



MUSTANG MONTHLY

MANITOU SPRINGS SCHOOL DISTRICT 14

MUSTANG MOMENTS

Good things are happening in all our schools! See these highlights and more on the [Manitou Springs School District 14 Facebook page](#).



Manitou Springs Elementary School

MSES Coding Basics

Kindergartners are learning the basics of coding vocabulary in Ms. Amy Bradbury's class. They will be using and demonstrating terms such as "coding," "programmer," "algorithm," "bugging," "debugging" and "loop" by pretending to be in a live video game.

[See this week's MSES newsletter.](#)



Ute Pass Elementary School

UPES on Loving Living Local

Students from Ute Pass Elementary School had a chance to sing live on the Loving Living Local lifestyle show. They did an amazing job!

[See this week's UPES newsletter.](#)



Manitou Springs Middle School

MSMS Digital Citizenship

Middle school students had an assembly to learn more about being safe while using the internet or social media. Members of the Colorado Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force talked with students about what they do and how students can try to protect themselves.

[See this week's MSMS newsletter.](#)



Manitou Springs High School

MSHS Flight Simulator

Physical science students interacted with Air Force cadets as they learned about a full-size glider set up in the gym and experienced the corresponding flight simulator.

[See this week's MSHS newsletter.](#)

STRAIGHT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Directly from Dr. Domangue

[In this brief video message to you.](#) Superintendent Dr. Elizabeth Domangue introduces this new Mustang Monthly email newsletter. She also shares how the district works to get your feedback to help Manitou build on its successes to become even better.

UPCOMING DATES

January 11: Regular start Wednesday

January 12: Board of Education work session (5 p.m.) and special meeting (6:30 p.m.)

January 16: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (no school)

January 18: Regular start Wednesday

January 19: District Accountability Committee (8-11 a.m.)

January 23: Board of Education regular meeting (5:30 p.m.)

January 24: MSMS open house for future students (5:30 p.m.)

January 25: Late start Wednesday

January 25: MSHS open house for future students (5:30 p.m.)

NEWS YOU SHOULD **KNOW**

High school principal hiring update

[Applications are now available](#) for the Manitou Springs High School Principal position. The application window closes on February 1. In December, the Human Resources Department held interactive sessions with staff, students, parents and community members about what qualities the next principal should have. In January, the HR Department will send emails to students, staff, and families to volunteer to serve on the hiring committee.

Enrollment open

[Enrollment for the 2023-2024 school year is now open!](#) Let your friends know that all families can attend information sessions to learn about a school's programs and offerings. School Tour Week is set for January 30-February 3. Call to schedule an appointment.

SCHOOL BUILDING **IMPROVEMENTS**

Elementary projects

To make our schools safer and more accessible, we're moving forward on projects at our elementary schools. We're renovating all parts of the front office at Ute Pass Elementary School. The school will get needed improvements to the staff workroom and staff lunchroom. Manitou Springs Elementary School will have a more secure entryway added at the front office.

We met with RTA Architects and GH Phipps Construction about these projects, which will begin after the last day of school. To prepare, we must remove asbestos from the floor at UPES while there is nobody in the building over Spring Break. The asbestos is only a hazard if it is disturbed, so to do this safely, we will follow the strictest protocols to eliminate the materials.



DEPARTMENT UPDATE



Wellness Team

The MSSD14 Wellness Team provided holiday help for 46 Mustang families this year! This was possible with support from local agencies and churches, families and Westside Cares, who purchased clothing and gifts such as books and toys for children. The Manitou Springs Volunteer Fire Department joined in with tremendous support by shopping for and putting together food boxes with fresh meat, vegetables, fruit and dairy items that families cannot access from our District Food Pantry.

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Community Engagement Coming Soon

The MSSD14 Board of Education and district leadership will be working with the Colorado Education Initiative to engage with our Manitou Springs stakeholders, including students, staff, families and community members. The input the community gives will help the district shape our direction, including how we define the attributes of a successful graduate.

December 1 Meeting

At the Board's first meeting in December, members discussed the district's next master facility plan. Architects outlined how Manitou's buildings are aging and becoming more difficult to maintain. The Board discussed guiding principles: building on tradition to foster community connection, creating engaging learning environments, establishing safe and secure campuses that are accessible for all, honoring values of good financial stewardship and long-term operational efficiency, and maintaining clear, honest communication with stakeholders to ensure solutions align the needs of the district and community.

- [Working agreements](#)
- [BEST grant and the next master facility plan](#)
- [Human resources advisory committee update](#)
- [Policy for instructional materials](#)
- [Mill levy certification](#)
- [Compensation update](#)

December 12 Meeting

At the Board's second meeting in December, members discussed the [District Accountability Committee's work](#), including capital improvements, staff retention, communications, compensation and attendance. The Board also covered the following:

- Recognitions of the [high school volleyball team](#), the [elementary Manitou robotics team](#), the [Tri-Peak Runner of the Year](#), and a [performer at the Tri-Peaks League Band concert](#)
- [Ute Pass Elementary School showcase](#)
- [Personnel](#)
- [Calendar update](#)
- [Human resources update](#)
- [District action plan update](#)
- Auditor's report
- [Executive limitations annual monitoring report](#)
- [Mill levy certification](#)
- [Policy adoption](#)
- [Policy first reading](#)
- [Legislative updates](#)

- Enrollment analysis
- Planning the January Board retreat
- Communication to the community

- Board self-reflection
- [Planning the January Board retreat](#)
- CASB annual conference update



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