

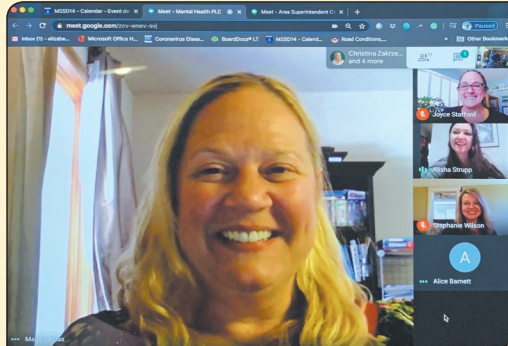


# MANITOU SPRINGS SCHOOL DISTRICT 14

# GO MUSTANGS!

MANITOU SPRINGS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL • UTE PASS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL • MANITOU SPRINGS MIDDLE SCHOOL • MANITOU SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL

## MSSD14's remote learning and more ...



Pictured clockwise from top left are: Valerie Williams and District Safety and Security Specialist Janie Anderson handing out grab-and-go lunches; the District Mental Health Team having their weekly meeting; a preschool self-portrait for art class; and some reading buddies.

## Message from the Tech Team

The district is fully engaged in remote learning mode and is rocking it. We, "The Techies," support more than 1,500 students, 250 staff members and lots of wonderful families.

One of our favorite parts of the job is being able to walk around the school throughout the day to support our kids and getting to see so many different faces, which we now miss terribly! We miss all of the conversations: while helping a student

with a project they are creating in iMovie, helping a student print, charging an iPad, or chatting about the next best book to check out.

We love having the ability to hop in on Google Meets to see those

faces we have been missing or getting to help a student after being reached by email!

We are so fortunate to work in such an amazing district; once a MUSTANG always a MUSTANG!

We are here for each and every one of our students, staff members, and families and we cannot wait to see you all again.

For now, keep up the amazing work you have already shown in remote learning, you are doing great Mustangs!



## Message from the superintendent

Dear Manitou Springs School District staff, students and families:

As you all know, on Wednesday, April 1, Gov. Jared Polis extended the state-wide suspension of in-person instruction at all



public and private schools through April 30 due to the circumstances related to COVID-19.

After careful consideration and collaboration with our Board of Education, we have made the difficult decision to suspend in-person instruction for the remainder of the school year. We will continue our path of delivering remote learning for students and remote work for staff through the end of the 2019-2020 school year.

The goal is that we finish even stronger than we started and that students continue

to learn and grow through the last day of school for seniors (Friday, May 8) and all other students (Thursday, May 21). If there is a district that can meet and exceed this goal, it is Manitou Springs School District 14. It will always be MSSD14.

The key factor leading to this decision is guidance from public health officials and information shared in the governor's regular updates and announcements about the impact of COVID-19 and the periods of projected peaks and other orders. Making this decision and announcement is not easy, but we believe this is in our community's best interest.

This decision does not mean there is a permanent ban on in-person interaction at our schools — that still may be possible on a limited basis — but we can't depend on in-person methods to complete the school year.

As we restore our community from social separation and stay-at-home orders, we don't know what the guidelines and directives will require, so we can't build firm

plans on uncertain foundations. We recognize that families will make their own decisions about when it is safe to re-engage with community activity.

Since remote learning will continue, that will be the mode of teaching and learning for teachers and students. If any in-person opportunities are offered, these would only be offered to allow for connection and closure. Any opportunity would adhere to guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and El Paso County Health Department.

I want to take a brief moment to let the Senior Class of 2020 know that we are all thinking about you during this uncertain time. I know that your school year has been filled with unexpected events. Your determination to finish strong is a testament to your commitment to your education, your future, your family, and your community.

I also want to thank you for the exceptional model you are setting for your siblings, younger students, teachers,

paraprofessionals, parents, grandparents, district staff and more. You can be certain that you all will be celebrated and honored in the most amazing way we can collectively accomplish.

To all preschoolers to high schoolers, we are cheering you on. We will be with you through the end of the school year and beyond. We look forward to seeing how you Finish Strong.

To all parents, let us know how we can support you as you support your child's learning, engagement, wellness, physical activity and so much more.

To all staff, we are here for you as you continue to navigate this new remote working situation while also taking care of yourself and your families.

Your ongoing support, patience, encouragement, feedback and positivity are appreciated so much as we work through this moment in time.

With care,  
**Elizabeth A. Domangue, Ph.D.**

