



School Events, Activities & Happenings

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



MSSD 14 Clothing Closet



Manitou Springs School District Clothing Closet is located at Manitou Springs High School. Please call the office of Partners for Healthy Choices at 685-2004 to schedule an appointment to shop. If you are in need of items, but can't make it during school hours; email us with your needs, we'll shop for you, then have it delivered to your child's school.

***We also accept donations of gently used clothes.**
agieck@mssd14.org or jsquires@mssd14.org

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. More information: www.mssd14.org.

BUS DRIVERS NEEDED: We are now accepting applications for qualified school bus drivers. More information: www.mssd14.org.

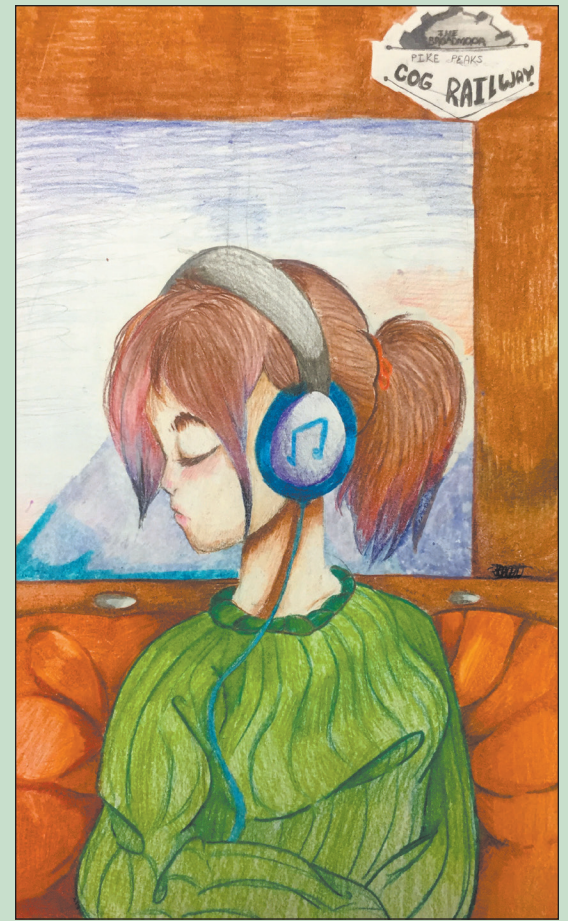
Pop Quiz

The middle school strings program began in 2014, followed by the high school in 2015. How many students (6th–12th grade) currently participate in the strings programs?

- A.** 17
- B.** 29
- C.** 34
- D.** 43

Previous week's answer: B. 2,052 – Partners for Healthy Choices collected 2,052 lbs. of food during the 2016/2017 school year.

Artist of the Week



Artist: Jordan Anderson, MSMS, 8th Grade

A Message from Russ Vogel, MSES Principal

Two new initiatives by Music Teacher Elizabeth Lawson have transformed music classes for students at Manitou Springs Elementary School.

First, through a grant from the "Music and the Brain" (MATB) program of the 42nd Street Development Corporation of New York two years ago, the school received a full class set of electric pianos, curriculum,

and program training for Lawson. Kindergartners began learning piano that year. (All students have some keyboard instruction integrated into their music curriculum, but the program's emphasis will be mainly students in Kindergarten through Second Grade.)

Students wear headphones while they play so they each hear their own music clearly.

The program is popular with students and parents/guardians—and there's more to it than just piano: "Teachers implementing the program are encouraged to aim high, but not get preoccupied with creating little pianists," Lawson says. "The lessons are more about music than just pianos." Inspired by neurological research linking music and cognitive development, MATB believes that when children receive sequential music instruction, it can impact their proficiency in language, reading, math, and cognition. Before practicing at the pianos, children learn about the piece they are studying through movement, games, analysis, and singing.

The second initiative, launched last year, started when Lawson became interested in providing an introductory violin program for MSES Third-graders and, with the

support of Principal Russ Vogel, Lawson applied for a matching grant from the Classics for Kids Foundation (CFKF). The foundation's initial grant of \$4,000 was matched by private donations and the support of District 14 and the MSES Parent Action Committee—and the school purchased some 75 small violins for our Third-graders' use both in school and to take home for extra practice.

"For students who have been with the school since Kindergarten, Third Grade represents a "graduation" from the three-year MATB curriculum," Lawson says. "After

getting comfortable reading, playing, singing and moving to many styles of music on keyboards, our Third-grade students are ready to take on a new challenge—and playing the violin is, without doubt, a challenge!"

Kindergartners performed

solos in the piano lab for proud parents/guardians last year. Third-graders performed with the Colorado Springs Symphony at their student concert day in the Pikes Peak Center last year and

accompanied themselves singing at our annual Veterans' Day Program on Nov. 10.



MSES students (from left to right) Alesandra Lampasso, LilyBelle Flint, Dax Voorheis, Torben Halterman and Cade Shelhamer concentrate on their violin lesson.



Archer deNaray can clearly hear the music being played with the help of headphones.

COME SUPPORT OUR MUSIC PROGRAMS THIS WINTER!

