We be jammin’

UPES guitar students practice basic chords on acoustic and electric guitars, respectively.

Do you want to build a snowman?

MSES preschool students got to build snowmen out of playdough!

Please meet Manitou Springs School District’s newest Assistant Principals!

Anna Conrad and Jennifer Sueppel will join us starting with the 2021-2022 school year! We’re excited to have them as a part of The Herd. Welcome them when you see them!

Manitou Springs High School Assistant Principal Anna Conrad

I was raised in the Colorado mountains, so I am thrilled to return to a small-town community. After graduating summa cum laude from Whitman College in Washington, I participated in Teach for America and taught at Harrison High School for eight years. I’ve taught six English courses (including International Baccalaureate) and two AVID classes (a college and career readiness course). In 2016, I earned my master of arts in curriculum and instruction with an emphasis in critical pedagogy in urban education from the University of Colorado, Denver. I also attended the University of Denver Educational Leadership and Policy Studies program to earn my principal’s license in 2018.

For the past five years, I’ve led curriculum writing and editing work, as well as writing a social-emotional curriculum specifically supporting freshmen. In addition to teaching, I’ve deeply enjoyed partnering with staff as the HHS instructional coach (two years) and the HHS AVID coordinator (three years).

I’m thrilled by the opportunity to learn alongside Manitou staff, students and the community to pursue deep learning, relationships and opportunity — principles that closely mirror my core values of leadership, learning and love.

I’ve been the varsity volleyball coach, junior student government adviser and Minds Matter at Harrison site director. In my free time, I love backpacking, Nordic skiing, doing yoga and reading.

I was honored as the Colorado Springs Metro League volleyball coach of the year in 2018 and Harrison School District 2 teacher of the year in 2019, and I was a finalist for Colorado teacher of the year 2021.

Manitou Springs High School Assistant Principal Jennifer Sueppel

I am honored to have the opportunity to serve as the assistant principal of Manitou Springs Elementary School. I graduated from the University of Redlands in California with a bachelor’s degree in liberal studies and a minor in music, and spent the next six years working for Hesperia Unified School District in California.

During this time, I got my master’s degree in educational administration at California State University at San Bernardino. In 2010, our family moved to Colorado Springs, and I spent five years teaching in Harrison School District and four years teaching for Fountain-Fort Carson School District 8.

The best parts of my day are seeing children excited about mastering a new skill or discovering their potential for success. I am originally from California, but fell in love with Colorado’s beauty and am so pleased to call it my home. I have been married to my high school sweetheart for almost 18 years and our 12-year-old son is finishing the seventh grade. We grew up in a small mountain town in California, and since moving to Colorado, it has been our dream to once again return to small-town, mountain living. We enjoy hiking, biking, playing board games and, most recently, we have begun training in Brazilian Jiu Jitsu.

I look forward to working with all of you.

NO SCHOOL: MARCH 22-26 FOR SPRING BREAK!