

2005-2006

Annual Report



Lewistown

Public

Schools

ANNUAL REPORT

In following Board Policy, staff members will again be required to compile a brief report on their area of responsibility for an annual school report. Reports will include an overall summary along with concerns and areas to be improved. This information will provide the Board with relevant data about the status of major programs in the district. Hopefully this will again prove to be useful and lend to an enhanced report in the future.

REPORT/ASSIGNMENT

Highland Park Elementary School	Sharon Redfern
Garfield Elementary School	John Moffatt
Lewistown Junior High School	Pat Hould
Fergus High School	Scott Dubbs
Activities-Fergus High School	Jerry Feller
Assessment	Sharon Redfern
Athletics-Lewistown Junior High School	Pat Hould
Curriculum	John Moffatt
MOST	Pat Hould
Staff Development	Pat Hould
Transportation	Steve Klippenes

The following reports were not available to be published at the time of printing:

Lewis & Clark Elementary School	Maintenance
Adult Ed./ ABE/EOCM/Traffic Ed.	Music
Business Office	Special Education
Drug/Alcohol	Technology Department
Food Service	Title I

Highland Park Elementary School

Sharon Redfern, Principal

Highland Park Elementary
Annual Report
2005-06
Sharon Redfern, Principal

Highland Park students and staff love to learn! Sound instruction, coupled with early intervention strategies for all students, has led to increased student achievement and success. Our new motto, "Bright Beginnings at Highland Park," reflects our commitment to children.

Highland Park 2005-06 Goals:

Academic Goal #1

All students will demonstrate improvement in Communication Arts.

Academic Goal #2

All students will demonstrate improvement in Mathematics.

Academic Goal #3

Early intervention programs will be made available based on student need.

Improvement Goal #1

Promote and maintain a safe and nurturing learning environment (safe dismissal).

Improvement Goal #2

Promote and maintain a safe and nurturing learning environment (developmentally-appropriate building improvements).

Improvement Goal #3

Seek ways to positively promote attendance.

Following are highlights from this school year:

The **early intervention strategies** that have been implemented are proving to be valuable in our goal of providing academic successes for Highland Park's students. We began *Read Well* this year in September, and more than 80% of our first graders completed the program; the program will continue into second grade and is expected to be finished by the first quarter's end. Upon completion of *Read Well*, a reading level of 2.2 should be achieved. By utilizing any and all available staff members for this half hour reading block, we were able to form eleven groups for instruction; this keeps the teacher-pupil ratio very low and allows for more individualized learning for each child.

Our PTSG provides a book for each child who finishes *Read Well*, which is a wonderful addition to the program and an awesome reward for the students. In addition, several groups of first graders moved into enrichment reading programs mid-year as they completed the *Read Well* program. This leveled program enhances our standards-based classrooms, providing targeted instruction at each child's reading level as it supplements and strengthens skills. Students are becoming better readers and are performing better in the classroom reading program as a result of this and other interventions.

The Visual Phonics program has had a huge, positive impact on our kindergarten, Title 1, and Resource students. Students are actively engaged with letters and sounds and they are mastering pre-reading skills earlier in the year. All Kindergarten and support staff has been trained in this program and many will attend a follow-up training in August as part of Lewistown Public Schools' Summer Institute.

Dibels testing, conducted three times each year by the Title 1 staff, has been invaluable in providing for student needs in reading. This program has significantly impacted our ability to provide targeted and effective instruction to specific students.

Kindergarten pre-screening was accomplished in March with 105 children attending. Results of this screening have allowed us to identify and begin planning for students who may be at risk before they enter Kindergarten. Mrs. Rachel Stansberry, Speech Pathologist, has met with the parents of four students this spring, giving several brief instructional sessions for at-home work that could be accomplished between parent and child during the summer. This opportunity for parents to help prepare their child for new learning will increase the likelihood of Kindergarten successes.

Our educational programs have been enhanced through the use of technology. This year, our first graders utilized the lab every week as they navigated through *Jump Start First Grade*, *Carnival Countdown*, and *KidPix*. Second graders continue to use the laptop lab once each week for both Reading and Math with the A+LS program. Once again, these students showed great gains in both academic areas as measured by A+LS pre- and post-testing. The technology levy has allowed us to replace outdated equipment, purchase wireless access points for the building, and purchase a projector for the K-1st wing.

Highland Park's Parent-Teacher Support Group continues to provide needed supplies as well as volunteer support. PTSG has organized two great fund-raising programs that have provided Weekly Readers, overhead projectors, an SRA Reading Laboratory, classroom materials, rugs for listening areas in some classrooms, new digital cameras, and art supplies. A wonderful PTSG Reading Fair provided the culminating event for our "I Love to Read" month celebration. This, once again, was planned and taught by parents. Parent volunteers help with vision and speech screening, pictures, Kindergarten pre-screening, the annual Book Fair, and as chaperones for various field trips. They also make each staff member feel valued during Staff Appreciation Week each spring. This year, we were treated to a shoulder massage right at school!

PTSG sponsored two assemblies: Sneed Collard, Montana author, and a Frisbee workshop that stressed life-long exercise as well as sharing and cooperative play.

Rather than selecting officers, an at-large committee guided this year's activities. Members included Julie Comes, Kristine Southworth, Julie Weeden, Heidi Peters, Beverly Myers, Mary Helm, Devney Welsh, Sue Irvin, Debbie Parsons, and Donna Hayes. Again this year, teachers volunteered to attend monthly meetings and provide a brief report of Highland Park's activities to the group.

A letter to the *News Argus* Editor, written by a Highland Park staff member, sums up our appreciation for our PTSG: we are grateful for the material things that our PTSG purchases, but we are richer for the gift of time and support provided by Highland Park's parents.

Volunteer parents and community members, some associated with PTSG, are so important to Highland Park's overall educational excellence. The *America Reads* program continues to provide one-to-one tutoring for first grade students who need an extra boost in reading. Five community members were *America Reads* tutors this year. In addition, thirty-two classroom volunteers were honored for their help in our classrooms at our spring awards ceremony.

Lewistown Board of Trustees annual Board Roundtable, during which our successes and concerns are shared, is appreciated. We even had many "Survivors" this year!

Highland Park's Montana Behavioral Initiative is alive and well. Meeting monthly, a team of teachers discuss building-wide management concerns. Together with the Staff Assistance Team, these teachers address individual student issues and also provide support for each other. A school improvement goal for the next school year will be to develop a counselor referral, similar to an office referral (VOICE Box), for a short-term behavior issue. The continuing goal will be to reduce the number of referrals that are needed in either setting. This year, a positive reward was implemented for the playground. Three stuffed animals visited the classrooms of students who followed playground safety rules successfully for the week. Highland Park continues to reinforce a pro-social skill each quarter and a monthly manner in all classrooms.

For the first time this year, our playgrounds were plowed following major snow storms. This was a tremendous improvement both for safety purposes and for our children at play. We are truly grateful for Mr. Brown's efforts in this regard.

Administrative interns Michelle Trafton and Mary Kynett were visitors at Highland Park as they worked on completing their administrative course requirements. Sam Helmer also completed an observation practicum towards an elementary education degree.

School Improvement efforts play an important role in guiding Highland Park's vision and mission. This spring, we revised our school goals to reflect our accomplishments and future needs. Lewistown Public Schools' Summer Institute has allowed our staff to select training opportunities that are pertinent to our program; we have appreciated the chance to learn new strategies as well as receive follow-up training for current programs. The PIROT (Pupil Instruction Related Options Transcript) opportunity, allowing teachers to "trade" workshops for the October professional development days, has been very beneficial in achieving training that will enhance our school and district educational programs.

February's "I Love to Read" theme this year was "Ready, Set, Read with Jan Brett." This year, we had a visit from a live hedgehog; this animal was a character in one of Ms. Brett's stories. Once again, we welcomed a host of community guest readers who provided a

wonderful testimony about the importance of reading in their lives while sharing a favorite story with our classes. We were pleased to have the Superintendent of Schools and many School Board trustees join us in this regard.

Highland Park's *Make a Difference Day* project this year focused on assisting hurricane victims by collecting pennies. Our students walked several laps at the Fergus High track and donated their pennies, about \$475.00, to the National Elementary School Principals' Katrina Relief fund.

Spring *Parent-Teacher Conferences*, new this year, provided an opportunity for teachers and parents to discuss student progress and needs and to make recommendations for next year. This time was well-spent and appreciated.

Parent involvement efforts were a focus of Highland Park. Parents were invited to Kindergarten classrooms to watch their children's Christmas finger plays and poetry; first grade parents attended a morning "Leprechaun Breakfast" with their children and their leprechaun traps; and second grade parents joined us for Pumpkin Math, Gingerbread Kid plays, and a Second Grade Send-off Breakfast. In addition, parents of Title 1 students came to a breakfast meeting. Parents are welcomed as partners in the educational program at Highland Park.

At our spring Awards Ceremony, five students were recognized for *Perfect Attendance* and another twenty-five students had *Outstanding Attendance*. In addition, more than two hundred attendance certificates were awarded on a quarterly basis in classrooms as part of our School Improvement Goal. Fifteen students, including Jessica Erlandson, Jacob Maier, Bryant Rau, Austin Brand, Jace Davis, Parker Errecart, Holly Hayes, Brooke Gardner, Jaree Mane, Tucker Maxwell, Kodi Myhre, Caleb Warren, Nora Weichel, Curtis Sibbett, Jaida Gordon, Kelton Soennichsen, Kenzie Andersen, Kelsy Begin, Dani Birdwell, Thomas Helm, and Chance McAllister were honored with the *Principal's Award* for excellence in citizenship. Tia Wichman, second grader from Mrs. Smith's classroom, was a Montana state winner in a *Zaner-Bloser Handwriting Contest* and was awarded a certificate and engraved pen. McKenzie Manley was a second-place winner in the state *Keep Montana Green* contest, and Whitney Bristol also won third place in the state *VFW Poppy* coloring contest. Six first graders were honored with a poem being included in this year's *Montana Poetry Anthology*.

A *Service Learning community garden* continues at Highland Park. This year, we planted 300 red tulip bulbs that were provided through the district's Red Ribbon Week activities in the fall; spring planting involved vegetables and flowers that will be examined when school resumes in August. Scott Melvin, custodian, is instrumental in providing these experiences for all of Highland Park's students.

Summer School at Highland Park provides support for students who need extra time to maintain or increase Reading or Mathematics skills. We have provided summer school for first

and second graders and began a limited program for Kindergarten students last summer. These students attended school for one hour each day for four days just before school resumed. A staff of four teachers and a paraprofessional teaches a five week, four days per week program. We appreciate district support of this essential program.

Highland Park's tenured teachers again had the opportunity to be involved in a *peer coaching* program as part of their annual evaluations. This program allowed teachers to select their own area of professional growth as they invited a peer coach to collect data on this specific focus. Each year, the program improves as teachers become more skilled at targeting instructional concerns, identifying successful strategies, and sharing their knowledge with each other. The program taps into one of our school's most valuable resources: its teachers.

Our biggest concern is a *lack of space* to provide needed services to children. The district's preschool special education program, located at Head Start, would be best placed with our youngest students. We will be absorbing the preschool special education five-year-old program because of space issues for the preschool program at Head Start; this has impacted our staff and our facilities. In addition, the Kindergarten class that is currently at Garfield has been missed in our Kindergarten program. We will need to prepare for full-day, every day Kindergarten, which appears to soon be funded by the legislature. This effective program can be an asset for early learning successes. District personnel have met this year and will continue to seek solutions for space problems in the future.

The *staff at Highland Park* continues use opportunities to grow professionally as they seek out methods in which to differentiate instruction based upon student needs. This past year and summer, workshops and number of teachers attended included:

Curricular Adaptation (1); Positive Behavioral Supports by Dan Hobbs (1); CEC Conference (2); , ITIP (1); Crisis Prevention Training (3); Project Archaeology (1); Differentiating Instruction (4); Mainstreaming (1); Susan Barton's Dyslexia Training (6); Discipline and the Difficult Child (3); HIV/Aids Training (1); MAPHER Convention (1); Reading Conference (1); Montana Behavioral Initiative (1); K-2 Math Academy (4); Intel's Teach to the Future (3); First Grade Reading Academy (4); Literacy in Early Childhood (1); Montana Writing Project (1).

This spring marks the twenty-eighth year of service to education by *Jeanne Godfrey, Highland Park's secretary*, who is retiring this year. Mrs. Godfrey's caring manner and efficiency will truly be missed at our school.

Highland Park Elementary has had a **great** year!

Garfield Elementary School

John Moffatt, Principal

To: Supt. Brown; Board of Trustees
From: John Moffatt
Re: Annual Report—Garfield School

What a great group of kids we had the privilege to work with this year at Garfield! Though every year has its highs and lows, I can honestly say the highs certainly outweighed the lows during the '05-'06 school term. As mentioned, much of that credit goes to a student body that made serious discipline concerns a true rarity and to a staff which worked hard to make strides toward our school-wide goals.

Perhaps the most noticeable change in the makeup of the student body was the addition of a wonderful group of kindergartners under the guidance of Lynn Butcher. After several years of strictly a 3rd-4th structure, it was so refreshing to have kindergarten back at Garfield. Not only did these students excel academically (one look at the DIBELS results will validate that claim), but they were accepted eagerly by the older students. Incidents of bullying of kindergartners by older students were virtually non-existent. In fact, one of the really neat scenes that played out every day the kindergartners were here happened in the lunchroom as they would excitedly motion to the 3rd graders to come and sit with them when the older students started through the line.

Class sizes were very manageable this year, and looking to the future, that should be the case as well. Four sections of 3rd and 4th grade classes should keep us some where in the range of 20-23 students per class. I'm sure teachers are happy with those numbers. The 4th grade teachers, especially, have often in the past had the double whammy of large class sizes and the responsibility for much of the standardized testing. This year saw the MONT-CAS being administered at all levels 3-8. I believe this is a big step forward in being able to more accurately measure individual progress from year to year, and it helps the 4th grade teachers feel that all of the pressure is not on them.

I was very pleased this year to see the continuation of three of the most important pieces of our Garfield staff development. I believe we are addressing what are truly some of the most important components of good instruction. First, 5 members of our staff attended the Summer '05 math workshop at Canyon Ferry. Then, they came back and presented the information to our staff and to a K-6 teachers' meeting. Then, and this is most important, they began to implement the methods they had learned in their classrooms. This is significant because these are all veteran teachers. It was great to see them excited and working hard to improve math instruction. This has been a real point of emphasis for the past two years. Next, we continued our work with writing. Again, I was impressed by the input provided by our own staff members. Some of those who are normally quiet at staff meetings contributed excellent suggestions for integrating writing throughout the curriculum. Next year, as a learning team, we are going to work with Marilyn Burns' Writing in Math, a step that will combine our math and writing efforts. Finally, we have begun to explore several of the Essential 9 strategies outlined by Robert Marzano. Much of our effort this year dealt with "Identifying Similarities and Differences" a strategy geared at developing higher level thinking. We will continue our study of Marzano's work during the '06-'07 school year. I believe these three areas all truly make a difference in effective teaching and I applaud our staff for being willing to explore new ways of doing things. Though

we won't have the CRT results until the fall, last year's test scores on both the IOWA and CRTs were excellent, and this year's IOWA results once again look good.

This was certainly a banner year for our always amazing PTSG group. The Sally Foster sale and the Carnival continued to be hugely successful fundraisers for all of the elementary schools. Garfield's Barb Thomas provided true leadership for the entire District in organizing the Carnival. This year's event featured a mix of inside and outside activities which contributed to a much more relaxed atmosphere and less crowded conditions. Notable contributions from the PTSG this year included a climbing wall for the playground, sound system and video projector for the gym, laptop and projector for teachers to use in all classes, nearly \$2000 for new library materials, assemblies and field trips, and \$200 for each teacher to use in the classroom. There is no question we would be hard pressed to provide any of these items on our building budgets. This summer the PTSG is paying for the installation of a sprinkler system on the lower playground. This will make a beautiful place for kids to play once it is seeded.

We have been fortunate for many years to have a very low turnover on both our certified and classified staff. Next year we will miss Mrs. Garcia who has done so much for our music program over the years. We are excited to welcome Miss Anderson to our staff as Mrs. Garcia's successor.

Service projects are a part of our mission to "Reach out to others." We ask students to donate their own time to these efforts, and they have always responded magnificently. This year was no exception. Many of our kids participated in our Saturday "Make a Difference Day" work. In addition to providing the Community Cupboard with a much needed infusion of food items, we also retrieved the rear axle of an old oxen wagon which had probably been lodged in Spring Creek for almost 100 years. We had an excellent turnout for "Trick or Treat for UNICEF" which raises money for children in some of the world's poorest countries. Combining our math work with charity, we jumped into the St. Jude's Mathathon and had excellent participation. Over 30 4th graders gave up their after school time each week during the 4th quarter to take part in the Julia Hurley Volunteer Program at the Central Montana Nursing Home. This marked the 17th consecutive year that Garfield kids have provided a bright spot for the residents.

Our Boxtops for Education program continues to thrive. Each year now, we are making about \$1500, and one of the true benefits is in terms of PR. We have lots of elderly people who religiously turn in their boxtops and Campbell Soup labels to help the school. We were also fortunate enough to receive a continuation of the Town Pump grant which has enabled us to provide high quality after school programs for our students. This year we were limited somewhat by the reduction of early release days, but the ones we had were extremely well attended.

Good attendance also marked several of our academic events. Parents were great in supporting the GeoBee, Family Reading Night, the Science Fair, the music programs, and the awards assembly. The same can be said for some of the "fun" events such as the annual talent show and the picnic.

The Accelerated Reader program continues to grow. This year's results were really pretty amazing, and the school total was outstanding.

During the summer of 2005 Garfield offered its first math summer school session. We had good participation, and both parents and students seemed very pleased with the results. Mrs. Payne and Mrs. Frisbie will again serve as instructors this summer. Students in special education will also have the option of attending summer school as has been the case for several years.

We are growing each year in our use of technology. The lab has been tremendously improved over the past two years. It is great to be able to bring entire classes in and have a machine for each child. Pat Weichel has done a great job throughout the district in terms of building our capacity, and Lynn Wise has been invaluable in the support she provides for teachers. We are doing quality projects now that were out of reach just a short time ago.

The end of the year brought the news that one of our former Garfield students, Kristin Mantoath, was named runner-up in the Miss Montana contest. It would have been awesome to have had her come speak to the kids if she had won the event.

As the year closes, my thoughts are with Bernice Garlick, our long-time playground and bus assistant. Bernice has shown tremendous dedication to these not always glamorous responsibilities for many years, and we are praying that she may be returned to good health. I must really commend our entire staff for their dedication as well. Their efforts can be exemplified with this rather amazing statistic. Though I very much appreciate that the District has implemented a morning substitute "hot-line" program, this year I did not have a single teacher in our building use it. I think that says something about a mature staff—many of whom have lots of sick leave accumulated.

Lewistown Junior High School

Pat Hould, Principal

**Welcome to Lewistown Junior High School Pride....
.....where Excellence and Enthusiasm Collide!**

Proudly Introducing:

The 2005 – 2006 School Year in Review

This school year will without a doubt go down on record as one of the most challenging in the annals of LJHS lore. From the unbelievable number of serious staff illness related absences to the death of our dearly departed friend and colleague Darrell Sauer, this school year was a true test of the character of each member of our learning community. Through the stress and strain of the challenges played out during this year, grew an impressive resolve. Staff refused to let this school year slip away without coming together to lift each other up during perhaps our greatest time of need. The students, those enthusiastic, super-energized, “Dr. Jeckyl/Mr. Hyde”, lovable one minute and on edge the next, students, helped staff focus on what is really important about our school: caring for the social, emotional and educational welfare of our most precious commodity – our young people. While this year was a challenge before the first bell even sounded, it concluded with a sense of hope that tomorrow dawns a new day and with each new day comes the promise of a New Year. Rest assured that the staff and students of the Lewistown Junior High School will enter the 2006-2007 school year with our heads held high and with a sense of pride, knowing that we are extremely honored to work and play at this remarkable school. We are truly grateful for the opportunity.

This report begins with accolades and praise for the *fabulous faculty* of our fantastic school. The LJHS staff represents a truly unique blend of enthusiastic, caring, extremely talented, and highly motivated people. This is certainly a group that consistently brings innovative and creative ideas to bear. These marvelous folks, on a daily basis, create an environment rich with academic excellence, service to the community, a sense of pride, and respect for self and others. The staff of the Lewistown Junior High School for the 2005 – 2006 school year was comprised of the following people:

Sue Adcock
Bob Brown
Terri Daniels
Suzy Flentie
Val Frisbie
Jim Hamling

Mary Kepler
Clint Loomis
Greg Luctoch
Teresa Majerus
Bev Mayernik
Kim Miller

Barb Sauby
Darrell Sauer *
Val Snapp
Lorena Spoja
Katherine Spraggins
Lauri Tognetti

Derree Kamp
Mary Kynett

Denise Nelson
Steve Paulson
Chris Rice

Michelle Trafton
Bob Waite
JoAnne Ward

* Deceased: October 2005

STAR Classroom Staff: Joy Baumann, Trissy Durbin, and Judy Kellogg

Though it is not possible to list each member of the student body, it simply must be said that LJHS is richly blessed with *many awesome young people*. These fun-spirited students make coming to work every day a pleasure and a true adventure in every sense of the word!

I simply must begin this year-end report by sharing highlights from two splendid programs held on the last glorious day of school. The annual **Awards Assembly** began the day as many student achievements, too numerous to mention in this space, were recognized. For nearly ninety minutes our young people were paraded across the LJHS stage to the cheers and accolades of their peers and a nice set of parents who had gathered. Of particular note was the yearly recognition of two of our best and brightest 8th graders with the Daughters of the American Revolution Award. This prestigious award is voted on by our staff and proudly given to one boy and one girl who most closely demonstrate the code under which the D.A.R. was originally created. I am proud to share that this year's distinction was bestowed upon Emily Daniels and Caleb Bentley. Our school year closed once again with the **LJHS Talent Show**, which enjoyed its eighth rendition, much to the delight of a wound up congregation. With seventeen incredible student acts proudly on display, the school year concluded in a very positive fashion. This event, which has now become a welcome and much-anticipated LJHS tradition, was sponsored and hosted by staff members Michelle Trafton and Terri Daniels. It was truly an amazing spectacle of junior high student talent! In addition to the talent portion of the program, the **LJHS Electronic Yearbook class** also displayed their **student created slideshow**, which was, as you might imagine, exceptionally well received by the pulsating throng of energized students!

After a run of six glorious years, the **Service-Learning Grants** at LJHS have finally come to an end. For more than half of a decade, these grant monies have held an incredibly positive presence in our school. It is very important to note that

Lorena Spoja, our Service-Learning Coordinator, has done an exceptional job in fulfilling the expectations of these grants and our students, staff and our entire school community have greatly benefited from her dedication, hard work and unbridled energy.

Though the **Digital Divide Grant** evaporated in the spring of 2003, our After School Service Learning Computer Club, sponsored by Michelle Trafton and Suzy Flentie, continued to be a significant extra-curricular offering for our 7th and 8th grade students. Our young people continued to learn a great deal about video technology and other pertinent computer related skills. Student activities included working as technology tutors through the community education program and working in conjunction with the Central Montana Chamber of Commerce to create a CD of the historical places of Lewistown. The CD project is actually nearing its end after a 4-year crusade! Students under the tutelage of Suzy Flentie also engaged in a fascinating **GIS Project**, which enabled them to utilize cutting edge technology while exploring the surroundings in which we are so very fortunate to live.

Three members of the LJHS staff presented Service Learning project information at the National Service Learning Conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania during the month of March. This outreach was part of the goals and direction implied within the **Learn and Serve Demonstration Site Grant**. Thus concludes our sixth consecutive year of participation in this “reaching out to others” program. Staff members participating and/or presenting at this outstanding conference included JoAnne Ward, Suzy Flentie, Lorena Spoja, Mary Kynett and Kim Miller.

The **Northwest Rural Project Grant** also concluded its 6th year of operation at LJHS. The monies made available through this grant have enabled our school to sustain the Service-Learning coordinator position these past half-dozen years. Staff and students continued to marvel at Lorena’s energy, enthusiasm and willingness to work diligently to provide the support necessary to sustain many of our Service-Learning projects. Her positive presence will be missed. Among the ventures supported by the NRPG was the **We the People project**, which this year was hosted by Mary Kynett and Greg Lucotch. This endeavor provided 8th grade students a golden opportunity to view firsthand the inner workings of our court system.

Several area attorneys were instrumental in making this project a hugely popular and highly successful reality.

The **Homeland Security Grant** closed out its last of a two-year cycle at LJHS. One of the most intriguing uses of this money involved a small handful of our best and brightest young people traveling to Denver Colorado in March to participate in *PeaceJam 2006*. This extraordinary program was an international affair built around Nobel Peace Prize Laureates, who work personally with youth to pass on the spirit, skills, and wisdom they embody. The goal of *PeaceJam* was to inspire a new generation of peacemakers who will transform their communities, themselves and the world. LJHS student attendees included Hannah Phillips and Courtney Colver, while LJHS staff member Derree Kamp acted as tour guide. In its second year of existence our *Peer Mediation* program continued to serve the students of LJHS. Under the guidance of Derree Kamp, students were trained in the art of conflict resolution. We had the good fortune of having Kitty Lusse in the house to train our students on the Peer Mediation strategies. This talented group of 7th and 8th grade students was equipped with peace keeping skills aimed at stopping small problems in their tracks, before they become larger tribulations. Additional training opportunities that were made possible through this grant included two days of **bully prevention training** with our entire student body and a one-day **crisis prevention training** with students and staff.

Service-Learning projects and activities have continued to be an incredibly positive mainstay of the junior high school learning environment and have established our school as a model for others to emulate. Service is truly an integral part of the extraordinary LJHS culture! The following activities are mere samples of the many projects in which our school was so very fortunate to participate during this school year.

The **Veteran's Day Assembly** enjoyed its 6th year of providing much deserved recognition to area Veteran's. Supported by the local chapter of the Veteran's of Foreign Wars (VFW) and the American Legion, this program is truly an emotional experience as members of the audience are moved by the powerful stories of these brave men and women. The LJHS Student Council and Builders Club once again hosted this assembly under the guidance of JoAnne Ward, Terri Daniels and Mary Kynett. This meaningful event helps remind us one and all of the significance of those courageous men and women who fought so bravely to preserve the many freedoms we enjoy today.

Other notable Service-Learning projects in which our students engaged throughout this year included, but were not limited to: **Hey Diddle, Diddle the Flannel's in the Middle, Project Hugs, Filming 2nd Grade Student Readers, Jazz Band Tour of Elementary Schools and Senior Citizens Centers, Individual Service-Learning Opportunities, S.P.I.R.I.T. of Christmas Exploratory, Leave Drugs Alone and Sew for the Cure.**

With financial support from the Northwest Rural Project Grant our 6th annual **Summer School** once again took shape during the month of June. Hosted for the third consecutive year by veteran LJHS staff members Val Snapp and JoAnne Ward, seven students were enlisted to participate. Once again this year's endeavor utilized the essential learnings of each curriculum area to guide classroom instruction. Staff members prioritized the key components of their curriculum so that the summer school teachers could direct students through the most important curriculum elements. Other significant components included use of Accelerated Reader, the practice of utilizing a Student Assignment Book (SAB) and the teaching and practicing of good study skills. It is also worthy to note that Service-Learning continued to play a key role in our Summer School program, with Brandon O'Halloran serving as the Summer Service-Learning Coordinator.

The **LJHS Acting** class, under the direction of Derree Kamp, performed two extraordinary plays this year. The second semester crew shared their musical rendition of *Rock Around the Block*, while the 1st semester class was extremely humorous in their performance of the Shakespearean farce, *Romeo and Julie*. Several audience members commented that without a doubt these were some of the best theatrical productions they could ever remember attending at LJHS! It is also important to note that *Rock* was the first musical type production offered within the hallowed confines of LJHS in many years.

This report would not be complete without acknowledging our group of **marvelous guest (substitute) teachers**. Suffice it to say that our school could not function without their diligence, hard work, positive attitude and willingness to serve. It is important to the junior high school community that our guest teachers are treated with courtesy and respect, for it is obvious that their job is challenging and essential at the same time. We are very fortunate indeed to be served by such dedicated, wonderful and faithful guest teachers.

The **Parent Teacher Support Group (PTSG)** of LJHS proved once again just how wonderful they are in supporting our school, our staff and our students.

Specific aid came in the form of treats for our staff several times during the year, treats for our 7th and 8th graders during this years spring testing, organizing the annual 8th grade dance, sponsorship of an 8th grade field trip to Billings to attend a stage production at the Alberta Bair Theatre and financial support of the 7th grade wheat exploratory and our After School Learning Center (ASLC). Among other things, additional funding was allocated for purchase of our student assignment books for the 2006 – 2007 school year. Let's face it, our PTSG is absolutely *awesome!*

After a five year hiatus, the **Geography Bee** is alive and well once again at LJHS. Beginning with some encouragement from several parents and their bright and wonderful students, the support of social studies teachers Mary Kynett and Greg Lucotch, and the financial support to cover the registration fee from our Parent Teacher Support Group (PTSG), the Geo Bee has indeed returned to my favorite school. Students in the seventh and 8th grades were encouraged to sign-up to take a preliminary 50-question geography test in early December with the ten students who scored the best on that exam advancing to our school Geography Bee final, which was held in the LJHS Auditorium on Thursday, January 5. Those ten finalists included Brent Walker, Logan Smith, Ronnie Heath, Austin Butcher, Caleb Bentley, Garrett Hallett, Jesse Skipper, Robbie Jackson, Maggie Matchett, and Clare Stansberry, who was the grand prize winner! The alternates for this year's bee included Robert Hennessy, Clayton Berberet, and Taylor Machler.

The LJHS **MATHCOUNTS Team** was at it once again! Yes indeed the 2006 version of our extra-curricular math team brought home a third place trophy from the regional competition in Billings. Veteran coach Jim Hamling has created a storied tradition with our junior high MATHCOUNTS team and he too is to be commended for his exemplary efforts. Of note during this years competition was the fact that our awesome school placed 3rd out of thirteen teams, and that team members Caleb Bentley, Amber Yaeger, Maggie Matchett, and Zach Damby earned the honor of advancing to the state competition in March on the campus of Montana State University at Bozeman. Individually the members really excelled, with Bentley placing 1st overall, Yaeger placing 5th, and Matchett seventh! Members of the alternate team included Austin Butcher, Justin Hartman, Jesse Skipper and Logan Smith. These fine young people are truly to be applauded for their extraordinary efforts to improve their academic world in the arena of math! Also of note was the fact that Caleb Bentley placed at the state meet as well, earning a spot on the Montana team that competed in the National MATHCOUNTS competition in May.

Our seventh grade students participated in a very interesting and worthwhile **wheat exploratory** on Monday, April 10. Considering the geographic location of our community, and the fact that farming is vitally important to the lives and livelihood of many folks in Central Montana, this was a very appropriate theme for our students. The 7th graders rotated through a four class period day exploring wheat equipment and production, wheat weaving, how to make a loaf of wheat bread and finally each of the students engaged in a wheat Web Quest, as they searched for the origins and uses of this essential grain. At the conclusion of the school year, several staff

members commented about how this learning activity was one of their favorites from the 2005 – 2006 school year!

It was another extraordinary 9-months at the Lewistown Junior High School and it cannot be overstated that this was an amazing year because of the exceptional people that serve this spectacular school community. From the students, to the staff, to the parents, to the district personnel and school board, our entire “team” continues to be a dedicated, supportive, caring, nurturing, and enthusiastic crew. And so let this report serve as a reminder to those in the “viewing audience” that a wonderful learning environment exists at LJHS. BRAVO to everyone who helps make our school such a special place!

This report faithfully submitted this day, by Pat Hould, the proud principal of LJHS! ☺

Fergus High School

Scott A. Dubbs, Principal

FHS ANNUAL REPORT

2005-2006

The annual report for the high school this year seemed somewhat difficult to get finished, as did the 2005-2006 school year. However, having said that does not put a damper on the excellent year we had and the outstanding results that came from the halls of Fergus High this year. As is usually the case, we enjoyed many exciting times and our kids enjoyed many positive outcomes in many different areas of our school community. As a school, we strive to meet the needs of our students as we continually aim for outstanding individual and group achievements. Therefore, we are very proud to have met or exceeded many expectations and long-term goals for our students, our school and our community. This report is a brief synopsis of the many highlights, goals or happenings of this past year along with a few facts that were compiled during the course of the year.

HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE 2005-2006 SCHOOL YEAR:

- ☞ **STUDENT LEADERSHIP** – We tend to always mention that the leadership from our student body leaders is outstanding and this year might be one notch better than usual. They did an outstanding job of bringing our students and staff together. This group of seniors exceeded the challenge of previous years as they came together under student council advisor Mr. Beau Wright. As usual many new ideas for change came from our Advanced Junior English class and many more came from discussion between student council members and the student body. Student Body President Michael Fox and Vice-President Jaime Berg could be counted on for just about everything and individually were excellent role-models and leaders.
- ☞ **GRADUATION 2006** - As usual here at Fergus, our 106th graduating class celebrated with an outstanding Commencement Ceremony. Our music performances were awesome, our student speeches were outstanding and our Commencement Address by Mr. Rick Wright was truly memorable. This was again the first-class community celebration it is expected to be. The traditions of our ceremony include the “showcasing” of graduates by the faculty members and the wearing of gowns by the graduates, teachers, administration and school board. Salutatorian for the Class of 2006 was Paige Tresidder and the Valedictorian was Kelley Thornsberry.
- ☞ **EADIE SCHULTZ & DON PFAU HONORED** – This spring was special for Fergus High School as two individual awards became known to the school as our year finished. Eadie Schultz was named to the National High School Coaches Association Hall of Fame and Don Pfau was named as a Community Partner Award Winner for the Montana Association of Secondary School Principals. Both individuals are “famous” locally and have very big histories outside of Lewistown and Central Montana. The recognitions created a very special opportunity for us to share our feeling of pride and honor for them. Mrs. Schultz has reached a pinnacle of recognition that very few Montana coaches have ever dreamed of; and, Mr. Pfau’s leadership within the community and support of the school and our facilities truly is laudable. We are very fortunate to be able to call both of these special people true friends of Fergus High School and School District No. 1.

- ☰ SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PROCESS – The school improvement continues to become imbedded in most aspects of Fergus High. The most obvious improvements are the inclusion of much more student input into the process and changes in schedules and how they use the building. Everything from curricular input to tables, desks, murals and benches are the direct result of student and staff input in how we do improve. The process includes student projects in our Advanced English 11 class, student council improvement committees and volunteer work for our committees. Our vision, mission and belief statements that came from this process will be reviewed and modified by our process this upcoming year with our current version available on the back page of this report.
- ☰ FHS HISTORY IN THE MAKING – We are in our second century at Fergus High School. Originally called Fergus County Free High School and later, Fergus County High School, our school formally opened its doors in 1899. The graduating Class of 2006 was the 106th class to graduate and call Fergus (County) High School home. While no one can adequately address the 100-year history of this school in a paragraph, I would be remiss not to mention that this community has every right to be extremely proud of the job our school has played in educating the youth of Central Montana over the years. Additionally, I can say with great self-satisfaction that the school is also very proud of the special people our alumni become. From donations and scholarship funds, to their extraordinary support, our 10,000 graduates have established themselves as outstanding citizens for our city, our state and our nation. Lewistown and Fergus High School should be extremely proud of its last 105 years of our history.
- ☰ FERGUS HIGH ACCREDITATION – In November we were notified that the high school would again receive accepted accreditation through the Northwest Association of Accredited Schools (NAAS) but would not be exemplary without another school visitation. Northwest Association changed its name from the Northwest Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities over the year to Northwest Association of Accredited Schools. As a leader in the state, Fergus High School has worked to maintain high standards, with the NAAS recognition indicating a high quality of program. Fergus High School (Fergus County High School) has been accredited by the Northwest Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities since 1920.
- ☰ NEW STAFF - We have been very fortunate, over the years, to have a very stable staff. Last school year was no exception to that rule as we added only one new teacher and two new classified staff members to the Fergus High staff. The new teacher for this school year was Brandon O’Halloran who replaced Gerald Wondrak in our Choral position. Classified staff members hired this year were Lorna Kolar as a resource aide replacing Jean Rogan who moved over to our job coach position and Courtney Trafton who replaced Kim Rapkoch as our attendance secretary.
- ☰ CLUBS & ACTIVITIES – Two-years ago our VICA/Skills USA was a new club addition to the high school but Loren Drivdahl and his students have continued to make big strides and move full ahead. As a result the club responded with a strong showing at state and Loren qualified Alison Spika to National’s this spring. Music highlights included outstanding choral performances under Mr. O’Halloran to match the always exceptional instrumental concerts under Mr. Garcia.

Other highlights in this area included Janet Mann and the Speech and Drama team having another excellent year with eighteen members qualifying for state and five qualifying in

the semifinals. Daryl Koncilya placed second overall in Serious Oral Interpretation and Alisa Begin placed third in Pantomime (her second state placing) at the State Meet held in Columbia Falls. Karen Durbin and her FCCLA had another very successful pie fundraiser at Thanksgiving time and in BPA, Linda Rinaldi and Diane Lewis had the following five members qualify for Nationals: Darci Southworth, Katie Spika, Daryl Koncilya, Galen Quinsey and Scott Moodie.

- ☞ **FERGUS HIGH SCIENCE TEAMS** – Fergus High science teacher Frank Hallett and FHS science students kept up their outstanding work in science competitions during the 2005-06 school year. In the Science Olympiad competition our students placed second overall, winning an opportunity to represent Montana at the Nationals in May. Members of our national team included Claire Sheldon, Bradee Smith, Tyler Quinlan, Ryan Foy, Karrie Bostrom, David Chen, Lars Phillips, Morgan Hecht, Adam Grensten, Brett Gremaux and Wyatt Duncan. In addition, one of our Science Bowl teams won the Big Sky Regional Science Bowl competition again this spring. They too represented Montana at the Nationals in May with winning members being Kelley Thornsberry, David Chen, Ryan Kepler, Ryan Foy, and Karrie Bostrom. Since 1995 our Science Bowl team has qualified five times for the National Science Bowl, taking fifth in 1997.
- ☞ **MATH COMPETITIONS** – As in most years, our Math students competed very well in the regional Montana Council of Teachers of Math (MCTM) competition, placing first again. Typically our team either wins or takes second annually in this competition hosted by the Grass Range School District. Additionally, our students excelled in several individual competitions in the Math and Science areas. In Math, we also scored well on the American Mathematics Competition and Trig-Star (sponsored by the Society of Professional Surveyors) exams. Junior level math students receiving certificates of achievement for the American HS Mathematics Exam were Luis Garcia (1st), Toby Wahl (2nd) and Colton Baquet (3rd) and our senior level math students with certificates of achievement were Katie Jackson (1st), Tyler Quinlan (2nd) and Katie Spika (3rd).
- ☞ **MONTANA ACADEMIC CHALLENGE** – This year FHS participated in the Montana Academic Challenge for the first-time but was very successful. After winning the Northern Region earlier in the fall they participated in the state competition eventually reaching the semifinals before losing a match. The Montana Academic Challenge is hosted by the statewide CBS affiliates with each of our matches being aired on local TV. Gloria Wahl sponsored the team with members being Claire Sheldon, Tyler Quinlan, David Chen, Toby Wahl and Wyatt Duncan.
- ☞ **PRINCIPAL'S CUP COMPETITION** – This spring the MASSP Region II Principals hosted their second annual Principal's Cup Academic Competition. The competition, which was held this March at the University of Great Falls, included a morning session of testing and an afternoon Quiz Bowl session. FHS took two teams who represented our school very well. In the testing competition we received 2nd and 5th places overall out of 21 schools and 33 teams. Overall placers for FHS were Kelley Thornsberry (3rd), David Chen (4th) and Karrie Bostrom (8th). Of the ten participants from Fergus High, seven placed in their respective classes top-ten.
- ☞ **ACT Awards** – The Office of Public Instruction annually recognizes students with top ten percent scores on the ACT in the areas of English, Mathematics, Reading and/or Science

Reasoning. Students recognized this spring from FHS included Tyler Quinlan, Galen Quinsey, Claire Sheldon, Kelley Thornsberry, Dakota Wahl and Paul Zanto.

- ☞ STUDENT COUNCIL – This fall was highlighted by our annual group trek to Glasgow for the Montana Association of Student Councils Convention. This year we were able to take 17 students to the 51st MASC Convention. In April, they hosted a very successful District Student Council convention with students from around south and central Montana. All year long student body president Mike Fox and Vice President Jaime Berg were an excellent one-two punch and very good role-models for our younger students. Events such as the Homecoming Week, Winter Spirit Week and our Blue-Gold Leadership breakfast went very well but represented only a fraction of the work our Student Council was committed to. Things such as helping with school spirit, school improvement and participating in the School Board’s Student Roundtable were every bit as important and involved probably more time from our student leaders.
- ☞ “BLUE-GOLD” LEADERSHIP BREAKFAST - This spring’s nineteenth annual FHS Blue-Gold Leadership Breakfast continued its reputation as a showcase event. Mr. Gary Bishop, Adjunct Professor at Montana State University was our honored guest and speaker. Along with honoring the 23 award winners, his speech on the meaning of leadership to him was excellent. As I mentioned earlier, this event continues to be a major highlight for the school each spring. Student Council Advisor Mr. Beau Wright, Student Body President Michael Fox, Vice-President Jaime Berg, and the rest of the Student Council did an excellent job maintaining this tremendous tradition.
- ☞ TECHNOLOGY – As in the past our commitment to technology over the years is paying dividends as we now have a high level of technology available to students and staff. Our goal is still integration of that technology into the regular academics and we get closer to reaching that goal every year.
- ☞ THE OTHER SIDE OF THE COIN - As you know, seldom does *everything* end up rosy. The less than rosy part of this year related to our difficult personnel issues. As I have mentioned in the past, we are very lucky to have an outstanding staff and seldom are staff problems much of an issue but this year was an exception. As we look to staffing changes going into next school year it is obvious that it will be very difficult to replace several staff members as music, industrial technology and agriculture teachers are very difficult to find and it is imperative that we find ones of high quality. When you add additional position needs there is always reason for concern but I am of the opinion these openings also give the district many opportunities for improving on a good staff. In retrospect, as we look back on 2005-06 the school had some outstanding highs to go along with our few low points.

OTHER VALUABLE FERGUS HIGH STATS:

- ☞ STRONG EDUCATIONAL COMMITMENT - 19 of 36 certified staff (and even a few of our classified staff) members have attained advanced educational degrees (a Master’s Degree or higher). Other staff members are working toward attaining their Master’s Degrees in the near future. The average tenure of the FHS teaching staff was 21.2 years with 13.7 years commitment to the Lewistown Schools.

- ☞ ATTENDANCE & ENROLLMENT - Student attendance is excellent with figures showing an overall attendance rate of 94.2%. Our October 4 enrollment was 454 while the February 1 enrollment was 437. Last year those numbers were 455 and 447 respectively. The October 3, 2005 enrollment by class included: 127 freshmen, 114 sophomores, 105 juniors, and 108 seniors. Next years currently enrolled population is 434, with the classes expected to include: 120 freshmen, 110 sophomores, 103 juniors, and 101 seniors. If next year is normal, we could see additional 5-10 students enter come fall.
- ☞ AVERAGE 2005-06 GPA FOR FHS STUDENTS - The average GPA earned for a FHS student this past year was 2.980 for the first semester and 2.943 for the second. Last year those numbers were 3.049 first semester and 3.002 for the second. By class, the average GPA's were: 3.145 and 3.260 for the seniors, 3.050 and 3.007 for the juniors, 2.955 and 2.892 for the sophomores, along with 2.804 and 2.665 for the freshman.
- ☞ CUMULATIVE GPA FOR FHS STUDENTS - The average cumulative GPA at the end of the year for a ranked FHS student was 2.930, with the average last year being 3.049. By class, those average cumulative GPA's were: 3.046 for the seniors, 3.018 for the juniors, 2.963 for the sophomores, and 2.735 for the freshmen.
- ☞ ACTIVITY PARTICIPATION - Overall numbers of participants fluctuated some during the year, however, on a percentage basis the numbers did change somewhat for the better as 44% of the students participated in athletics, 43% participated in music, while 57% participated in clubs and other activities. Last years percentages where 42%, 43% and 50% respectively. Of recent concern is the decline in the overall rate of female athletics participation and especially the growing gap in participation of males and females. However this year was better in this aspect than previous years. Female athletes accounted for 44.7% of the athletic opportunities for participation this year (who also account for 48% of the population). Another big concern comes with the 22% of the students who do not participate in any school activities (24% last year) which are near historic highs in these areas.
- ☞ ACT SCORES - ACT scores this year again will probably appear to be somewhat around average for FHS. Final figures will come later this summer; however, the Class of 2005's averages were about average for FHS. The overall score was 22.2, compared to the state and national averages of 21.8 and 20.9. The five-year average scores are: FHS - 22.2; State - 21.7; National 20.9.
- ☞ CLASS SIZE – As expected class sizes this school year were down a little. During this year average class sizes were: English – 20.1; Math – 20.9; Science – 20.6; Social Studies – 19.4; Health Enhancement – 22.2; Foreign Language/Art/Drama – 19.2; Music – 55.5; Vocational – 12.0; and Title/Resource – 5.1. Some numbers are a bit deceiving as some classes have very small class limits along with several fluctuations due to population variations in each grade.
- ☞ TRANSFER AND DROPOUT INFORMATION - Fergus High School had 47 students transfer in or re-enroll during the school year (compared with 49 students in 2004-05). Of those 47 new students: 9 transferred out later while 5 dropped out-of-school, none were expelled and no transfer students enrolled in home school. We also had 33 existing FHS students transfer to another school, 1 student transferred to home school and no students were expelled during the year. In terms of dropout totals: we had 4 freshmen, 7 sophomores, 4 juniors,

and 4 seniors who chose to leave school without enrolling in another school (including the 5 listed above that transferred to Fergus during the school year).

PROFILE OF THE CLASS OF 2006:

The Class of 2006 and its original 113 members entered Fergus High in August 2002, with many high expectations and goals. By the time their tenure was completed, another 21 students had transferred in becoming graduating class members. At graduation the class was smaller with 100 members obtaining Fergus High diplomas.

Of the original 113 class members:

- 79 members graduated this spring with 81 members spending all four years at Fergus. No members of this class were original class members who spent part of their high school years at another school before transferring back to FHS.
- 34 members of the original 113 did not graduate locally. 8 members dropped out of school locally with 2 later receiving a GED. 18 of the members transferred from FHS with 5 known to have graduated elsewhere and 13 members transferred away losing contact with the high school. 1 original member transferred out only to return and transfer away again; later losing contact with the school. In addition, the Class of 2006 also had 4 members transfer to home schools and 2 original students who will be, or should be, fifth-year students next fall with no original members of the class being expelled.

Of the 43 class members who transferred in:

- 21 members graduated at Fergus High.
- 22 members of the 43 members who transferred in, did not graduate locally. 4 of the transfer members dropped out of school locally and 18 transfer members later transferred out (with 2 transferring back in and then out a second time). No students that transferred in later ended up transferring out to a home school and 6 of the students that transferred in and out were known to have graduated. The remaining 11 students transferring in and later transferring out lost contact with FHS. No transferring students in were expelled and the 1 remaining member that transferred in will be a fifth year student next year.

Other Class of 2006 Information:

- Sixty-one (61) members of the Class of 2006 graduated as honor roll students.
- Eighteen (18) members of the Class of 2006 finished our Honor's Curriculum, which requires students to successfully complete our college prep curriculum and four years of math, science, and English, along with 2 years of foreign language, and 2 advanced placement classes.
- Twenty-four (24) members of the Class of 2006 are National Honor Society members.
- The mean average grade point average for the Class of 2006 is 3.013 and the median average GPA is 3.099.

- In order to be considered a student in the “Top 30,” a member of the Class of 2006 needed to have earned an overall GPA of 3.524, while a “Top 10” student requires a 3.856 GPA.
- Of the one hundred (100) graduates in the Class of 2006, seventy-five (75) are planning on attending a post-secondary college or trade school.
- Fifty-five (55) seniors are currently planning on attending a four-year college or university next fall. Thirty-six (36) will attend in-state institutions; with eighteen (18) going to Montana State University in Bozeman. Nineteen (19) more seniors plan on attending four-year out-of-state colleges or universities.
- Of the twenty (20) seniors who will attend a two-year college or trade school, twelve (12) will be attending a school in-state while eight (8) will be attending one out-of-state.
- At graduation time, forty-nine (49) graduates of the Class of 2006 have received scholarships, accounting for almost 50% of our graduating class.
- At graduation, members of the Class of 2006 have received over \$237,000 in scholarships for their first year of college. In addition, these seniors had earned the opportunity to receive an additional \$470,000 for their sophomore, junior, and senior years in college. That brings the grand total for this class to almost \$707,000 in future scholarship moneys. When you then include military college funds our scholarship totals grow to over \$965,000.
- Over the past four years, our seniors (athletes and students) have been participants in activities programs that have earned twenty (20) state trophies, six (6) of which were state championships.

Class of 2006 - Summary Information

Numbers of FHS Graduates Planning On:

Attending a Post-Secondary School	75/100 – 75.0%
Attending Colleges or Universities (4 year)	55/100 – 55.0%
In-State	36/55 – 65.5%
Out-of-State	19/55 – 34.5%
Attending a Trade School or College (2 Year)	20/100 – 20.0%
In-State	12/20 – 80.0%
Out-of-State	8/20 – 20.0%
Serving in the Military	5/100 – 5.0%
Moving Directly into the Work Force	21/100 – 21.0%
Undecided or Unknown	1/100 – 1.0%



EXCELLENCE TODAY, SUCCESS TOMORROW



FERGUS HIGH MISSION

The mission of Fergus High School is to challenge and prepare students to become enthusiastic lifelong learners, problem solvers and contributing members of society. Our students will be empowered to make a living, make a life, and make a difference.

FERGUS HIGH VISION STATEMENT

The staff at Fergus High School, along with parents and community members, recognizes their critical role in providing educational opportunities for all students. They are dedicated to establishing and maintaining a safe environment which fosters a positive attitude and a commitment to excellence. As a result, all students at Fergus will be challenged to develop their social, personal, and academic talents to the fullest extent possible. Particular emphasis will be placed on those skills which are necessary in order to become a happy, productive and contributing citizen of the 21st century.

FERGUS HIGH SCHOOL BELIEF STATEMENTS

1. **SAFE SCHOOLS** – All students and staff will contribute to a safe, drug/alcohol free learning environment.
2. **CRITICAL AND CREATIVE THINKING** – All students will develop critical and creative thinking skills.
3. **POSITIVE SELF IMAGE** – All students will be valued and respected as individuals.
4. **SCHOOL TO CAREER** – All students will develop needed academic, technical and life skills for the transition from school to work.
5. **RESPONSIBILITY** – All students will take responsibility for their behavior and their learning.
6. **SOCIAL SKILLS** – All students will develop social skills and appropriate behavior that assist in becoming responsible citizens.
7. **STUDENT SUCCESS** – All students will learn, achieve and succeed throughout their lifetime.
8. **STAKEHOLDERS** – All members of the school community will be included in the decision-making process.

PARTICIPATION — All students will actively participate in academics and the global community can develop honesty, integrity, and respect for them

Fergus High School Activities

Jerry Feller, Assistant Principal & Activities Director

**Fergus High School
Activities
201 Casino Creek Drive
Lewistown, Montana 59457
(406) – 538 – 2321**

2005-2006

Year End Report

This past year of “Golden Eagle Activities” was again a very successful and exciting one with many exceptional individual and team performances and accomplishments. As we have mentioned before, we feel our activities are providing the educational experiences needed to develop strong individual citizens through this “other half of education.” Again, as in the past years, the many outstanding efforts within the activity program brought our student body together and generally enhanced the overall attitude and educational atmosphere of the school and community.

Special thanks go out to everybody involved, especially Jim Daniels and Wendy Pfau. From pre-season to post season, we had the support, the guidance, and the organization from our Athletic Director and his office secretary for our schedules, travel time, home events, and divisional and state trips on through our awards nights. Thank you for your time in supporting the students of Fergus High.

Some of the many HIGHLIGHTS for the 2005-2006 school year include:

The Academic All State Awards sponsored by the Montana Coaches Association (MCA) reinforce the importance of academics to our student athletes. To qualify for an award, an individual must earn a varsity letter in athletics and maintain a 3.5 grade point average during the respective quarter of participation. For the 2005 – 2006 school year we had a grand total of **00** individual Academic All State Awards. Listing the awards by each individual sport are as follows: Girls Basketball - 9; Football - 15; Cross Country - 13; Wrestling - 2; Volleyball - 10; Boys Basketball – 6; Cheerleading – 1; Track and Field - **00**; Tennis-**00**; and Golf – 0.

“The Thunder of Montana!” is the Fergus High School Screaming Eagle **Band**. No organization has ever achieved real success without the full cooperation of all its members. This is certainly true of the Fergus High School bands. The members are united and work in accord toward a definite goal—that being to have superior performing ensembles.

The FHS Symphonic Band consists of 103 talented students. The Symphonic Band performs a wide range of orchestral transcriptions and original band compositions representing various musical styles and periods. Emphasis, however, is placed on the standard band literature of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The FHS Symphonic Band has been recognized for its long legacy of outstanding musical accomplishments.

This year, under the baton of Richard O. Garcia, the Symphonic Band performed many well-known traditional band pieces. Thus, their sound has become very well known throughout the state of Montana. As the corner stone of the Fergus Band program, the Symphonic Band is

known for its outstanding musicianship, beautiful sonority, resonance of ensemble tone, and musical expression.

The Concert Band is organized at the beginning of the school year and works hard to overcome overwhelming odds such as instrumentation and scarcity of operational costs. The Concert Band is the training band for the Symphonic Band and enjoys much success in the more light-hearted band literature.

The Pep Band and Marching Band are made up of students from the Symphonic Band and the Concert Band. A high level of musical and marching execution is emphasized in this group. The Marching Band provided support for homecoming. The Pep Band is organized at the beginning of the fall semester to provide spirited music at basketball and football games. The Pep Band began performing for games during the second week of classes in the fall semester. Students must be mindful that the Pep Band and Marching Band are academic units that happen to perform at football and basketball games and parades. Hence, musicianship is priority number one.

Jazz Band I and Jazz Band II execute a very high level of music. Jazz Band received Superior ratings at both the District level and the State level.

Amy Fox was awarded the prestigious John Philip Sousa Award and Tyler Leary was awarded the Louis Armstrong Jazz Award.

The Fergus High School **Choral** Department, under the direction of Brandon O'Halloran, was filled with enjoyment and success. We have many rising stars and look forward to next year.

Concert Choir and Symphonic Choir did exceptionally well at the District 8 Music Festival, especially on the Sight Reading component. Choralaires received superior ratings at both district and state music festivals. They performed at several community functions. Senior Kari Shobe received the National School Choral Award and Freshman Calista Singley received the Director's Award for Chorus.

The Fergus **Speech, Drama, and Debate** team consisted of thirty students who competed at least once this year. These students were Natasha Anderson, Alisa Begin, Karrie Bostrom, Dawn Butler, David Chen, Stacy Clark, Will Damron, Jessica Davis, Wyatt Duncan, Luis Garcia, Julie Hahn, Katie Kohler, Daryl Koncilya, Kelsey Kramlich, Caitlin Malone, Sarah McReynolds, Chelsey Messer, Tony Monochie, Galen Quinsey, Dustin Schneider, Calista Singley, Kristen Stout, Stephen Taylor, Samantha Thomas, Kelsey Whisler, Jack Wicks, Patrick Woods, Patric Palkens, Candice Griffin, and Hailey Granger. Of these, nine earned participation certificates and nineteen earned a letter. The team attended six out of town meets, hosted a home meet, and twenty-four competed at the Divisional meet in Butte with the team earning 1st Place in drama. Eighteen competed at the State meet. Three students were semi-finalists (Kristen Stout, Luis Garcia, Sarah McReynolds) and two were finalists (Daryl Koncilya-2nd and Alisa Begin-3rd) at the State meet.

The Fergus High School **Cheerleaders**, featuring seven Varsity Cheerleaders, six Junior Varsity Cheerleaders, and three Freshman Cheerleaders had a very good season during the 2005-2006 school year. They cheered on the girl's volleyball and basketball teams and the boy's football, basketball, and wrestling teams. They showed great improvement and worked very hard throughout the long season.

At the annual awards night Coach Ronda Bradley presented the following awards:

Varsity – Outstanding Cheerleader	KaCee Bradley
Varsity – Most Valuable Cheerleader	Erica Snapp
Varsity – Most Improved Cheerleader	Sarah Barkhoff.

The 2005-2006 school year proved to be another successful year for **Fergus Student Council**. The FHS Student Council prides itself on acting as a bridge between the students and faculty. The Student Council facilitates the annual school board – student body roundtable in which students present the board with various concerns and ideas from a student perspective. The FHS Student Council spends considerable time brainstorming and articulating ideas with the student body in preparation for that roundtable. This year’s roundtable took place in February and again provided a night of common dialogue for all who participated.

Another essential element of Student Council is the conventions that we have with other student councils from across the state. In October, 13 FHS students traveled to Glasgow, Montana for the annual Montana Association of Student Council State Convention. The students enjoyed three days of idea sharing that led to some new ideas for activities here at FHS. The highlight of the year came in April when FHS Student Council hosted the region IV District Convention. FHS students planned a full day of leadership activities, business meetings and brainstorming games. The pinnacle of the day came when FHS facilitated a duck race in Spring Creek to demonstrate a fundraising idea.

No school year is complete without the fall rite of homecoming. This year’s event was again planned by FHS Student Council. A fun spirit week saw the students in outrageous dress and Friday’s pep assembly and spirit parade led into Saturday’s game and dance. Winter spirit week featured another great pep assembly and a high student turn out at the Morp dance.

Another strong tradition at FHS is the student council planned Blue Gold Leadership breakfast. This year’s event featured guest speaker Mr. Jim Bishop, an adjunct professor at MSU. Mr. Bishop spoke of the qualities of a good leader and used many examples from his long military career. Twenty students were honored for the standard of excellence they showed throughout their Fergus careers.

The Fergus Varsity **Football** team, under the direction of Head Coach Gary Gebert and First Assistant Vic Feller and Defensive Coordinator Rick Wright, finished the 2005 season 6-3, representing 3rd Place in the very competitive Central “A” Conference. This team made the playoffs for the seventh time only in the last fifty years, all under Coach Gebert’s tenure. In order to make the playoffs, our team beat the defending state champions, Havre Blue Ponies, at Havre 17-14. Coach Gebert believed that the emphasis on weights helped achieve these goals and he is stressing weights again this year. Fergus High looks forward for good things to come as the JV team, under the direction of Troy Hudson and Steve Paulson, finished the season 2-4, but were under-manned every game because of very small sophomore and junior classes. The Freshman team finished the season at 0-8, under the direction of Steve Olson and Steve Foy, and are working very hard right now to be able to compete in the coming years in varsity and junior varsity football.

The 2005-2006 Golden Eagle **Girls Basketball** season was filled with ups and downs. Losing eight seniors to graduation in 2004-2005, the team was very inexperienced. The girls worked hard and battled through injuries in the regular season. The team went 4-14 in the

regular season and finished fifth place in the conference. In the divisional tournament, the Golden Eagles opened with the Belgrade Panthers. Belgrade had beaten the eagles twice in the regular season. The Eagles responded with a victory over the Panthers 48-43. The Eagles faced the Browning Indians in the semi-finals and lost 70-50. The girls faced Butte Central in a Saturday morning game and won 33-21. In the consolation game, the Eagles went up against the Blue Ponies and lost 57-33 to claim fourth place at the divisional tournament. The Lady Eagles finished the season 6-16.

Heidi Rettig, a senior, was named 2nd Team All Conference and 2nd Team Divisional Tournament Team. Lyndsi Bayless, a junior, was named 2nd Team All Conference. Merrick Carpenter, a junior, was named to the Honorable Mention Divisional Tournament Team. Members of the Varsity team were: Seniors-Emmylyn Bentley, Jaime Berg, Heidi Rettig; Juniors-Lyndsi Bayless, Merrick Carpenter, Katie d'Autremont, Mallory McPherson, Kallie Spraggins; Sophomores-Kelly Richter, Dani Phillips, Josie Sweeney, Diamond Braine, Jamie Descheemaeker, and Whitney Miller.

The sub-varsity teams had an outstanding year. The Junior Varsity, under Nancy Hudson, went 13-5. The Freshman Team, under Melanie Smith and Jim Daniels, finished 15-3.

The 2005 Fergus Eagle **Cross Country** team was coached by Suzie Flentie. The team consisted of seven varsity runners and 22 junior varsity runners. Individual team positions changed often, and ten girls earned the opportunity to run in the seven varsity positions at some point during the season. Those ten girls qualified for the state traveling team. Our team placed 2nd at the divisional meet. Senior Emmylyn Bentley placed 1st overall, earning the Divisional Champion title. Our team placed 3rd at state out of a field of 24 teams. Emmylyn Bentley finished 3rd overall to earn a state medal and all-conference honors. Emmylyn was just one second behind the first and second place finishers with a time of 18:48. She also broke our school record this year with a time of 18:41, which she ran on the Havre course. Our 2nd thru 6th place runners at state were all freshmen or sophomores. Brinna Boettger finished 22nd in 20:31, Caitlin Fox was 26th with 20:48, Lauren Poss was 27th with 20:50, Emily Damby was 34th with 21:07, and Morgan Hecht was 48th with 21:36. Junior Katie Kohler has been on the state team for three years now and she had another great year finishing 51st in 21:42. Our three alternates, who will all be back on the team next year, were freshman Melissa Gee and juniors Sarah Skipper and Mallory McPherson. All ten of the girls ran well and we look forward to another successful year in 2006.

A new era of Fergus Golden Eagle **Boys Basketball** got off to a slow start – losing the first four games of the season. Coaches and players were adjusting to a new style of play and to each other. A few valuable lessons were learned during the losing stretch that helped the Golden Eagles win 7 of the next 11 games moving the overall record to 7 wins and 8 losses, 4-3 in conference. Unfortunately, the regular season ended on a bit of a sour note losing our last 3 conference games. The 4-6 record gave Fergus a 3rd place finish in the Central A. At the Central A Divisional Tournament the Golden Eagles were able to reach the Saturday night session playing Belgrade for third place and the right to challenge the championship game loser for a spot in the State A Tournament. But again the Fergus boys played tough in a 2 point loss that ended the season.

At first the 8 – 13 record was a big disappointment to Head Coach Mike Richards. However, after receiving numerous compliments from fans of the Golden Eagles on the

improved play and discipline of this year's team, Coach Richards looked at the season with a more positive view. He received compliments from fans of Havre and Butte Central, the two teams that represented the Central A at the State A Tournament. Players of this year's team should take pride in getting this program headed in a new and hopefully successful direction. The team effort and willingness to buy into a new philosophy resulted in all the compliments from opposing coaches and fans. Fans who watched the team play this year took the time to let the players know how much they enjoyed watching the boy's basketball games. This year's JV Coach was Brad Breidenbach and the Frosh Coach was Sherry Breidenbach.

The **Volleyball** program under the direction of Head Coach Tara Taylor had another successful year. The varsity finished the season with a 15-13 record, going 7-3 in conference play, placing second at the Central "A" Divisional Tournament, and finishing sixth at the State "A" Tournament. Earning All-Conference and All-State honors was senior Heidi Rettig. Earning 2nd Team All-Conference honors were juniors Katie d'Autremont and Merrick Carpenter –Defensive Specialist. Honorable Mention All-Conference honors went to junior Lyndsi Bayless. In addition, Katie d'Autremont earned 2nd Team State-All Tournament Team. Honorable Mention State-All Tournament Team went to Heidi Rettig.

Our sub-varsity teams both had outstanding seasons as well. Our freshman team, under first year Coach Erica Daniels, finished the season 19-0. The JV team, under Coach Nancy Hudson, finished the year 17-2. Our team will again earn the American Volleyball Coaches Association Team Academic Award and ten of our eleven letter winners earned Academic All State honors.

The 2005-2006 **Wrestling** season was a successful one. Under seventh year Head Coach Mike Mangold and assistants Chad Armstrong and Kevin Kepler, the Fergus wrestlers had a winning dual record for the second straight year with a record of 8 wins and 6 losses and a 7th Place finish at the Montana "A" Duals. This year's season could be considered a renaissance for the program. This team may not have had the talent levels of years past, but we as coaches pushed harder than ever and these wrestlers stepped up to the challenge. Sixteen wrestlers were entered into the divisional tournament and fifteen placed in the top four to make it to state. The two individual champions were John Peterschick and Mitch Ritchey. Along with those two, we had four other wrestlers in the championship matches at divisional tournament. This strong performance helped the team capture runner-up honors to Havre for the second straight year. The state tournament saw one wrestler in Mitch Ritchey place 3rd and John Peterschick and Lee Goodwyn were one match away from state glory. Another shining moment is that Mitch

Ritchey moved into a tie for 5th place with 34 wins on the season and could have beat the record set by Dustin Scotten the previous year had we not been snowed out of our first tournament. In the upcoming years we will see some consistency as far as numbers and are excited to see what the near future holds.

The 2005-2006 **Tennis** team, under the direction of Diane Lewis, was led by a very young team of players consisting of 4 seniors, 8 juniors, 4 sophomores and 2 freshmen on the Divisional team. Forty-six players finished the tennis season this year. Highlighting the year was the play of four players that advanced from Divisionals to State. They were: Stephen and Matt Gruener placing 2nd in Boys Doubles, Brandon Hemsath placing 3rd in Boys Singles and

Justin Hartford placing 4th in Boys Singles. As a team Boys placed 2nd in Divisionals and the Girls team placed 3rd at Divisionals. Merrick Carpenter, Ashley Boettger, Emily Gordon, BrieAnn Schwomeyer, and Shane Parker all missed a state birth by only one match. Once again a very successful Central Class "A" Divisional Tennis Tournament was held in Lewistown.

Our teams as a whole did an awesome job at the state tournament. Matt and Stephen Gruener finished the state tournament with a 3rd place in Boys Doubles. This is only the 2nd time in Fergus Tennis History we have captured 3rd place honors. A remarkable feat in itself, as they are both only juniors. Both Brandon Hemsath and Justin Hartford's draw at the state meet were unfortunate because Brandon played the 2nd place finisher and Justin drew the eventual first place finisher. While the rest of the state was up to their ankles in water, Polson stayed dry for two days. As we pulled out of Polson after the last Gruener racket was swung at the tournament, rain began to fall. What a weekend!

A strong group of returning juniors and seniors appears poised to provide excellent leadership next season. Head Coach Diane Lewis and Assistant Coaches Mariah Jimmerson and Amanda Griffith look forward to hosting teams during the season as well as any tournaments next year. We also look forward again to talented participants for the 2006-2007 tennis season.

The 2005 Fergus Eagle **Golf** season ended on a positive note with three boys and three girls playing in the state tournament at the Whitefish Country Club. Each of the participants had one good round in the two-day event, resulting in middle of the field places for all players. The FHS Golf Team flighted a full girls team and four boys at the divisional tournament at the Butte Country Club. The veteran players placed in the top fifteen allowing them to proceed to state and the incoming freshman players played at their level of ability. The year saw many young players rising to a varsity spot throughout the season. With the return of this freshman group, next year shows promise for the team providing these young players utilize their summer to further their abilities prior to the 2006 season. Coaches Reid and Whitcraft are both proud of the accomplishments of the 2005 team and look forward to a good 2006 season.

Track & Field started March 13th, 2006. Head coach Steve Olson was in charge of jumps, his first assistant, Steve Paulson was in charge of the pole vault, sprints and helped with high jump, Vic Feller was in charge of throwing events, and Susie Flentie was in charge of the distance runners, long relay, and helped with hurdles. Gary Ceerle was a volunteer assistant who worked with the hurdlers and short relay teams. Our team ended the season with 50 athletes. We took 29 of those to the Divisional Track Meet in Belgrade. The girls took 2nd Place behind the Belgrade girls. Our boys took 4th Place behind Belgrade, Havre and Browning. Ten girls and seven boys qualified for the State Track Meet in Butte. Evan Stokken was the only placer at state for the boys. He took 3rd Place in both the 110 and 300 Hurdles. The girls' team placed 4th with 41 points, 1 point behind Park High. Girls placing at state included Emmylyn Bentley-who took 2nd in the 800 meter run, 3rd in the 1600 meter run, 5th in the 3200 meter run and was the anchor on the 3rd Place 1600 relay team. Sarah Skipper took 2nd in the 300 Hurdles, 4th in the high jump, 6th in the 100 Hurdles and was on the 3rd Place 1600 relay team. Brinna Boettger took 4th in the 3200 meter run, 5th in the 1600 meter run and was on the 3rd Place 1600 meter relay team. Our final points were won by LeAnn Quinlan who was on the 1600 meter relay team. During the season we set three school records: Evan Stokken set the 110 meter high hurdles record at 14.9 seconds; Emmylyn Bentley set the 800 meter run record at 2:17:6. She also set the 1600 meter run record at 5:22:68. We have excellent competitors returning for the

2006-07 school year. We are moving in the right direction and would love to help the track stars bring home a state trophy. The coaches are working hard to build a winning tradition here at Fergus High School.

At the **Elementary level**, in grades five and six, programs were run in volleyball, basketball, wrestling, and track. Volunteer coaches were used and the length of the programs was six to seven weeks. We had trouble finding coaches for a few sports but were lucky enough to find high school students willing to help (They did a great job!). Wrestling combines with the Junior High to help increase participation and their chances for meets. It is still highly recommended, if we are ever able to afford the stipend for the coaches again, to do so as soon as possible, as this is the starting point for our interscholastic programs. Elementary participant numbers were: Volleyball-75, Girls Basketball-65, Wrestling-22, Boys Basketball-38, and Track-65.

The **Lewistown Junior High School** Annual Report is presented separately and attached hereto.

I feel the activities programs at Fergus have a lot to offer all the young students attending School District No. One. Activity programs provide valuable lessons on many practical situations such as teamwork, sportsmanship, winning and losing, and hard work. Through participation in activity programs we provide the opportunity for students to learn self-discipline, build self-confidence, and develop skills to handle competitive situations. Students in activities tend to achieve higher grades than those who do not participate in activities, have a lower drop out rate, and have better school attendance and fewer discipline problems. Students will seek to find educational opportunities available to them as a result of their participation.

Fergus High School provides many activities that support the academic mission of our school. Programs are not a diversion, but rather an extension of a good educational program. The confidence in almost all Fergus activities programs seems to be strong. The staff is highly professional, motivated, and very enjoyable to work with. We, in School District No. One and Fergus High, look forward for good things to come.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry Feller
Assistant Principal/Activities Director

Assessment

Sharon Redfern, Assessment Coordinator

**Lewistown Public Schools - Assessment
Annual Report
2005-06
Sharon Redfern, Assessment Coordinator**

Montana's Assessment System, MontCas, continues to expand as the state fulfills the requirements of *No Child Left Behind*. Third, fifth, and seventh grade assessments were implemented this year for the first time in Reading and in Mathematics. We are now testing all students in grades three through eight in these two subjects with this instrument. The state will conduct standard-setting workshops this summer to determine Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) requirements for the additional grade levels. Our 2006 reports and scores will thus be delayed until fall.

Each school in Lewistown Public Schools was asked to identify a building-level test coordinator in 2005-06 to help manage the additional numbers of testing materials that were distributed and then collected again. A testing workshop was provided at Garfield, Lewis and Clark, and to the district's counselors, who administer the testing program at the Junior High and Fergus High School; testing protocol and standard practices were reviewed and explained. The building-level coordinator has helped to expedite the testing process for the district. In addition, each principal and testing coordinator has had to input online demographic data prior to testing and then verify data for accuracy after testing has been completed. Though time-consuming, this is an important process that helps to insure reliable scores for our district. Once again, the district's staff, both administrative and building-level, have risen to the new challenges and have completed testing requirements in an excellent manner.

We have been notified that our 2005 scores in all buildings have allowed us to make our annual yearly progress requirements. This is a tribute to the district's staff and the educational programs that we are providing.

The IOWA tests continue to be administered at grades four, eight, and eleven, which requires us to have two testing sessions for these grade levels. OPI is examining the need for future IOWA testing, but the contract will continue through 2007. In addition, the state will be piloting an exam that could be administered to special education students who may not have mastered grade-level skills, but who could complete an off-level exam rather than an alternative assessment. Selected students in the fifth grade at Lewis and Clark will be a part of this pilot in the Fall of 2006.

This year, Curriculum and Assessment worked in conjunction for the Curriculum Review cycle in Communication Arts. This model was a clear departure of past practices; in addition, the Communication Arts curriculum team will work for two years to allow us to address the broad scope of Reading, Literature, Written Language, Media Literacy, and Speaking/Listening. We appreciate the district and School Board support that allows us to provide additional time and funding for this important, overarching curricular area.

*Lewistown Public Schools Assessment
Annual Report 2005-06
Page 2*

The Communication Arts curriculum/assessment cycle will continue in 2006-07 as we complete our skills alignment for all of these strands and produce the district's K-12 curricular guide. A review of each grade/course Essential Learnings and accompanying assessments will also need to be completed. We have begun our study of best practices in Communication Arts, sending teachers to workshops in vocabulary strategies and many to a Montana Writing Project Workshop. In addition, several High School teachers visited a high school in Missoula to view an exemplary program there. As we implement new texts, our goal will be to also implement best practice instructional strategies and provide inservice training in this regard.

Having adopted the Scott-Foresman series for K-6, we were able to have a textbook inservice in June this year. Professional development funds and the PIROT opportunity were instrumental in this effort, allowing many of the K-6 staff to participate. The second work day was dedicated to discussion of the new text in grade-level teams and preparing materials that will be needed in our classrooms in the fall, which was valued and appreciated by the staff.

The Dibels program for assessing reading skill progress and fluency will be expanded next year and will be implemented in all K-6 classrooms.

A district-wide focus for the next school year will be that of writing across curricular disciplines. Our fall inservice for all K-12 staff will provide specific ideas that will assist teachers in accomplishing this focus.

The Mathematics Curriculum Team is scheduled to begin their work next year as well, attending the Curriculum Fair in January and beginning the textbook review process. Their complete review will be accomplished during the 2007-08 school term. The Curriculum/Assessment model will continue with this new team.

We continue to progress in implementing a district-wide three-pronged model of school improvement that addresses Curriculum, Assessment, and Professional Development. These three areas are becoming more seamless in the district's integrated approach to effective instruction.

Lewistown Junior High School Activities & Athletics

Pat Hould, LJHS Principal

The LEWISTOWN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Proudly Presents:

The Annual Athletic Programs Report for the 2005 – 2006 School Year

A quartet of directors guided the athletic program at the Lewistown Junior High School, with first timer Jim Daniels joining Roger Woltermann, Lauri Tognetti and Pat Hould cooperatively in this endeavor. This union positively guides the many aspects of our athletic and extra-curricular programs. The addition of Jim to our athletic corps has helped solidify communication between coaching staff and our office, and has helped strengthen our ability to schedule practices and games in the various facilities.

The following is a listing of the sports/extra-curricular activities currently being offered at the Lewistown Junior High, the names of the coaches/sponsors and the participation numbers for this past school year are also included.

Boys Football - The boy's football program encountered good participation this year as 29 eighth graders and 36 seventh graders took part. This enthusiastic group may not have won every game, but they did not lack for desire and determination. Mike Mangold once again assumed the head coaching chores, with assistants Chad Armstrong, Paul Granot and newcomer Brad Briedenbach accompanying Mike for this most excellent football adventure!

Girls Cross Country - Under the guidance of Debbie Hill, our girls cross country team continued to flourish. With nine 7th and nine 8th grade girls participating, success and fun were the triumphantly achieved goals of the program during the fall of 2003.

Girls Basketball – We were very fortunate to retain the services of Sherry Briedenbach and her strong leadership for our 8th grade girls round ball squad this year, while the 7th grade program saw positive guidance from first year coaches Derek Wise and Sabrina McQuinn. All three of these coaches were sensational and our girls thrived under their direction. Participation remained constant as 32 young ladies participated, represented by eighteen 8th graders and fourteen seventh graders.

Boys Basketball – Fourteen 8th grade and 14 seventh grade boys bounced a basketball for the Jr. High Golden Eagles this year. With Frank Hallett at the helm, and with assistance from Jimmy Graham, the 8th grade boys showed continued improvement and maturity, while veteran coach Randy Stevens joined this staff to guide the 7th grade squad.

Wrestling - The wrestling program occupied 22 seventh and eighth graders for this years mat season. These number represent a nice increase from previous years and these young men were a tough, courageous and hard working bunch. Under the guidance of Mike Mangold and Chad Armstrong, our boys enjoyed a season that included a very successful home meet in March.

Girls Volleyball - There was a strong and energized contingent of girls vying for spots on this year's volleyball squad, which consisted of fifteen 8th and 14 7th graders. This positive participation was a reflection of the outstanding group of coaches that were assembled and the growing interest in this exciting sport. Coaches for the 2005 -'06 squad included head coach Erica Daniels, and assistants Windee Fisk and Kayla Horacek.

Track and Field - Our year concluded with a marvelously sunny and warm spring for our track and field crew. The participation in this year's program soared to lofty heights, as a total of 61 students participated. The program saw a distribution of 29 students at the 8th grade level, and 32 students participating at the seventh grade. Mary Kepler graciously accepted the head coaching duties this year with Brad Briedenbach and Debbie Hill enthusiastically assisting her.

Cheerleading – Heidi Southworh braved the duties once again as cheerleading advisor and she did an outstanding job throughout both the fall and winter seasons. Anyone interested in being a cheerleader is accepted onto our squads, as we continued the practice of having no tryouts. This twist to our cheerleading program once again allowed for relatively high participation numbers as 18 girls screamed and cheered for their favorite sports team. While our 7th grade squad had eight 7th grade girls, our spirited 8th grade crew concluded the season with ten participants.

Additional club participation numbers included 26 Builders Club members under the watchful eye of JoAnne Ward, 14 runners in our Running Club as led by Suzy Flentie, and nineteen MATHCOUNTS participants guided by Jim Hamling. Fifty-three skiers took to the hills of Showdown with Dave Thomas as their sponsor and 25 Student Council Members participated in this student government experience as Terri Daniels steered them along their path. Music group involvement included 24 Jazz Band members under the baton of Mary Kepler and twelve vocalists singing to their hearts content with Brandon O'Halloran in our select choir.

We look forward to continued success and positive student participation in all of our programs as a direct result of the outstanding contributions made by our entire coaching/extra-curricular staff and the enthusiastic involvement of our awesome students.

Curriculum

John Moffatt, Curriculum Director

To: Supt. Brown; Board of Trustees
From: John Moffatt, Curriculum Director
Re: Annual Report

The 2005-06 year marked a significant change in the curriculum and assessment processes which we have used in the District for several years. This year, the two were combined in an effort to provide better connectivity between what we teach and what we test. Also, for the first time, the District approved using a two-year process to complete the Communication Arts review along with two years of budget authority to purchase materials needed for a program which encompasses so much.

I believe this was a good decision on the part of the Board because the review covers the five major strands of Communication Arts (Writing, Reading, Literature, Speaking and Listening and Media Literacy), and it takes time to do justice to a field that is this broad. Additionally, the costs of reading textbooks alone in the elementary used the entirety of this year's budget with nothing to spare for writing, remedial materials, grammar, spelling, handwriting, or any other areas. The high school budget is far tighter yet. Fortunately, the high school teachers were satisfied with their current textbooks, because it would take several years at the current budget level to replace them. I believe they were able to purchase excellent supplementary materials which should serve them well.

Much of our time this year was spent in reviewing research, looking at curriculum samples from other districts, and then revising our own document. The Committee liked the format of the Helena Schools and chose to adapt it and then revise the wording to fit our needs. Many thanks to all of the Montana Districts who willingly shared their work with us. I have found that to be a hallmark of the State's curriculum directors over the years.

We have completed drafts of the reading and writing strands and will finish the literature, speaking and listening, and media literacy strands next year. In addition, much of our work next year will focus on "best practices" in the teaching of reading and writing. Another nice connection that has been established for next year is the linking of staff development with curriculum and assessment. Many members of our Communication Arts team attended the NCTE writing workshop in Great Falls this spring and were enthusiastic in their reviews. We also sent high school teachers to Missoula to observe an innovative writing program at Sentinel High School and several elementary teachers attended the Curriculum Fair in Bozeman. Next year, we will be sending representatives of the math team to that fair.

I have to say I have appreciated the two year time frame we have been granted for Communication Arts. Some of the deadline pressure we have always worked under has been reduced, and the budget is much more realistic for a huge instructional area like this. It feels especially good after the 2004-05 year when we worked with 4 I was working with 4 different curriculum teams to complete review, revision, and materials purchase all in one year. I want to thank Mrs. Redfern and all of the team members for their contributions to this year's efforts, and I look forward to continuing to move forward next year.

M.O.S.T LPS School Improvement

Pat Hould, LJHS Principal

School District #1
Proudly Presents
A M.O.S.T. Excellent Adventure!
Making Our Schools *even more* Terrific!
A Significant School Improvement Initiative

The Year in Review ~ 2005 - 2006

For the fifth consecutive year the MOST team of School District #1 operated on the positive premise of truly working to make our schools and our entire school system even better. Though only a couple of meetings were held during this school year, the major focus of *true* school improvement continued to center on staying true to the District's work on **Essential Learnings and the corresponding Assessments**. Staff members continued exhibiting a tremendous effort and our students persist in reaping the academic rewards of improved instruction and the attributes of enhanced assessment of sound instructional practices.

The **SIDD Team leaders** and building level staff completed the collection of data from the final leg of the recently created survey instrument, as the student results were tabulated. The SIDD Team leaders met several times to discuss the information acquired through the survey and plotted a course to review and if need be rewrite their building level goals. Rewriting the building level goals will walk hand in hand with the review of the School Districts 5-Year plan, and this effort will continue to be a work in progress well into the 2006 – 2007 school year.

The history of the school improvement process would simply not be complete without restating once again the District Values and Beliefs, Mission Statement and Goals. As additional data is collected and the building level goals, district goals and the 5-year plan are reviewed, these ideals will once take center stage as the roadmap that will guide our future improvement efforts.

School District #1 Values and Beliefs

We believe in striving for excellence, developing a passion for learning, and bringing students to their full potential as life-long learners

We believe in a safe, secure, respectful, and caring educational and social environment.

We believe students and staff must be challenged intellectually and academically, be accountable for all actions, and expect excellence.

We believe staff training, partnered with diverse opportunities and resources, is essential to meeting the individual needs of all students.

We believe the community, working hand in hand with our schools, plays a valuable role in educating our children.

District Mission Statement: *Excellence Today, Success Tomorrow*

Goal #1:

We will take steps to improve relationships between students, between students and staff, and between staff, in order to create opportunities for everyone to feel safe and be successful. Every person within our learning community will treat each other in a positive, courteous and respectful manner.

Goal #2:

Students will demonstrate measurable improvements in mathematics performance.

Goal #3:

Students will demonstrate measurable improvements in communication art

Goal #4:

Students will demonstrate regular and punctual school attendance as a life skill worth cultivating to insure daily success.

This report faithfully submitted this day by LJHS Principal Pat Hould! ☺

Staff Development

Pat Hould, Staff Development Director

Staff Development Report ~ 2005 – 2006 School Year

The district staff development committee is simply an extraordinary group of people. Each member is dedicated to making district and building level staff development opportunities meaningful, purposeful and directed toward meeting the needs of staff as they strive to better serve our young people. Membership includes the following dyed-in-the-wool staff members.

Fergus High School	Denise Nelson & Newell Roche
LJHS	Michelle Trafton
Lewis & Clark	Colleen Sauer
Garfield	Dee Ann Buehler
Highland Park	Darcy Zanto
Chair	Pat Hould, LJHS Principal

The following items are **district staff development committee highlights** from the 2005 – 2006 school year.

1. A **staff development survey** was conducted in April utilizing a e-format. Special thanks are extended to Pat Wiechel and Michelle Trafton for their efforts to make this survey a technological reality. The results of this survey were used to create the staff development topics and the actual early dismissal dates that will be utilized during the 2006 – 2007 school year. Hard copies of the results are located in the Superintendent's office and are available upon request.
2. The calendar for early dismissal staff development opportunities was once again created and based upon district and building level goals, needs and expectations. It is important to note that for the coming school year there will only be six (6) early dismissals, with three occurring during each semester. Please see the attached information highlighting the **2006 – 2007 early dismissal dates and staff development topics**. In addition to the dates and topics listed on this form, a meeting to discuss student related transition issues was recommended for Monday, August 21 and plans are currently under way to conduct these meetings.
3. It is worthy to note that due to circumstances beyond our control (2 snow days) three of the early dismissal staff development opportunities during the 2005 – 2006 school year were cancelled. Regular school days were held on the days previously scheduled for staff development, and staff graciously met during the evening hours to complete their important work on the topics of assessment and building level issues.
4. The **staff development newsletter** continued to be an effective tool for sharing key information with all district staff. This monthly fact sheet kept staff abreast of current happenings and served as a reminder of upcoming staff development events. Please see a copy of the year-end newsletter in the School Board packet. This final newsletter details important information regarding **writing across the curriculum workshops** that will be conducted for all staff in August, the **summer staff development institute** and the **PIR options** for staff during October of 2006.

This report is faithfully submitted this day by Pat Hould, Principal of the Lewistown Junior High School.

Staff Development Topics/Dates for the 2006 – 2007 School Year

Faithfully Prepared

by the District Staff Development Committee

Staff Development Opportunity Early Dismissal Dates	School Improvement Topics
September 27, 2006	Indian Education for All
November 15, 2006 <small>* End of quarter #1 on Friday, October 27</small>	Assessment
December 13, 2006	School Improvement
January 24, 2007 <small>* End of quarter #2 on Friday, January 12</small>	Assessment
March 28, 2007 <small>* End of quarter #3 on Friday, March 21</small>	Assessment
April 25, 2006	Building Level Issues

Excellence Today: Success Tomorrow

Transportation

Steve Klippenes, Transportation Director

Annual School Report

Transportation Department 2005-2006

During the 2005-2006 school year we traveled 166,068 miles in yellow buses and 69,115 miles in our activity buses.

The Transportation Department is responsible for the maintenance on thirteen yellow buses, five MCI activity buses, five Drivers Education vehicles, five Maintenance vehicles, the Hot Lunch Van, and one Transportation Pickup and snowplow. We continued doing the Maintenance on the Council of Aging buses and the CMLRRC vehicles. Again this year we were very short on drivers most of the year. Shop personnel had to drive a lot this year. Two regular route bus drivers resigned this spring. The School District is in the process of advertising for replacement drivers and more substitute drivers.

We are working with International on becoming a warranty shop so we can do our own warranty work and be paid by International. This would also allow the shop to do warranty work for surrounding schools on a time available basis and be paid by International.

We have been exploring the possibility of moving the shop off the airport. If we do this we could offer the surrounding schools the chance to have us do their bus maintenance.

This year we transported FFA students from Central Montana to the National FFA Convention in Louisville, Kentucky. That worked out very well for all of the schools and they made several factory tours along the way.

We had a good year and are looking forward to a good year in 2006-2007.

ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORT

TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

2005-2006

BUS NUMBER	YEAR	MODEL	STARTING MILEAGE	ENDING MILEAGE	TOTAL
1	2006	International RE	1,964	14,993	13,029
2	1997	Bluebird Chev	102,695	106,406	3,711
3	1999	Bluebird All-Amer	120,308	128,634	8,326
new 3	2006	International RE	1,884	14,675	12,791
4	2003	Bluebird All-Amer	64,701	84,525	19,824
5	1998	Bluebird TC-2000	135,416	136,364	948
6	1999	Bluebird TC-2000	135,896	154,678	18,782
7	2005	International Conv	14,045	26,086	12,041
8	2006	International RE	2,276	12,961	10,685
9	2001	Bluebird Chev	83,832	101,804	17,972
10	2005	International RE	13,117	25,473	12,356
11	2002	Bluebird TC-2000	79,858	99,597	19,739
12	1999	Bluebird All-Amer	101,022	108,715	7,693
13	1998	Bluebird TC-2000	100,195	108,366	8,171
		TOTAL			166,068
Eagle 1	1974	MCI MC-8	299,938	303,463	3,525
Eagle 2	1997	MCI 102DL3	68,903	88,898	19,995
Eagle 3	1999	MCI 102DL3	219,774	237,175	17,401
Eagle 4	1996	MCI 102D3	103,366	122,430	19,064
Eagle 5	1982	MCI MC-9	33,228	42,358	9,130
		TOTAL			69,115
		SHOP TRUCKS			
	1978	Chevrolet 3/4 Ton	233,075	233,533	458
	1994	Chevrolet 3/4 Ton	91,796	97,074	5,278
		TOTAL			5,736