

VISIONS

A Newsletter for Students and Parents



Message From Our Superintendent

Volume 32, Issue 2

March 1, 2024

March 2024

Dear Students and Parents,

It is still winter, but the days are getting longer and spring is a head of us! Preparation for college and career and life after high school is coming to fruition for many of you High School Seniors, (and your parents)! Hopefully, you are preparing for this major milestone in your life. I would like to commend those of you who are graduating this spring and those of you who will graduate within the next year. You have shown resiliency, grit, and perseverance through your teenage years!

If you are a student and you are looking forward to the next steps in your education, I would like to encourage you and your parents to consider all the options and resources our school district provides. If you have been challenged or struggled with school these past few years, you are not alone. We are offering support classes and credit recovery again this summer and into next year to help you get back on track. Our counselors, administrators, and teachers are ready to help.

Great Falls Public Schools is working hard with community partners to offer a wide array of work-based learning opportunities in many career pathways. Several bills in the Montana Legislature this past year provide opportunities for students in our state to pursue work-based learning options in the form of Internships with on-the-job training. In addition, the early college, dual-credit, and Advance Placement opportunities are also available to students in our high schools. The College and Career Readiness Center at Great Falls College MSU is also offering opportunities to access workforce and academic training programs through their Connection 101 programs and other resources. <https://www.gfps.k12.mt.us/GFCCRC> Please call on our School Guidance Counselors, Teachers, School Principals, and Associate Principals to assist you with schedule changes, course selection, as well as any concerns you might have or support you need on an individual level.

Here are a couple of interesting articles I came across regarding college and career planning that may be helpful to some of you!

<https://www.pta.org/home/family-resources/college-and-career-readiness/College-and-Career-Readiness-Components>

<https://www.naceweb.org/career-readiness/competencies/career-readiness-defined>

My hope is our students feel supported by our community and thrive in our schools and in society. Please take advantage of everything this community has to offer, no matter what pathway you choose to take toward a career, college, or the military. Thank you for doing everything you can to be healthy and focused on finishing this year strong in school. After all, it is your future to navigate!

Sincerely,
Tom Moore, Superintendent of Schools

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NOTE: If viewing this Newsletter digitally, click on the [links](#) & go directly to the referenced websites for even more information.

Counselors' Corner

This column in the *Visions Newsletter* is designed to help parents stay current with the classroom and other activities that high school counselors have scheduled for all students to help them in their planning for high school and beyond. If parents are ever in need of more information about any of the Counseling Department activities, call 406-268-6159 for **CMR**, 406-268-6330 for **GFH** or 406-268-7703 for **PGEC**.

Great Falls High School Counselors' Corner

8th Grade Parent Night: This was held on February 5th, 2024, at 6 PM in the Davidson Family Auditorium at Great Falls High School. If you, or your student were unable to attend, please reach out to current school counselor to make sure you have all they need to get scheduled for next school year. Please have a conversation with your student about elective options and your expectations of them as a student in high school.

Scheduling for year 2023-2024: Students received information the week of February 5th, in their English classes, then Counselors met with students the week of February 12th, to begin the process of scheduling classes for next year by providing information to all students on course selections and building a schedule which meets graduation requirements and, more important, prepares them for their future.

Junior Parent Night & Conferences: This year GFHS will be sending out a newsletter with information pertaining to Senior year in late March or early April. There will be a follow-up event in September. Watch for more information.

In the middle of March, counselors will begin individual conferences with Juniors. The goal is to assist students with academic, career, and post-secondary planning along with evaluation of credits. Discussing career and educational goals will help in course selection for the important senior year. Each junior will be given a folder containing valuable information to help students plan for their life after Great Falls High School. Parents, watch for the post card from your son's or daughter's counselor letting you know the conference has been completed, and the folder given out. Please help your child with his or her post-secondary plan by reviewing the folder's contents.

TESTING COMING UP! Both the Pre-ACT and ACT test will be given on April 9th, 2024 at GFHS.

Sophomores: 10th Graders will be getting information in their English classes about signing up to take the Pre-ACT. This is test is optional and sign-ups are online now for the Pre-ACT and closes March 13, 2024.

Juniors: All 11th Graders will be taking the ACT test at Great Falls High School on April 9, 2024.

A Reminder to Seniors: This is a busy time of year for completing college applications and scholarship forms. The **GFHS Scholarship News**, which is distributed in senior English classes monthly, lists available scholarships and their deadlines and qualifications. Seniors can pick up the specific applications for each scholarship in the Counseling Center. Students and parents can also access a copy of Scholarship News by visiting the GFHS Counseling website.

Great Falls High Counselor Student Assignment 2023-2024 Counseling Office: 406-268-6330

A—C Chad Getten
406-268-6334

D—G Carie Magers
406-268-6635

H—L Rosie Rossberg
406-268-6338

M—R Kathy Van Tighem
406-268-6336

S—Z Bridgette Pence
406-268-6333

GFHS Counseling information can be found at: <https://gfhcounseling.weebly.com/>

C. M. Russell High School Counselors' Corner

Junior Individual Planning Conference: Counselors will begin seeing all juniors during second semester for their individual planning conference. The student and their counselor will evaluate the student's credits, discuss career and educational goals, research career and educational information, and make plans for the senior year schedule. Juniors who do not want to wait for their counselor to call them down are more than welcome to stop by the Counseling Office and make an appointment to see their counselor for their Individual Planning Conference!

Testing coming up! 10th grade students who elected to take the Pre-ACT and all Juniors will take the ACT test on April 9th, 2024 at CMR.

Scheduling for 2023-2024: Scheduling for current CMR 9th-11th graders will occur the week of February 12, 2024. CMR Counselors visited with current 8th graders at the end of January to begin the conversation about scheduling for high school. If you have questions about the classes available or about the scheduling process, you can access our course catalogs at <http://cmrcounseling.weebly.com/cmr-high-school-course-catalog.html> or contact your student's counselor for more information, counselors are assigned according to first initial of students last name.

Senior reminders: Remember to apply for scholarships. Our scholarships are listed under the scholarship section of our website. CMR Counseling information can be found at: <http://cmrcounseling.weebly.com/>

Career Guidance Computer Training: The Montana Career Information System (MCIS) is a computer-based information and reference source that can help students explore career and educational opportunities. To access free career exploration resources, please visit <https://portal.mtcis.intocareers.org/>. This is a valuable exploration and planning tool as students begin to look more closely at career and educational opportunities.

C.M. Russell High School Counselor Assignment 2023-2024
Counseling Office 406-268-6159

A—C Nick Budeski
406-268-6160

D—G Patty Pace
406-268-6162

H—L Jacie Schoenen
406-268-6112

M—R Brenda Lowry
406-268-6111

S—Z Riki Johnson
406-268-6110

Paris Gibson Education Center Counselors' Corner

Spring semester at Great Falls College-MSU opened the door for dual enrollment. Paris Gibson Education Center is a strong proponent of dual enrollment and encourages students to take advantage of the opportunity. Many ambitious students are taking more than one class this Spring semester. Paris students are taking the reins on their lives, and it is very exciting. Students interested in dual enrollment need to see Mr. Kornick for more information.

Juniors at PGEC and across the state will be gearing up for the ACT test season. Again, all Junior level students will be tested April 9, 2024, at no cost to the student or their family. This is a very important first step for students to take in preparation for their future collegiate career. Sophomores are invited to take the Pre-ACT. This is a good opportunity for 10th graders to assess their skills and plan accordingly prior to taking the ACT in their Junior year. This is an optional assessment. Families need to be on the lookout for a postcard mailing and be sure to sign up for the Pre-ACT following the directions on the postcard. The Pre-ACT will be administered on April 10, 2024. PGEC Counselor Contact Information: Randy Faechner Phone: 406-268-7703 Email: randy_faechner@gfps.k12.mt.us

PGEC Counselor Contact Information: Randy Faechner

Phone: 406-268-7703

Email: randy_faechner@gfps.k12.mt.us

Differentiated Diploma Options

Students in the Great Falls Public Schools are able to earn three types of High School diplomas. This opportunity is a result of the ongoing efforts of the school district to offer a comprehensive program and to ensure that all students graduate with a diploma that will matter to them on graduation day. In addition, the work students do in school must adequately prepare them for the future and their diploma should reflect that effort and achievement.

The state of Montana requires a minimum of 20 credits to get a diploma from an accredited high school. Great Falls Public Schools has required a minimum of **23** credits for all students in order to graduate from high school. Previously, all students who meet these general requirements receive the same type of diploma. Students can now choose to receive the traditional **Comprehensive Diploma** which is the current type of diploma (**23** credits) or they may choose to pursue two optional diploma types. The **Concentration Diploma** will require students to accrue the same **23** credits, but will recognize students who have concentrated in a particular content area and accumulated **3** or more elective credits from that discipline. The areas of concentration will be; **STEM** (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math), **CTE** (Career and Technical Education), the **Arts and Humanities** (music, drama, art). The **Honors Diploma** will require students to accrue a minimum of **26** credits, **6** of these must be in Honors, Dual Credit (early college), or Advanced Placement (AP) classes. In addition, the student must have no less than a **3.33** cumulative GPA.

High School students in Great Falls have the opportunity of a 7 period day and some students choose a Zero hour (7 AM) class which affords them 8 class periods. Students may also take on-line classes in the summer or during the school year through the Montana Digital Academy or the Great Falls Public Schools Virtual Academy. The selection of elective AP, Early College and CTE courses continues to expand each year. Look for courses like Introduction to Computer Science, AP Psychology, JMG, AP Econ, Math 151, Honors Geometry, Accounting...and much more. Not all of our students take full advantage of the opportunities that are available to them. All students need to be encouraged to set academic goals and develop a plan for after high school. Each semester, up to and including the last semester of their senior year, should be filled with classes that will assist them in meeting these goals and making their post-graduation plans possible!

If you would like more information on how to apply for the Differentiated Diploma options for the current school year, please visit your high school's website or contact your high school guidance counselor.

Graduation Requirements: <https://www.gfps.k12.mt.us/Page/408>

Science Technology Engineering Math STEM)

3 credits or more in any combination of the following courses:

- Any elective science course beyond the 3 required credits:
 - ◊ *Geology*
 - ◊ *Biology 3-4*
 - ◊ *AP Biology*
 - ◊ *Chemistry (any)*
 - ◊ *Physics (any)*
 - ◊ *Forensic Science*
 - ◊ *Human Biology*
 - ◊ *Environmental Science*
 - ◊ *Any approved MTDA science class*
- Intro to Engineering
- Any Elective Math class beyond **Algebra** and the 3 required credits
- Computer Coding & Design
- Video Production *
- Any approved STEM area Independent Study class
- Med-Prep courses
- Architectural Drafting and Engineering Drafting

Career Technical Education (CTE)

3 or more credits in one of the following areas of study beyond the 1 required CTE credit:

- ◊ *Business Department*
- ◊ *Industrial Technology*
- ◊ *Family Consumer Science*
- ◊ *Med-prep*
- ◊ *Agriculture*
- ◊ *Approved Independent study CTE*
- ◊ *Computer Science*

The Arts

3 or more credits in any Art, Drama, Music or video production courses beyond the 1 required fine art credit.

- *Any approved MTDA Fine Arts course*

The Humanities

3 credits or more in any combination of the following courses beyond the required 3 credits of History:

- ◊ *Social Studies electives—TBD*
- ◊ *Economics*
- ◊ *World languages*
- ◊ *Psychology*
- ◊ *Journalism*
- ◊ *Elective Literature or writing classes*
- ◊ *Any approved MTDA courses*

Montana's Dual Enrollment Program

What is “Dual Enrollment”? Dual Enrollment (DE) programs give secondary students an opportunity to earn college credit for courses taken while they are still in high school. Dual Enrollment can be a “dual credit” course or a “college credit” course. Dual credit means students simultaneously earn high school credit and college credit and is recorded on both the high school and college transcript. College credit means students earn college credit and is only recorded on the college transcript.

Colleges and Universities of the Montana University System (MUS) offer two types of DE classes – concurrent and early college. *Concurrent* classes are dual credit classes taught at a high school by a qualified high school teacher. *Early college* classes are regular college classes available to high school students that are taught by a college instructor. Students enrolling in early college classes have the option to take classes in-person on a college campus or fully online.

One-Two-Free Program: In 2018, the MUS introduced a pilot program known as One-Two-Free as an effort to make higher education more accessible to high school students, reduce out-of-pocket costs for Montana families, and promote student achievement. In 2020, the program became permanent with no plans of discontinuity in the foreseeable future.

Through One-Two-Free, students may enroll in their first two DE courses, or up to six credits, tuition free (course, program fees, and textbook costs may apply). After utilizing their six free credits, students can enroll in additional DE courses at a rate of 50% of two-year resident tuition. All students have the option to apply for a Hardship Scholarship to cover tuition expenses. If determined eligible, they will receive additional DE courses free of charge (course, program fees, & textbook costs may apply).

How to Apply:

Interested students are encouraged to meet with their high school counselor to discuss any dual credit opportunities. Their counselors can help them determine eligibility, choose classes, begin the enrollment process, and refer to college and university staff for additional assistance. Get started by reviewing the available dual credit classes available at our local high schools listed to the left.

Dual Credit questions can be directed to
Beckie Frisbee:
 beckie_frisbee@gfps.k12.mt.us
 or by phone at 1-406-268-6761

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 Click the link for information on Dual Credit options available at University of Providence:  
<https://www.uprovidence.edu/admissions/dual-enrollment-programs/>

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Both CMR and GFHS</b><br>AP US History<br>AP Government<br>Welding Cohort<br>AP Literature & Composition<br>Interior Design 1-2<br>Developing Child 3-4<br>Medical Terminology<br>Sign Language<br>College Algebra M121<br>Pre-Calculus 151<br>Intro to Education<br>Web Development<br>Accounting 1-2<br>Statistics<br>Carpentry/Construction<br>Cybersecurity<br>Industrial Technician<br>Automotive ASE | <b>CMR only</b><br>Criminal Justice 1-2<br>Humanities<br>General Psychology<br>EMT/Basic<br><br><b>GFHS only</b><br>Chemistry<br>AP Biology<br>Welding<br>Intro to Psychology<br>Music Appreciation<br>Physics<br>Welding 1-2<br><br><b>GFH, CMR and PGEC</b><br>Automotive ASE<br>Medical Terminology<br>Intro to Education |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## Advantages of taking Dual Credit classes

- ◆ Students are able to earn college credit while still in high school.
- ◆ Students learn the rigors of college work early. They are able to adjust study habits to college work before they have to deal with the total college experience.
- ◆ Students gain confidence in dealing with college level work.
- ◆ Students can use their dual credit work to demonstrate their ability to complete college level work when they apply for admission to colleges, universities, and vocational schools.
- ◆ Students can complete entry level, elective, or occupational college credit work at significantly lower costs than they would experience at four-year public or at private institutions of high education.





## TESTING FOR ALL JUNIORS - Now the State

Since 2014, all juniors in public high schools have been provided the opportunity to take the ACT plus Writing test for free in their schools. This free test opportunity has been made possible through a grant that the Montana OPI received.

### **ACT TESTS at SCHOOLS: CMR, GFHS & PGEC: Tuesday, April 9, 2024**

*Students who are absent on the ACT test dates listed above, make-up tests will be conducted in April. Each school will be sending home a letter with more information regarding the specific times & details needed for the test.*

**How does this affect ACT testing offered on other dates?** The free ACT plus Writing tests are offered to juniors in Montana public schools on these dates only. ACT still offers many additional dates throughout the year for students. These testing opportunities which have associated fees, take place on Saturdays every other month, September through June. Visit [www.act.org](http://www.act.org) for more information.

**How can my child prepare for the ACT?** There are a number of free and fee-based opportunities for students to prepare for the ACT right now.

- **EdReady** – Offered through the Montana Digital Academy in partnership with the Great Falls Public Schools, all students will be offered access to the EdReady Montana ACT Preparation Goal. EdReady Montana is a free, online, individualized math curriculum that helps students prepare for upcoming math courses, supplement their current math classes, or revisit gaps in their math skills. After a short initial diagnostic test, EdReady takes a student through tutorials to fill in gaps in understanding. EdReady's ACT Preparation Goal will help prepare students for the mathematics section of the ACT and can be accessed from home or school as they work through their own customized study path. Students can speak with their math teachers or counselors to get registered.
- ACT test tips, sample questions, and more resources are available at: <http://www.actstudent.org/testprep> select the "Test Prep" link for more information.
- **March2Success** - <https://www.march2success.com/>  
March2Success, offered free by the U.S. Army, provides an online study program to help students prepare for standardized tests, improve school work and review materials.
- **ACT Academy** - <https://academy.act.org/>  
ACT Academy is a free resource providing personalized practice for the ACT. The learning platform is designed to help students pinpoint areas of academic weakness, improve their ACT scores, and master the core skills needed to prepare for success in college and career.



### Test available for GFPS Sophomores



**SOPHOMORES & PARENTS:** You may be interested in hearing that there is a PreACT test that is designed to show students where they may need to strengthen their knowledge and skills in order to score higher on the ACT Exam as a junior. Typically, the PreACT is offered on the weekends for a fee, but last fall, the Montana Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE) and the Office of Public Instruction (OPI) created a partnership to **offer the PreACT free of charge for any sophomore in Montana who wishes to take it.**

### **Taking this exam might be some of the best preparation you could ever get for the ACT!**

You'll be taking a test that is almost exactly like the ACT in a real testing situation, but without the pressure and stakes of the "real deal". Once your PreACT scores arrive, you will receive information from your counseling center about where you can use those scores to plan a path towards even better ACT scores.

GFPS will offer the PreACT test during the school day on **April 9th at CMR and GFHS and April 10th at PGEC.**

**TO REGISTER:** Sophomores who wish to take the PreACT **MUST REGISTER** via the QR code above or online at <https://bit.ly/PreACT24> **no later than Monday, March 13, 2024.**



# JUDGES NEEDED!

**Elementary School: March 7 | 9-11 a.m.**

**Middle & High School: March 5 | 7:45-11:30 a.m.**



**Be amazed by the creativity and intelligence of area youth and be a science fair judge.**  
You don't need to be an expert to be a judge!

To register and for more information: [www.gfcmu.edu/sciencefair/judges.html](http://www.gfcmu.edu/sciencefair/judges.html)



**GREAT FALLS  
COLLEGE**  
MONTANA STATE  
UNIVERSITY

## GFPS Virtual Academy

Great Falls Public Schools is happy to announce summer online learning opportunities for students. Summer Virtual Academy offers another way for students to earn credit toward graduation in a flexible environment, with coursework done whenever and wherever a student has access to the Internet. Summer courses afford students the opportunity to free up space in their schedules for additional electives during the school year.

**Registration opens on Friday, March 1, 2024 at 8:00 AM.** Some courses fill quickly; early registration and payment is encouraged. Each 1/2 credit costs \$115. Students who need financial assistance may contact their counselor.

Complete information can be found by scanning the QR code below or via the following link:  
[https://bit.ly/GFPS\\_Virtual\\_Academy](https://bit.ly/GFPS_Virtual_Academy)

### Available Courses\*:

- ♦ English 5-6
- ♦ English 7-8
- ♦ CTE/Work Experience
- ♦ Finance & Career Prep
- ♦ Dual Enrollment Medical Terminology
- ♦ HPE 1-2
- ♦ HPE 3-4
- ♦ Essentials of World History
- ♦ Montana Government
- ♦ US History

*\*All courses run contingent upon adequate enrollment. Any course that does not have seven or more students by 4:00 p.m. on May 23, 2024 will be cancelled. The fees of students registered in cancelled courses will be refunded or students will be allowed to choose another course. Students who registered for classes that had to be cancelled will be notified by email on May 28, 2024 with refunds issued shortly thereafter.*

**Questions?** Contact Beckie Frisbee at 406-268-6761 or [beckie\\_frisbee@gfps.k12.mt.us](mailto:beckie_frisbee@gfps.k12.mt.us)

For more information  
Use the QR Code below



To Register for Virtual Academy  
Use the QR Code below





"Celebrate Today ~ Own Tomorrow" is the theme for National Career & Technical Education for the month of February. We will celebrate the entire month featuring our students, staff, and community partners. On February 6, 2024, at 7 PM the CTE students accepted a Proclamation from Mayor Reeves as he recognizes the month of February as Great Falls CTE Month.

Great Falls Public School offers over 100 Career & Technical Education courses at Great Falls High School, C.M. Russell High School, Paris Gibson Education Center, East Middle, and North Middle Schools that include:

- Business & Computer Science
- Family & Consumer Science
- Health Sciences
- Industrial Technology
- Air Force JROTC
- Stage Craft
- Video Productions

We also have opportunities for independent study, internships, and job shadows. Credit can be earned through our internship program, which continues to grow. It includes opportunities at many industry partners throughout our community. The job shadow program provides students with four hours of "shadowing" in a desired career field. Students can learn what day to day life would look like in that career, while making a connection with an industry partner.

In the 2022-2023 school year, 2163 students took at least one CTE course within the 110 courses available through Great Falls Public Schools. Last year 305 seniors graduated with at least one CTE Pathway of 2 or more credits.

The impact of Career and Technical Education is outstanding.

- Over 97% of high school CTE students graduate high school on time.
- 92% of CTE students earn an industry recognized credential (IRC).
- 86% of high school CTE students go on to college or get a job within six months.
- CTSO's teach Employability Skills including Problem Solving, Interpersonal Skills, Technology Use, Critical Thinking, Personal Qualities & Communication.

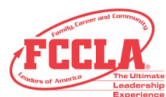
We have great partnerships with our community. Whether it be internships or job shadows, or through our Career and Technical Student Organizations such as BPA, DECA, FCCLA, FFA, HOSA, JROTC, and Skills USA, the opportunities continue to grow.

Central Montana Works!, in collaboration with the GF Chamber of Commerce, GFPS, and other community partners launched a new career and college exploration opportunity for eighth and tenth grade students in Central Montana on October 18, 2022; click [Worlds of Work](#) to see a video of what the students were able to experience. *This will be an annual event to take place at both the University of Providence and Great Falls College-MSU and is scheduled for September 24, 2024.*

New this year, in collaboration with the MT Contractors' Association, we have started Build Montana to give a heavy equipment experience to our students.

For more CTE information visit their website at: <https://mt50000605.schoolwires.net/Domain/89>  
See your guidance counselor today to sign up for a CTE course and get started.

Please "like" our GFPS CTE Facebook page!



## MAY IS ADVANCED PLACEMENT MONTH!

AP Exam registration needs to be completed each academic year in November. Late registration can be completed through March 15, for an additional late fee. Please see Ms. Schoenen, CMR Counselor, or Mr. Getten, GFH Counselor, if you have any questions or for more information about AP testing.

### AP EXAMS— 2024

Please check the exams you intend to take in the Advanced Placement program, May 6-17, 2024.

| Week 1            | Morning – 8:00 a.m.                     | Afternoon – 12:00 p.m.                                           |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday, May 6     | AP United States Government & Politics  | AP Chemistry                                                     |
| Tuesday, May 7    | AP Human Geography<br>AP Microeconomics | AP Statistics                                                    |
| Wednesday, May 8  | AP English Literature & Composition     | AP Comparative Govt & Politics<br>AP Computer Science A          |
| Thursday, May 9   | AP Environmental Science                | AP Psychology                                                    |
| Friday, May 10    | AP United States History                | AP Macroeconomics<br>AP Spanish Literature & Culture             |
| Week 2            | Morning – 8:00 a.m.                     | Afternoon – 12:00 p.m.                                           |
| Monday, May 13    | AP Calculus AB<br>AP Calculus BC        |                                                                  |
| Tuesday, May 14   | AP English Language & Composition       | AP Physics C: Mechanics<br>AP Physics C: Electricity & Magnetism |
| Wednesday, May 15 |                                         | AP Computer Science Principles                                   |
| Thursday, May 16  | AP Spanish Language & Culture           | AP Biology                                                       |
| Friday, May 17    | AP Physics 1: Algebra– Based            |                                                                  |

AP

**Studio Art - Art Portfolios due online by Monday, May 6th, 2024 at 6 PM!**

*\*\*Students wishing to take exams that are scheduled for the same time slot should ask their Coordinator to contact AP Services.*

### A WORD FOR THE WISE

When it comes to taking AP Exams,  
the question shouldn't be "Should I take an AP Exam?",  
but rather "How many AP Exams should I take?"  
It's an investment that can earn you both time and money!

## Noteworthy Facts about Advanced Placement

- ◆ Each test is administered *only* one time on the dates listed.
- ◆ **PAYMENT INFO:** After registering for the AP class, students must pay for each AP exam they are going to take at the school finance office (**payment form on last page of this Newsletter**). See more detailed info below...
- ◆ **LATE PAYMENTS:** The fee for each AP exam which is paid for by 3:30 PM on March 15, 2024 is \$150, including the late registration fee. If a student needs a late testing date, the fee would be \$190 (see dates to the left & below to determine fee amount to pay).
- ◆ **REFUNDS:** If a student cancels an exam before April 12th, a *partial refund of \$60* will be issued. If a student cancels the exam after April 14th or does not show up to a test, no refund will be given. **Students may NOT request a late test date if they miss an exam without prior notification or a verified emergency.** (cancellation fees may change, adjusting the amount refunded, verify with Advisor).
- ◆ You can take an AP exam even if you are not taking an AP class. If you wish to take an exam for which our district does not offer an AP course, you will need to contact Mr. Getten or Mrs. Schoenen.
- ◆ Tests begin *promptly* at 8:00 AM and 12:00 PM. Most of the exams are three hours long.
- ◆ Various testing accommodations are available to students with disabilities. Contact Mrs. Schoenen or Mr. Getten if you need this service.

### AP EXAMS - Late Testing Dates

Fee is an additional \$40 more per exam on top of the regular test dates exam fees, unless due to a school sponsored event.

| Week 3           | Morning – 8:00 a.m.                                                                                                          | Afternoon – 12:00 p.m.                                                                                           |
|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Wed,<br>May 22   | AP Chemistry<br>AP Statistics<br>AP Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism<br>AP Computer Science A                            | AP Physics C: Mechanics<br>AP English Literature & Composition<br>AP Macroeconomics<br>AP Environmental Sciences |
| Thurs,<br>May 23 | AP English Language & Composition<br>AP Computer Science Principles<br>AP Human Geography<br>AP Spanish Literature & Culture | AP Biology<br>AP French Language & Culture<br>AP Physics 1 - Algebra Based                                       |
| Fri,<br>May 24   | AP Calc AB/BC<br>AP Microeconomics<br>AP Spanish Language & Culture                                                          | AP US Government                                                                                                 |

### Test Preparation

- ◆ You can go online at [www.collegeboard.org/ap](http://www.collegeboard.org/ap) to check out exam formats, sample questions and student responses plus other up-to-date AP information.
- ◆ On test day, you will need to bring several sharpened #2 pencils, a black or dark-blue ball-point pen, your secondary school code number, your social security number, a watch for pacing yourself and, for Calculus test-takers, a calculator; check with the instructor first as only certain ones can be used.
- ◆ Various items are not allowed in the testing area such as cell phones, iPods, and other personal electronic devices. A complete list of restricted items will be provided prior to testing.



## Types of Degrees

### Certificate Programs

These programs are less than two years, and allow you to step right into a specific occupation.

### Associate & Transfer Degrees

Most take two years to complete, and some can count towards a bachelor's degree.

### Bachelor's Degrees

These usually take four years to complete, and cover a broad range of subjects.

### Graduate Certificates

After you earn a bachelor's or master's degree, these certify you for a specific task or occupation.

### Master's Degrees

These programs usually take an additional one to two years after you complete your bachelor's.

### Professional Degrees

Certain occupations require a specific degree. Some programs require you to earn a bachelor's degree first.

### Doctoral Degrees

The highest degree you can earn in an area of study, these programs follow either bachelor's or master's degrees.

## 2-Year Colleges

People may choose a 2-year program over a 4-year college because:

### Career Goals

For many occupations, you don't need a 4-year degree. In particular, the Health Care industry has dozens of high-paying occupations that require an Associate's Degree. Electrical workers often need only a two-year degree and earn more than most occupations requiring a Bachelor's Degree.

### High-paying occupations in Montana that require less than a 4-year degree:

|                                                           |          |                                                    |          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|----------|----------------------------------------------------|----------|
| ELECTRICAL & ELECTRONICS REPAIRERS .....                  | \$87,960 | REGISTERED NURSES .....                            | \$59,859 |
| RADIATION THERAPISTS .....                                | \$78,256 | MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING TECHNOLOGISTS .....     | \$57,884 |
| AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS .....                             | \$71,283 | MORTICIANS, UNDERTAKERS, & FUNERAL DIRECTORS ..... | \$53,234 |
| NUCLEAR MEDICINE TECHNOLOGISTS .....                      | \$71,243 | RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGISTS & TECHNICIANS .....       | \$51,278 |
| DENTAL HYGIENISTS .....                                   | \$69,558 | WEB DEVELOPERS .....                               | \$51,034 |
| DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHERS .....                     | \$69,469 | ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING TECHNICIANS .....        | \$50,789 |
| ELECTRICAL & ELECTRONICS ENGINEERING TECHNICIANS .....    | \$63,790 | ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONICS DRAFTERS .....          | \$50,578 |
| TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT INSTALLERS & REPAIRERS ..... | \$63,214 |                                                    |          |
| CARDIOVASCULAR TECHNOLOGISTS & TECHNICIANS .....          | \$61,364 |                                                    |          |

### To Save Money

- Two-year colleges usually have cheaper tuition and you only pay for two years.
- Many university-bound students spend their first two years at a community college to earn basic credits that will transfer to a 4-year school.
- Community colleges often allow students to live at home. Room and board can be more expensive than tuition.

### Limited Time

- Universities focus on a well-rounded education, requiring students to take courses unrelated to their degree. Two-year programs focus on getting students to work as soon as possible.
- Laid-off workers often need to increase their earning potential in a short time.
- Caring for children, ill spouses, or aging parents may limit the time a person has to spend on education.

## Short-term Training Programs

Specialized occupational training programs can last anywhere from a day to a year or more. These programs certify you to work in specific careers. Schools and programs in Montana offer several career options, including:

- |                                   |                                        |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| • Beauty and Cosmetology          | • Massage                              |
| • Real Estate                     | • Outdoor Recreation Outfitters/Guides |
| • Tax Preparation                 | • Law Enforcement                      |
| • Telecommunications Installation | • Taxidermy                            |

Job Corps Services around the state provide a variety of certification and training programs for occupations such as Culinary Arts, Dental Assistants, Diesel Mechanics, Facilities Maintenance, Heavy Equipment Operators/Mechanics, Nursing Assistants, Pharmacy Technicians, Bricklayers, Carpenters, Painters, Welders, and more.

Click "Montana Schools" under the "Education" Tab in MCIS for a complete listing.



## Investigate **FT** Apprenticeship

**GET PAID TO LEARN! START YOUR CAREER DEBT-FREE!**

**University Graduate**



**-\$27,568**

**Apprentice**



**\$200,000**



The average Montana graduate with a 4-year degree enters the work force with \$27,568 in student debt, and that's with in-state tuition.

During the same time period, an apprentice can earn up to \$200,000 while learning their trade.

### What is Apprenticeship?

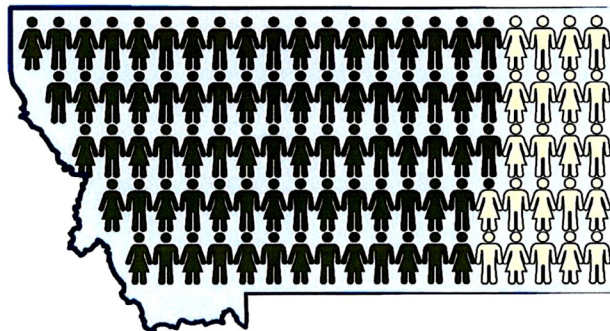
Montana Registered Apprenticeship is both full-time employment and on-the-job training. Apprenticeship produces high-paying jobs and highly-skilled workers.

Apprentices get hands-on experience alongside a skilled professional in a real-world work environment, and related technical instruction in a classroom or online.

Apprenticeship programs take 3 to 4 years to complete, depending on the occupation.

**78.2%** of apprentice program graduates are working for Montana employers.

**21.8%** could be self-employed, work out-of-state, or work for an employer that does not report to Montana Unemployment Insurance.



In 2013, apprentice graduates had an average annual wage of \$53,500.

**\$53,500**

That's nearly \$16,000 more than the Montana average annual wage.

**\$37,500**

### Apprenticeship Snapshot

- There are almost 700 apprenticeship sponsors in Montana.
- More than 1,350 active Montana apprentices working in over 50 occupations.
- 78% of apprentice graduates are still working in Montana.
- Apprentices receive a nationally recognized industry credential.
- Apprentices learn hard and soft skills while earning a paycheck

### Avg. Starting Hourly Wage

by Min. Ed. Requirement, 2012



To learn more about apprenticeships, please visit: [apprenticeship.mt.gov](http://apprenticeship.mt.gov)



### **Great Falls Public Schools Foundation**

Taxpayers are the primary supporters of public schools. The Great Falls Public Schools (GFPS) Foundation exists to build upon the taxpayers' commitment with private funding to enhance education in unique and impactful ways. Through the generosity of donors, the Foundation provides educator grants, student scholarships, building enhancements, and student and teacher recognition opportunities. The Foundation partners with families, businesses, and the community to positively impact the learning experience for students and teachers.

### **Foundation Scholarships**

The GFPS Foundation provides over 100 scholarships to graduating seniors. Over \$350,000 was awarded to 2023 GFPS graduates pursuing a wide array of post-secondary education plans. Similar opportunities exist for current seniors.

- Online Application – Apply online at <https://gfpsfoundation.org/scholarships/> and contact our office if you need assistance or have questions about the scholarship program.
- Two Scholarship Application Periods – The application sessions for Foundation scholarships are as follows: Fall Session (Oct 1 - Nov 15) and Winter Session (Jan 1 – Feb 15). Different scholarships are offered in each session. Students are encouraged to apply for both sessions.
- Award Notifications – Students who are selected to receive scholarships are notified by mail from the Foundation office. Award letters for the fall session will be mailed in January. Notifications for the winter session will be mailed in April.
- Scholarship Disbursements - Scholarships are typically disbursed directly to the educational institutions in July and August unless specified otherwise.

### **Additional Financial Support for Juniors and Seniors**

In addition to post-secondary scholarships, the Foundation offers financial assistance for other areas of learning. If your family needs assistance in the following areas, you may contact the counseling office for more information:

- Advanced placement (AP) exam fees
- Dual credit course fees
- Accuplacer exam fees
- Virtual Academy class fees

### **Contact Us**

If you have questions about our scholarship program, please contact the GFPS Foundation office at

406-268-7340 or email us at [amber\\_brannon@gfps.k12.mt.us](mailto:amber_brannon@gfps.k12.mt.us).



The **Career & College Readiness Center** plays a key role in developing our current and future workforce by collaborating with our education and training partners, various business sectors and multiple service organizations. It is through these joint efforts we are able to create multiple pathway opportunities.

One successful program we offer is **Connections 101**: a collaborative program between Labor Great Falls Job Service office, Great Falls College and Great Falls Career and College Readiness Center. Started in fall of 2019, Connections 101 is offered in fall and spring and offers a holistic approach to learning by providing a framework for students to develop and build their **academic knowledge, technical expertise and self-management skills**. At the completion of this program, students will be confident in their purpose, plan and path to transition or continue in:

- Higher education
- Short-term training
- Apprenticeship
- Immediate Job placement

*Connections 101 was nationally recognized in February 2021 by the Department of Education Office of Career, Technical and Adult Education as an innovative bridge program.*

Contact the Career & College Readiness Center at (406) 771-5108.



## Continuing Education & Training

The **Great Falls College Continuing Education and Training Department** (previously Lifelong Learning) has changed its name to better align with the department's vision and program goals that operate within this department.

### Career Training Opportunities

#### Healthcare

- CNA (Certified Nursing Assistant)
- HHA (Home Health Aide)
- MA2 (Medication Aide I & II)

#### Transportation / Maintenance

- CDL (Commercial Driver's License)
- Low Pressure Boiler's License
- Flagger Certification

#### Construction / Skilled Trades

- Structural Welding
- Future Build

Contact the Continuing Education & Training Department at Great Falls College!  
(406) 268-3734 | [cet@gfcmsu.edu](mailto:cet@gfcmsu.edu) | [www.gfcmsu.edu/cet](http://www.gfcmsu.edu/cet)



YOUR JOURNEY BEGINS AT

# Great Falls College



Explore your path to education and a career with us. With a wide array of academic programs and innovative learning opportunities, Great Falls College offers a unique and customizable educational experience for you.

**We are flexible.** One-year certificates and two-year associate degrees train students in accounting, allied health, trades and technology so they are ready to enter the workforce immediately. Students can complete general education core classes that will seamlessly transfer to any other public college or university in Montana. The 8-Week Advantage allows you to complete classes on-campus, online or hybrid in just eight weeks, making it easier to juggle school, family and work obligations.

**We are personal.** Great Falls College's low student-to-faculty ratio of 16:1 means you are able to develop close relationships with your classmates and instructors with personalized attention. Faculty at Great Falls College are here to teach, not research. Students receive top-notch instruction by professors, not graduate teaching assistants.

**We are affordable.** Tuition and fees are less than the national average at less than \$2,000 a semester for full-time students. This means students can complete a semester of the same core classes at Great Falls College for up to \$2,000 less than they would pay at other Montana four-year campuses. Over the duration of 1-to-2 years of general education requirements, you could potentially save up to \$4,000 to \$8,000!

**Contact Great Falls College today for more information or to schedule a tour.**

Call: (406) 268-3700 | Text: (406) 412.3735 | Email: [admissions@gfcmu.edu](mailto:admissions@gfcmu.edu) | Visit: [www.gfcmu.edu](http://www.gfcmu.edu)

## Great Falls College provides Dual Enrollment options for high school students!

Juniors and 16 year olds can participate. Partnered with Great Falls Public Schools, we offer free or reduced price early college (held on-campus/online) and concurrent (held at high school) courses. Interested in trades? Explore our Dual Enrollment Welding Cohort program for a Certificate of Applied Science in Welding Technology & Fabrication.



"After I did all of my classes with Great Falls College, I felt successful and prepared to start on my career path."

- Eryn Frahm, C.M. Russell High graduate who attended Great Falls College and now teaches at Sacajawea Elementary



"There's a lot of one-on-one time with my instructors. I really appreciate that. There are a lot of different classes they have for us to take, like the blueprint reading, the CAD classes, it helps us not only understand welding but other things around the field."

- Isaac Kloppel, Great Falls High graduate who completed the Great Falls College Welding program





The University of Providence is committed to offering affordability, value and student success. One way we show we are dedicated to our students is through our **Argo Advantage**, which ensures that the students graduate on time and are career-ready, as skilled and ethical leaders ready to help shape a better world.

### **What is the Argo Advantage?**

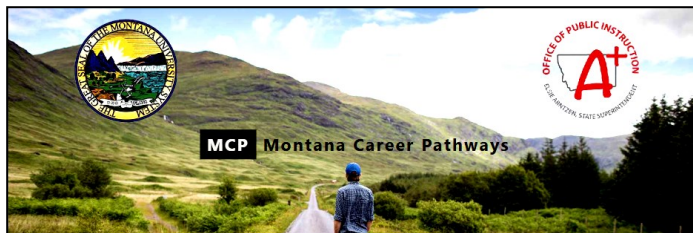
- The Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP). If a student's income after graduation is less than \$46,000, LRAP helps him or her repay federal, parent PLUS and private education loans. This program is offered at no cost to the student. Available for new, first-year campus undergraduates.
- Four-Year Graduation Guarantee - For students ready to declare their major by the end of their first semester, we will support them in their academic planning and provide any courses remaining after eight semesters at no additional charge.
- Providence Impact – Students who have not found adequate employment within six months will receive additional career counseling and support at no additional charge.
- Corps of Discovery – A personalized Montana experience to help students develop leadership skills and clarify career and life goals.

Alongside our Argo Advantage, UP offers a vast number of majors, minors and certificate programs both on-campus and online that create an educational experience designed to help students discover their calling and obtain their professional goals. We want our students to find their path to not only success, but fulfillment, so they can both make a living and truly live.

To learn more about UP or to set-up a campus visit, please contact the University of Providence Admissions Office at 406-791-5202 or [admissions@uprovidence.edu](mailto:admissions@uprovidence.edu)

## CAREER PLANNING RESOURCES

Montana Career Pathways: <https://www.mus.edu/mcp/>



<http://lmi.mt.gov/Career/Students>



<https://lmi.mt.gov/Career/JobSeekers>



Montana Department of  
**LABOR & INDUSTRY**

[https://mus.edu/Prepare/Prepare/College Preparation Checklist.asp](https://mus.edu/Prepare/Prepare/College_Preparation_Checklist.asp)



[Plan Your Future | Reach Higher Montana, Helping Students find their Future](#)



<https://www.montanacolleges.com/students.html>



GUIDE TO HIGHER EDUCATION



## See Your Counselor for more Information!

CALENDAR LINKS: [CMR](#) [GFHS](#) [PGEC](#) [ATHLETICS](#) [ART & MUSIC](#) [DISTRICT EVENTS](#) [GFPS](#)

### ACADEMIC LETTER APPLICATIONS

**CMR** students will be given their academic letters on an individual basis. If a CMR student believes they qualify for an Academic Letter, they may see their Counselor for an application.

**GFHS** students who would like to apply for an Academic Letter may pick up the application from the Records Office. At GFHS, these applications must be filed by the end of February.

### HEISEY AWARDS

The Trustees of the Heisey Foundation have established a series of awards which will be given at area high schools in the spring. The Heisey is a cash award of \$150. The desire of the Foundation was to put the money back into the communities where it was originally earned. Heisey awards are special in that they are the only award presented to students based primarily on improvement. All students nominated have been judged on their teachers' observations of improvement in citizenship, scholarship, and effort for this year. Students are nominated by their teachers or administrators.

The Heisey Award Assembly at CMR is traditionally held in the beginning of March in the Bill Williamson Hall Auditorium.

The Heisey Award Assembly at GFHS is traditionally held in the beginning of March in the Davidson Family Auditorium.

### NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY REQUIREMENTS

At both C. M. Russell High School and Great Falls High School, juniors who have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.33 after five semesters are eligible to become candidates for National Honor Society. Seniors are again eligible after the seventh semester with a cumulative GPA of 3.33.

Honor Society Induction: **CMR ceremony is traditionally held in April in the Bill Williamson Hall Auditorium**

**GFHS ceremony is traditionally held in March in the Old Gym.**

### HONOR ROLL ASSEMBLY

**CMR High School traditionally has an Honor Roll breakfast in the Spring (check w/CMR for updates)**

**Great Falls High School Academic Honors Assembly is traditionally in March in the Davidson Family Auditorium**

## Junior Year Checklist

### Fall of Junior Year

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Take PSAT, if applicable.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Begin making "Schools List" -- use MCIS!!!!
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Don't forget grades!!!
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Take the ASVAB to explore career choices.

### Winter of Junior Year

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Continue to look at schools and write for information
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Attend your Individual Planning Conference with your counselor.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Learn as much as you can about your career fields that interest you.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Attend appropriate representative visits.

### Spring of Junior Year

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Take the ACT test for free!
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. As you receive information from schools, start to narrow down your list.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Begin application process if you are interested in Academies or ROTC.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Keep working on grades!

### Summer before Senior Year

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Visit colleges if you can.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Continue to narrow your "schools list."

## Senior Year Checklist

The following checklist is designed to help you organize your approach to selecting and applying for post-secondary education and training after high school. The deadlines mentioned are general in nature, so you should be aware of the specific deadlines required by the schools you plan to attend or apply.

### Fall of Senior Year

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Take first scheduled college entrance test.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Attend Financial Aid Workshop with your parents
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. File FAFSA as early as October 1. Pay attention to the deadlines! There are federal and state deadlines, and Your colleges may also have a deadline.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Attend college, university, and military representative visitations.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Take the ASVAB if you didn't during junior year and are still undecided about possible career directions. Contact any of the local recruiters or take with Juniors in October.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Make your "schools list." (Dream, Probable, Sure thing)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Write for applications, financial aid, and scholarship information to those schools to which you wish to apply.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Meet with your counselor for your Individual Planning Conference.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Check Scholarship Scoop each time it comes out and apply as appropriate.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. GRADES!!!
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. Finalize academies, ROTC, or early decision applications, if applicable.

### During Christmas vacation

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Apply to out-of-state schools.

### January of Senior Year

- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Finals!!!

### February

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Complete MUS Honor Scholarship application if you qualify and are going in-state.

### March

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Apply in-state.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Application for Financial Aid should be in. Deadlines may be earlier for out-of-state.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Continue to apply for scholarships as appropriate.



## 2024 ADVANCED PLACEMENT LATE REGISTRATION TEST PAYMENT FORM

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(please print)

ID Number \_\_\_\_\_ Student Cell # \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have an IEP or a 504? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

This form and your payment are **due by 3:30 PM March 15, 2024** to the finance office.

**PAYMENT INFORMATION**  
(to be filled out by the Finance Office)

Payment Date \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Received \_\_\_\_\_

Receipt # \_\_\_\_\_

### REGULAR TEST REGISTRATION

Please provide the full name of the test (example: AP English Literature and Composition or AP Calculus AB)

| Test Name | Teacher | Period | Late Registration (\$150) |
|-----------|---------|--------|---------------------------|
|           |         |        |                           |
|           |         |        |                           |
|           |         |        |                           |
|           |         |        |                           |
|           |         |        |                           |

The following exams are offered PAPER/PENCIL or ELECTRONIC. If you are taking any of these exams, please check the appropriate box.

I would like to take the following exam ELECTRONICALLY (by computer).

AP US History \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

AP Language and Composition \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

AP Literature and Composition \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Do you anticipate a conflict with the testing date(s)? (see regular test dates and late test dates)  
Please see Mr. Getten (GFH) or Mrs. Schoenen (CMR) **ASAP** to make arrangements.