



# MANITOU SPRINGS SCHOOL DISTRICT 14

# GO MUSTANGS!

## School Events, Activities & Opportunities

### **SUPER HOLIDAY MUSIC SHOWCASE**

**Ute Pass Elementary, 9230 Chipita Park Rd., Cascade**  
**Thursday, Dec. 14 at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.**

There will be singing from K-3rd grade, with live instrumentation and a choir performance from the 6th grade band and choir.

### **EVENTS**

#### **UPCOMING MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL CONCERTS**

**Dec. 7:** MSMS Orchestra, District Auditorium, 6:30 p.m.

**Dec. 11:** MSHS Choir, District Auditorium, 6:30 p.m.

**Dec. 12:** MSMS Choir, MSMS Gym, 6:30 p.m.

**Dec. 13:** MSMS Band, District Auditorium, 6:30 p.m.

**Dec. 14:** MSHS Band/Strings, District Auditorium, 7 p.m.

**Dec. 15:** Dance Performance, District Auditorium, 6 p.m.

*The District Auditorium is located at 110 Pawnee Ave., and the MSMS Gym is at 415 El Monte Pl.*

### **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

**Ute Pass Elementary: PARAPROFESSIONAL SPECIAL EDUCATION /SEVERE NEEDS** (part time, mornings). Requires lifting up to 40 pounds and diapering/toileting duties. Paraprofessional experience preferred. Must complete a fingerprint and background screening.

**Manitou Springs High School: HEAD TRACK COACH.**

Certified teacher or willing to obtain CHSAA certification. Coaching experience preferred. Must complete a fingerprint and background screening.

**BUS DRIVERS NEEDED:** We are now accepting applications for qualified school bus drivers.

More information: [www.mssd14.org](http://www.mssd14.org).

### **Pop Quiz**

How many people does Manitou Springs School District employ?

**A. 104      B. 165      C. 216      D. 83**

*Previous week's answer: C. 34 – The middle and high school strings programs currently have 34 students participating.*

## Artist of the Week



**Artist:** Hailey Williams, UPES, 2nd Grade  
**Title:** Greek Pot **Media:** Pastel

## Food for Thought: Q & A with Local Alumni

High School students have the opportunity to participate in our new program, World Class Culinary lead by Director of Food Service Paula Faucette. In this class, students learn kitchen safety, various skills and techniques and put it all to use by cooking a variety of recipes. Italian meatloaf, beef stew, homemade noodles, and gazpacho are just a few of the recipes the students have made so far this school year. This program is a great resource for students interested in pursuing a career in the restaurant industry.

We currently have a number of Manitou graduates working in restaurants in town and across the country. Justin Armour, owner of Crystal Park Cantina, Andrew Palmer, owner of Swirl Wine Bar and Andrew Purvis, grill chef at Income Tax in Chicago are just a few examples of our alumni in the culinary world.

### **Give us a little background on your restaurant.**

**Andrew Purvis:** Income Tax is a wine bar and restaurant in Edgewater, Chicago, focusing on imported wines from small producers. The food menu is designed to complement the cuisine of the wine regions of France, Germany, Italy, and Spain, mostly.

**Andrew Palmer:** Our business focuses on drink that comes from small farmers; people with history and grit. Creativity is a really big deal for us. As for food in the kitchen, making things from scratch and finding fresh ingredients is really important to us. We don't like buying anything that's pre-made or pre-cooked. We feel this makes a huge impact on the flavor of the food. That's why we are constantly prepping and cooking in the kitchen.

### **How did the idea of your business come about?**

**Justin Armour:** We knew we wanted to work for ourselves, and going out for food at restaurants was one of our favorite things to do. Fortunately, my mother had an extensive background running kitchens and creating menus at delicious restaurants in Colorado Springs and Manitou for 20 years. So naturally we put her to work too!

**Andrew Palmer:** Sharon wanted to have a wine shop and worked on her Sommelier certification, and we both have worked in restaurants. We were unsatisfied with our corporate careers, so we decided to give that up and open the store, then the restaurant. It kind of took over on its own and became its own animal. We often joke about how we are always just winging it. I've worked in all facets of the restaurant: front of house, back of house, cooking, cleaning and more. It's something

that comes very naturally to me. I have always loved growing up and now working, living and raising my kids in Manitou Springs.

### **What inspired you to own a restaurant?**

**Justin Armour:** Starting a restaurant is a very creative process; from creating the ambience to the details of the menu, it's a group collaboration and an ongoing effort.

### **Where were you trained?**

**Andrew Purvis:** My culinary training began with my mother, and Rachel Ray, both of whom inspired me to learn cooking as a skill. I continued to learn about food and cooking on my own through the use of cookbooks and exploring new flavors just for fun. I attended Knox College for a degree in Theater and Creative Writing.

**Andrew Palmer:** All my training has been on the job. I did receive a business degree in management with a minor in human resources from the University of Colorado. Do I think that this served me and running the restaurant? I don't fully believe so, but I will not deny some of the skills I learned with my college education has aided in running my business. I believe everything I've learned has been through trial and error; through failure and getting up again and starting over. I learned everything I know just by working hard and problem solving. Perseverance is everything.

**Justin Armour:** None of us involved have any formal culinary and/or restaurant management experience — just a real passion and background of working very hard.

## A Message from the Head Learner

A few years ago, Manitou Springs School District 14 launched an initiative called "R2O" — which stands for relationships, rigor, and opportunity. This idea is the center of our strategic plan to serve children, parents and the community.

Our feedback from many meetings and surveys was to create a school system that promotes meaningful, positive, healthy relationships; to deliver an academic program that is rigorous in content and skill development; and to offer a rich variety of unique and personalized opportunities for children to explore, enjoy, and broaden their interests.

I want to focus for a moment on the "O" in R2O: Opportunities. The following are just a few of the innovative opportunities we have and are providing for children.

We have implemented multiple STEM (science, technology, engineering, robotics, and mathematics) programs such as our Smart Design class, high school robotics and Lego League.

We have created an excellent after school Fine Arts program (Arts 14) that serves hundreds of children.

Partnering with a local construction company has provided students the opportunity to learn a trade and acquire a professional license.

We developed the Mountain Academy of Arts and Science — a 6th grade program at Ute Pass Elementary for children to have a unique learning experience including outdoor excursions and "hands on"

activities to develop science interest, knowledge and skills.

We have created multiple opportunities for students to participate in orchestra — fully implementing a violin program at Manitou Springs Elementary School and a full orchestra program at Manitou Springs Middle and High schools.

Outdoor learning opportunities, such as a climbing club called "Cliff Hangers," affords children an opportunity to learn how to rock climb (indoors and outdoors) and we also offer a mountain bike competitive racing club.

We have developed a prestigious health and wellness program that won Governor Hickenlooper's top award last year for our efforts!

We have also created a new program for our gifted and talented students called the Extraordinary Young Scholars program. We have developed a high school outdoor education program called the Manitou Abound program for students needing a different learning setting/opportunities.

This edition will also present to you our new culinary program — another opportunity for our world-class students.

There are many, many more opportunities that the school district has and is providing our students! Please contact your building principal or district administrator if you'd like more information.

~ Ed Longfield  
Superintendent of MSSD 14



## COME SUPPORT OUR MUSIC PROGRAMS THIS WINTER!



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(719) 685-2024 • [WWW.MSSD14.ORG](http://WWW.MSSD14.ORG) • [WWW.FLASHALERT.NET](http://WWW.FLASHALERT.NET) (FOR SCHOOL CLOSINGS)

