



Great Falls Public Schools
Ten “MOORE” things you need to know
February 16, 2024

Dear Community Members:

Welcome to the February edition of *Ten Moore Things!* Here is what is happening in the School District this month:

1. **GFPS Winter Sports Update** – Swimming and Wrestling athletes are recuperating from their state meets and tournaments last weekend. The Bison Wrestlers placed 4th overall in the AA State Wrestling tournament in Billings and the Bison Girls Swim Team took 2nd place in the AA State Swim meet here in Great Falls last Saturday. There are still a few more boys’ and girls’ basketball games the next two weeks before the AA State Basketball tournament in Missoula in March. For more detailed information on the weekly sports schedules, check out our webpage at:
<https://www.gfps.k12.mt.us/site/Default.aspx?PageID=345>
2. **Tax Credit Opportunity through GFPS** – Last month I told you about a great opportunity for you to divert some of your state income tax dollars to the school district through a new Montana Tax Credit program. Thirty-five (35) of you did just that, thank you very much! At the end of the day local taxpayers committed one million dollars in tax deferred gifts to the Great Falls Public Schools system. This money must be dedicated to specific funds for innovative projects. Thank you to community member Anders Blewett and Great Falls Public Schools Director of Business Operations, Brian Patrick, for their good work in spreading the word across our community about this opportunity to enhance our school system in Great Falls. This program will be offered again next year in January. For more information; <https://mtrevenue.gov/publications/tax-credits-for-qualified-education-contributions-guide/>
3. **The search for a new Superintendent for Great Falls Public Schools** is continuing this week. The School Board interviewed two candidates last night, February 15, at the School District Office Building. On Tuesday, February 20, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. the trustees will hold a Special Board Meeting to select the new Superintendent of Schools. I will be retiring at the end of June this year and the new Superintendent will take over on July 1, 2024.
4. **High Voltage Teacher Recruitment Event** – Last weekend on Friday-Sunday, thirty-three (33) prospective new teachers attended the third annual High Voltage weekend in the “Electric City”. The participants heard from businesses and civic leaders, as well as community educators, why Great Falls offers wonderful opportunities to future teachers considering Great Falls Public Schools. The prospects came from various colleges of education across the state to attend this event. Each of the participants were offered an interview on Saturday with district Administrators. Several offers to teach were given on the spot. Thanks to the Celtic Cowboy/Hotel Arvon, Northwestern Energy, Opportunity Bank, United Way, and other private donors for their sponsorships to make this event a success.

5. **GFPS Foundation News** – The Excellence in Education program from the GFPS Foundation recently announced this year's group of distinguished scholars. These graduating seniors from CMR, GFH, and Paris Gibson Education Center (PGEC) have demonstrated a strong commitment to academics and rigorous coursework. Each student will have the opportunity to pay that recognition forward by selecting one high school teacher and one Kindergarten-8 teacher who significantly impacted his/her educational experience. Check out the GFPS Foundation Facebook page this week for a full listing of these impressive students. Well done, distinguished scholars!
6. **GFPS Annual Community Budget Meetings** – During the month of March, the GFPS Board Budget Committee will be meeting with District officials to review and discuss the current budget situation and the projections for the next fiscal year (2024-2025) budget. In addition, the staff will provide options to the board regarding strategies to address the overall financial needs of the district. The Community is invited and encouraged to attend these meetings. For more information: <https://www.gfps.k12.mt.us/cms/lib/MT50000605/Centricity/Domain/88/Community%20Invite%20for%202024.25%20Budget%20Prep.pdf>
7. **GFPS Trustee Elections 2024** – Nominating petitions and candidacy forms are available from December 14, 2023 – March 28, 2024 for one open seat on the Great Falls Public Schools Board of Trustees. For more information, please visit our webpage at: [School Elections / School Elections 2024 \(gfps.k12.mt.us\)](http://www.gfps.k12.mt.us/SchoolElections/SchoolElections2024)
8. **“Live the Dream” Event** – An event to celebrate diversity and honor Black History Month in our schools and community of Great Falls is coming! Student leaders from our high schools have joined together with community members to sponsor this event on Wednesday, February 21, 2024 in the Davidson Auditorium at Great Falls High School, beginning at 5:30 p.m. The event will include speakers, food, music, and a popup museum to celebrate Black History Month. For more information, check out this great KRTV News Story on the event: <https://www.krtv.com/news/great-falls-news/great-falls-high-school-students-create-diversity-clubs>
9. **Fine Arts** – CMR and GFHS Drama students will be attending and competing at the University of Montana Thespian Festival in Missoula this weekend, February 16-17. Watch for all sorts of fun activities from the Fine Arts Department in the coming weeks as we head into Theater in our Schools Month, Youth Art Month, and Music in our Schools Month – all happening in the month of March! For more information: <https://www.gfps.k12.mt.us/Page/164>
10. **GFPS CORE Charter School Updates** – The Montana State Board of Education has approved the Great Falls Public School’s application for the CORE Charter school to be located at Morningside Elementary School for the next school year 2024-2025. Principal Jennifer Martyn from Mountain View Elementary School has been named to lead this innovative elementary school of choice in Great Falls. To read more about the CORE school, click here: <https://www.gfps.k12.mt.us/Page/1988>. In March, the District will host a series of Parent information meetings related to registration for the CORE school. For more information on those events, check here: <https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=884819526983093&set=a.265767172221668>

****There will be no school this coming Monday, February 19th, for Great Falls Public School students due to President’s Day.**

I hope “Ten Moore Things” about GFPS was helpful information for you! The next release is scheduled for March 15, 2024. You are receiving this email as part of the district’s ongoing community communication efforts. If you do not wish to receive these emails, there is a place to unsubscribe at the very bottom.

Thank you for reading and thank you for supporting our staff and students!

Tom Moore

Superintendent

More GFPS news:

We post a lot of GFPS news on the district's Facebook page

(<https://www.facebook.com/GreatFallsPublicSchools>), and on our webpage (www.gfps.k12.mt.us). Please check-in often. **Tell your friends about this:** You can pass on the invitation to your friends to subscribe to this service. If they open this page, there is a sign-up spot under my signature:

<https://www.gfps.k12.mt.us/domain/110>