

JENNIE WHISNANT  
Superintendent

MARY HOLLAND  
High School Principal

MARK TAYLOR  
Elementary School Principal

## MAMMOTH SPRING SCHOOL DISTRICT

410 Goldsmith Avenue  
Mammoth Spring, AR 72554

BOARD MEMBERS

Steve Russell  
Donell Russell  
Brad Washam  
Jamie McCradic  
Sheila Young

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It has been five months since our hallways and classrooms were filled with the familiar sounds of students. Far too long our buildings have been silent, empty places that should be filled with the curiosity, creativity, and energy that children endlessly generate. We miss our students and are excited that they will return to school on August 24<sup>th</sup>. ***The bell to begin the day will ring at 7:55 am.***

When school resumes, Mammoth Spring School District is dedicated to adhering to the mandates and guidelines from the Arkansas Department of Education and the Arkansas Department of Health. This includes practicing “social distancing” rules, following face-covering protocol, avoiding congregating opportunities, washing busy hands, and ensuring constant sanitizing throughout the entire school day. Precautions to protect each child begins from the moment they board the bus until they return home.

Another change that is required of all Arkansas public schools is instruction through “blended learning.” This is a teaching model that combines instruction directly from a teacher in combination with “virtual learning.” MSSD uses Google Classroom (GC) as the system to deliver the “virtual” component used in classrooms. The assignments in GC are the exact assignments the teachers use in the classroom, so “virtual” students have access to the same instruction as those “face-to-face.” Of course, the experiences in the classroom will have a much higher level of interaction; but the virtual lessons are aligned with those in the classroom/on-campus. GC is the next best thing to being in the classroom. As a district dedicated to serving our students’ educational needs, MSSD offers flexibility in instructional delivery that is appropriate for every child.

If you are interested in enrolling your children in our virtual learning program, please contact the High School Office or the Elementary Office between August 12<sup>th</sup> and August 14<sup>th</sup> to make an appointment for this process. Appointments will be set between the hours of 8:00 am and 4:00 pm on August 17<sup>th</sup> through August 21<sup>st</sup>. These appointments will include various agreements for Chromebook use, attendance guidelines, assignment expectations, grading processes, Chromebook training, and possible student assessments (same as on-campus students are given), etc. The entire process may be lengthy, depending on the assessments and the number of children involved. In addition, there are other academic and extracurricular activities that must be taken into consideration when students choose to use virtual learning. Some or all of these components will be addressed at the meeting.

We are more than ready to see your students on campus and prepared to meet the challenges that the 2020-21 school year brings. Together, we can make this a great year that promises success for every child.

With sincere gratitude to each of you,

Mammoth Spring School District Administrators

Jennie Whisnant, Mark Taylor & Mary Holland