

Parent Update March 2020

Hello Parents,

The Morgan Board of Education met yesterday in their regularly scheduled meeting. Employees of the Month from the district transportation department, Laurel Hoopes and Todd Anderson, were honored for their dedication and service. Student School Board Member, Carson Ordyna, recognized fellow MHS student PJ Butikofer for making a positive difference. The swim and wrestling teams from MHS were also recognized for their success. Mr. Michael Gelhard, the music teacher at MGMS, performed their new school song.

The board members again discussed the fees assessed in each of the secondary schools to ensure compliance to state statutes and to provide more transparency for parents. The Board will be covering all costs related to transportation next year and will also eliminate the fee charged for textbooks. The Board members are also tasked with setting limits on the amount a student/parent has to pay.

Last month the Board heard about special education services in the district. Our district provides services for students with special needs. There are 14 special education teachers serving 387 students among the five schools. Additionally, the district employs speech pathologists and speech technicians. Services also include physical therapy, occupational therapy and psychological testing. One-to-one nursing services are also provided when needed. There are 46 part-time paraprofessionals who work directly with students. The district also receives regional service center assistance for student behavioral support. Under the direction of the district special education director, Steve Wood, a quarterly stakeholder meeting is held. Members include teachers, aides, parents and others. Professional development opportunities are also provided for our educators and support staff thanks in part to a \$25,000 grant obtained by Mr. Wood.

Our district is cooperating with the Weber-Morgan Health Department, Morgan County Emergency Services, Morgan City, and the Morgan County Sheriff's Department to manage the consequences of the Coronavirus. We will be notified when there is evidence of high risk. We are currently considered a low risk even with the rumored contacts with the person being treated at McKay Dee Hospital. We will keep you updated and notify you when there is a high risk of exposure.

You should be receiving a letter inviting you to participate in the US Census. For the first time ever, you can respond online with a personal code sent in the letter. It is important that our community is accurately counted and represented. The census will determine how the federal government divides \$1.5 trillion a year among states and communities. Data collected determines representation in the U.S. House of Representatives along with federal funding for schools, roads, and hospitals. It is important enough that the Utah Legislature approved spending \$1 million on advertising and education to make sure Utah residents participate. More information is available online at <https://2020census.gov>.

Thank you for your continued support!

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