



## School Events & Happenings

- Feb. 10:** Manitou Springs Middle School Forensics Meet, 6 a.m.–7 p.m. at Jenkins Middle School, 6410 Austin Bluffs Pkwy., Colorado Springs, CO 80923.
- Feb. 22:** Manitou Springs Middle School's 5th Grade and New Student Parent Night, 5:30–7 p.m., 415 El Monte Pl.
- Feb. 22:** Manitou Springs Middle School Chess Tournament, 8:30 a.m.–4 p.m., MSMS Commons, 415 El Monte Pl.
- March 14:** Manitou Springs High School's 4th annual World Language and Culture Night, 5:30–8 p.m. at the MSHS Library, 401 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.

**BUS DRIVERS NEEDED:** We are now accepting applications for qualified school bus drivers.

**More information:** [www.mssd14.org](http://www.mssd14.org).

## Artist of the Week



**Artist:** Kathryn Wilcox  
**Title:** Colored Beauty  
**Media:** Acrylic

## A Message from Claudine Huntington, MSMS Forensics Coach

The art of public speaking, also called forensics, is very valuable for student success in the classroom and in life.

Middle school students come into the program often fearful of standing before an audience and speaking, but after three years of participating in the middle school program here at Manitou Springs Middle School, they proudly leave with confidence.

The first year that I coached the program in 2013, Manitou Springs Middle School had only five students, having had only one student the year before.

Year by year the program has grown in both number and enthusiasm. The first

two years, our team did not place in the final rounds, but with a strong learning curve for both the students and the coach, we are proud to say that in almost every category that we perform in today, we place in the final round for a trophy or medal.

Last year and this year, we consistently place first or second in both duet performances as well as solo performances.

Manitou Springs Middle School is one of the smaller schools in the Southern Colorado Springs Forensics Competition arena, but we are becoming known as a persistent team, working hard towards each tournament.

The team has 23 members this year, from 6th to 8th grade, competing in eight categories. My students understand that there is a direct relationship between



**The 2017-18 Manitou Springs Middle School Forensics Team.**

practice and performance, and they fill the halls with their rehearsals from October all the way through to their last tournament at the end of February.

Many of them spend a hectic last tournament day in February, starting at 7 a.m., running through to 5:30 p.m., and then doubling up to perform in the school play for the evening performance. Our team motto is "Use Your Voice", and they all learn to embrace this with courage and tenacity.

The team has two tournaments remaining this year: Feb. 10 at Jenkins Middle School and Feb. 24 at Lewis Palmer Middle School.



**Henry White and Olive Van Eimeren**

## Mustang Robotics

Manitou Springs School District 14 has a vibrant Robotics Program going from grades K-12. At each level, we have teams participating and 130 students total on those teams!

The levels are: Elementary School, Jr. Robotics and First Lego League Robotics; Middle School, First Lego League Robotics and First Technical Challenge; and at the High School, First Technical Challenge and First Robotics Challenge!

The coaches Christi Marquardt, Todd Reavis and Dan Sieck work together to get kids involved in hands on problem solving, programming, team work, and preparing for competitions. It also fosters mentoring from the top down as the older students support and even mentor younger teams!

With supportive, encouraging, tireless administration support and parent volunteers ... the future looks bright for these budding engineers at MSSD14!

Manitou Springs' Steel Mustangs FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) JV Robotics team bested a field of 15 middle and high school robotics teams in the East Denver Metro Qualifying Tournament held at the Lotus School for Excellence in Aurora on Saturday, Jan. 27.

The team also won second place for overall robot design. The win secured a coveted spot at the FTC Colorado State Championship to be hosted at Regis University in Denver on Feb. 3 where the Steel Mustangs will go head-to-head against winners from five other qualifying tournaments held around the state in January.

The JV Robotics team is comprised of five 8th-grade students from Manitou Springs Middle School and competes against teams of students spanning



**First Lego League Award winners!**

7-12th grades. Guided by adult coaches and mentors, students develop STEM skills and practice engineering principles while realizing the value of hard work, innovation, teamwork and sharing ideas. Participants have access to tens of millions of dollars in college scholarships. The winners of the FTC Colorado State Championship will move on to the FTC Super-Regional in Spokane, Washington in March.



**The JV Steel Mustangs earned a spot at the FTC Colorado State Championship.**

**LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR INNOVATIVE SCHOOLS AT [WWW.MSSD14.ORG](http://WWW.MSSD14.ORG)!**

