

# **NEWS FROM: *Montana Small Schools Alliance***

**UPDATE: January 2023**

## Message from the Director:

Happy New Year!

I hope you had a great holiday vacation and got some much needed rest and rejuvenation. I think I say the same thing every year, but I can't believe we are in 2023, the time really flies.

December and January are slower months for us here at MSSA, completing year end tasks, getting the financial survey together, and gearing up for the next round of workshops. This year has been busier as we gear up to roll out the STOP Act Grant work with WMPLC. We have hired the Counseling Resource Navigator position, and Kelsey McGill will start in that role very soon. Additionally we are preparing to get out the first step in the process which is a HELPme app. Below you will find a short description of this first step. During the February workshops there will be a short introduction and then more information will be coming in person at our April workshops. I think this grant will be a great help in getting resources to our students in our small/rural schools that don't have them in their areas.

I will be working remotely for the month of January. Headed to Oregon to help out my sister who lost her husband in early December. I will still be available via email, phone, or through Linda at the MSSA office.

Again, wishing you a very Happy New Year!

*Janelle*

## **Montana Cares Help App**

Coming Soon: In partnership with Western Montana Professional Learning Collaborate (WMPLC) and STOPit Solutions, MSSA will be making available the Montana Cares Help App for many of its members beginning this spring. The program will focus on connecting students, staff & parents to basic needs and community resources. It will also feature 24/7 immediate crisis support, and a direct to school communication platform accessible through the Mobile App, Chromebooks or Web, and Phone. The program is powered and delivered by STOPit Solutions through its 24/7/365 Help Center who monitor the program and escalate any life-threatening or imminent threat situations immediately. The program is funded through a 3-year STOP School Violence Act Grant awarded to WMPLC and is made available without cost to MSSA member districts. Be on the look-out for more information on this exciting partnership and program for our school communities.

**“The bad news is time flies. The good news is you're the pilot.” Michael Altshuler**

## **!!!Deadline Extended!!!**

### **MSSA Teacher and District Scholarships-**

The 2023 MSSA District and Instructor Scholarship applications are now available on the MSSA website. Due date is extended to January 13, 2023. Each scholarship is worth \$1500. A short application, and budget page are all it takes. Consider applying to fund a new school or teacher project.

## **February Workshops- Zoom presentation**

### **Register Now!**

#### ***An Integrated Framework for Teaching Interdisciplinary Literacy***

Monday, February 6, 2023

Tuesday, February 7, 2023

Friday, February 10, 2023

## **Math Content Standards Review**

OPI is still looking for participants for the Math Content Standards Review Committee. They are looking for representatives from a variety of stakeholders, small/rural schools need to be represented. Please see the information below.

If you haven't already submitted an interest survey, there is still time to participate.

Whether you are an educator, parent/guardian, student, business and industry employee, or a member of the greater Montana community, your perspectives are important to the integrity of this process.

We are so grateful for all of the educators who already responded to our [Montana Math Standards Review Interest Survey](#). Please share this link with other educators and stakeholders who may be interested in participating in this process.

We will use this information to form several committees for this work. We will be forming an Advisory Committee and other committees as the work progresses.

For updated information on the Math Standards Review, please visit the [K-12 Content Standards](#) webpage.

## **Golden Triangle Textbook and Vendor Fair**

January 30, 2023, from 8:30 AM- 4:00 PM, Golden Triangle Curriculum Cooperative is sponsoring a Textbook and Vendor Fair in Great Falls. Individual presentations, and sponsored textbook and learning materials will be available.

The event is free, covers all subject areas, provides lunch and snacks and you can earn up to 7 renewal units. To register follow the link below:

<https://forms.gle/tDnNemfCEtc4tSht8>

## **Free Air Purifiers for School**

The Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) is excited to announce that we are partnering with Medify Air and Grainger to offer free HEPA air purifiers to Montana K-12 schools through June 2023. Medify Air is a top-rated air purifier manufacturer that provides high quality HEPA air purifier systems and replacement filters. Grainger is a government contractor that has an established partnership with DPHHS to offer a variety of services. DPHHS is utilizing ELC School Reopening federal funds to support this partnership with the focus of improving indoor air quality in schools.

How it Works:

In the coming weeks, your school may be contacted by a Medify Air or Grainger representative.

- The school will need to complete a brief survey and fill out an order form indicating the desired number of HEPA systems needed.
  - The Medify Air or Grainger representative can help you determine the number and size of HEPA systems needed in your school.
  - Up to 5 replacement HEPA filters can be ordered for each HEPA system at the time of your initial order.
- Medify Air will ship the requested HEPA systems directly to your school and directly bill DPHHS.
  - Educational material and set-up services may be provided by Medify Air and/or Grainger upon request. For this additional support, you will simply contact the Medify Air or Grainger representative who initially contacted your school.
  - HEPA systems will be available on a first come first serve basis, as funding permits.

Schools do not need to apply for ELC funding to obtain HEPA systems through this Medify Air partnership.

There are no reporting requirements attached to this opportunity, though DPHHS may work with Grainger and Medify Air to ask follow-up questions regarding the use of the HEPA systems in schools.

Please send questions regarding this opportunity to DPHHS at [schoolhealth@mt.gov](mailto:schoolhealth@mt.gov).

***“You don’t have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step.” Martin Luther King***

