

## Room 190 Newsletter

March 31st, 2025

Hi families! I cannot believe we are about to step into April. Time really flies. These next couple of months are filled with lots of opportunities for our students. Get your calendars out and be ready to mark some dates.

### EVENTS

**April 14th Remarkable Roundup Field Trip** - Permission slips going home this week. This was the field trip scheduled for January but due to weather, it was canceled.

**May 1st Buddy Bonanza** - Adaptive field day experience over at Summit View. You should have received email communication from Ms. Jess regarding the signup link in MSB. Please fill this out ASAP along with sending your student's shirt size.

**May 16th Nature & Science Museum** - Link to sign up for this field trip is now live in MSB.

**May 22nd End of the Year Party** - Stay tuned for more information, but we plan to celebrate the end of our year together at Red Tail Park.

### IMPORTANT DATES

**State Testing Dates April 7-25th**, If you wish to opt your student out of state testing, please follow the directions linked [HERE](#), as soon as possible. If you have questions, feel free to reach out. Please know that no visitors will be allowed back in classrooms during testing days.

January 10, 2025

We are officially in the second half of our school and at the beginning of the new year. I hope your families had a wonderful holiday season, with many memories made. I am eager to jump into 2025, and have enjoyed seeing the kiddos back in the classroom. From silly laughs to hugs much needed, your babies bring me so much joy. Thank you for trusting us with them. :)

I have just a couple of updates coming your way!

### EVENTS

Our class has been invited to attend the National Stock Show, specifically, the Remarkable Roundup Event which is an adaptive rodeo experience for children with special needs. We will be attending this field trip with Copper Mesa Elementary School. [The date for this field trip will be Tuesday 1/21/24](#), departing at 9:30am and returning to school by 1:30pm. Permission slips will be in backpacks this afternoon. If you wish to participate / chaperone, please let me know.

[Unified Basketball begins 1/15/25](#), if you are interested in having your student participate, please contact Sarah DeGeeter. Basketball season is my favorite!

### IMPORTANT DATES

Friday 1/17 - No School (Professional Development training day for staff)

Monday 1/20 - No School (Holiday)

Tuesday 1/21 - Field Trip

### HOUSEKEEPING

Our classroom is in need of Clorox wipes, tissues, laundry soap, and gloves. If you have the means to contribute any of these items, that would be greatly appreciated!

We have two peer interns that started working with our students during periods 1 and 7, they are already amazing with our kiddos! Students' electives changed this quarter, please let me know if you have questions. We also have a new student joining our classroom and are excited to welcome her into our school family.

December 16, 2024

Hi families! Can't believe we have made it to the last month of 2024! That is wild to me. I hope you take some time over the next couple of weeks to reflect on the growth your child has made - whether that be inchstones or milestones! Growth is growth and should always be celebrated. I know we have seen so much from your students in just these last few months. We officially all know each other quite well and it's been a pleasure to watch our kids build connections and relationships here at MRMS. Looking towards the upcoming year and the second semester, I am excited for the new things that will be coming.

I don't have too many updates this time around but here are a few....

### EVENTS

None currently but stay tuned as communication from Ms. Jess about upcoming Best Buddies events will be coming soon. :)

### IMPORTANT DATES

**Thursday 12/19** is the last day of the quarter and Spirit Day! Students are invited to wear a holiday sweater, shirt, hoodie and/or holiday headwear- antlers, Santa hat, etc.

**Friday 12/20** - Teacher work day, Winter Break begins for students!!!

**Tuesday 1/7** - Students return from Winter Break.

### HOUSEKEEPING

Our classroom is in need of Clorox wipes, tissues, laundry soap, and gloves. If you have the means to contribute any of these items, that would be greatly appreciated!

I hope you all have a wonderful holiday and I am looking forward to semester 2 with you guys!

November 1st, 2024

We welcome November with kiddos full of sugar! If your kid was anything like mine this morning, it was a battle to get to school. I so badly wanted to stay in bed and snuggle my almost four year old all day while indulging in movies. Anywho, we've got some big updates and exciting things for this upcoming month!

### EVENTS

**Spirit Week** this upcoming week is as follows:

Monday: Twin Day - our SSN community and friends will be wearing purple all together and will accessorize in our room at the beginning of the day. :)

Tuesday: Students dress like teachers and vice versa

Wednesday: Decades Day

Thursday: Favorite Band Day

Friday: Sports / Jersey Day

**Decades Dance** 11/21 from 3-5pm (sign up on [myschoolbucks.com](https://myschoolbucks.com)) and please let me know if you plan to send your student so that we can make a plan to support them at the dance!

### IMPORTANT DATES

**Drama Walking Field 11/6 to MVHS from 9-12:30pm** to see their musical (if you have not already done so, forms will be sent home for those who do not yet have permission to participate)

**8th Grade Field Trip to Finance Park 11/21 departing around 9am** (if your student has not yet been signed up then you will be contacted by Ms. Shepard or Ms. Whittemore)

**Thanksgiving Break 11/25-11/29** (no school)

NEW STUFF COMING UP!

MRMS is officially launching our Best Buddies Chapter! This is a fun program and an opportunity for One-to-One Friendships, Leadership Development, Integrated Employment, and Family Support programs for individuals with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) in Colorado. We celebrated inclusion yesterday with a Halloween Party and Informational Party for those who may be interested in joining. Each of our students should be coming home with a permission slip to sign up. We will be offering activities / events both in school and outside of school. If you are interested in more information, please visit their [website](#). If you'd prefer to sign your student up virtually then you may do so using this [link](#).

As always, email or text for more information!

All my best,  
Samantha Whittemore

October 8th, 2024

Happy October! I cannot believe it's already October... Where does the time go?!? It's been a couple of weeks since I sent one of these out and I've got a few updates as we close out the quarter. Our first quarter of the school year ends this week and then we head out for a week of Fall Break!

### **EVENTS**

District Unified Kickball Game October 9th @ 4pm featuring Kona Ice!

RAM Assembly on October 10th- 7th graders wear white!

Sensory Friendly Trick or Treat October 25th from 5-7pm @ Cresthill Middle School

### **IMPORTANT DATES**

Picture Retakes are on October 23rd during lunch - no need to sign up, just let me know if you would like for your child to take them.

### **EXTRA INFO**

Toiletry Collection Drive - beginning October 21st and ending on November 8th.

Winning pod will enjoy an ice cream party! And the top 3 schools will win \$1000 for their library.

Progress reports and grades will go out on Friday!

As always, let me know if you have any additional questions.

All my best,  
Sam Whitemore

September 18, 2024

Don't forget this week is conferences! We are looking forward to seeing families and sharing our classroom. If you still want to sign up for a specific Room 190 time slot, see [HERE](#).

No Unified this week due to conferences. There is still time to get your student involved in Unified. Email Sarah DeGeeter @ [sdegeeter@dcsdk12.org](mailto:sdegeeter@dcsdk12.org) for more information.

Let me know if you would like your student to visit the Book Fair! Book Fair is taking place this week and will be open during conferences.

Reminder, no school on Friday due to teacher training day!

For students in Drama... each student has a permission slip for a field trip in December. Check their take home folders for more information. Our team will ensure that students can participate in this exciting opportunity. If you would like to chaperone, reach out to Ms. Red @ [mweiss@dcsdk12.org](mailto:mweiss@dcsdk12.org). Please CC me in on the email as well.

As always, reach out to Ms. Whittemore or Ms. Shepard with any questions.

September 10, 2024

Here is your weekly update! See below for details, including conferences sign up. Looking forward to seeing families next week! As always, please email myself or Ms. Shepard with any questions.

## **EVENTS**

THIS Wednesday @ 4 pm [Unified Kickball](#) against Cresthill. We will play on the west lawn directly south of the parking lot before mobiles. Reach out to Ms. DeGeeter if you have any questions. Jerseys should be in backpacks today!

[Parent/Teacher conferences](#) will occur September 18 and 19th from 4-7pm. Conferences Sign Up can be found [HERE](#). Conferences will be a time you will have the



opportunity to talk with us about specific topics on your mind and see our room. Time slots are for 30 minutes each so everyone has their own individualized time. :)

[Scholastic Book Fair](#) next week! September 16th-19th. Book Fair will also be open during conferences.

Teacher PD Day ([NO SCHOOL](#)) Monday, September 20th

September 3, 2024

Wow, time is flying! I can't believe we are already into September. These past couple of weeks, students have really gotten into the swing of things. They are transitioning smoothly throughout the day, with schedules internalized. I am so proud of them and the growth we have already seen happening. See below for a few specific updates. :)

## **EVENTS**

[Back to School Night UPDATE](#)- Due to illness and adults being out, we had to cancel our Back-to-School night in the SSN room. Only a couple families had signed up. Instead of scheduling an alternative night with parent teacher conferences approaching, I'd like to hold individual "pop-ins" for those families that are interested. If you would like to schedule 15-20 minutes after school to check out the classroom

and ask questions, please email Ms. Whittemore or Ms. Shepard directly. We would be happy to schedule a time specific for your family to get a close up look in your student's home away from home. ;)

[Parent/Teacher conferences](#) will occur September 18 and 19th from 4-7pm. Sign up document will come out in next week's newsletter. Conferences will be a time you will have the opportunity to talk with us about more specific topics.

[Interact Club's Ice Cream Social](#) - Interact Club will be hosting their annual Ice Cream Social after school on Friday, September 6th on the basketball courts. Each sundae will be sold for \$1, and donations are greatly appreciated. We will have options for individuals with gluten and dairy allergies. All money collected will be donated to support Wilms Tumor Research at Children's Hospital. We hope all students buy a sundae to help support this important cause!

## **HOUSEKEEPING**

[Student Technology Agreement](#) - Our Computer Support Technician has asked that all families complete the [MRMS Student Technology Use Agreement](#). The form is digital and should be completed as soon as possible to ensure your child is able to use school equipment throughout the year (including the network).

August 19, 2024

August, 2024

We have officially completed a full week of school and let me tell you, the kiddos were wiped by the end of the week. We are quickly learning what works for each student and getting into the groove of things. Below you will find a couple of reminders in addition to last week's newsletter.

## **EVENTS**

[Back to School Night](#) - This Thursday from 5:00 pm to 7:10 pm. The first hour is dedicated to visiting your students' pods for a presentation from teachers. The second hour, parents will have the opportunity to walk through their students' schedule and meet teachers. In addition, we have a [SIGNUP](#) link for individual slots in room 190 with myself and Ms. Shepard. These slots are short but it will provide you an opportunity to check out our classrooms and your student's individual work systems.

[Parent/Teacher conferences](#) will occur next month, at that time you will have the opportunity to talk with us about more specific topics.

[Picture Days](#) – Are happening this week. Wednesday for 8th grade and Thursday for 7th grade. This is specific to room 190 students so this may not be the case for siblings at MRMS.

### **HOUSEKEEPING**

Don't forget to check your student's planner for either homework or notes from the teacher!

Please be sure to check out our [MRMS SSN website](#). You can see our team and find important links. Bookmark this site if you can! There is a survey on there for those interested in building our parent community!

August 12, 2024

Hi families!

It's crazy to think we are already back to school and getting into the swing of things. It almost feels like we never left. I hope you and your students are feeling more confident with your recent transition to middle school. And if you've been with us, then I hope your kiddo is just as eager to see us as we are them. These newsletters are intended to update you on what is happening in our classroom and in our pods. Over the last couple of years, whole school information often fell through the cracks. So my intention is to keep everyone informed on what is happening.

### **EVENTS**

8th graders and their families are invited to the Mount Sunshine (formerly known as 8 Teal) **picnic in the park** this Friday, August 16th from 5-7pm. Teachers ask that you pack your own dinners but come to play and build community.

We have **picture days** coming up on Wednesday August 21st and Thursday August 22nd. Students will go with their Science classes or with our class if they take Science in room 190. Students with a science class during 5th period will go on Wednesday and students with science during 4th period will go on Thursday.

**Back to school night** is coming up and will be held on August 22nd from 5-7pm. We will be sending out sign ups in the next week or so if you would like to designate a specific time.

### **HOUSEKEEPING**

If you haven't done so already, please be sure to send students with **supplies** from **THIS** list. Most important items are planners and personal care items such as change of clothes (based on individual student needs). ALL students do need a planner as we use this for multiple things but most importantly a family communication log. Your students should be coming home with their planners each day. In these planners, you will see what work they have written that must be completed or you will see daily notes from the adults that work with them throughout the day. I can supply students with all other materials if needed.

Your students each should be coming home with a folder in their backpacks labeled **"Take-Home Folder"**. In this folder you will find unfinished work that they may need to complete or papers that need to be signed. Help your students get in the habit of pulling this out each day after school.

During ELT, we give our students a **snack break**. If you haven't already done so, please send your student to school with daily snacks or a bigger supply to store in our cabinets.

### **BUSINESS**

We have a wonderful **team of adults** here to support your students this school year. Ms. Shepard will be teaching alongside me. We both will be spending time with your students working on goals. As mentioned before, we will be splitting our caseload. As case managers, we will be the primary contact when questions or concerns arise. In addition, we have our EA team which consists of Mr. Tommy, Ms. Linda, Ms. Jess, Ms. Mady, and Ms. Sindy. We are hoping to add one or two more to our team in the upcoming weeks!

### **EXTRA INFO**

Please be sure to check out our [MRMS SSN website](#). You can see our team and find important links. Bookmark this site if you can!

We have **Unified Sports** kicking off soon. We start with kickball, then move to basketball, and end with soccer. Please let me know if you need more information.