



MHSD NEWSLETTER

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

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Superintendent



Welcome to 2018!

There are a lot of exciting things coming up this semester in the Mountain Home School District. We started the New Year off with a great presentation from best-selling author Jon Gordon. Jon's message of positivity really fits well with all education stakeholders. Relationship building is a critical part of helping students to be successful. We all play a role in this process. Parents, staff, and the community can positively impact our students by building these great relationships that allow our students to excel in the classroom and in life.

In March, the Mountain Home School District will run a supplemental levy. This levy is used to pay for the continued operations of the district. The supplemental levy that has been supported by our community since 2010 helps to pay for academic programs, activities, employee salaries, district operations, and much more. This critical levy will allow the district to continue with these operations at their current level. The levy will be a 2 year levy. Each year of the levy will be for \$2. 7 million. The levy amount is a continuation of the current supplemental levy that is supporting the operations of the district. The election will be held on March 13th and voting will take place at your normal election location.

Later this winter we will also be conducting a phone survey of our community. The purpose of this survey is go gather patron input regarding the current state of our facilities in the Mountain Home School District. I look forward to hearing what our community feels about the physical condition of the schools and what they would like to see for our schools in the near future and beyond.

Our plant facility Levy continues to provide funding for critical maintenance and facility projects around the district. We currently have a major rewiring project that is going through the bid process. This project will upgrade wiring throughout the district. With today's technology demands in schools it is critical that schools have enough power and outlets available to meet the demand. This project will do just that.

I know this year's winter weather has been drastically different than last year's "snowpocalypse". With that said, I wanted to give you a brief background on how the decision is made to keep schools open on days we get snow. If snow is in the forecast I typically get up at 3:00 am to begin an inspection of area roads. What this means is I actually go out and drive as many roads in town and the surrounding areas as possible to check road conditions. I drive these routes in a two wheel drive car. If our school buses can safely travel in the conditions than typically school will remain in session. This decision is made by 5:50 am as we have buses picking up students around 6:10am. I understand parents sometimes are frustrated when schools are kept open during winter conditions. Our job as a school district is to be open to educate the children of the community, if we can safely transport students that is

exactly what we do. As always, it is up to the parent to make the decision they feel is best for their student as to attending school on inclement weather days. Should a parent decide to keep their child home on these days, they simply need to call the office and excuse their child for the day. I absolutely support the parent's right to make that decision.

I want to thank all of you for the support you give to the students in our community and the support you give to our staff and to the district. It is the people that make Mountain Home the amazing community it is! If you have any questions please give me a call at (208) 587-2580 or e-mail me at gilbert_jg@mtnhomesd.org.

Respectfully,

James Gilbert
Superintendent
Mountain Home School District #193

Technology



The technology department is happy to announce the district is now one-to-one kindergarten through 8th grade. All students in those grades now have access to Chromebooks for all their classes. With the DODEA grant reported on in the last newsletter, the district will be one-to-one kindergarten through 12th grade next year.

The district has begun the process of integrating Computer Science (coding) into all grade levels thanks to the DODEA grant. A kick off meeting was held with BSU last week to start planning the deployment of new computer science classes in the district, the integration of professional development for teachers, and planning a schedule for implementation.

Also, the district has started the process of selecting the lead teachers for the grant, and advertised the technology integration specialist position provided by the grant. These positions will help provide support for teachers as the new classes and curriculum are incorporated into the district over the next several years.

The DODEA grant is a five year grant that will greatly increase our students' access to technology, and help prepare them for future jobs that require a deeper understanding of technology.

Respectfully,

William Goodman
Director of Operations and Technology

Curriculum



Happy New Year. Here's a quick update regarding curriculum and Federal Programs.

On January 8th, we had the privilege of hosting best-selling author Jon Gordon, who gave a powerful message to our staff and some community members. It was a great reminder to everyone about the power of positivity, and the positive influence staff can have on their students.

This year, we set a goal to have 10 teams of Mountain Home students compete at the Mars Rover competition. I'm excited to announce that we surpassed that goal, and will have 14 teams competing in Pocatello. A big

thank you to Dave Holland for helping all of the coaches get started. Good luck to our teams.

Based on a curriculum survey at the end of the first semester, a majority of our staff feel students are more engaged this year with the new ELA and math(K-4) curriculum. I'm hoping to see our standardized test scores continue to improve.

We also currently have a committee together to look at a science textbook adoption for next year to replace our science books that are over 15 years old.

Enrichment programs are up and running at all of our schools. Please contact your child's school to find out what enrichment opportunities are available for your student.

Please feel free to contact me any time you have questions at 587-2580.

Respectfully,

Jeff Johnson
Director of Curriculum
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208-587-2580

Special Education



This January and February will be very busy for staff. They will have professional development opportunities with the Idaho Positive Behavior Network (IPBN) and Idaho Special Education Support and Technical Assistance. Beginning this week, SESTA will be providing training on how to build relationships with emotional behavioral students and how to build common ground. Later in the week, staff throughout the district will be attending the 3rd Annual Idaho Positive Behavior Networks Conference on Implementing PBIS to Promote Relationships and Kindness. I'm very excited to share that we will have two schools present their experiences with implementing PBIS in breakout sessions for other school districts at the conference.

Through the DODEA grant, counselors, building coaches (teachers) and administrators will be attending an Advanced Coaching Institute, provided by IPBN, with the purpose of increasing their capacity to mentor, consult, collaborate, and improve their decision-making skills. This training is a very critical with the implementation of PBIS and building sustainability.

The PD continues into February. SESTA will be providing training for staff to increase their understanding in working with students who have Autism. The focus of training is to increase knowledge of how to interpret behaviors and provide strategies that can change instructional decisions.

Sincerely,

Albert Longhurst
Director of Educational Services

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