



As the new GFPS superintendent, I'm excited to connect with all of you. While I'm still on the hunt for the perfect catchphrase starting with the letter "H" (any suggestions are welcome!) to kick off the District update, I thought I'd kick things off with a fun "Top Ten List" to give you a glimpse of what I'm all about and what we can achieve together. So, without further ado, here's my first edition of "Top Ten Things I'm Excited About as Your New Superintendent!"

1. **Hometown Pride** – Celebrating the unique spirit and traditions of Great Falls.
 - “The Strength of Great Falls is its people!”. As your Superintendent, it is my privilege to sit on several community boards/committees. I have consistently heard that our community’s greatest asset is you! From Flag Day ceremonies at Overlook Park to the annual Fourth of July Parade, Great Falls Public Schools staff has interacted with you, our wonderful community, as we celebrated our city, state, and country.
2. **Helping Hands** – Working together to support our students and staff.
 - Across the district our *Buildings and Grounds* crews are working hard on maintenance and facility projects that make our school and grounds shine.
 - Mark your calendars for August 21st from 11:00-1:00. GFPS will be hosting a job fair at Paris Gibson Education Center, 2400 Central Avenue, to fill positions prior to the beginning of the school year. GFPS will be seeking Engineers/Custodians, Food Service, Teacher Aides, Paraprofessionals and Substitute Teachers. Interviews will be on the spot, as well as offers to potential employees pending references and a successful background check. Continue to watch our job postings, <https://gfps.k12.mt.us/departments/human-resources/employment-landing-page-09192023>, and reach out to Human Resources at 406 268-6010 with your questions.
3. **High Hopes** – Setting ambitious goals for our District’s future.
 - The Strategic Planning process is complete and the GFPS Board of Trustees has officially adopted the 3-Year Strategic Plan. A special thank you to our community members who participated in the community survey last fall which helped us identify strengths and needs. What you shared is reflected in the plan. Please check it out on our website at https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1721247384/gfpsk12mtus/hrgd3hwoo95tzlfdtmyw/7-17-24_GFPS_2024-20273-YearStrategicPlan.pdf
4. **Happy Faces** – Seeing the joy and enthusiasm in our students every day.
 - The GFPS Summer Food program is delivering FREE nutritious meals to children this summer. You can find the food truck at Paris Gibson Education Center from 8-10 am for breakfast, Lewis and Clark Elementary School for lunch service at 10:50 am, Sunnyside Elementary School for lunch service from 11:30-11:50, West Elementary School from 12:05-12:25 pm, and finally at Gibson Park from 1:05-1:20 pm.
5. **Heroic Teachers** – Applauding the dedication and hard work of our incredible educators.
 - Despite vacation, learning still continues in our District during the summer months.

- Safety Town (pre-Kindergarten); June 10th-28th
- High School Virtual Academy; June 10th – July 31st
- Middle School Beginnings at North Middle School; June 9th – June 21st
- Middle School Summer Band; June 10th – June 21st
- Elementary Jumpstart (Kindergarten-3); July 22nd – August 16th
- Elementary Art Camp; June 17th – 21st or June 24th – 28th
- Extended School Year (Student Services); June 7th – 28th
- Culture Camp; June 10th – 28th
- Construction Camp; June 18th – 20th

6. **Harmonious Communities** – Fostering strong connections between our schools and the community.

- A special thank you to the Great Falls Public Schools Foundation and their generous donors who are supporting the remodel of two elementary school libraries: Lewis and Clark and West. Please watch for ribbon cutting ceremonies later this summer. We would love to see you there!

7. **Healthy Minds and Bodies** – Prioritizing mental and physical health and well-being for all.

- Congratulations to Courtney George for being named the Montana School Nurse of the Year by the Montana Association of School Nurses. Courtney serves East Middle School and is an outstanding leader for our GFPS nurses.

8. **Hands-On Learning** – Embracing innovative and interactive educational experiences.

- Over 20 elementary students worked with four teachers and eight community partner volunteers to build foldable youth-size picnic tables for Toby's House this summer. Thank you to our community partner volunteers from Johnson Madison, Home Builders Association, Harbor Freight, and the Contractors' Association.

9. **Historic Achievements** – Building on the proud legacy of Great Falls Public Schools.

- Please plan to attend Great Falls Public Schools' ribbon cutting for our first public charter school, the CORE School at Morningside Elementary. The Celebration will start at 11:00 AM on August 27th. Join us as we meet the staff, tour the school, and enjoy refreshments.

10. **Heartfelt Commitment** – My unwavering dedication to the success and growth of every student is my commitment to you. Student growth happens with the guidance, care, and expertise of our outstanding professional educators and support staff.

I look forward to working with all of you to make this school year the best one yet! And remember, if you come up with that perfect "H" catchphrase, let me know!

Warm regards,

Heather Hoyer
Superintendent, Great Falls Public Schools