



**Great Falls Public Schools**  
**Ten “MOORE” things you need to know ....**  
**December 22, 2022**

Dear Community Member:

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to you all! Lots of events and activities are happening in and around the community that our students and staff are involved with leading up to the Holiday break. The primary focus of our work this month has been to continue our focus on the training and implementation of a new approach to teaching and learning in Language Arts, as well as the launch of our holiday concert series across the District and the winter sports programs in our secondary schools.

1. **Holiday Break:** Friday, December 23, 2022 through Monday, January 2, 2023 all schools will be closed in Great Falls. School will resume on Tuesday, January 3, 2023. The GFPS District Offices will have regular business hours, December 27- December 30, 2022.
2. **Winter Sports:** Basketball, Swimming and Wrestling have begun competition. Some of the regularly scheduled events this week have been canceled due to severe weather conditions. All athletic competitions will resume during the first week of January. Congratulations to the Bison (took 2<sup>nd</sup> !) and CMR wrestlers (took 3<sup>rd</sup>!) for a great effort at the Holiday Classic Tournament in Great Falls last weekend! <https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=467734538874368&set=a.40661754831940>  
For more sports information and updates, check out: <https://www.gfps.k12.mt.us/Page/345>
3. **Winter Holiday Concerts-** are wrapping up this week across the community schools. Please check out our concert schedule if you would still like to try catch a performance!  
<https://www.gfps.k12.mt.us/cms/lib/MT50000605/Centricity/Domain/84/2022%20ALL%20Holiday%20Concerts..pdf> Thank you to all of our students, parents, music teachers and support staff who have made these concerts possible!
4. **GFPS Students Ringing the Bell for Holiday Giving:** A number of student groups across the District have been volunteering their time to ring the bell for the Salvation Army’s annual fund drive to help others during the holidays. Thanks to these students for giving of their time in our community!  
<https://www.facebook.com/100063567009413/videos/1121695948489764>
5. **OPI Community Forum in Great Falls:** On Monday, December 19 at Great Falls College- Heritage Hall, the Office of Public Instruction sponsored a forum for parents, local legislators and school officials. The event was well attended and the newly elected legislators who were present, interacted with parents, and school and community leaders on the priorities for our schools in the upcoming legislative session. Thank you to all who attended this event. For more information;  
[https://theelectricgf.com/2022/12/18/opi-superintendent-arntzen-in-great-falls-dec-19/?fbclid=IwAR2Hrb8Bn-8aZYesj16DflgBNWf7IwuNEC\\_vcVzn\\_mHZQyrtokhqcHfaDA4](https://theelectricgf.com/2022/12/18/opi-superintendent-arntzen-in-great-falls-dec-19/?fbclid=IwAR2Hrb8Bn-8aZYesj16DflgBNWf7IwuNEC_vcVzn_mHZQyrtokhqcHfaDA4)
6. **Upcoming Community Forums:** In the New Year, Great Falls Public Schools will be co-sponsoring a series of forums on various topics related to our students, our schools, and our community. The first forum will focus on **Youth Wellness**. This event will be held at the University of Providence on February 2, 2023 from 6:30-8:00 PM in the Conference Center. More information to come!
7. **Help Wanted.** Pass it on...GFPS is looking to hire teacher aides, food service workers, Para educators, substitutes and more. Current openings are always found here:

<https://www.gfps.k12.mt.us/Page/1569> Big Sky Bus Lines needs bus drivers as well. You can contact them at 454-1283 for more information.

8. **GFPS Foundation- GFPS Foundation Grants and Teacher Scholarships:** Thanks to another year of high truck raffle ticket sales and generous donations, the Foundation is offering up to \$150,000 in teacher grants for the next academic year. The application period is open now for Discovery and Innovation Grant submissions and closes January 31. The GFPS Foundation offers twenty \$1,000 scholarships for teachers who are pursuing further education. These scholarships, funded by the Heisey Foundation, support studies towards a master's degree, academic work related to GFPS district goals, National Board certification, or endorsements in specialized education tracts. The Heisey application period opens January 1 and closes February 15. See [www.gfpsfoundation.org/gfps-grants](http://www.gfpsfoundation.org/gfps-grants)
9. **The College and Career Readiness Center at GFC- MSU** - recently received a City of Great Falls, ARPA funding grant for *Future Build Great Falls*. The funds will provide for a comprehensive 10-month job-focused education and training in construction trades for at-risk youth and reentry individuals ages 16 and older. We will work closely with Habitat for Humanity in building their low-income family homes for the on-the-job training component. Other partners include Great Falls College, Opportunities Inc, Department of Labor Job Service, Habitat for Humanity, Great Falls Pre-Release, and Industry Partners that will hire these individuals when they have completed the program.
10. **Community Partners Are Very Generous!** - Especially to our students during the Holidays! Numerous businesses, churches, GFPS employees and other individuals have reached out to help our students and families in need over this holiday season. We are so thankful to live and work in such a generous community... "Be blessed as you have blessed others"!!!
11. **Board Meetings:** The GFPS Board of Trustees meetings are typically held the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays of most months. These are public meetings. Agendas and supporting information are always posted the Thursday afternoon prior to the Board meetings. The next Board meeting is on January 9, 2023, with the agenda posted on January 5, 2023. Important Board information can be found here: <https://www.gfps.k12.mt.us/domain/130>

I hope "Moore" information was helpful to you! The next release is scheduled for January 26, 2023. 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.

Merry Christmas to you and your families from the GFPS Staff and Administration!

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](http://www.gfps.k12.mt.us)). Please check-in often.

**Tell your friends about this:**

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