated in a panel discussion to share their experiences in Mountain Empire and provide feedback and insight so that we may better develop our portraits.

**GUIDING COALITION DAY 2:** To better understand the issues faced by students with identities and experiences from across our mountain communities, we hosted a student panel to share their opinions, ideas, and aspirations. Throughout Day 2, a visual artist, Stephanie Papaioanu created live murals generated from the discussions and ideas to provide colorful illustrations to summarize the work. The Guiding Coalition members drafted the first of many Graduate and Adult portraits using input collected from community surveys, interviews, and the student summit.

**GUIDING COALITION DAY 3:** The work continued as the drafts of the portraits of a graduate, and adults continued to take shape. Guiding Coalition members engaged in several activities that contributed to the refinement of the draft graduate and adult portraits. From these drafts, the system portrait needed to support the graduate and adult portraits began to emerge. These portraits served as the foundation for the community survey.

**COMMUNITY SURVEY 2:** The second community survey contained drafts of each of the three portraits asking for feedback and refinement as participants were asked to rate their top themes. This information was vital to the final edits made to the portraits in addition to the Listening Sessions.

**LISTENING SESSIONS:** Each school community hosted 3 listening session panels for families, staff, and students to learn about the strategic visioning process thus far, review the drafts of each of the graduate, adult, and systems portraits and to provide feedback. In combination with the student summits, multiple guiding coalition days, two community surveys, and community interviews the strategic visioning team gathered over 70,000 data points to inform this important work!

**GUIDING COALITION DAY 4:** The final day included a review of the data collected over the course of the year's work in development of the strategic visioning process. The Guiding Coalition members took a final look at the three portraits to refine, edit, and keep the community language and ideas intact to keep the unique context of Mountain Empire's communities in the vision for the future graduates of MEUSD.

# Portrait of a Graduate

The Graduate Portrait is our aspiration for our students. It is an ambitious description of what our community wants its students to know, be, and be able to do so they may thrive in their personal lives and professional endeavors. This portrait recognizes that there are essential attributes needed to navigate and address the challenges of the adult world that our graduates will enter.



## Prepared for Adult Life

MEUSD graduates are emerging independent adults, accepting responsibility for themselves and taking action to ensure their well-being. They have the communication and social skills necessary to form and maintain healthy relationships and are capable of navigating various situations with diverse populations.

MEUSD graduates seek opportunities to lead and develop leadership skills. They embrace leadership and recognize the skills needed to be an effective leader vary depending on the task, context, and people. Graduates are comfortable interacting with diverse populations in a variety of situations and understand that everyone has different experiences which impact interactions among people.

MEUSD graduates recognize the importance of setting goals and persevere in their relentless pursuit of achieving those goals. They recognize that failure occurs but understand it is temporary and an opportunity to learn. Graduates are financially aware and prepared to use the resources available to build financial security.

MEUSD graduates show relentless commitment to excellence and understand that failure is temporary and part of life. They courageously continue to put effort into improvement by embracing curiosity, inquiry, creativity, and diversity and moving forward.



## Prepared for Their Future

MEUSD graduates are purpose-driven and understand the knowledge, skills, education, and certifications needed to pursue work that brings meaning to their life. They understand what is needed to thrive and be successful in their desired career.

MEUSD graduates are adaptable problem-solvers who collaborate to develop creative solutions or responses to challenging tasks and situations, they adapt to the changing world and recognize the need to learn more. They engage a creator's mindset to utilize available resources and technologies in new and innovative ways to meet these challenges and persist in developing the knowledge, skills, and mindsets necessary to confront new challenges.

MEUSD graduates recognize the importance of technology in their lives and its rapidly evolving place in the world. They are able to utilize existing technology in new and innovative ways and understand the importance of constantly developing their skills with evolving technology.



## Confident, Positive and Self-Aware

MEUSD graduates believe in themselves and understand who they are. They leverage their interests, strengths, skills and talents, to adapt to the changing world and fulfill their purpose in life. Graduates develop self-knowledge, they know who they are and recognize the importance of self-care and maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

MEUSD graduates have a positive growth mindset and recognize that success takes time. They persist to meet the challenges they encounter and learn from their failures and embrace the power of "yet". Graduates are self-aware and self-disciplined, they understand their impact on other people and work to manage their emotions and reactions.

MEUSD graduates value networking, they recognize the value of meeting and knowing a variety of people from various backgrounds. They realize the importance of, and their role in, developing and maintaining healthy relationships with a variety of people.



## Adaptive and Flexible Thinkers

MEUSD graduates are curious and inquisitive thinkers. They know how to analyze, evaluate, interpret and synthesize information and are willing to adapt their thinking based on new information or ideas. Graduates are flexible, critical thinkers who actively seek more information through questions and research. They build knowledge by experimenting, reflecting and making connections.

MEUSD graduates are collaborative problem solvers. They draw on the knowledge and skills of the group to assess the problem and consider various factors so they can develop multiple possible responses. Graduates understand that discomfort may arise as part of the collaborative process and maintain an open-mind and willingness to explore different perspectives.





### **Compassionate, Empathetic, and Kind**

MEUSD graduates embrace diversity and are open and welcoming to all, regardless of background, culture, or language. They are aware of the experiences and values of others, accepting of their culture, history, and beliefs.

MEUSD graduates are kind and compassionate. They are patient and willing to care for and help others, serving as a model for others. Graduates are empathetic, with a warm heart they seek to build understanding and acceptance of self and others.



### **Adaptive Communicators and Active Listeners**

MEUSD graduates understand that good communication is the foundation of relationships. They strive to be authentic and create connections, regardless of the physical distance or cultural difference.

MEUSD graduates are adaptive communicators. They understand that communication occurs through different forms and recognize the role culture plays in communication. They select the appropriate form and adjust language and style based on the intent, context, and audience. Graduates encourage the asking of clarifying questions to ensure common understanding. Graduates are active and empathetic listeners. They seek to understand the perspective of the speaker, recognize when language, terms, and jargon may be creating confusion or misunderstanding and respectfully ask clarifying questions.



### **Technologically Aware and Adaptive**

MEUSD graduates are knowledgeable and comfortable with technology. They are continually engaging with current and emerging technologies in innovative and meaningful ways and are aware of the potential of new technologies. Graduates are aware of the limitations of technology and its impact on our daily lives. They understand what technology can and cannot do and the need for the human element.

MEUSD graduates are critical consumers of information. They bring an analytical perspective to information to distinguish fact from opinion and know how to verify information.



### **Future Ready Learners**

MEUSD graduates are lifelong learners who pursue the knowledge and skills needed to engage with their interests and passions. They take the initiative to set goals, make plans to achieve them. They perceive failure as a positive part of life and as an opportunity to improve.

MEUSD graduates are adaptive, self-directed, and self-regulated learners. Graduates seek to understand processes focusing on the “how” instead of the “what”. They recognize that the knowledge and skills needed to be successful can change depending on the situation and context. They pursue the learning needed to acquire the necessary knowledge and skills.

MEUSD graduates are curious and actively seek answers to questions about the world around them. They monitor and evaluate their understanding and identify gaps in their understanding. Graduates construct lines of reasoning based on evidence and can identify fact from fiction.



### **Community and Cultural Awareness**

MEUSD graduates seek to understand the rich history of our mountain communities. They recognize the needs of the communities and seek ways in which they can contribute and be actively involved in improving their community. Graduates acknowledge the responsibility we all have to care and love for our environment.

MEUSD graduates demonstrate respect for the richness of our community. They seek to eliminate cultural bias by acknowledging the similarities and differences that exist in our communities. They build understanding by exploring the different cultures and histories that make up each of our communities. Graduates seek opportunities to network and build relationships within the community for the purpose of helping the community thrive.

(for example through Land Acknowledgements and other local, national and global acknowledgements).

# Portrait of an Adult

The Adult Portrait is a set of important qualities and skills that all adults who work within our school district need in order to help our students achieve their goals. We recognize these qualities are aspirational and we will help our adults develop them and hire adults who are committed to learning them. By focusing on these qualities through ongoing training and hiring practices, our adults can be role models for students, build strong relationships with the community, and promote emotional well-being to help our students thrive.



## Creates and Maintains a Safe and Supportive Environment

MEUSD adults are supportive of all learners. They seek students' input to create a safe and welcoming space in which students are supportive of each other and individual achievements are celebrated as successes for the whole group.

### MEUSD adults create:

- A positive, safe, and supportive environment in which diverse perspectives and opinions are welcomed and valued.
- An inclusive learning environment in which the academic needs of all students are supported and met.
- An environment that supports students' exploration as an integral part of their learning.
- A learning community in which every student is encouraged and supported as a valued contributing member.



## Models Good Mental Health

MEUSD adults are patient and maintain a positive attitude. They model the importance of maintaining a growth mindset embracing challenges and persevering in responding to them. Adults seek feedback and view it as an opportunity to develop and grow.

MEUSD adults understand the importance of self-care. They model this by monitoring their own physical and mental health and caring for themselves. Adults recognize the indicators of mental health issues. They seek support and resources for those displaying these indicators.

MEUSD adults are open-minded and listen to and respect new and different perspectives. They are flexible and willing to evolve to meet the needs of all students.



## Compassionate and Student-Centered

MEUSD adults believe all students can meet high academic standards and understand that students need different levels of support to meet those standards. They know their students and leverage the knowledge and skills each student brings. Adults provide opportunities for every student to develop skills beyond content. They seek and value students' voice in the process and are adaptable and flexible in meeting the needs of their students.

MEUSD adults create and support a culture and environment in which all students are actively engaged and participate. They are aware of students' physical, emotional, and mental well-being and check in with students on a regular basis.

MEUSD adults view all students as valuable members of the learning community. Adults believe that all students deserve to be treated with respect and



## Effective Communicator and Listener

MEUSD adults are active and reflective listeners who seek to understand different perspectives and opinions. Adults listen with compassion and an open mind, they ask clarifying questions or rephrase the speaker's message to ensure mutual understanding.

MEUSD adults are effective communicators who support respectful and rich dialogue. They are culturally aware, understand the influence of culture on communication, and seek to limit bias when listening to others and recognize when preconceived ideas may prevent understanding.

MEUSD adults embrace and encourage different cultural perspectives and a variety of opinions in discussions. They recognize when supports, such as interpretation, may be needed to communicate effectively.



## Flexible Forward Thinkers

MEUSD adults are adaptive and flexible thinkers who are willing to adjust to changing situations. They work with others, including students, to identify challenges and create solutions and are willing to modify their thinking based on new information or perspectives.



compassion. They care for both the academic success and the mental well-being of all of their students. They actively listen to their students with patience and kindness. Adults are patient and provide the time and space that each student needs to be successful. They embrace mistakes as necessary to learning and celebrate resiliency.

MEUSD adults show interest in and support students' activities outside of the classroom and embrace and celebrate the richness that the differences of their students bring to the learning community. Adults understand that students' identities evolve throughout their lives. They support students as they discover and develop who they are as individuals.



### **Committed to Continuous Improvement**

MEUSD adults model the importance of learning throughout a lifetime by actively seeking out a variety of learning opportunities to improve their practice. Adults provide and support educational experiences that engage all students in the possibilities of their future. They commit to practices that inspire and motivate students to engage and excel in their education.

MEUSD adults recognize the need to evolve their practice to meet the changing needs of their students and the world around them. They are willing to adapt thinking and practices based on feedback and research, and are committed to continuous improvement and growth informed by research. Adults seek new and innovative approaches to improve their practice and the educational experiences of all students. They are willing to learn alongside and from students.

MEUSD adults understand the potential impact of technology on education and educational opportunities and are willing to keep up with advances in technology.



### **Community and Cultural Awareness**

MEUSD adults are change agents. They recognize and respond to the evolving needs of the community. Adults embrace and adapt to change to support the community and help it thrive. They take the time to get to know and understand the diverse communities their students live in and build relationships with the communities that make up MEUSD to improve the educational opportunities for all students.

MEUSD adults create safe learning communities that value the contributions of the diverse members of the local and global community. They honor and value the various cultures present among their students, viewing cultural diversity as a valuable asset that they actively promote and celebrate.

MEUSD adults seek to bridge cultures through effective communication. They support respectful dialogue exploring and embracing cultural differences. Adults provide educational opportunities that support students in developing cultural awareness and the language skills that allow them to effectively communicate in their local communities and the broader global community.

MEUSD adults seek opportunities to be an active member of the MEUSD community. They recognize the needs of the community and actively participate in addressing them. Adults engage with the community as educational partners providing educational experiences and opportunities for students.



### **Equity and Social Justice Centered**

MEUSD adults are committed to equity. They take action to challenge stereotypes and eliminate personal and institutional biases. They actively promote inclusion of all perspectives and work to remove barriers. Adults support equitable access to learning opportunities for all students regardless of race, ethnicities, gender, orientation, or previous academic success.

MEUSD adults value and celebrate diversity. They promote inclusion of all students and adults. Adults create and maintain safe spaces for students, colleagues, family, and community members that support respectful dialogue incorporating different cultures and viewpoints. They are willing to listen and adapt their thinking based on new and diverse perspectives.

MEUSD adults courageously promote equity and social justice. They promote opportunities to respectfully discuss a variety of different perspectives and opinions. Adults facilitate and support sensitive conversations addressing issues of equity and social justice to create mutual understanding.

# System Portrait

MEUSD's Portrait of a Graduate outlines the knowledge, skills, and mindsets that we aspire, and commit, to developing in all our graduates. The nine characteristics, and the descriptors that define them, were developed by the analysis of over 79,000 data points collected through multiple interviews and community engagement events conducted during the 2022-2023 school year.



## Prepares Students for Life Beyond School

MEUSD is a system that supports the development of resilient lifelong learners. As a system, we support the understanding that learning is a lifelong process that allows them to adapt as changes occur. The system provides various educational opportunities that support students' development of an individualized plan for their future through the exploration of a variety of educational and career options and the identification of necessary knowledge and skills needed.

MEUSD is a system that supports the development of social and life skills necessary to thrive as healthy, independent adults who are capable of caring and advocating for themselves and others. As a system, we provide educational opportunities and experiences that resemble real-world situations that:

- Challenge and engage students in developing perseverance;
- Support the development of student's social and life skills
- Create real world opportunities that engage students in developing financial literacy skills
- Supports the development of student's communication skills



## Safe, Inclusive Environment

MEUSD is a system that maintains a safe and inclusive environment that ensures all students feel a sense of belonging and safety. We ensure that members of every community feel included and supported, we engage and celebrate all cultures and communities to develop and support a sincere sense of belonging. We believe all students can succeed regardless of the community they live in or previous academic achievement.

MEUSD is a system that ensures equitable access to a variety of educational opportunities and experiences regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, orientation or previous academic achievement. We provide the resources and educational opportunities needed for all students to cultivate and nurture their creativity and curiosity.

MEUSD is a system that provides opportunities to collectively reflect and celebrate our work and plan for improvement. We strive to ensure that all students

and adults see the value of their work in improving the lives of others.

MEUSD is a system that supports access to mental health resources. We create a compassionate and positive environment in which students and adults are comfortable asking for help and we ensure resources are easily accessible to all. We provide clear guidelines to ensure consistency of discipline policies across all schools to ensure students are in a safe and positive environment.



## Guides Students to be Positive, Productive, and Valuable Community Members

MEUSD is a system that cultivates and supports a culture of trust and mutual respect. We provide resources and support students' need to explore identity and discover what makes them a unique and valued member of the community. We provide the support and resources necessary for students to develop and maintain a healthy and positive self image.

MEUSD is a system that cultivates leaders and develops leadership skills. We provide educational opportunities for all students to develop the skills necessary to lead and support others. We support students as they identify and develop their core values.

MEUSD is a system that partners with families and community members to provide opportunities for students to engage in community activities that support the development of the skills necessary to become active and productive members of their community. We provide educational opportunities for students to develop the skills needed to interact and collaborate with a variety of different people, including students and adults with diverse backgrounds. We provide feedback to students and families that supports students' progress towards becoming a contributing member of their community.



## Engages Community and Families

MEUSD is a system that engages families as partners in their students' education. We provide information that supports families' understanding of the educational system and access to academic resources in support of student success.

MEUSD is a system that engages families and community members as valued educational partners. We encourage families and community members to get actively involved in support of student success and communicate ways in which they can contribute to students' educational experience or extracurricular activities through donation, work opportunities, and/or volunteer opportunities.

MEUSD is a system that engages families as knowledgeable partners and encourages them to participate in the development of their students' educational plan. We strive to build collaborative relationships in support of students' learning and work side-by-side to improve students' educational experiences and foster success. We ensure access to academic resources and provide opportunities for families to learn what students are learning in class and how to support their students' education.

MEUSD is a system that works across the district to ensure a connected system of education. Together we provide a cohesive TK-12 educational experience for all of our students. We are committed to open and honest communication. We give voice and actively listen to students, families and community members. We strive to ensure our communications are accessible and welcoming to all students, families, and community members.



## **Prepare Students for the Future**

MEUSD is a system that has a clear vision for the future and has a plan to meet that vision. We continue to engage students, families, and community members as educational partners to support fulfillment of our vision. We prepare students for all future options. We provide educational opportunities for students to develop the knowledge, skills, and mindsets that prepare them for college, trade school, careers of the future. We recognize the uniqueness of the knowledge and skills developed in the MEUSD mountain communities and encourage students to leverage their mountain upbringing.

MEUSD is a system that develops a lifelong love of learning by providing students opportunities to develop their interests and explore their curiosities. We support the belief that learning occurs everywhere, including outside of the classroom, through a variety of educational and extracurricular activities. We develop knowledge and skills as tools used to solve problems and create purposeful experiences. We provide educational opportunities for students to apply their skills and knowledge, and to develop strong skills in critical thinking, problem-solving, collaboration, and communication.

MEUSD is a system that supports early education of future options. We support students' exploration of a variety of different college, career and job options beginning as early as 3rd grade and clearly communicate requirements for graduation early in students' educational career. We engage and support students early in their educational career in analyzing and reflecting on their learning through the development of an educational portfolio as a demonstration of learning. MEUSD provides a variety of opportunities for students to explore different pathways and discover options for career development. We support students in creating a clear plan for building a secure and successful future. We provide access to information and resources needed to understand the process of getting into and staying in college (including information on tuition, housing, food plans, support services, ect.).

MEUSD is a system that encourages and supports educators' exploration of new pedagogical practices and strategies that address the learning needs of our diverse group of students and ensure their success. We provide opportunities for educators to collaborate and learn from each other to ensure that instructional practices are aligned across our district. We encourage and support our educators to engage students in community-based, real-world learning experiences. We engage students in project-based learning that supports our communities in addressing their needs and meeting challenging situations.



## **Competitive and Supportive Employer**

MEUSD is a system that engages current employees and the community in identifying creative solutions to attract and retain highly-qualified employees to ensure our schools are fully staffed. We partner with our community and colleges and universities to recruit and prepare future graduates and community members as educators in the MEUSD district. We provide competitive compensation to attract and retain highly qualified staff.

MEUSD is a system that recognizes the need for adults to continue to develop their knowledge and skills. We support and encourage lifelong learning and prioritizes access to professional learning to ensure that all staff have the knowledge and skills necessary to ensure student success. We provide all of our employees access to the resources needed to support student success.

MEUSD is a system that is an active participant in community-based activities. We encourage and support the active participation of our employees in both community and school based activities.





## Develops the Whole Student

MEUSD is a system that values and supports all students, families, and community members for the unique knowledge and skills they have to offer and we encourage them to actively engage in support of student success. We support and encourage families and the community to engage in the development of the whole-student.

MEUSD is a system that assists students in identifying their strengths and discovering their interests and passions. We engage students in the co-creation of their learning opportunities and experiences based on their interests, knowledge and skills, and academic needs. We are committed to finding creative ways, including alternative methods for providing instruction, to increase the variety of courses available to all students. We work to ensure all students graduate prepared for their future. We recognize the importance of providing opportunities and support for all students to develop their interests outside of the classroom. We provide after-school and extracurricular activities for all students that support the development of their interests and talents.

MEUSD is a system that is committed to ensuring that students are the primary focus of all decisions made within our district. We provide all students both the mental health and academic support and resources needed to be successful prior to and following graduation.



## Values Cultural Differences

MEUSD is a system that values and celebrates the diverse communities within MEUSD. We provide educational opportunities that respect and reflect the history, languages, and cultures of our community, including our tribal communities. We maintain safe and welcoming spaces for all people regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, or orientation. We acknowledge our role in the community and commit to fully integrate as a member of the community.

MEUSD is a system that recognizes the value of students' native language and culture. We provide educational opportunities to fully explore, with care and curiosity, the multiple layers of culture and how those cultures influence who we are and what we do.



## Resilient Infrastructure and Access to Resources

MEUSD is a system that provides and maintains facilities and spaces that support a positive learning environment that inspire all students to learn and thrive. We are committed to ensuring safe and reliable transportation for all educational experiences, including field trips. MEUSD is a system that supports safe spaces for students to study that offer free reliable internet, support, and transportation.

MEUSD is a system that partners with communities and organizations to provide and maintain equitable access to reliable internet and state-of-the-art technology for all students. We are committed to maintaining, and when necessary updating, our facilities to ensure students have access to robust learning resources and modern facilities with reliable energy and clean drinking water.



## Supports Innovation

MEUSD is a system that is committed to refraining from saying "we don't have the funding for that" and moves towards "OK, let's figure this out." We continue to identify and create forward thinking educational opportunities and experiences that engage students, families, and community members innovative and creative problem solving to identify solutions to issues that impact students.

MEUSD is a system that leverages our unique mountain environment to provide educational opportunities for students and educators to investigate and develop an understanding of the impact of our natural environment on our education and day-to-day life.

MEUSD is a system that partners with communities and organizations to support students and adults engagement in community-based STEM related educational experiences that support the investigation of our community's issues and engage students as problem-solvers and developers of solutions for their community.