



School Events & Happenings

COMMENCEMENT 2018



May 20: 2018 Manitou Springs High School Commencement ceremony, 1 p.m. at Richardson Field, 401 El Monte Pl.

EXTRA! EXTRA!

Spanish to be taught in all schools in 2018-19

A second language is another lens through which we experience and interact with the world around us. It allows us access to entirely new worlds of rich cultural experience and fascinating people, with whom you can communicate! You actually develop this other part of you, that wasn't there before: empathy, understanding, and self-confidence are all a part of that. "The limits of my language are the limits of my world" someone once said, and that is what I want to do, remove the limits.

We know from years of research that learning a second language boosts problem-solving, listening skills, and critical thinking as well as improving memory, concentration, along with increased creativity and mental flexibility. Second Language Students also typically see improved reading, writing and math skills. The younger students start, the less inhibited they are and less likely to care about mistakes. Younger students also develop more positive attitudes and empathy toward the cultures associated with their language. Today more than ever, people across

this globe must communicate and understand each other — a second language helps!

— **Terrence Batson**
Manitou Springs High School
Spanish and German teacher



Foreign language learning weaves together cultural awareness and appreciation of diversity of thought. It is integral to positive relationship building throughout the world.

Earlier children learn a second language, their ability to acquire language throughout their lifetime becomes stronger. It has a profound effect on developing cognitive skills and even delaying dementia in old age. Language learning creates increased future career opportunities and encourages enthusiasm and commitment for those people who are culturally different. It is one more extremely valuable tool for the world citizen that our students will become, in a highly modern and connected world.

— **Claudine Huntington**
Manitou Springs Middle School
World Language Teacher

Spirit of the Mustang Recipients

On May 2, Manitou Springs School District celebrated the 2017/2018 Spirit of the Mustang recipients with a dinner and awards. Schools and departments nominate a staff member that embodies that true mustang spirit. These individuals are kind, caring, hard-working and most importantly, dedicated to serving students.

Jill McCracken, Manitou Springs High School Special Education Teacher

"Jill's unwavering devotion to kids is inspirational. She works tirelessly to provide kids with every opportunity to succeed. She then supports each student as they rise to the challenge. Jill truly embodies the Spirit of the Mustang!"

— **Glenn Hard**, MSHS Principal

Lon Glover, Manitou Springs Middle School Custodian

"Lon is the person we go to when things are going south. He always steps up and takes care of the kids, teachers and sometimes saves the principal!"

— **Ron Hamilton**, MSMS Principal

Moira Archuleta, Manitou Springs Elementary School Paraprofessional

"Moira has been an anchor of our para educator staff for many years, supporting some of our most challenged students with love and creativity. She champions students' ability to connect with the world around them — and especially their fellow students and staff at MSES — when their disabilities may have prevented such communication all their lives. She's a life-changing educator."

— **Russ Vogel**, MSES Principal

Catherine Wilson, Ute Pass Elementary School Custodian

"Each and every day Catherine demonstrates the "Mustang Spirit" through her extraordinary support of our children and teachers. She builds community

both on and off school!"

— **Chris Briggs-Hale**, UPES Principal

Marsha Weimer, Manitou Springs Elementary School Building Tech

"Marsha's kind, calm and nurturing attitude day after day makes me proud to be her friend and coworker. She is a true "diamond in the rough" and is the epitome of a true Manitou Mustang."

— **Leatha Hay**, MSES Counselor



Artist of the Week



Artist: Alena Akse, Manitou Springs High School
Title: Horizon **Medium:** acrylic

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL — MAY 24TH

