



# MANITOU SPRINGS SCHOOL DISTRICT 14

# GO MUSTANGS!

## School Events & Happenings

**OLIVER!:** Lionel Bart's classic musical based on the Charles Dickens' novel, "Oliver Twist." The production will include students from all three Manitou Springs schools. MSSD14 District Auditorium, 110 Pawnee Ave. Tickets available at the door: Adults – \$5, Students – \$2.

Fri., April 13 at 7 p.m. Sat., April 14 at 2 p.m.  
Fri., April 20 at 7 p.m. Sat., April 21 at 7 p.m.

**April 25:** Night of the Arts, 6–8 p.m. at the SILC building, 405 El Monte Pl. Experience the diverse and exciting arts taught at MSMS.

**10th Annual  
CONCRETE COUCH  
LANTERN PARADE**  
FRIDAY APRIL, 13TH 8:00PM  
**New Route**  
MEET AT MEMORIAL PARK AT 7:30 PM  
TO MARCH IN THE PARADE

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS  
**MANITOU  
SCHOOL  
DISTRICT 14**  
THE CITY OF  
MANITOU SPRINGS  
THE MANITOU  
ARTS CENTER  
THE SMOKEBRUSH  
FOUNDATION

**8  
1  
2**  
**ANNUAL MSMS  
EXPO**

CASH & CHECK  
ONLY PLEASE

CHILDREN'S  
ACTIVITIES

KIWANIS  
PANCAKE  
BREAKFAST  
9AM-1PM \$5

**APRIL 14, 2018**  
MANITOU SPRINGS  
MIDDLE SCHOOL  
9AM - 3PM

GIANT  
BOOK  
SALE

BUSINESS EXPO

FLEA MARKET

## Artists of the Week



Artist: Eddie Buckley

### Manitou Springs Elementary, 5th Grade Plaster Masks



Artist: Adam Mulholland



Artist: Ella Huddleston

## A Message from the Head Learner

Many people often ask me to talk about the open enrollment law in Colorado (also known as "choice") as I am out and about with our community. I thought this week I would give you the following important facts you should know about the Choice Law and MSSD14's current and future enrollment situations:

1. Colorado is an open enrollment state. Any student can attend any public school within any school district if there is space to accommodate that student. The law does not allow any school district to deny a Colorado student enrollment no matter where he/she lives with few very specific exceptions.
2. MSSD14 has fewer children living within its borders. In 2009, the district had 1,027 students residing inside the district boundaries. In 2018, that number has declined to 887 (a decline of 140 children). Without students from other districts attending, we would effectively have to shut down two of our four schools.
3. As of 2018, the district enrolls 624 out-of-district "choice" students (44.6% of our enrollment) — by far the greatest percentage of any district in El Paso County.
4. These 624 choice students bring with them a revenue stream of \$4,858,923 — all paid by the state.
5. MSSD14 taxpayers do not pay any additional taxes due to the enrollment of choice students. Currently, our local constituents pay \$3,077,067 in property and

specific ownership taxes to operate its schools. There would be absolutely no reduction in this number if no choice students attended the district schools, nor does this tax burden increase at all when 624 choice students attend. Choice students have no impact on your taxes. They do, however, bring with them the value added amount of \$4,858,923.

If we are to offer programs like art, orchestra, Advanced Placement (AP) Calculus, ballet, AP Chemistry, drama, band, robotics, and many, many others, we need to operate at capacity. We can effectively serve 1,500 students in MSSD14 — that is our aspirational number of enrolled students.

With a resident population decreasing each year (as stated in No. 2 above), we must attract and retain choice students. And, by the way, these students are simply amazing! In the last few years, our choice students have been valedictorians, Boettcher Scholarship winners and elite college graduates. I often say to my administrative team that close to 45 percent of students choose to go to school in MSSD14. However, the more accurate number is 100 percent of our students choose to attend here for all of them (choice or resident) can go elsewhere. We need vibrant, innovative and effective programs to keep MSSD14 the best district in Colorado!

~ Ed Longfield, Superintendent of MSSD14

## Alumni Corner with Matt Bleckert, MSHS Class of 1998

### What are you currently doing?

I am a commercial electrician by trade and currently the Safety Manager at Berwick Electric Co.

### What advice do you have for students at MSSD14?

Don't be afraid to ask questions because I guarantee that someone in your class has the exact same questions, but is afraid to ask. There is no dumb question, except for the one that you do not ask. Have a plan; for the week, the month, the year and a five-year plan. Make goals and write them down somewhere that you will visually see them every day. Learn to have fun, enjoy each and every day and don't sweat the small stuff. Put your phone away and have a conversation face-to-face; that is where true, meaningful and long lasting

friendships are made.

If you feel that college may not be exactly what you want to do, then look into the trades. If you enjoy working with your hands, you enjoy a challenge and you like something new each and every day, it may be just the place for you. It is a rewarding career and a skill that you will have for the rest of your life.

### What did you personally learn that has "stuck with you" while at MSSD14?

I learned that being part of a tight-knit community has its benefits. My father was in a bad car accident when I was in middle school, which left him in the hospital for many months. There was tremendous support for our family during this time and it made me appreciate being part of a small town.



# OLIVER! APRIL 13TH, 14TH, 20TH & 21ST



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(719) 685-2024 • WWW.MSSD14.ORG • WWW.FLASHALERT.NET (FOR SCHOOL CLOSINGS)

