



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 in the community. I thought this week, I would give you the following important facts you should know about the Choice Law and MSSD 14'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. MSSD 14 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 school 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 of Colorado.

5. MSSD 14 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

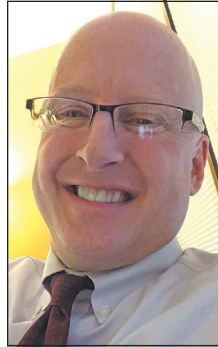
Placement (AP) Calculus, ballet, AP Chemistry, drama, band, robotics, and many, many others, we need to operate at capacity. We can effectively serve 1,500 students in MSSD 14 — that is our aspirational number of enrolled students. With a resident population decreasing each year (as stated in No. 2 above), 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% of students choose to go to school in MSSD 14. However, the more accurate number is 100% 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 MSSD 14 the best district in Colorado!

~ Ed Longfield,
Superintendent of MSSD 14

Why choose Ute Pass Elementary?

- Cozy, nurturing and loving — it's a village school *family* that welcomes everyone;
- Fantastic outdoor learning in a stunning mountain setting;
- We love and celebrate parents and families — a fun and inclusive community;
- Amazing cross-grade opportunities — **The alchemy of a small school**;
- Opportunities for enrichment: Young Exceptional Scholars Program;
- An outstanding 3- and

- 4-year-old Preschool that **celebrates being little**;
- Real academic rigor with classical content;
- Hands-on learning: Shakespeare, band, collaboration with Colorado Springs Children's Chorale;
- Smart technology use (balanced, targeted and never replaces great human instruction);
- A focus on developing rigorous, informed, kind, happy, loving THINKERS.



Chris Briggs-Hale
UPES Principal

Why choose Manitou Springs Elementary?

- Loving, supportive academic partnerships between students and teachers;
- Second Step Counseling Curriculum focuses on empathy-based relationships;
- Kidpower Program teaches anti-bullying skills, and stranger-danger safety;
- Students participate in service learning opportunities, like our whole-school Creek Week Cleanup program and our Mustang Service Corps' food-shelf drives and global service projects;
- Whole-child education focusing on authentic, integrated learning for curious, joyful, empowered learners;
- Core Knowledge Language Arts Curriculum integrates language arts learning with science and social studies units;
- Math in Focus 'Singapore Math' curriculum helps students develop math

- thinking skills they can use in the real world;
- Our UP! Initiative empowers academic units with makerspace projects, field trips, guest speakers, Theatreworks stage skills, live performances, and Earthroom projects;



Russ Vogel
MSES Principal

- Art program features: Incan/Mayan/Aztec ceramic masks, masterworks re-creations, gradated curriculum, and World Peace Day annual program;
- Music program features: K-2 piano lab, Grade 3 violin program, intermediate ensembles and connections with Colorado Springs Children's Chorale;
- PE program offers 12 activity units, including Archery and Fencing to link with CKLA units;
- TEAMS Center features our STEM "Collaboratory," robotics, 3D printers, and Coding Club. Our Earthroom outdoor center features gardens, greenhouses, hydroponics, chicken coop, vermiculture and two outdoor classrooms.

Why choose Manitou Springs Middle School?

- Exceptional Scholars Program — MSMS provides small group and individual support and enrichments for Gifted and Talented students as well as students and their families who are highly motivated or accelerated in any area of learning;
- Athletics — MSMS offers 10 team sports and a competitive mountain bike club. All students wanting to participate in athletics, from football and soccer to volleyball and basketball, earn a spot on team;
- Design Manitou — This project-focused class teaches students to use a design cycle approach to solve problems and make improvements in their school and local community;
- MSMS offers students a wide variety of clubs and organizations;
- MSMS offers three service clubs — Mustang Ambassadors, Teens Advocating for a Well Community (TAWC) and Builder's Club;

- We offer a coding class that introduces students to the skills necessary to build with technology, a SMARTE Design course that helps students develop the creative skills necessary for a STEM education;
- MSMS offers a Journalism course



Ron Hamilton
MSMS Principal

- that helps student develop their voices through self and community advocacy;
- This year MSMS is proud to invite over 130 students earning a 3.5 or higher GPA to participate in the launch of our Mustang Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society!;
- MSMS has a block schedule that allows students to work in-depth with their teachers in all academic areas;
- MSMS is part of a grades 6 through 12 learning campus and benefits from close connection and articulation between our middle and high school teachers and students.

Why choose Manitou Springs High School?

- Average class size of 19 students;
- Opportunity for kids to be involved in many activities and athletics;
- Opportunity to earn college credit on MSHS campus;
- Advanced Placement (AP) and Honors opportunities for all pathways;
- We have two full time guidance counselors to support the students;
- MSHS has a 94% graduation rate;
- Manitou Exceptional Scholars Program;
- Highly successful activity and athletics programs;
- We offer three world language

- opportunities: Spanish, German and French;



Glen Hard
MSHS Principal

- Robust elective courses — metals, strings, yoga, dance and culinary;
- Career Technical Education (CTE) opportunities;
- Award-winning AP program;
- Colorado Healthy School Champion;
- 1-to-1 technology — every student has an iPad;
- National Gold Standard Student Council Program;
- Multiple All State Musicians;
- 80+% of the head coaches are HS teachers.

Pop Quiz — Previous week's answer: In the 2013-2014 school year, the district had eight snow days!

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR INNOVATIVE SCHOOLS AT WWW.MSSD14.ORG!

