Weekly Update—Thursday, September 10, 2020

I have enjoyed the opportunity to share the weekly update with your community each week (since June). I will continue to provide these weekly updates. Also, the virtual meetings have been a great way to share information and also hear what questions, concerns, or solutions students, staff, or parents might have about a variety of school- and district-related topics. The virtual update meetings will be once a month on a Wednesday from 5:00-6:00 via Zoom.

New Updates:

1. The next virtual meeting will be Wednesday, September 16, 2020 from 5:00-6:00 pm via Zoom. Here is the link:
   Join Zoom Meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89503158093

2. Please remember that the next Wednesdays through October 14 are All Students At-Home/Staff Work Day. The schedule is below.

3. **Good News**. Cat Olimb (Director of Technology) was able to work with the vendor for our laptop purchases for 8th-12th Grade Students. These were initially scheduled to arrive before school started. However, there is a world-wide shortage of these devices, which pushed the delivery date to December. Cat was able to advocate for our students, and we received a shipment yesterday of about 375 computers. The Tech Team is readying the devices!
   - Thursday, September 17—Cohort 2 Distribution to 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students. This includes our students who are learning via FuelED. More information will be provided to families.
   - Monday, September 21—Cohort 1 Distribution to 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students. This includes our students who are learning via FuelED.
   - Monday, September 21—Preschool-2nd Grade Distribution (at both UPES and MSES) of iPads.
   - The final shipment should be received soon. As soon as those devices are received and readied, we'll send out additional communication related to the distribution for 8th and 9th grade students.
   - This device is a shift for our teachers also, so the Wednesday Staff Day will allow for some professional development time with this new instructional technology. While a laptop is not a new technology, our students using them daily in their classes will be new. We are excited about this opportunity for our students and staff.
   - Thank you, Tech Team!

4. **Survey.** We are interested in learning more about the experiences of students, staff, and parents/guardians as we are coming to the end of the third week of the school year. The information shared will be used to inform our continuous cycle of growth and improvement. We ask that you complete the survey by Wednesday, September 16, 2020. Here is the link: https://forms.gle/yjFxU5NcjiE1mjL97

5. **MSSD Students Participating in FuelED Coursework.** Our teachers and administrators are working hard to develop more opportunities for you to stay connected and engaged. Please be on the lookout for updates from your Principal and School Mentor. Additionally, we hope that you will utilize the resources and materials on our MSSD FuelED website. https://www.mssd14.org/cms/one.aspx?portalId=57448&pageId=28494188

----------End of September 10 Weekly Update----------
The remainder of this document is information from previous updates.

The information below is from the September 3, 2020 weekly update and is posted as a reference.

1. Please note…for next week (Labor Day), Cohort 1 will be in-person on Tuesday and Wednesday. Cohort 2 will be in-person on Thursday and Friday.

2. **Good News! Free Breakfast & Lunch through December 31, 2020**. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) will continue to provide free meals (breakfast and lunch) for **all** children ages 0-18 through December 31, 2020.

   In-Person Learners
   - Students will be served breakfast and lunch at no cost at their school.
   - Students may still bring their own lunch (if they prefer).
   - This begins Tuesday, September 8, 2020.

   On-line Learners (FuelED) and Siblings 0-18
   a. Free grab-and-go meals (breakfast and lunch) every day.
   b. Pick-up locations:
      a. Manitou Springs Elementary School (all students)
         Pick-up: In front of the school at Duclo and Pawnee
         Time: 11:00 am – 12:00 pm
      b. Ute Pass Elementary School (all students)
         Pick-up: In front of UPES (9230 Chipita Park Road)

   **Please Note…This program is separate from the Free and Reduced Program. Any families want to learn more or apply for the Free and Reduced Meal Program, can visit: https://www.mssd14.org/departments/food_service

3. **Schedule Update.** Each day, I continue to be amazed by the resiliency of our students. From our preschoolers to our 12th grade students, I see hope, resolve, and creativity.

   During the last Board of Education meeting (August 10), it was communicated that I would provide updates to the instructional calendar every two weeks. This allows us to understand the current circumstances related to health data, and this also allows parents, staff, and students to plan accordingly. We are now at that two-week window of communication.

   The best hope is that we can return to fully in-person learning sooner rather than later; however, we are continuing to work through these new protocols and structures. With that being said, I want to share three updates with you:

   1. **For all schools, the Transitional Hybrid Model will be extended for two more weeks beyond the initial four week period (through October 2).**
   2. **We will continue with the All Students At-Home/Staff Work Day on Wednesdays through October 14.**
   3. **The currently scheduled Staff Work Day on October 16 will be moved to Wednesday, October 14, so the M/T and Th/F is consistent.**

   I know this is not easy to navigate for families and students. The impact to teaching and learning is also continually evaluated and understood deeply, but we believe that this is the best way to return to fully in-person learning.

   These *All Students At-Home/Staff Work* Days will provide opportunities for our staff to engage professionally in various and meaningful ways; for example:
   - Staff Meetings/Professional Development
   - Individual and Team/Department Planning Time
   - Professional Learning Communities
   - Multi-tiered Systems of Support Meetings

- Parent Meetings
- Scheduled time to connect with students who are participating in FuelED
- Other opportunities to connect with students

Here is the updated weekly schedule:

Week #	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
					August 21 Cohort 2
1	August 24 Cohort 1	August 25 Cohort 1	August 26 All Students At-Home/Staff Work Day	August 27 Cohort 2	August 28 Cohort 2
2	August 31 Cohort 1	September 1 Cohort 1	September 2 All Students At-Home/Staff Work Day	September 3 Cohort 2	September 4* Cohort 2
3	September 7 LABOR DAY	September 8 Cohort 1	September 9 Note…Cohort 1	September 10 Cohort 2	September 11 Cohort 2
4	September 14 Cohort 1	September 15 Cohort 1	September 16 All Students At-Home/Staff Work Day	September 17 Cohort 2	September 18* Cohort 2
5	September 21 Cohort 1	September 22 Cohort 1	September 23 All Students At-Home/Staff Work Day	September 24 Cohort 2	September 25 Cohort 2
6	September 28 Cohort 1	September 29 Cohort 1	September 30 All Students At-Home/Staff Work Day	October 1 Cohort 2	October 2* Cohort 2
7	October 5	October 6	October 7 All Students At-Home/Staff Work Day	October 8	October 9
8	October 12	October 13	October 14 All Students At-Home/Staff Work Day	October15	October 16 ~~Current Staff Work Day~~ (move to October 14 for a consistent schedule)
9	October 19	October 20	October 21	October 22 ½ Day for Students Parent/Teacher Conferences (All School)	October 23 No Students Parent/Teacher Conferences (All Schools)

I want to acknowledge our staff for all that they do to teach, lead, create, solve, and encourage. Also, thank you to our Board of Education (Tina Vidovich, Natalie Johnson, Jack Sharon, Gustav Moen, Gary Smith).

4. Board of Education Work Session and Regular Meeting. We hope that you will join us for the September 14, 2020 Board of Education meetings. Here are the links to the virtual meetings:

Work Session (4:30-6:00 pm): https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82942349532
Regular Meeting (6:00-7:00 pm): https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89179450628

If you would like to attend in-person, the meetings are held at MSHS's Media Center (401 El Monte Place).

----------End of September 3 Weekly Update----------
The remainder of this document is information from previous updates.

The information below is from the August 26, 2020 weekly update and is posted as a reference.

1. First Days of School—We just want to take a moment to thank everyone for such a strong start to the school year. It has been wonderful to have students on campus again. Our staff are collaborating and leading in tremendous ways to adjust and support each other. Posted below are photos from both cohorts.

   Also, we know that the students who are participating in FuelED are starting their online learning. While the instructional platforms are different, all students are MSSD students. We know that the elementary instructional materials for FuelED are arriving this week and next, so students can begin once those materials arrive. Kolleen Johnson has sent an update to all families who are participating in FuelED. She will be sending a weekly update for all things FuelED. There will also be an opportunity for a virtual training and Q&A session tomorrow (August 27, 2020). These virtual meetings will be recorded and posted on our website.

   Ute Pass Elementary School & Manitou Springs Elementary School
   Thursday, August 27, 2020
   1:30-2:30 pm
   Zoom: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84757719873

   Manitou Springs Middle School & Manitou Springs High School
   Thursday, August 27, 2020
   2:30-3:30 pm
   Zoom: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85828431472?pwd=K3B1MXVuVXVQYmZkY1ZBR0FjSTdNZz09

2. Community-based Drive-thru Testing Site—I wanted to share with everyone that the El Paso County Health Department has established a COVID-19 testing site. "This is not intended to promote any institution over another, but to promote access to healthcare for members of our community. Updates will be made periodically, but the entities operating the testing sites may make changes that do not appear immediately" (https://www.elpasocountyhealth.org/covid-19-testing-information).

   Located at the Citadel Mall in the parking lot just south of JCPenney
   750 Citadel Dr. E, Colorado Springs

----------End of August 26 Weekly Update----------
The remainder of this document is information from previous updates.

The information below is from the August 26, 2020 weekly update and is posted as a reference.

1. **First Day of School—Friday, August 21, 2020.** We are looking forward to our first day of school with students (both in-person and online). Our school and district staff have been working hard to prepare for a strong start. We know the emotions are mixed—excitement, anxiety, enthusiasm, hopefulness, trepidation, and a plethora of other emotions. We are committed to taking this school year one day at a time.

   Students…we can't wait to see you! It was so great to see you on campus as you participated in Jump Start, Robotics, Athletics, and registration. We appreciate you wearing your masks and encouraging physical distancing. Your leadership and positivity is appreciated beyond words.

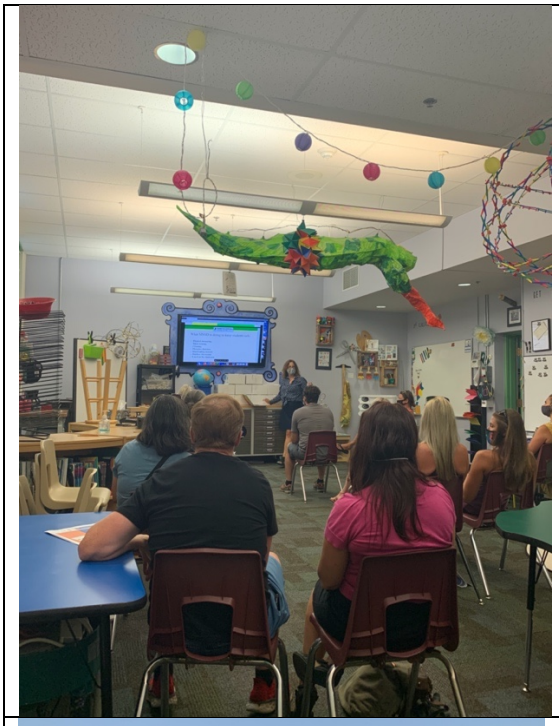
   Continuing our Readiness…The plexiglass barriers arrived yesterday…thanks to several members of our team (Melissa McElhaney, John Harden, Stuart Cross, Eric McMartin, and others). Additionally, our Buildings and Grounds Team along with our school and district staff are working to ready the desks for this additional measure. Our HVAC Specialist, Paul Presto, is installing temporary cooling systems and adjusting the ventilation systems in our schools. School leaders are working through lunch, hallway, restroom, and

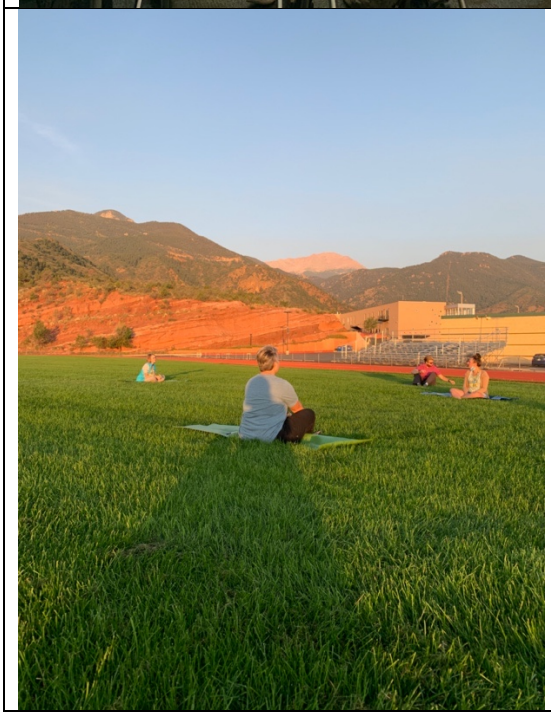
other times of the day with staff to develop positive solutions. We will continue to evaluate and adjust along the way.

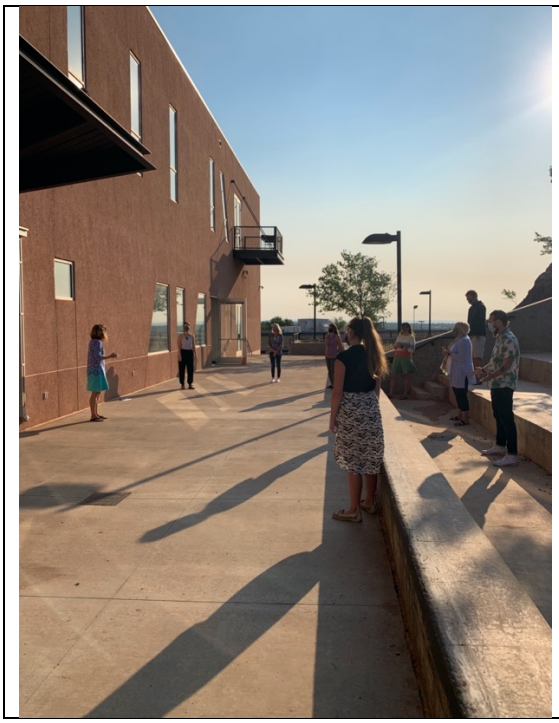
Staff Professional Development…Our staff have been engaged in multiple opportunities to come together as a team. This ranges from instructional practices, social-emotional learning, trauma-informed practices, leadership development, multi-tiered systems of support, safety and security, health protocols/procedures, and so much more.

Engaged Parents and Guardians…The Parent University sessions were well-attended. Additionally, we appreciate all communications from our parents and guardians. Thank you for being tremendous partners with us.

Re-imaging Places and Spaces…Our school district is located in the most spectacular spot. Every day, I take a moment to pause and reflect on how fortunate we are to live, work, learn, and play in such an amazingly spectacular place in El Paso County, Colorado, the United States, and the world. Our staff are planning so many unique opportunities for our students to learn outside. Additionally, our professional development opportunities have also moved outside.







2. **FuelED Update—**If you have any questions, please take a look at our website. There are some posted resources that might be helpful for you and your child.
   https://www.mssd14.org/cms/one.aspx?portalId=57448&pageId=28494188

3. Please remember that **Wednesday, August 26 & Wednesday, September 2 will be at-home learning days for all students.**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				August 21 Cohort 2
August 24 Cohort 1	August 25 Cohort 1	August 26 All At-Home Staff Work Day	August 27 Cohort 2	August 28 Cohort 2
August 31 Cohort 1	September 1 Cohort 1	September 2 All At Home Staff Work Day	September 3 Cohort 2	September 4 Cohort 2
September 7 LABOR DAY	September 8 Cohort 1	September 9 Cohort 1	September 10 Cohort 2	September 11 Cohort 2

September 14 Cohort 1	September 15 Cohort 1	September 16 Cohort 2	September 17 Cohort 2	September 18 Cohort 2

----------End of August 19 Weekly Update----------

The remainder of this document is information from previous updates.

The information below is from the August 11, 2020 weekly update and is posted as a reference.

1. **Important School Calendar Update—**We are looking forward to the start of the school year. During the Board of Education Work Session yesterday evening, the Board of Education approved a slight change to our calendar.
    - **Wednesday, August 26 & Wednesday, September 2 will now be at-home learning days for all students.**
    - This will allow two days for staff to engage in reflective and collaborative practices related to our instructional model, connect with each other, plan for the next cohort, and refine cleaning practices at their buildings.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				August 21 Cohort 2
August 24 Cohort 1	August 25 Cohort 1	August 26 All At-Home Staff Work Day	August 27 Cohort 2	August 28 Cohort 2

August 31 Cohort 1	September 1 Cohort 1	September 2 All At Home Staff Work Day	September 3 Cohort 2	September 4 Cohort 2
September 7 LABOR DAY	September 8 Cohort 1	September 9 Cohort 1	September 10 Cohort 2	September 11 Cohort 2
September 14 Cohort 1	September 15 Cohort 1	September 16 Cohort 2	September 17 Cohort 2	September 18 Cohort 2

2. **Technology Update—**All students 3rd to 12th grade will be issued an iPad Air 2 or iPad 6 at the start of the school year. Due to the pandemic and difficulties getting technology equipment, the new laptops (for 8th -12th grade) will not be available until the fall. Preschool to 2nd grade will receive iPads once we receive this shipment. We are working closely with our vendor to expedite this shipment.

3. **Cohort Groupings—**The cohort groupings for all students who will participate in the hybrid model (combination of in-person and at-home) will be released today via a School Messenger email. If you have any questions about the cohort, please reach out to your child's principal.

    - Ute Pass Elementary School—Chris Briggs-Hale, Principal (cbriggshale@mssd14.org)
    - Manitou Springs Elementary School—Maria Masone, Principal (mmasone@mssd14.org)
    - Manitou Springs Middle School—Dustin Cady, Principal (dcady@mssd14.org)
    - Manitou Springs High School—Jesse Hull, Principal (jhull@mssd14.org)

    Students who will be participating in the online program (FuelEd) will be included in these individual messages to parents about cohorts. This is not a mistake. Students participating in FuelEd are still MSSD students who are enrolled at their school, and we know that some students will decide to return to in-person learning.

----------End of August 11 Weekly Update----------
The remainder of this document is information from previous updates.

The information below is from the August 5, 2020 weekly update and is posted as a reference.

1. **CHSAA: Athletics & Activities**—Yesterday afternoon, CHSAA provided an important update regarding the Athletics and Activities Schedule for the 2020-21 school year. This is just a schedule, and we are awaiting the specifics for each sport and activity. Once this information is released, it will take some time for our team and Cameron Jones (Athletics & Activities Director) to better understand how we will work through the update. **Please know that we value these opportunities for our students, and we are fully committed to students engaging in these meaningful experiences. We will develop creative and safe ways for our students to stay engaged.** The schedule is attached to this message.

2. **Communications about Positive Cases—** The district is following the current reporting and exclusion guidelines from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) and the El Paso County Public Health Department (EPCPHD) for COVID-19. Our MSSD Health Team (comprised of 3 highly qualified and experienced Registered Nurses) along with the district and building administration will ensure that these guidelines are followed, and any necessary notifications to staff and families will occur in a timely manner.

Our District Health Team is remarkable. If you have any questions, you can send an email to healthteam@mssd14.org . A member of our Health Team or our District Safety & Security Director will be at all of our Parent University sessions (August 11-13—see calendar below).

3. **Online Coursework—FuelEd Update**

Kolleen Johnson (Director of Student Success) will be hosting a Parent Question and Answer session for all parents and students who are interested in enrolling in FuelEd courses. A representative from FuelEd will lead the meetings.

The virtual meeting will be August 6:

- Kindergarten to 5th Grade— 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm
  Link to virtual meeting: https://k12.zoom.us/j/2619416931
- 6th Grade to 12th Grade – 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm
  Link to virtual meeting: https://k12.zoom.us/j/2619416931

4. **Board of Education Meeting—**We hope you will join the monthly BOE meeting next Monday, August 10, 2020. These meeting are live streamed.

Work Session: 4:30 pm – 6:00 pm
https://stream.meet.google.com/stream/966673c6-fb2d-45c8-8d01-bf2be548cb7b
Regular Meeting: 6:00 pm
https://stream.meet.google.com/stream/9f534673-2668-426f-aa93-5de9bcb56322

----------End of August 5 Weekly Update----------
The remainder of this document is information from previous updates.

The information below is from the July 29, 2020 weekly update and is posted as a reference.

1. **Important Instructional Calendar Update.** During the Regular Board of Education meeting last Monday (July 13), the Board of Education approved an instructional calendar revision. This change allows staff to have an additional day to prepare for the start of school. Students' first day was originally scheduled for Thursday, August 20. The first day of school for students is now Friday, August 21 (dependent on the instructional model—in-person or hybrid).

While we are excited to be with students, this additional day will be important for staff to have a strong start and to be better prepared for students.

Licensed Staff…this extra professional work day is in addition to the 16 hours of professional development/work time that each of you can be compensated for from the CARES Act monies. These extra hours are available through August 31.

2. **Parent University—**Schools will be hosting Parent University session August 11-13. These events will be for parents/guardians **only.** This is not because students aren't important to the restarting school learning process, but this will be our first time with parents/guardians on campus. It gives us an opportunity to also practices some check-

in procedures and work through questions real-time (as there will always be things that we have not thought about and ways we can better prepare for a strong start with students).

This is not designed to be an Open House or Meet-and-Greet. This purpose is for parents/guardians to spend time with the principal, learn about safety and hygiene protocols, ask questions, and experience CANVAS.

Staff do not have to attend. Principals will be reaching to see who is available to attend/participate. Staff will be compensated for their time as these days are prior to the start of their contracts.

Monday, August 10	Tuesday, August 11	Wednesday, August 12	Thursday, August 13	Friday, August 14
	New Staff Orientation **Parent University (5:30)** UPES & MSES Preschool, Kinder, 5th MSMS—6th Grade MSHS—9th & 11th Grade	New Staff Orientation **Parent University (5:30)** UPES & MSES 1st & 4th Grade MSMS—7th & 8th Grade MSHS—10th & 12th Grade	New Staff Orientation **Parent University (5:30)** UPES—6th Grade MSES—2nd & 3rd Grade	New Staff Orientation

3. **Parent and Guardian Feedback Survey.** Thank you to all of our parents and guardians who have completed the *MSSD 14 Restarting School Models: What Are Your Plans for Your Child(ren)?* survey. The participation rate at this point is approximately 35%. We would like for this number to increase. Here is the link: https://forms.gle/nvwRtqoTs23m3CSJ6

   The survey will remain open until this Friday.

   The results of the survey will be provided during our weekly virtual meeting.

4. I have mentioned in previous communications that I am a part of a small group of superintendents in the Pikes Peak Region who are working closely with the El Paso County Public Health Department, County Attorney, and County Coroner. On Monday, the County released the El Paso County Public Health Department's COVID-19 School Guidance. This publicizing of this document and guidance is the first time the County has released information for the reopening of schools. This guidance will be used to make decisions for Manitou Spring School District.

   The document from El Paso County is attached to this email.

5. **Technology Update.** The order for the Windows devices has been placed for 8th-12th graders. We are hoping that these devices arrive prior to the start of the school year. Our fantastic Technology Department has a plan in place in the event that the devices do not arrive in time for students' first day back.

   *If the laptop computers arrive after the start of the school year, we will issue iPads to students in 8th-12th Grade. We will not be in the place to issue iPads to Preschool to 2nd grade families until the laptops arrive. Thank you for your patience. We wish this variable was in our control.

   High school students can always bring their own device (i.e., laptop). If you are interested in this option, you can reach out directly to our Director of Technology, Cathrine Olimb (colimb@mssd14.org).

6. **Staff Updates.** Marsha Weimer sent an email yesterday that includes information about childcare for staff (in the hybrid and remote models), Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA), and professional development for licensure. Here is the link to the update: https://www.mssd14.org/departments/human_resources/staff_c_o_v_i_d-19_updates

   If staff have any concerns about returning to school/work, please send your concerns or thoughts to Marsha Weimer (mweimer@mssd14.org).

----------End of July 15 Weekly Update----------
The remainder of this document is information from previous updates.

The information below is from the July 8, 2020 weekly update and is posted as a reference.

1. **Parent Feedback Survey.** Attached to this communication is an important parent survey titled *MSSD 14 Restarting School Models: What Are Your Plans for Your Child(ren)?* You can also access the survey here: https://forms.gle/nvwRtqoTs23m3CSJ6 The general results of this survey (not student-specific) will be shared during the next weekly update. Please complete the survey by next Wednesday, July 15.

   MSSD Staff…Feel free to take a look at the questions parents were asked. I have attached a pdf of the survey to the email.

   Here are the links to the models.

   1. In-Person Learning Model. https://tinyurl.com/ybmpg3qp

   2. Hybrid Learning Model. https://tinyurl.com/ycg8d3yb

   3. Online Learning Model. https://tinyurl.com/y7n4ernu

   4. Remote Learning Model. https://tinyurl.com/yaonyo2c

2. **Registration Snap Codes.** These registration snap codes were sent to families this week. Whether you choose in-person or online, your child will still be a Manitou Springs School District 14 student. You will still need to complete the registration.
   - If you select the online learning option for your child, MSSD will be providing this online learning platform for your children. More information about the platform will be provided in the upcoming weeks.
   - If you decide to start with online learning, your child can always move back to in-person learning. This will be facilitated with you, your child, and the school.

   For technical assistance with the registration process, reach out to Christina Baker (cbaker@mssd14.org).

For questions specific to your child and the options for in-person and/or online learning, please reach out directly to:

- Ute Pass Elementary School—Chris Briggs-Hale, Principal (cbriggshale@mssd14.org)
- Manitou Springs Elementary School—
  - Eric McMartin, Assistant Superintendent (emcmartin@mssd14.org)
  - Maria Masone, Assistant Principal (mmasone@mssd14.org)
- Manitou Springs Middle School—Dustin Cady, Principal (dcady@mssd14.org)
- Manitou Springs High School—Jesse Hull, Assistant Principal (jhull@mssd14.org)

3. **CHSAA Update.** At this point, CHSAA is still preparing for fall sports and activities. CHSAA has several task forces that are working on plans for each sport and activity. An update will be provided, once we have this information. Cameron Jones (Athletic Director) will join a weekly virtual meeting.

   Here is a statement by CHSAA's Commissioner, Rhonda Blanford:
   "Mid-July will be a pivotal time period for assessment and what our state government and public health officials will allow within the guidelines. Those guidelines will ultimately determine the Association's ability to move forward either fully, with modifications or with incremental sport-specific start dates. Our staff continues to prepare for a fall sport season."

   https://chsaanow.com/2020-07-02/qa-commissioner-rhonda-blanford-green-on-where-we-are-for-the-fall/

The information below is from the July 1, 2020 weekly update and is posted as a reference.

1. **Manitou Springs Elementary School Principal Search.** I know that the quick principal vacancy at Manitou Springs Elementary School, as a result of Mr. Vogel's announcement of retirement, has been important for staff, families, and students. While I initially communicated that this position will be posted as an interim role, I want to share that after having a little more time, I have decided that this position will now be posted as a permanent position.

   As we all know, MSES is a special and exceptional school. My decision to shift to a posting for a permanent principal is grounded in the fact that I am confident that we will be able to hold a competitive and thoughtful search/hiring process, which will be open to both internal and external candidates. There will be multiple ways for students, families, staff, and community members to be a part of the hiring process (e.g., student participation, multiple stakeholders on the interview committees, meet-and-greet opportunities). These opportunities will be considerate of current concerns related to COVID, while also not compromising the great responsibility of selecting the next principal of MSES.

   I want to assure you that we will seek the best fit for MSES.

   To fill the Principal vacancy for the 2020-21 school year, our Human Resource Specialist (Marsha Weimer) will lead a community-engaged hiring process. The specifics for this process will be communicated next week. The process will not be quick. It will be inclusive of stakeholders (students, staff, families, community members). We look forward to you being engaged in this significant decision/opportunity!

   Additionally, later today, MSSD parents and MSES staff will be receiving a survey that seeks input about priorities and best hopes. This survey will also ask if individuals are interested and willing to participate in the interview process. Tentatively, we will be scheduling interviews the week of July 27. The community meet-and-greet opportunities will also be held the same week. The events will accommodate and honor in-person experiences while also considering current health and safety guidelines (including opportunities to meet candidates virtually).

If you have any questions about the process, you can reach out to me at (Elizabeth Domangue) at edomangue@mssd14.org or Marsha Weimer (Human Resources Specialists) at mweimer@mssd14.org.

During this time of searching for the next principal, you can direct all MSES questions to Eric McMartin (Assistant Superintendent) at emcmartin@mssd14.org or Maria Masone (Assistant Principal) at mmasone@mssd14.org.

2. We are currently **working towards a return to full in-person learning**. This plan will also include a fully online learning option for students and families who, at the time, decide that learning from home is a better option for their child or family. I know that there is lots of information that comes to us about the health concerns about returning to in-person learning. I am working closely with the El Paso County Health Department through the small Return2Learn team. I want to share an important quote that was recently provided by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP),

> The importance of in-person learning is well-documented, and there is already evidence of the negative impacts on children because of school closures in the spring of 2020. Lengthy time away from school and associated interruption of supportive services often results in social isolation, making it difficult for schools to identify and address important learning deficits as well as child and adolescent physical or sexual abuse, substance use, depression, and suicidal ideation. This, in turn, places children and adolescents at considerable risk of morbidity and, in some cases, mortality. Beyond the educational impact and social impact of school closures, there has been substantial impact on food security and physical activity for children and families.

While the AAP document is a good reference, we are still awaiting guidance and recommendations from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) and El Paso County Health Department. The plan we move forward with on August 20 will be honoring of the recommendations.

3. **Remote Learning versus Online Learning. Is there a difference?**

Yes. There is a difference between Remote Learning and Online Learning.

Remote Learning refers to learning opportunities that are similar to the 4th quarter of the 2019-20 school year. To move to remote learning means that we have received public health orders that require students to learn from home. Our staff would then shift to the model of teaching and learning remotely. Remote Learning, we believe, is not a replacement for a student having access to an exceptional in-person learning experience.

Online classes refers to those that do not have any connection to a regular District 14 classroom or teacher. The curriculum, instruction, and grades for these online classes will be the responsibility for the online instructor who will not be a District 14 staff member. These online classes are meant to be a full replacement of traditional in-person learning and classes. Student participation in these online classes will be monitored by staff at each of our schools.

- MSSD will support any family that would like to participate in completely online courses.
- The district will pay the cost associated with a student being enrolled in online courses.
- We will be using Colorado Empowered Learning and Colorado Digital Learning Solutions (CEL/CDLS) as the platform for this coursework. There is also the possibility for students to be enrolled in Fuel Education (which is currently being used at MSHS).
- The grades and credits that are earned through these online platforms will be transferred to District 14 and applied to the students' transcripts and report cards.
- Students who participate in online classes will remain students of Manitou Spring School District and enrolled in our schools.
- If you are a choice family, your status and enrollment in the district will not be impacted if you decide for your child to learn using an online platform.

You might be asking the following question…why would our MSSD teachers not teach these online courses?

This is an excellent question. Our teachers will be teaching students who participate in in-person learning, so it would not be realistic or feasible for them to also teach online courses. We are planning ways for students who participate in online classes to connect with students who are learning in-person. For example, there might be a 5-minute daily check-in via Google Hangout and other ways to stay creatively connected. Again, the district will fully support any parents' decision about their child learning through an online platform.

4. **Hybrid option update.** The hybrid option is described on the last page of this communication. I have received questions from some of our parents about our ability to schedule their children on the same hybrid days. This would definitely be our best hope in the event that we would need to move to this model. The reason we planned for clustered days was to support the impact this model would have on families (as much as possible). The ability to group students on the same hybrid days will require significant collaboration within and across our schools.

5. **Restarting School Survey for Parents.** Next week, I will be providing further updates related to the specific health and safety protocols we will be implementing for each plan: (1) Full in-person and (2) Hybrid. This will allow you to have more information about the specifics of each plan. After that information is shared, you will receive a survey that asks you to provide information about your plans for August.

6. **Staff Return.** If you have any concerns about returning to work, please reach out to Marsha Weimer at mweimer@mssd14.org. More information will be provided in the upcoming weeks as we are still awaiting updates from CDPHE and EPCHD.

7. **Staff Professional Development.** Through the CARES Act monies, we will be able to compensate our licensed staff for 16 hours of professional development/work time. This compensation will be at the district hourly rate of $25/hour (plus benefits). Licensed staff will soon be receiving more information from their principals. This compensated time has been allocated because we know that the readiness for the start of school on August 20 will be different than any other start of the school year.

I look forward to "seeing" everyone shortly during the weekly update meeting at 5:00.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth A. Domangue
Superintendent of Schools

----------End of July 1 Weekly Update----------
The remainder of this document is information from previous updates.

The information below is from the June 24, 2020 weekly update and is posted as a reference.

1. **Communication Tools**
   Weekly Updates will be posted on the MSSD homepage.
   Follow us on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/manitouschools/

2. **Health and Safety Readiness**. The Building and Grounds Team, Business Office, Safety & Security, and I met to ensure that we are prepared for the start of the school year. This meeting included ventilation, signage, handwashing stations, cleaning procedures, and more. Please know that these are health and safety considerations that our team has been considering for many years. We are adding additional precautions that allow us to have a strong start to the 2020-21 school year.

3. **El Paso County Health Department** leaders have developed a Return2Learn Team that includes a few superintendents from the Pikes Peak Region, the County's Attorney (Diana Ma), the County's Coroner (Dr. Leon

Kelly), and other public health officials. I will be participating in this group as we develop plans related to restarting schools. Information and updates will be shared along the way.

4. Last week, we restarted our summer **Strength and Conditioning** program for high school students. It has been great to see students on campus. The protocols for physical distancing have been in place and students have been engaging in physical activity. We use these opportunities to learn how to refine all restarting plans and implementation.

5. **Registration in PowerSchool**… This week families who have students returning for the 20-21 school year will receive an email with information on completing the 20-21 Returning Student Registration. The online portal to complete the registration will be opening in early July. You will receive an email once the online portal is open. New families to MSSD will not need to do this as they have already completed their registration.

6. **Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) Opportunity & Continuation of Free Breakfast and Lunch Program**

This program intends to provide financial assistance to families of children eligible for free or reduced-price school meals who have lost access to food due to the school closures caused by COVID-19. The financial assistance will be distributed to eligible families on new or existing Colorado EBT cards. The average P-EBT benefit is $5.70/child per day or up to $279 per eligible child, retroactive to when school initially closed. These P-EBT funds can be used to purchase food at stores that accept EBT.

This benefit is in addition to the grab-n-go breakfast and lunch meals that Manitou Springs School District is currently offering at Ute Pass Elementary School and Manitou Springs High School. Here is the summer schedule:

June—11:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.—Monday–Friday
July—11:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.—Mondays and Thursdays (You will be able to receive 3 days of breakfast and lunch on those days).
August—11:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.—Monday–Friday

Most families who currently receive SNAP benefits will see these funds automatically added to their accounts and no further action is needed.

Other families will need to complete a simple and quick online application in order to receive P-EBT. To complete this application, you must receive a state-issued student ID, or SASID, from Manitou Springs School District 14. https://www.colorado.gov/cdhs/p-ebt . Please contact us at pfaucette@mssd14.org or call 719-685-2000 for more information about P-EBT and to receive your student ID.

7. **Technology Updates**

a. Working towards 100% of Preschool to 2nd Grade students having access to iPads starting August 2020. Access dependent on when other devices for other grade levels arrive (See b). 3rd -12th Grade students will continue with 1:1 access.
b. When the ordered laptops arrive, students in 8th-10th Grade will be issued laptops instead of iPads. These laptops include touchscreen functionality. Staff and students will receive training on how to use these new Windows-based devices.
c. Bring Your Own Device option available for high school students. Contact Cathrine Olimb (colimb@mssd14.org) if your child will be bringing his or her own laptop computer to school for the 2020-21 school year.

The information below is from the June 17, 2020 weekly update and is posted as a reference.

Two weeks ago, Governor Polis publicly announced his expectation that schools in Colorado would be back on schedule to start the 2020-21 school year. Manitou Springs School District 14 is developing a plan to return to full in-person learning on

August 20, 2020. We are committed to investing in human, instructional, material, and safety resources that will allow the return to in-person learning. I am working closely with area superintendents to develop El Paso County School District Protocols for Schools Reopening in August 2020. This return to full in-person learning will also include a fully online learning option for students and families who, at the time, make the decision that learning from home is a better option for their child or family.

Additionally, the week of June 1, we convened 30 people (school and district leaders, teachers, counselors, social worker, and parents) to develop three Restarting Schools teams.

1. Elementary Team
2. Secondary Team
3. Culture, Climate, Social-Emotional Learning

These three teams are working together to create alternative plans in the event that we will not be able to return to full in-person learning and/or if we need to move to an alternative plan after school begins. These alternative plans include:

Alternative Plan 1 (Hybrid—Combination of In-person and Online Learning)—Return to school with physical distancing and 50% of students on campus each school day (Group A and Group B). For example, in this plan, students would attend in cohort groups attending in-person three days one week and then in-person two days the next week. When not attending in-person, the student would participate in online learning. Teacher provides lessons, but learning on those days will not be led by the student's teacher because the teacher is teaching the students who are at school.

- Group A would attend in-person on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Group B would attend in-person on Thursday and Friday.
- The following week, Group A would attend in-person on Monday and Tuesday. Group B would attend in-person on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.

Alternative Plan 2—Return to a fully remote learning model due to public health orders that do not allow for in-person learning. This option will be an enhanced version of what we were able to move to during the 4th quarter of the last school year.

*As with the return to full in-person learning, all plans will allow for a student to participate in fully online learning if that option is the best for the student. Students who participate solely in online learning would have opportunities to connect with their peers through daily check-ins via Google Meets and/or other school-related activities. More details will be shared at a later date.