



Great People...Great Falls Public Schools

August 2024

Great Falls...

As the summer months come to a close, we begin to transition from the season of warm weather, vacations, and outdoor activities back into the structured routines of the school year. This shift marks an exciting time for our community as we prepare for the return to academics and the bustling energy of school sports. The memories of summer adventures will soon be joined by the anticipation of new learning opportunities, the camaraderie of classmates, and the thrill of athletic competitions. As we gear up for another academic year, let's embrace this transition with enthusiasm and a shared commitment to support our students in achieving their best, both in the classroom and on the field, pitch, course, or court. Our collective efforts will ensure a smooth and successful start to the new school year. Welcome to the August edition of GFPS Highlights with Superintendent Hoyer.

Hometown Pride – Celebrating the unique spirit and traditions of Great Falls.

- No matter what colors you wear or the team you cheer for, fall evenings call for hours in the stands, on the pitch, or on the course. The student athletes of Great Falls Public Schools are getting ready to defend their school pride with the start of the fall sports season. Kickoff competitions are below. For detailed information on sports schedules, visit <https://gfps.k12.mt.us/departments/athletics-sports-schedules/overview/sports-schedules>

CMR	GFHS
XC – 9/6 Time Trials in Cut Bank	XC – 9/6 Time Trials in Cut Bank
FB – 8/30 @ Flathead	FB – 8/30 vs Glacier
Soccer – 8/29 vs Senior	Soccer – 8/29 vs West
Volleyball – 8/31@ Glacier	Volleyball – 8/31 @ Flathead
Golf – 8/19-20 Great Falls Invite	Golf – 8/19-20 Great Falls Invite

Helping Hands – Working together to support our students and staff.

- Thank you to generous and high-energy community partners who never quit working for students! On Friday August 16th, the annual Back 2 School Blast provided free haircuts, access to services, hamburgers and much more, as the Great Falls community gave away 1400 backpacks to GFPS and surrounding area students. A special thank you to United Way of Cascade County, Alliance for Youth, the Great Falls Rescue Mission, and the Great Falls Association of Realtors for making a great start to the year possible for so many Cascade County students.

High Hopes – Setting ambitious goals for our District's future.

- We're excited to highlight our District's annual financial publication. This comprehensive report offers an in-depth look at our finances, providing valuable insights into how our resources are managed to support the success of every student. In addition to a detailed

financial overview, the publication also paints a broader picture of the District's programs, accomplishments, and goals, ensuring transparency and fostering a strong connection with our community. You can find the 2024-2025 GFPS Budget Book link here

https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1723822863/gfpsk12mtus/zllmpvysigtccflmoqrd/8-16-24_GFPS_2024-2025GFPSBudgetBookFinal.pdf

Heroic Teachers – Applauding the dedication and hard work of our incredible educators.

- Great Falls Public Schools is welcoming 68 new teachers to the Great Falls Public Schools Family. Educators from across our great nation, from Vermont to Texas, California to Butte America are choosing to call Great Falls home. Please help us welcome the new 22 secondary, 43 elementary, and 5 specialists.



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

- The start of the school year can be stressful for parents, students, and teachers as everyone prepares to return to the routines of school. From scissors to frisbees, ChapStick to gift cards, our generous community came together to give our 68 new teachers a huge welcome to our amazing community. Thank you to everyone who donated.

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

- Congratulations to the GFPS Peer Mentor Groups, under the direction of Ms. Andrea Savage and Ms. Marla Hauser, who took home the Youth Safety Spotlight Award from the Jeremy Bullock Safe Schools Summit. In addition to awards and recognitions, this summit features workshops and panel discussions, and was created in honor of Jeremy Bullock. For more information on this annual summit, please visit <https://jeremybullocksafeschools.com/>

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

- Over the summer, teachers in Great Falls and across our state became students. Learning about Career and Technical Education (CTE) through professional development opportunities known as PIR (Pupil Instruction Related) is vital for teachers. Every summer teachers embark on 18 hours of extended learning opportunities that will enable them to bridge the gap between academic learning and real-world skills and provide opportunities to enhance their teaching. Thanks to community partners like Malmstrom AFB and ADF International, teachers received hands-on training to better learn how to serve their students and the families who support them, while securing the hours needed to maintain

their teaching license. If you are a community partner who would like to provide 3-, 6-, or 12-hour educational opportunities to our teachers during non-school hours, please contact Secondary Curriculum Coordinator Rebecca Frisbee at (406) 268-6761.

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

- Great Falls Public Schools students represent the district, community, and state well. Here are a couple of examples from students who worked hard, played hard, and made their world better! 19 students represented the Northern Musicians Abroad with a 16-day tour to Europe where they toured, practiced, and played for audiences in London, Paris, Switzerland, Austria, Liechtenstein and Germany. Four alumni participated in and presented on McLaughlin Research Institute projects this summer as part of the MRI Summer Internship program. Current research projects included topics such as *chronic wasting disease, macular degeneration, and Alzheimer's disease*. High school students volunteered to read to younger students as part of the Raising Readers initiative, filled and distributed backpacks for the Back2School Blast.

Heartfelt Commitment – Great Falls Public Schools is proud of the comprehensive opportunities we give our students. From high-quality academics to high-quality opportunities, to tomorrow's high-quality leaders, we invite you to visit and learn with us!

Warm regards,

Heather Hoyer
Superintendent, Great Falls Public Schools