



MHSD NEWSLETTER

A quarterly newsletter brought to you by the Mountain Home School District Office.

QUARTER 1, 2018

10/01/2018



There are several updates from the Mountain Home School District that I'd like to share with parents, patron, and community members. The school year is off to a great start. A common question I am often asked pertains to enrollment and class size. Our current enrollment is 3939 students pre-K through 12th grade. This is very similar to last year's enrollment. Over the past several years we have seen enrollment stabilize. This year's enrollment is unique in that we have an uptick in secondary numbers and a smaller number of students in our elementary schools. This is comparable to what many of the school districts in the Treasure Valley are seeing as well.

So how does enrollment relate to staffing and class size? Each year we hire staff based on the previous year's enrollment. These positions are often hired well in advance of the school year. If overall enrollment the first day of school comes in higher than the previous year we may hire additional staff to serve the additional student population. In this year's case we did not have an overall increase in enrollment so our staffing stayed consistent with last year's number. What this does for class size is creates bubbles throughout the district where we may have a larger class size in one particular building versus another building. We do our best to try to manage class size so they are equitable throughout the district but there are times when one attendance zone may have a higher numbers of students then another. Mountain Home School District class sizes are comparable with many schools and districts across the state.

We finished the district wide Chromebook implementation in September. The Mountain Home School District is now a 1:1 computing device school district. This means every student has direct access to a Chromebook. This was made possible through a Department of Defense Education Act grant the district applied for and received. These devices will help to enhance the education of all students in the district.

Through a grant the district received from St. Luke's, we have been able to implement an after school activity program in the three town elementary schools. The program started last spring and continues again this fall. The district had over 300 students involved in the program. The program runs Monday through Thursday from 3:15-4:45. Students are provided a healthy snack after school as part of the program. The after school activity program provides a safe place for kids to play after school and is supervised at each of the buildings by a district employee. This has been a much needed program in our community.

Our building access control systems that have been installed at our schools have done an excellent job of physically securing our schools. As you may know, we installed these systems to secure outside access to the schools. The wrinkles are still being worked out at each building, but overall it has been a smooth transition. I have heard many positive comments from parents, patrons, and staff regarding the access control systems.

One last thing I would like to remind everyone of is to please consider getting your student an influenza vaccination in October. Once again we will be offering vaccinations at our schools through Central District Health. Please make sure to be watching for the information when it is sent out. Additionally, we have many resources on a variety of topics available to parents and patrons on our website at <http://www.mtnhomesd.org>.

I want to thank all of you for what you do to support our schools and to support the students of our great community. If you ever have questions please feel free to call me at (208)587-2580 or send me an e-mail at gilbert_jg@mtnhomesd.org.

Respectfully,

James Gilbert
Superintendent