

HMS Newsletter

November 2024



HMS EVENTS

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
27	28	29	30	31	1 Support Friday 	2 BBB @ Havre
3 Daylight savings ends 	4 School Psychology Week	5 	6	7	8 No School BBB @ Havre	9
10	11 Veterans Day 	12	13	14 BBB @ Rocky Boy	15 Support Friday 	16 BBB @ Cut Bank
17	18 American Education Week	19	20 Cat/Griz Challenge	21	22 No School	23 BBB @ DeLaSalle
24	25	26	27 No School	28 No School 	29 No School	30



Support Friday/No School

Support Friday:

Nov. 1, 15

Dec. 13

Bussing, breakfast & sack lunch are available.

Students leaving early must be checked out by a parent/guardian in the office.

No School:

Nov. 8, 22, 27-29

Dec. 6, 20-Jan. 1



Important Reminders

- Please no parents in the hallway during school hours without first obtaining a visitor pass from the office!
- Volleyball tryouts for 7th/8th grade begin on **Dec. 16**. Please be sure that all forms are turned in before tryouts begin! If your student has already participated in a sport this school year, no additional forms are needed.
- Stay Up-to-date with **weekly** announcements posted on Infinite Campus and the HPS website.



School Pictures

School Picture access codes are available in the office. Please call if you did not receive an email and would like to order pictures.



Daylight Savings

Daylight Savings ends on November 3. Don't forget to set your clocks back 1 hour!



Jr. Helpers



Jr. Helpers will be holding the Bobcat/Griz Challenge on November 20, where we have a friendly challenge between the Cat fans and Griz fans: Students and staff are asked to wear Bobcat or Griz gear. Students can donate money in support of your favorite team or pay \$1 to wear a hat that day. Last year we raised \$324 which we used to buy Christmas gifts for a family in need!

Start saving your quarters for the Jr. Helpers Annual Candy Cane Sale that will be held Dec. 2-12! All profits will be donated to local charities.

8th Grade Science Trip

There is still room on the Science Trip to Florida for interested 8th graders.

Trip dates 6/08/25 - 6/12/25

Go to worldstrides.com/register or call 800-468-5899

Our trip ID is 215759

If you have questions, please email Mrs. Parsons at parsonsd@bluepony12.com



Student Council

Student Council Elections were held on September 19. Congratulations to our new student council members!

President: Lexi Sparks

Vice President: Melody Bodner-Holmes

Secretary: Braxton Huse

8th Grade Representatives:

Caden Tomac, Lincoln Houston, Cody McNew

7th Grade Representatives:

Khloe Ruhkamp, Marie Bold, Ivan Whiteman-Grant

6th Grade Representatives:

Porter McNew, McKeon Olson, Joshua Tomac

***Student Council meets on the 1st & 3rd Thursday every Month.**

Student Council will sponsor our annual Fall Art Contest during the week of Nov. 18-21. Judging will take place on Nov. 25.

Student of the Month

Students of the Month are nominated and voted on by HMS staff members. Their pictures, along with a summary stating why they were chosen, are posted in the lobby of the Middle School, on the HPS website and in the Havre Weekly Chronicle. Congratulations to the students of the month for **October:**

6th: Bethany Secor

7th: Penny Albertson

8th: Isabella Cowan





Havre Public Schools

PO Box 7791 – 425 6th Street
Havre, MT 59501

October 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Havre Public Schools is preparing for the *Montana Aligned to Standards Through-Year (MAST) assessment* through the Montana Office of Public Instruction. Students in Grades 3-8 will take Math and English Language Arts (ELA) assessments in 4 administration windows as indicated in below chart:

Administration	Start Date	End Date	ELA	Math*
Admin 1	October 14, 2024	November 22, 2024	2 Testlets	3-5 Testlets
Admin 2	January 13, 2025	February 21, 2025	2 Testlets 1 Performance Task	3-5 Testlets
Admin 3	March 24, 2025	May 2, 2025	2 Testlets	3-5 Testlets
Admin 4	May 5, 2025	May 23, 2025	1 Testlet	

**The actual number of testlets your child(ren) takes each testing window will be contingent on your district's local curriculum sequence.*

What is the purpose of the MAST assessment?

The Montana OPI in partnership with New Meridian has developed an improved assessment system that will accurately reflect the needs of our students, teachers, and administrators while providing useful flexibility in terms of test administration. The MAST Assessment implements “through year” assessments across the state that satisfy federal testing requirements and better aligns assessment with instruction.

The ultimate goal with the “through year” model is to support the formative instructional process that is closer to the local decisions required to support teaching and learning needs. Rather than a single end-of-year assessment, the MAST assessment is broken up into smaller testlets over the course of the academic year. The “Through-Year Assessment” design benefits students, teachers, parents, and administrators by more closely aligning assessment with instruction while providing actionable data throughout the school year.

It is important to remember that statewide assessments provide only one measure of student learning, but when combined with grades, classroom activities, unit quizzes and tests, and district-level assessments, statewide assessments can complete the picture of a child's abilities and help him/her down a path toward academic success in reaching Montana's Content Standards.

Details about the 2024-2025 administration:

- **Participants:** 3-8 Grades Math and ELA
- **Administrations:** 4 administration windows throughout the year
- **Total Estimated Testing Time:** 15-30 minutes per testlet
- **Technology:** Computer-based test delivery via secure site
- **Reports:** Student reports will be available for teachers and districts after administration. Individual student reports will provide results from each testlet will be made available to parents/guardians on the Kite Parent Portal. Please contact your building principal to request access. The full report will be available during the summer of 2025, then uploaded to Infinite Campus.

Here are some things to note about the MAST test:

- Your child's privacy will be protected. State and federal laws, such as the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), ensure these data remain confidential.
- Students with Individual Educational Plans (IEPs), Section 504 plans, or English Learner plans will be assessed based on individual student needs, consistent with all state and federal laws and regulations.

Here are some things you can do to help:

- Encourage your child to do their very best on everything they do in school, including the MAST assessment.
- Make sure he or she gets plenty of sleep the night before each test and has a healthy breakfast.
- Support your child by explaining the purpose of the tests and helping with homework and test reviews.

Learn More:

To learn more about this initiative follow this [link](#) to the Montana OPI MAST webpage. New Meridian is a non-profit organization that creates high-quality, innovative assessment solutions that focus on the skills that matter most for success in school and in life. You can learn more about New Meridian [here](#). Parent MAST resources can be found on the [MAST Portal](#) under *Resources for Parents*.

We appreciate your partnership in helping Havre Public Schools fulfill the state and federal requirements for statewide assessments and supporting your child to do his/her best.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions you may have about MAST. Questions can be directed to Curt Leeds at leedsc@blueponyk12.com.

Sincerely,

Curt Leeds
Principal
Havre Middle School