



## Weekly Update—Wednesday, June 24, 2020

From June 17 to August 26, Superintendent Elizabeth Domangue will be providing weekly updates (via written communication and virtual meetings) regarding our Restarting School plans and up-to-date information. These written communications will be emailed every Wednesday. The virtual meetings will be every Wednesday from 5:00 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. This will also be a time for staff, students, and families to ask questions.

### New Updates:

1. **Weekly Virtual Meeting.** This evening, from 5:00 p.m. – 5:45 p.m., we will host the first virtual Restarting School meeting for the community. I hope you will join us. You will need to download Zoom in order to join the meeting. Here is the link:

**Join Zoom Meeting:**

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78636573545...>

Meeting ID: 786 3657 3545

Password: 8RgDqX

2. **Communication Tools**

Weekly Updates will be posted on the MSSD homepage.

Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/manitouschools/>

3. **Health and Safety Readiness.** The Building and Grounds Team, Business Office, Safety & Security, and I met to ensure that we are prepared for the start of the school year. This meeting included ventilation, signage, handwashing stations, cleaning procedures, and more. Please know that these are health and safety considerations that our team has been considering for many years. We are adding additional precautions that allow us to have a strong start to the 2020-21 school year.
4. **El Paso County Health Department** leaders have developed a Return2Learn Team that includes a few superintendents from the Pikes Peak Region, the County's Attorney (Diana Ma), the County's Coroner (Dr. Leon Kelly), and other public health officials. I will be participating in this group as we develop plans related to restarting schools. Information and updates will be shared along the way.
5. Last week, we restarted our summer **Strength and Conditioning** program for high school students. It has been great to see students on campus. The protocols for physical distancing have been in place and students have been engaging in physical activity. We use these opportunities to learn how to refine all restarting plans and implementation.
6. **Registration in PowerSchool...** This week families who have students returning for the 20-21 school year will receive an email with information on completing the 20-21 Returning Student Registration. The online portal to complete the registration will be opening in early July. You will receive an email once the online portal is open. New families to MSSD will not need to do this as they have already completed their registration.
7. **Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) Opportunity & Continuation of Free Breakfast and Lunch Program**

This program intends to provide financial assistance to families of children eligible for free or reduced-price school meals who have lost access to food due to the school closures caused by COVID-19. The financial assistance will be distributed to eligible families on new or existing Colorado EBT cards. The



average P-EBT benefit is \$5.70/child per day or up to \$279 per eligible child, retroactive to when school initially closed. These P-EBT funds can be used to purchase food at stores that accept EBT.

This benefit is in addition to the grab-n-go breakfast and lunch meals that Manitou Springs School District is currently offering at Ute Pass Elementary School and Manitou Springs High School. Here is the summer schedule:

- June—11:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.—Monday–Friday
- July—11:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.—Mondays and Thursdays (You will be able to receive 3 days of breakfast and lunch on those days).
- August—11:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.—Monday–Friday

Most families who currently receive SNAP benefits will see these funds automatically added to their accounts and no further action is needed.

Other families will need to complete a simple and quick online application in order to receive P-EBT. To complete this application, you must receive a state-issued student ID, or SASID, from Manitou Springs School District 14. <https://www.colorado.gov/cdhs/p-ebt> . Please contact us at [pfaucette@mssd14.org](mailto:pfaucette@mssd14.org) or call 719-685-2000 for more information about P-EBT and to receive your student ID.

## 7. Technology Updates

- a. Working towards 100% of Preschool to 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade students having access to iPads starting August 2020. Access dependent on when other devices for other grade levels arrive (See b). 3<sup>rd</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade students will continue with 1:1 access.
- b. When the ordered laptops arrive, students in 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> Grade will be issued laptops instead of iPads. These laptops include touchscreen functionality. Staff and students will receive training on how to use these new Windows-based devices.
- c. Bring Your Own Device option available for high school students. Contact Cathrine Olimb ([colimb@mssd14.org](mailto:colimb@mssd14.org)) if your child will be bringing his or her own laptop computer to school for the 2020-21 school year.

**The information below is from the June 17, 2020 weekly update and is posted as a reference.**

Two weeks ago, Governor Polis publicly announced his expectation that schools in Colorado would be back on schedule to start the 2020-21 school year. Manitou Springs School District 14 is developing a plan to return to full in-person learning on August 20, 2020. We are committed to investing in human, instructional, material, and safety resources that will allow the return to in-person learning. I am working closely with area superintendents to develop El Paso County School District Protocols for Schools Reopening in August 2020. This return to full in-person learning will also include a fully online learning option for students and families who, at the time, make the decision that learning from home is a better option for their child or family.

Additionally, the week of June 1, we convened 30 people (school and district leaders, teachers, counselors, social worker, and parents) to develop three Restarting Schools teams.

1. Elementary Team
2. Secondary Team
3. Culture, Climate, Social-Emotional Learning

These three teams are working together to create alternative plans in the event that we will not be able to return to full in-person learning and/or if we need to move to an alternative plan after school begins. These alternative plans include:



**Alternative Plan 1 (Hybrid—Combination of In-person and Online Learning)**—Return to school with physical distancing and 50% of students on campus each school day (Group A and Group B). For example, in this plan, students would attend in cohort groups attending in-person three days one week and then in-person two days the next week. When not attending in-person, the student would participate in online learning.

- Group A would attend in-person on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Group B would attend in-person on Thursday and Friday.
- The following week, Group A would attend in-person on Monday and Tuesday. Group B would attend in-person on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.

**Alternative Plan 2**—Return to a fully remote learning model due to public health orders that do not allow for in-person learning. This option will be an enhanced version of what we were able to move to during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of the last school year.

\*As with the return to full in-person learning, all plans will allow for a student to participate in fully online learning if that option is the best for the student. Students who participate solely in online learning would have opportunities to connect with their peers through daily check-ins via Google Meets and/or other school-related activities. More details will be shared at a later date.