



***Great Falls Public Schools***  
**Ten “MOORE” things you need to know ....**  
**December 22, 2021**

Dear Community Member:

Here are some the things going on Great Falls Public Schools that you need to know about!

1. **Healthy Schools UPDATE:** As of today our infection rates in the school district are at the lowest level since school began in August. The transmission rates are trending lower and there have been plenty of opportunities for people to access vaccines in our region. The absence rate of our teachers and support staff has been at a manageable level. We thank our school nurses, administrators and health care providers in the community for their dedication to managing testing and reporting this fall. Hopefully, this trend toward lower infection rates will continue into the New Year 2022. Please watch our websites for any new health information in our schools. Upon counsel with the GFPS COVID Advisory Panel, the District will lift the mask requirements for elementary schools beginning Monday January 3, 2022.  
<https://www.gfps.k12.mt.us/Page/1>
2. **Holiday Concerts Were a Huge Success... Thank You!** To our District Music teachers and Music and Arts Supervisor Dusty Molyneaux for their great work in preparing our students for the Holiday performances at each of the schools.
3. **Congratulations** to CMR students Hannah Bingham and Dawson Williams, who have been nominated for Military Academies appointments by Montana Senator Jon Tester! Congratulations and good luck to both of these outstanding students.
4. **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: [www.gfps.k12.mt.us/employment](http://www.gfps.k12.mt.us/employment).
5. **Hundreds of Holiday Food Boxes Have Been Assembled and Distributed** to families across the school district. Thank you to the Great Falls Community Food Bank, the Great Falls Public Schools Foundation, local businesses and teams of individual and groups for this collective effort!
6. **GFPS Foundation Teacher Grants & Heisey Teacher Scholarships:** Thanks to record-breaking raffle ticket sales and generous donations, the Foundation is offering up to \$160,000 in teacher grants for the 2022-2023 academic year. The grant application period is now open, and teachers are encouraged to submit innovative and collaborative projects that will enhance learning for students. Grants can fund supplies, equipment, and field trip experiences. The application period for Innovative Grants and Discovery Grants closes January 28, 2022. Through funding from the Heisey Foundation, the GFPS Foundation is offering twenty \$1,000 scholarships for teachers who are pursuing further education. These scholarships can go towards a master's degree, academic work related to GFPS district goals, National Board certification, or endorsements in counseling, administration, special ed, music, health enhancement, etc. The application period is open now and closes February 12, 2022. For more info: Visit [www.gfpsfoundation.org/gfps-grants](http://www.gfpsfoundation.org/gfps-grants)
7. **Winter Sports Updates:** GFPS sports are on a holiday hiatus until January 6, 2022 when Basketball, Swimming and Wrestling resume competitions. For more info see our athletic schedules at: <https://www.gfps.k12.mt.us/site/Default.aspx?PageID=345>

8. **Four School Trustee Seats Open for the May 3<sup>rd</sup> Election:** Three seats that represent both elementary and secondary districts on the Board for three years, until May 2025, are currently open. Anyone interested in these positions must live within the Great Falls Public School District boundaries. The positions are currently held by Mark Finnicum, Jeff Gray, and Gordon Johnson. One seat, a one-year position, will fill out the remainder of Jan Cahill's term is also currently open. This position is held by Nathan Reiff who was appointed by the Board to fill Jan Cahill's open position until the next regular election. For more info: <https://www.gfps.k12.mt.us/Page/1658>
9. **GFPS Citizens Academy Coming:** Great Falls Public Schools will be offering the citizens of Great Falls an in-depth look into the inner workings of a AA school district. The academy will consist of six Thursday evening sessions that will run from 6:00 PM-8:30 PM beginning on February 3, 2022, through the end of March. Topics that will be explored include; **School Governance, Budgets and Finance, School Health and Safety, Curriculum and Instruction, Facilities and Grounds, Student Services and Special Programs.** Registration will open on January 11, 2022, and there will be a maximum of 35 slots open. Participants will need to commit to all six sessions. More information to follow regarding the registration format. Please check the GFPS website for updates: <https://www.gfps.k12.mt.us/Page/1>
10. **Holiday Message.** Blessings to you and your families this Holiday season. Thanks to all who have supported our staff, students and community partners this past year! Our children and their families hold the greatest HOPE for a brighter future in the New Year 2022!!!

I hope "Moore" information was helpful to you! The next release is scheduled for January 12, 2022. 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.

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

Sincerely,

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:**

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: [www.gfps.k12.mt.us/superintendent](http://www.gfps.k12.mt.us/superintendent).