MANITOU SPRINGS SCHOOL DISTRICT 14

GO MUSTANGS!

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Taking Flight

As a school district we are getting geared up to take a long flight together. The first day of school is this Friday, August 21, 2020. I use the metaphor of taking a flight because that is exactly what we are about to embark on together, and it will be a journey.

Our school and district teams have spent thousands of hours preparing for staff and students to return to school—not one second was in vain. In fact, the complete opposite is true.

We know that some students will be returning to online learning. We know that many students are preparing to return to in-person learning via our transitional hybrid model, which includes 50% of students being on campus each day.

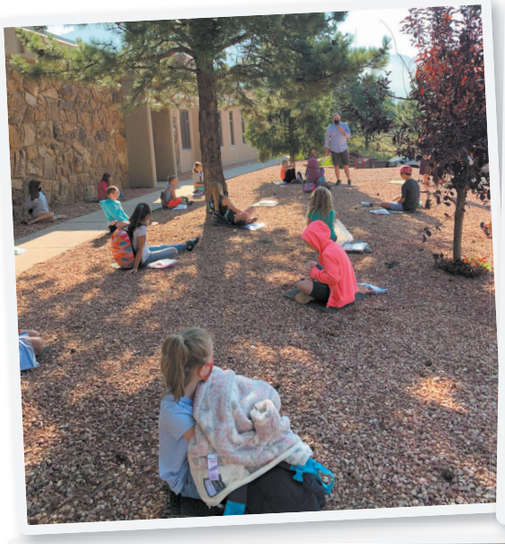
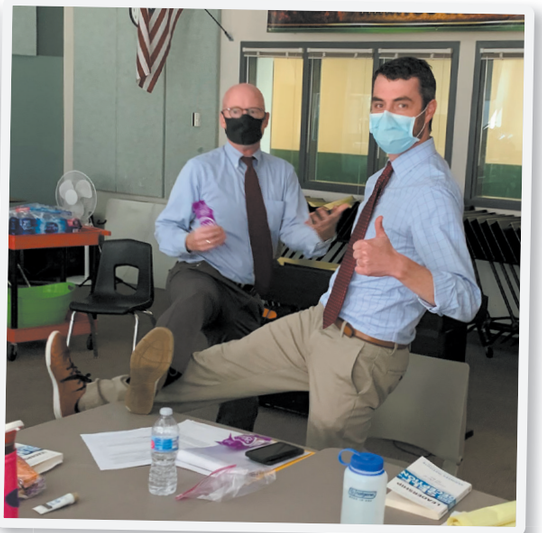
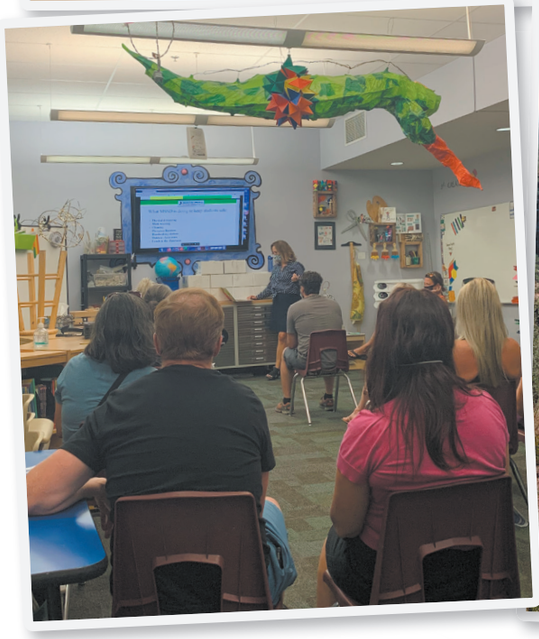
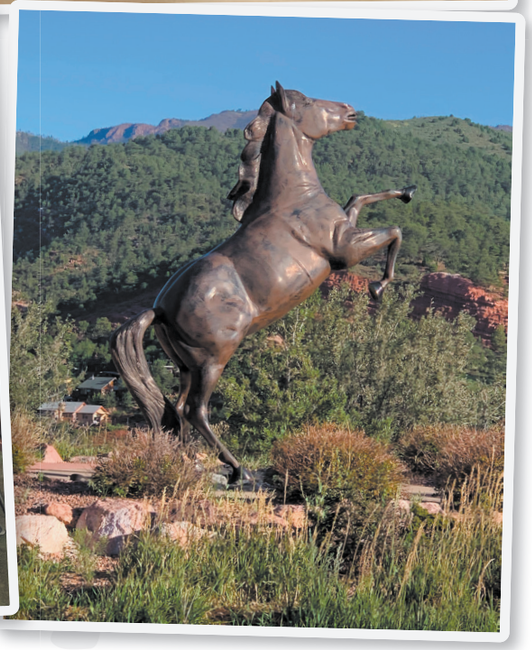
Through this time of preparation, our teams have become stronger and more prepared for a school year that is unlike any school year we have ever experienced. The school leaders and directors across the district are excited about a strong start. I am confident that this will be an exceptional year for Manitou Springs School District 14.

Significant time goes into the start of every school year, but the 2020-21 school year has required more time, effort, energy, creativity, collaboration, and innovation than ever before. The level of servant leadership displayed by so many staff in so many different roles leaves me speechless.

With that being said, I take this note back to the metaphor of taking flight. Throughout this summer, it has, in some ways, felt like we were sitting on the tarmac at the airport waiting to take off. Everyone is ready to take off, and the pilot comes over the intercom and announces that there is a mechanical problem and that it will take about 30 minutes to repair. Thirty minutes later the pilot announces that the mechanic needs to finish the work on another plane before moving to repair the plane we are sitting on. This goes on for some time. In your mind, you know that two things can happen: (1) eventually the plane takes off or (2) everyone exits the plane and waits for another plane that will take us to our eventual destination. Both situations are not what anyone hoped for when they booked the flight. In both situations, everyone will eventually arrive to a destination.

I know that the uncertainty for restarting school has been difficult. The uncertainty for the possibility of moving to completely remote again can also be extremely difficult. The uncertainty for each of us can be daunting and unsettling. However, I am confident that our school district will take-off, soar, and land together. Our students, staff, and families deserve nothing less.

This school year will require teamwork, resolve, agility, positivity, and resiliency, which I know is a fabric of our MSSD community. I look forward to being on this journey with each of you.

Sincerely,

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