

News from around the district at MSD114

- **We are always very excited to welcome in a new school year. The month of August has arrived, and after Teacher Institute Days on August 22nd and 23rd, our staff will welcome more than 1400 students back to school on Wednesday, August 24th! It is very exciting to welcome the largest group of students to ever begin a new year at the Manhattan Schools! Here is some additional news from around the district over the last month.**
- Pete Slattery, Director of Buildings and Grounds, and his staff have done an outstanding job of getting the buildings and grounds prepared for the beginning of a new year. All of the buildings look amazing. The Junior High gymnasium is still scheduled to be repainted and refinished over the winter break, and will greatly improve the look at the junior high. In addition to the usual cleaning and general repairs, a new camera surveillance system has been installed inside the junior high. The camera system will assist the district with any damages or vandalism that occurs by outside groups using the facilities, help deter the theft of any student or staff property, and also reduce the likelihood of student harassment or bullying. We are very fortunate to have an outstanding student body and feel that it is important to be proactive rather than reactive.
- I reminded the Board and visitors at our August meeting that the FY17 Budget has been posted on the district website and is also available for viewing in the district office. If anyone from the public wishes to come by the office to view the proposed budget, they are welcome to do so during regular office hours. Otherwise, the complete budget is available on the district website. The budget hearing and vote on the FY17 budget will take place at the regular meeting of the Board on Wednesday, September 14, 2016.
- **We continue to make technology a priority in the Manhattan 114 school district. I am very pleased to announce that the Board of Education has directed me as the Superintendent, to move forward with taking the necessary steps to initiate a 1:1 device program in grades 3-8. This school year, all classes at Anna McDonald (grades 3-5) will have access to iPads for every student in their classrooms. At the Junior High (grades 6-8), all students will have access to a laptop computer for use in the classroom. The administration has worked very hard with staff in order to prepare specific teachers to be able to work with and train all staff in the use of technology in the classroom, to impact and improve the delivery of instruction and student learning. It is very exciting to be able to offer this to the students of Manhattan schools.**
- Please check the district and building websites for a calendar of events. Mrs. Maher, building Principal of Wilson Creek Elementary is also going to be actively updating the Manhattan Schools Facebook Page. You will be able to receive announcements and good news about Manhattan Schools via Facebook if you become a follower. All of us are working hard to offer the best educational experience that we can for the students of Manhattan and to communicate with all of our parents and community in the best way possible. We continually thank you

for all of your support and are privileged to serve you.

Lastly, I want to remind our parents that the Online Registration is open and available. If there are any questions or concerns, then please contact Michele Zmigrodski at Wilson Creek Elementary.

***Thank you,
Rusty Ragon***