



## Weekly Update—Friday, February 12, 2021

### New Updates:

1. **Virtual Meetings.** I have really appreciated the virtual meetings each month. I will schedule these if there are significant announcements and updates as we move forward through the semester.
2. **COVID Response Team.** Every afternoon at 2:00 pm, the district's COVID Response Team meets to discuss specific circumstances. Yesterday, when our team met, I thought something was wrong with our spreadsheet when I noticed a column was blank. There seemed to be an error. However, the team quickly shared that it was correct. That is, for the first time this school year, we have zero MSSD staff in quarantine or isolation. Also, we only have 11 students who are currently in quarantine or isolation. This is a big deal.

This is a testament that, as a school community, we can keep learning and working in-person when everyone supports the best practices. Let's remain proactive, so we do not need to be reactive.

- Staying home when a person is sick.
  - Staying home when a person has been in close contact with someone who is being evaluated for COVID.
  - Wearing a mask.
  - Washing hands frequently.
3. **Schedule for Returning Middle School and High School Students to Fully In-Person Learning.** We are looking forward to more students returning to full in-person learning starting next Tuesday.

#### **Tuesday, February 16—(Monday, February 15--No school due to President's Day.)**

- 6th Grade Students will return to fully in-person learning at MSMS
- 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Students will return to fully in-person learning.

#### **Monday, February 22**

- 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students will return to fully in-person learning.
- 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Students will return to fully in-person learning.

4. **Parent/Teacher Conferences—February 18 & 19.** We are shooting for a goal of 100% of parents participating in our upcoming Parent/Teacher Conferences. This is an important opportunity for student-led conferences and a time to connect. The year is flying by quickly. Principals have posted how parents and guardians can schedule a conference with each teacher.
5. **Vaccinations.** Many of our staff have already started to receive vaccinations. I want to thank the members of our Business Office for all that they are doing to support with the process. Staff...please reach out to Marsha Weimer ([mweimer@mssd14.org](mailto:mweimer@mssd14.org); 719-685-2028) if you have any questions.
6. **School Choice Window is Now Open.** Links to the Virtual Choice Information Sessions are posted on our district page at <https://mssd14.org/cms/One.aspx?portalId=57448&pageId=6086603>.



Register [here](#) to participate virtually in the 2021 Manni Awards Celebration.



2021 Manni Awards Celebration - Streamed Live!

February 25th 6:30 – 8:00 P.M.

You must register through Evite below to receive zoom instructions

[REGISTER HERE](#)  
Or [www.ManitouSpringsCommunityFoundation.org](http://www.ManitouSpringsCommunityFoundation.org)

Honoring our community leaders and volunteers

We are proud to announce the 2020 Manni Award Finalists:

Maria and Alain Navaratne, Molly Wingate, Steven Miller, Paula Faucette, Greg DiFiore, Vi Gaunce, Lisa Mussi, Melody Daugherty, Cory Sutela, Spencer Wren, Sara and Ray Ferguson, Becca Sickbert, Becca Davis, Gerard "Star" Starling, Randy Perkins, Caden Salladay, Caden Harris, Sophia McKeown, Dana Gutierrez Santos, Devin Rocha, Peggie Yager, Gary Smith, Michael Maio, Neale Minch, Rob Danin, Rhonda Van Pelt, Jared Thompson, Deborah Harrison, Linda Radice, Melissa Warden, Ralph Routon, K&e Orr, Lyn Harwell

We are planning for a worldwide Zoom celebration for our community champions! Helping others and volunteering are the foundation of our town. Join your fellow citizens to see who wins and celebrate the giving spirit of Manitou.

Sponsors & Selection Committee



4 Pikes Peak Bulletin

Feb. 11, 2021

## Community Forum

# District 14 students have weathered challenging times

Generation Resiliency. When I look at photos of our students learning with masks on, walking around with masks on, playing instruments and sports with masks on, singing and acting with masks on, and talking to their friends with masks on, I am often moved by their displays of resiliency.

### OPINION



**Dr. Elizabeth Domangue**  
School District 14 superintendent

They have been quarantined. They have changed instructional models multiple times. The activities they love have been changed, cancelled and rescheduled. Their parents have had to watch significant events via a virtual meeting or event platform.

Their beloved teachers, para-professionals, bus drivers, counselors and other staff have greeted them with masks that cover smiles.

Along the way, our students have taught me so much. I am in awe of their displays of resiliency. The definition of resilient includes "a person able to withstand or recover quickly from difficult situations" and "able to recoil or spring back into shape after bending, stretching or being compressed."

Our students have weathered changes and challenges that are extraordinary and still they work hard everyday. I see them being kind to their peers and staff. I see and hear them laughing and learning.

I am confident that our pre-schoolers to 12th graders will be a generation of resiliency. They have had to stretch, twist and adjust in ways that no other entire group of learners has had to endure.

Let's continue to wrap our arms around them as they navigate this time, so they remain strong and feel supported along the way.

On Monday, Feb. 22, all District



Courtesy photos

Manitou Springs Elementary students Grace M. and Brooke S. show their self-portraits.

14 students will return to full in-person learning. We are looking forward to this next phase and are thankful for everyone's dedication to

following the health protocols that have been proven to help reduce community spread.

Students, we are here for you!

