

TO: Trustees, East Helena Schools
FROM: Dan Rispens, Superintendent
BOARD MEETING: January 13, 2025
RE: Student Enrollment (January 6, 2025)

<u>School</u>	<u>Grade Level</u>	<u>To Date</u>	<u>Month Ago</u>	<u>Year Ago</u>
Eastgate	Age-K	50	50	18
	K	115	114	118
EG Total		[165]	[164]	[136]
Prickly Pear	1	129	129	142
	2	147	146	145
Prickly Pear Total		[276]	[275]	[287]
Radley Elementary	3	145	146	139
	4	146	147	136
	5	136	135	153
Radley Total		[427]	[428]	[428]
East Valley	6	152	150	156
Middle School	7	151	153	173
	8	167	165	151
EVMS Total		[470]	[468]	[480]
East Helena High	9	147	146	170
	10	148	148	161
	11	135	135	149
	12	122	122	101
EHHS Total		[552]	[551]	[581]
EVMS 227	6	10	10	
	7	9	8	
	8	8	8	
EVMS 227 Total		[27]	[26]	
EHHS 227	9	8	8	
	10	18	17	
	11	18	19	
	12	16	15	
EHHS 227 Total		[60]	[59]	
TOTALS		1977	1969	1912

Chairman Walter and Trustees,
Here are some monthly items to share with you.

Goals and Observations

We are back in full swing! I will be meeting with all certified staff towards the end of this month and during the month of February to review their professional goals and progress towards those goals, our school wide goals, and their pacing of our curriculums. In addition, we will pick back up classroom walkthroughs and I will continue the formal observation cycle with our non-tenured teachers. Below are our school wide goals that we will be tracking data during these midyear meetings.

Reading

- 90% of benchmark students, as indicated by fall composite, will remain benchmark in the winter and spring.
- 80% of strategic students will achieve average or above average growth based on pathways of progress from BOY to MOY and MOY to EOY.

Math

- 95% of benchmark students, as indicated by fall composite, will remain benchmark in the winter and spring.
- 85% of strategic students will achieve average or above average growth based on pathways of progress from BOY to MOY and MOY to EOY.

Behavior

- By the end of the 2nd quarter, our PrK-2 system will have established a refined Tier II process to be implemented during the 3rd and 4th quarter of the 2024/2025 school year.
- During the 2024/2025 school year, teams will start to explore and create a tentative trajectory for implementation of Character Strong

Kindergarten Registration and LittleLante Applications

As of January 1st, we have been accepting registrations for students who will be in kindergarten next school year as well as applications for our Early Literacy Classroom, Littlelantes. I will continue to provide the board with updates on registration numbers into the spring and early summer.

ELA Curriculum Adoption

On January 22nd, our secondary ELA Curriculum Committee will meet with representatives from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt and StudySync to then determine which curriculum we will present to the board in the spring for a recommended adoption. I want to recognize all of the hard work done by our instructional coaches, Katherine Senecal and Jana Nygaard, as well as our secondary reps. Christina Berg, Jodi Wigen, Brooklyn Purcell, Caleb Wallis, Jon Moore, Bret Charlton, Breanna Humphrey, and Katie VanderZanden have been working collaboratively with this process.

Upcoming Events

- January 20th - No School
- January 17th - End of Quarter 2
- January 27th - Early Release

Thank you!

Brandon Crusat, Eastgate and Prickly Pear Elementary Principal

Month	Gen. Inmap / Distance	Playground	Fighting/Physical Contact	Bus	Weapons	Misbehavior	Threat	Bullying	Harassment	Profanity	Total
September		2	6	1							2
October		1	1	1							9
November		1	1	1							9
December		3	3	3							9
January		10	6	1							19
February											
March											
April											
May											
Total	156	232	66	66	0	0	0	0	0	0	42

Month	Wrenching	Time Out	Conference	Parent Call	Bus Stop	AB Process	OSS	ISS	OSCT	Total
September		1	3	7	2	2	1			4
October		1	3	7	2	2	6			24
November		1	3	7	2	2	2	1		9
December		1	3	7	2	2	9			27
January		5	18	18	11	12	12	2		57
February										
March										
April										
May										
Total	4	8	38	38	44	35	35	3	3	127

Eastgate Elementary

Month	Gen. Innap./Defiance	Playground	Fighting/Physical Contact	Bus	Weapons	Vandalism	Threat	Bullying	Harassment	Profanity	Total
September											0
October	6	3	4							1	14
November	10	2	6								18
December	1	2	12	1							16
January	11	6	6								23
February											0
March											0
April											0
May/June											0
Total	28	13	28	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	71

Month	Warning	Time Out	Conference	Parent Call	Bus Sus.	Alt. Recess	OSS	ISS	CSCT Referral	Total
September										0
October	3			14	14		8	1	2	42
November				18	18		14	2	2	54
December				16	16	1	10	2	3	48
January		2		23	23		18		3	69
February										0
March										0
April										0
May/June										0
Total	3	2	71	71	1	50	5	10	0	213

Prickly Pear Elementary



Superintendent/Administration Office (406) 227-7700

Eastgate Elementary (406) 227-7770, grades pre & K
Prickly Pear Elementary (406) 227-7720, grades 1-2
Radley Elementary (406) 227-7710, grades 3-5
East Valley Middle School (406) 227-7740, grades 6-8
East Helena High School (406) 227-7730, grades 9-12



SUCCESS FOR ALL

January 13, 2025

Radley Elementary Board Report

Gus Somerfeld

- ❖ U.S. New & World Report notified Superintendent Rispens and I that Radley Elementary was recognized amongst the top elementary schools in the state. They evaluated various indicators of academic quality to rank more than 47,000 public elementary schools across the country. Radley was recognized as being a “Best” Elementary School due to ranking among the top 40% in the state. Radley ranked #84 of 535 elementary schools in Montana that were evaluated. That places Radley within the top 15% in the state. The following excerpt details how the schools were evaluated:
 - *The rankings use the same methodology for all included grade levels. For each state, schools were assessed on their shares of students who were proficient or above proficient in their mathematics and reading/language arts state assessments. Half of the formula assessed the scores themselves and the other half incorporated the test results in the context of socioeconomic demographics. In other words, the top-ranked schools are all high-achieving and have succeeded at educating all their students.*
- ❖ Starting January 13, students will be participating in our winter benchmark assessments. This allows us to gauge students' academic progress since the beginning of the school year. Once all the data is collected, teachers will take time to analyze it, change instructional groupings during targeted time, and adjust overall instruction accordingly. Additionally, our interventionists will work with building leadership and homeroom teachers to shuffle intervention needs based on the changing data. I'm eager to share our results once ready.
- ❖ January also marks mid-year evaluation season. I will be meeting with ALL staff to review their progress toward their two professional goals, strengths, areas of growth, reviewing student performance data, discuss their individual work toward school wide goals, and any other pertinent information. Although it can be time consuming to meet with all forty-five staff members, I always look forward to some one on one time with everyone.
- ❖ MAST Update: As I've reported before, the MAST (Montana Aligned to Standards Through-Year Assessment) has replaced SBAC as Montana's state accountability assessment. The assessment is very different from what we were used to with SBAC in the simple fact that instead of taking a summative assessment near the end of the school year, the model is to complete the assessment or “testlets” in smaller chunked windows. There are four testing windows. One of the main purposes of assessment in education is using the data to inform instruction and gauge student performance.

Unfortunately, after communicating with an OPI representative they will not be able to provide us with comparative or scale scoring until their subcommittee sets standards, generates scale scores, and generates proficiency levels. Right now, we are provided with student reports that tell us what questions they answer correctly. My hope is that after this upcoming Summer the MAST assessment will be more useful for adjusting our instruction but also provide us with comparative data to see how we stack up against other Montana districts.

❖ January Events:

- Jan. 6- Jan. 17 — 5th Grader to Starbase — Fort Harrison
- Jan. 25 — 5th & 6th Grade Boys Intramurals begin
- Jan. 27 — Early Release
- Jan. 31 — 5th Grade to Great Divide

❖ [Discipline Report](#)

December Resolution Data

Total Resolutions	Total Students	3rd Grade	4th Grade	5th Grade
37	40	19	14	4
Before Class	After Class	During Passing	Cafeteria/Recess	During Class
1	2	2	13	19
Classroom	Cafeteria	Hallway/Stairs/Gym	Restroom	Playground
17	1	3	2	12

Year to Date Resolutions

Total Resolutions	Total Students	3rd Grade	4th Grade	5th Grade
174	93	85	43	38
Before Class	After Class	During Passing	Cafeteria/Recess	During Class
8	8	12	67	66
Classroom	Cafeteria	Hallway/Stairs/Gym	Restroom	Playground
61	5	12	10	68

2024-2025---Radley Discipline Report

TYPE OF REFERRAL

	Gen. Inapp. Beh	Open Defiance	Fighting/Intent to Harm	Bullying	Bus Discipline	Chronic Minor Behavior	Weapons/Substances	Vandalism	Threat/Intimi	Theft	Harrasment	Profanity	monthly totals
September	8	8	8				1			1	3	3	32
October	15	12	11		1	1	5	2	1	1	2	4	55
November	11	14	12	3		4	1	2	1		1	1	50
December	13	9	5		4	4	6						37
January													0
February													0
March													0
April													0
May/June													0
total	47	43	36	3	1	9	6	11	2	2	6	8	174

CONSEQUENCES

	Warning	Time out	Work Detail	Conference	Parent Meeting	Bus Susp	Recess Det.	Lunch Detent.	Detention	**ISS	***OSS	Alternative	monthly totals
September	3	2					14	3		6	2	2	32
October	2	7			1		20	5		11	7	2	55
November		9		1	1		14	4		16	2	3	50
December	1	5	7				17	2		4	1		37
January													0
February													0
March													0
April													0
May/June													0
total	6	23	7	1	1	1	65	14	0	37	12	7	174

* Every office discipline referral results in a parent phone call, at a minimum.

** In-School Suspension

*** Out of School Suspension

EVMS Jan. Board Report



We had a busy Dec. at EVMS. We had Elf on the Shelf show up multiple times from the roof to the trophy cases. Thank you to Mason and Steve for getting us up there!

We had a day where the teachers dressed up as mask singers for the students. Miss Senecal was crowned champion.

Santa Claus also showed up because Mr. Kemper and Mr. Sebestyen decorated our school. EVMS had a busy month with lots of fun.

Sports:

EVMS Boys Basketball came to an end with both 7th and 8th grade teams showing so much growth.

Girls Basketball starts this month.

Window Decorating:

Our winter window decorating took place in Dec. and the 8th graders have already gone out into the community and cleaned windows.

Band and Choir Concerts also took place at EVMS on Dec. 19. It was 3.5 hours of hearing our students sing and play their instruments. We have a talented group!

Behavior Report:

The month of December was pretty busy regarding behaviors. This comes as no surprise as each year we typically see an increase during the holidays. This comes from many variables such as anxiety over the break, an abundant number of activities, and a change in the routine. The majority of behaviors come from the classrooms which have been consistent with past behavior reports. Cell phone violations were the biggest increase from last month to this month.

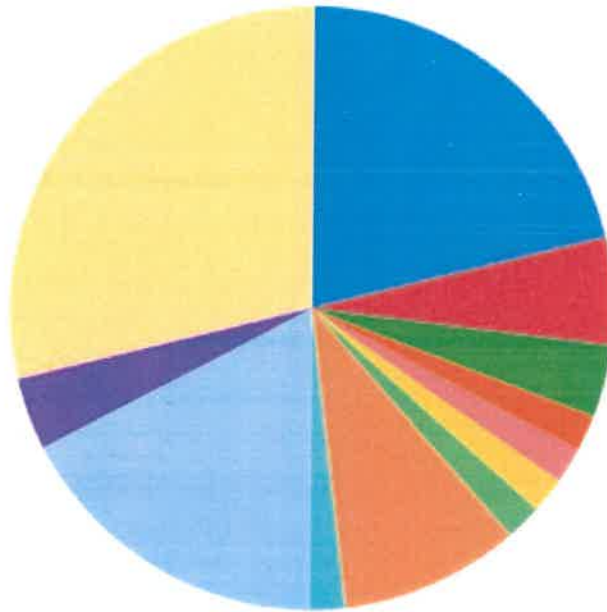
Behavior Breakdown:

	Gen. Inapp. Beh.	Open Defiance	Fighting	Bullying	Bus Discipline	Chronic Refocus	Weapons	Vandalism
August	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
September	10	7	0	0	1	0	0	0
October	23	13	3	2	0	3	0	0
November	11	6	1		1	1		2
December	11	4		2	1			1

	Threat/Intimi	Theft	Harassment	Assult	Disruption	Drugs/Tobacco//	Cell Phone
August	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
September	0	0	1	1	12	0	14
October	1	1	3	1	22	1	16
November	1	2	6	2	9	1	6
December	1	1	5	1	9	2	15

Types of Referrals - September 2024

- Gen. Inapp. Beh
- Open Defiance
- Bullying
- Bus Discipline
- Vandalism
- Threat/Intimi
- Theft
- Harrassment
- Assult
- Disruption
- Drugs/Tobacco
- Cell Phone

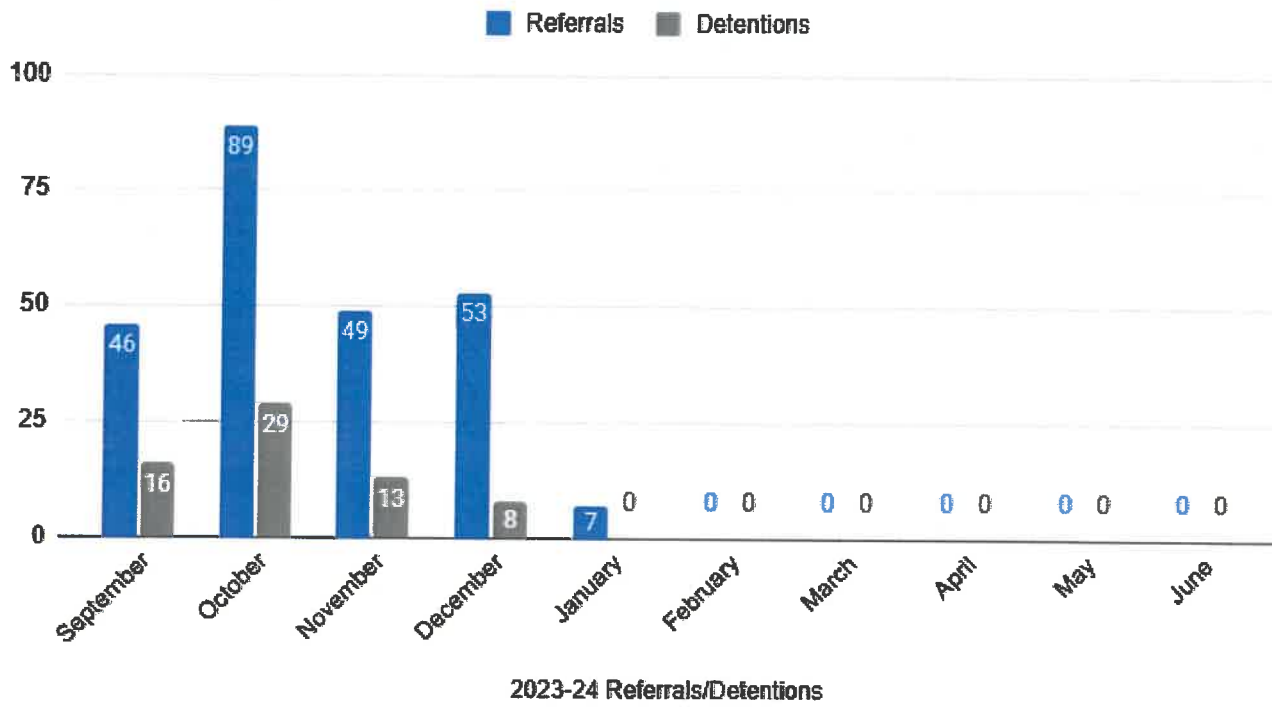


Sequence Breakdown:

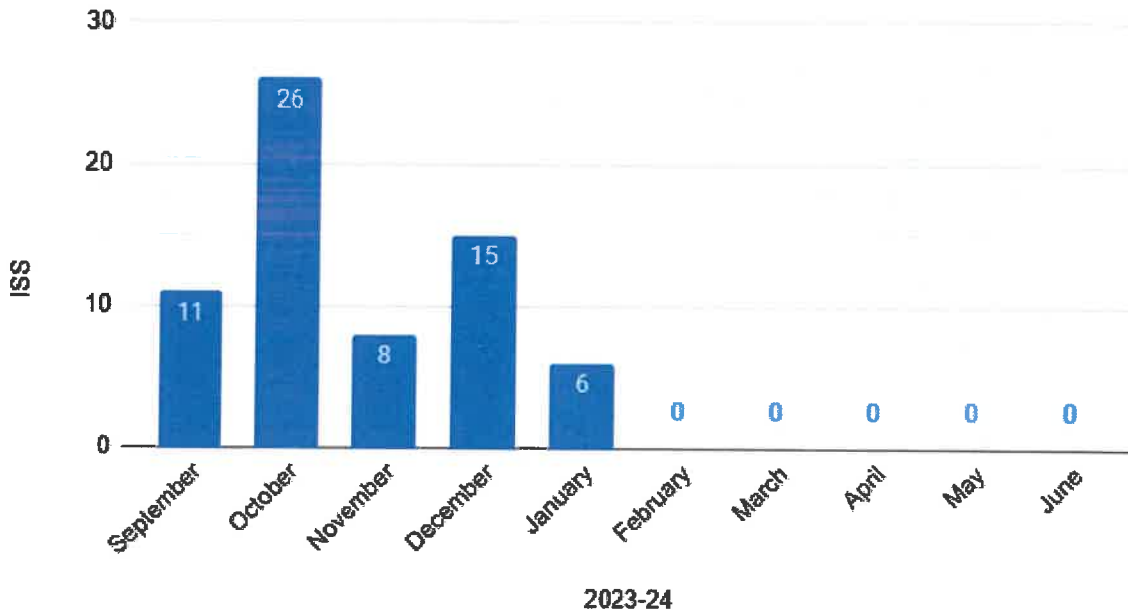
	Warning	Intervention	Work Detail	Other	Parent Meeting	Bus Susp	Lunch Def.	Recess
August				2				
September	3			16	1		11	
October	5	5		15	2		26	
November	3	7		8			8	
December	6	3		10	1		15	
January				1			6	

	Detention	**ISS	Parent Call	***OSS	Plan of Improver Expulsion	Monthly Totals
August						2
September	16		5	5		57
October	29	1	8	15		106
November	13	1	1	11		52
December	8	1	4	15		63

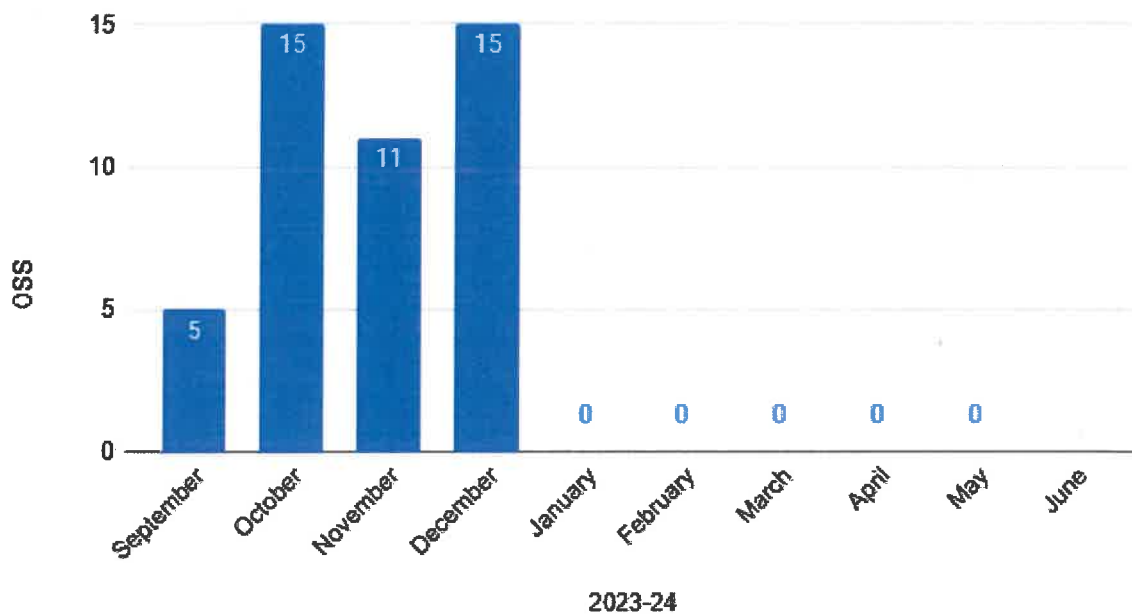
2024-25 Referrals



2024-25 Lunch Detention



2024-25 OSS



Monthly Comparisons:

2024-25 Referra Referrals	Detentions	
September	46	16
October	89	29
November	49	13
December	53	8

y Grade	Aug.	Sept.	Oct	Nov.	Dec	Jan
h Grade			7	27	16	14
h Grade			26	46	17	31
h Grade		2	17	30	25	26

ocation	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April
lassroom		37	44	7		
allway		5	3			
layground		1	3			
afeteria		3				
athroom		0	1			
ther Outside		2				
us		1	1			

School Board Report- January 2025
East Helena High School

PBIS Program:

The EHHS discipline report is below which includes a comparison of the office referrals from the month of December 2024 to December 2023. While we did see a large number of referrals with the short school month of December, it is still trending downward from the previous school year. There were a total of 19 referrals with 13 detentions compared to 38 referrals and 58 detentions last school year. When we look at the number of students involved in referrals leading to detention, In-School Suspensions and Out-of-School Suspensions, the number continues to be an incredibly small number of students. The chart below is the breakdown of students in each tier with 98% of our students receiving zero office referrals.

PBIS Tiers	Students	Percentage
Tier 1	625	98%
Tier 2	11	1.7%
Tier 3	4	.03%

Our students continue to work hard, follow expectations and exemplify what it means to be an EHHS Vigilante. Staff also continues to focus on the positives and reward students for continuing to do what is asked of them each day. The main focus of our PBIS group is to continue to address student attendance concerns. We have a large number of students with excessive absences and are trying to create a plan for each student to attend class on a regular basis. We will also be working on a plan to review the student handbook during the first few days of the new semester. We have several new classes and staff want to continue to review expectations with each new class of students.

Discipline Report:

In December, EHHS saw a total of 19 office referrals and 13 detentions. Out of the total office referrals there were 2 In-School Suspensions and 2 Out-Of School Suspensions. The 2023-24 suspension numbers for December were 9 In-School Suspensions and 10 Out-Of School Suspensions.



East Helena High School
"Home of the Vigilantes"
2760 Valley Drive, East Helena, MT 59635
(406) 227-7730 - Phone ■ (406) 227-3520 - Fax

EHHS Principal Report

January 2025

New Hires

Samantha Wigen (Ag Teacher) and Hanna Carey (English Teacher) will be starting on the 22nd of January 2025, providing us with a welcome relief to decreasing our class sizes and giving students more options. Alex Reid (0.5 HiSET Teacher) will also start with our students in the HiSET Option Graduation Program. We will definitely have two students and possibly more as we look at the end of Semester Credit standings for some of our Seniors. Only Seniors can take the HiSET Option.

Special Education State Reporting

More State Reporting was completed where we had to contact students who graduated in 2023 with Individualized Education Programs (IEP's), and ask them details of their post High School employment and/or Education. This will happen again in a few months when we will contact our 2024 IEP graduates.

CTE Coordination with Department of Labor and Industry (DLI)

Two meetings were held; firstly with the HS Admin and Counselors and the DLI. This meeting we discussed how the DLI can help with our delivery of CTE at school and in the community. The second meeting was with our CTE Teachers as well, where we discussed ideas and ways of bridging the school to business / work community gap.

Teachers

The second round of Evaluations have begun, and Jana, Trish and I continue our walk throughs on teachers.

Calendar Committee

In the Board Packet you will see the results of staff preferences for the next school year. Three options were put together by the Calendar Committee, and the favored option was Option 1.

Seniors

Scholarship opportunities continue to abound, and Ms. Kerpa is working hard to let students know of the opportunities and helping with their applications.

Activities

The Winter Dance has finished and the next student social event coming up is the Prom slated for Saturday April 5th at the Windsor Ballroom in Helena.

HS Website

Still a work in progress as I am still working at understanding and updating the new website.

Drivers Education

We have had 97 students apply for 30 Drivers Education spots. We have been lucky enough to have finally acquired an instructor from Helena. This has not been an easy process putting the Drivers Education into place. The 97 students enrolled does not include our sports kids whose practices make them unable to do both. We will look to run more classes in the Spring.

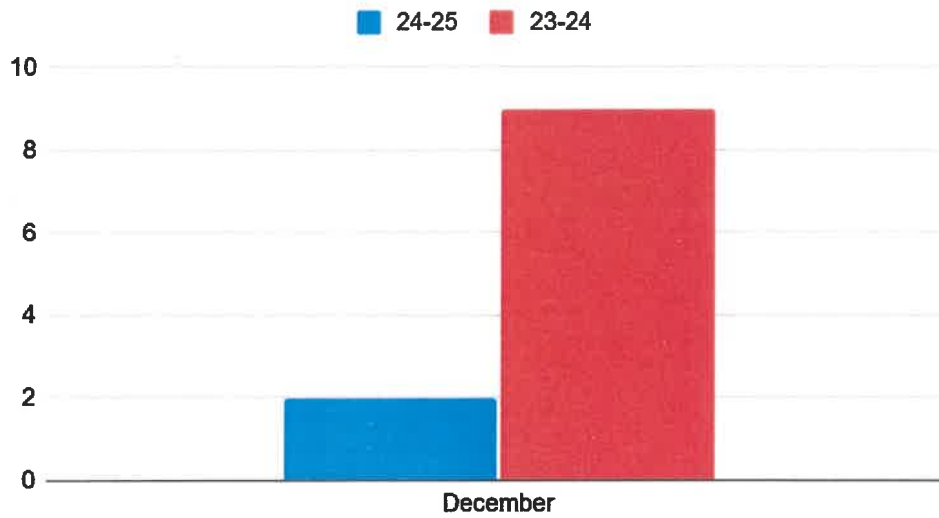
Vigilante Record

Please remember to read the weekly Vigilante Record for more goings on and updates. <https://ehhs.ehpsmt.gov/vigilante-record>.

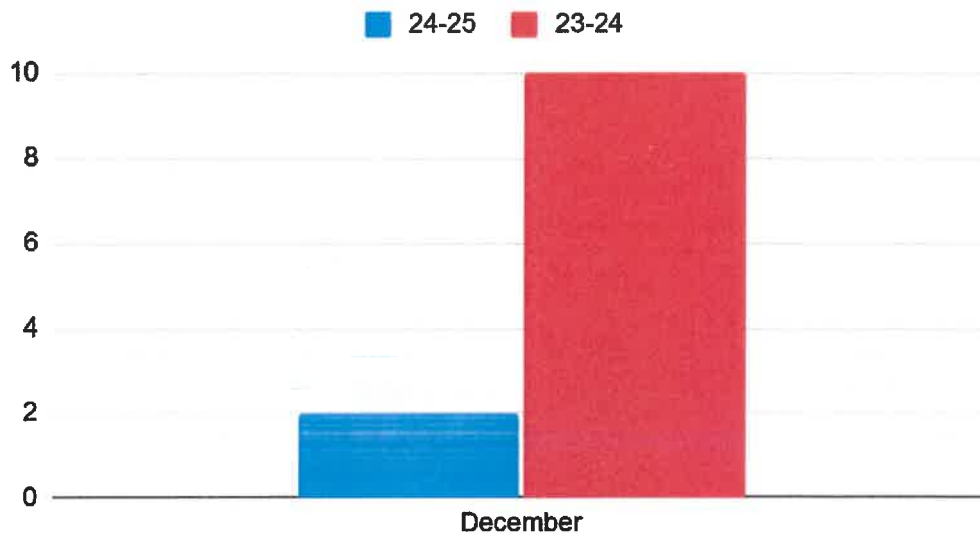
Shout Out

To all our teachers and staff who put in time above and beyond the call of duty for our students from sport, to activities, to student social functions, to clubs, to after school help and extra class activities.

In School Suspension



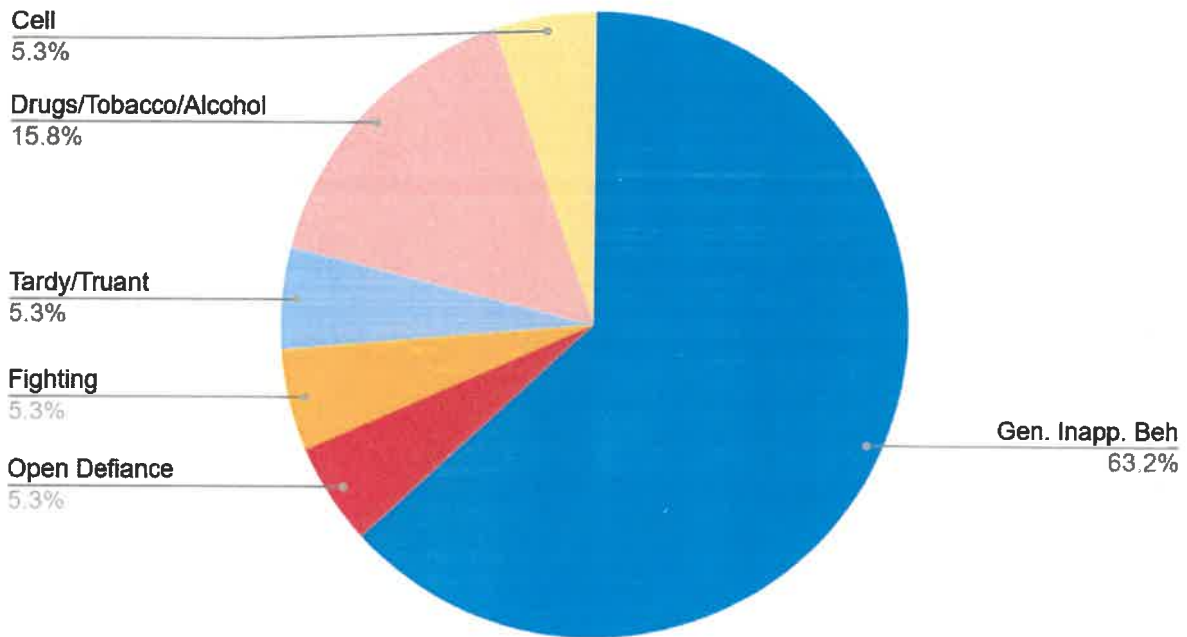
Out of School Suspension



Office Referrals by Category:

Below are the categories for office referrals in the month of December. While the number of incidents from November to December decreased, the severity of the issues increased. This is always a short and difficult month for students. The uncertainty of the holiday season, as well as the weather changing, causes students to not make the best decisions. Most of the issues were dealt with according to our discipline matrix and all parents/guardians were contacted.

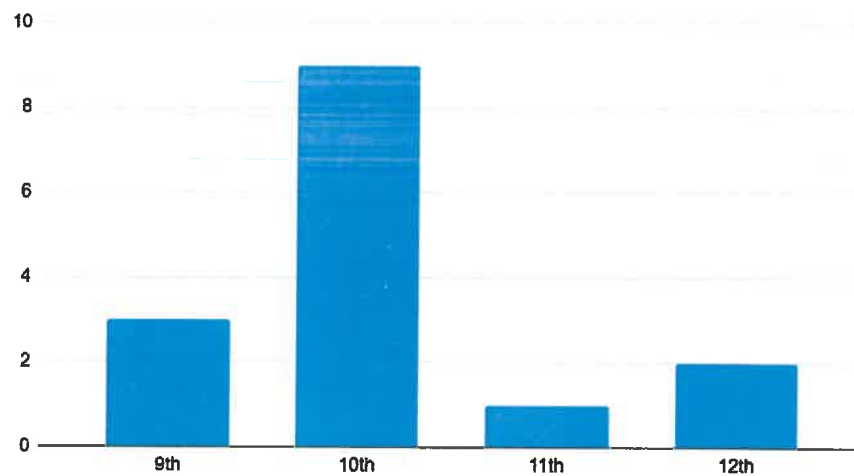
December 2024 Referrals By Type



Office Referrals by Grade Level:

Office referrals in December by grade level are shown below. The majority of the referrals are from our freshmen and sophomore classes. We continue to review expectations in all of our classes as we head towards the end of the 1st semester.

Referrals by Grade Level



Mrs. Klock
EHHS Vice Principal



East Helena High School

School District No. 9 * P.O. Box 1280 * East Helena, MT. 59635

District Office (406) 227-7700 * EHH School Office (406) 227-7730

“Success For All”

To: East Helena School Board

From: Shaun Murgel

Subject: 1/13/2025

Activities:

Update in Activities: We have finished up Christmas break and we are on to the New Year. I felt that we have had some great success in all of our activities to end the year and I am excited to start this year off with everyone out competing.

I was able to go to Austin, Texas for the annual National Athletic Directors Conference and it didn't disappoint. There were 2800 AD's that attended. They were from all 50 States as well as from International Schools as well. It is for both High School and Middle School AD's. There are a lot of different speakers and would really like the opportunity to go back again next year and take at least one other person with me from the Middle School to help their knowledge grow about activities. We would also be able to take in more speakers and gain more insight that we could bring back and share with the board.

Here are some of the topic sessions that I attended: Mental Wellness, Dealing with Tragedy, AI, and Issues in Athletics. There was a ton of great information on all these topics. Meeting with some AD's from International American Schools was interesting as they were just coming back to competition in China due to Covid.

The last thing is an update on the 6 MHSAs Proposals: [MHSAs Proposals](#)

District Website link:

<https://www.ehpsmt.gov/>

AD Newsletter link:

<https://ehhs.ehpsmt.gov/ehhs-athletics-activities/athletics-updates>

Facility Use:

January is going to pick up with more gym use than we had in the past couple of months. Our buildings are being utilized by all different groups. In looking at our facility schedules we are pretty packed with not much space for any other groups. This is a combination of both our own coaches running open gyms and community use.

Facility Use Schedule Link and my email:

<https://www.ehpsmt.gov/district-facilities/district-facility-use/facility-reservation-instructions>

smurgel@ehps.k12.mt.us

Transportation:

We definitely appreciate our school bus drivers. They don't just do routes but they do the majority of all the driving to get our kids to all the different activities that we have going on in the district. They are constantly driving different groups for day trips and then getting back to drive their routes and keeping busy. The next couple of months are jam packed with all of our athletic teams heading out on the road and putting in miles.

Nick Turner nturner@ehps.k12.mt.us Transportation Supervisor Contact

Thanks

Shaun Murgel



EHPS Technology Report

January 13th, 2025



To the EHPS Chairman and Board of Trustees,

This past month's focus has mainly been network security, layout, and applying updates to network equipment. Now that I've had time to settle in and review the current setup, we've identified some possible areas of concern and applied fixes. These are temporary fixes that will be in effect until the end of the school year, at which time a new layout will be implemented that provides better isolation of user's data and better resource use.

Staff and student device update:

Initially, I was under the impression the Windows 10 pcs were not capable of upgrading to Windows 11, which puts 70 staff pc's out of service in October 2025 when Microsoft stops supporting the OS. After some tinkering, I've managed to resolve this matter. However, these pcs are older and we are still looking into the best solution for future upgrades.

We are also looking to purchase 300 new Chromebooks this year. Initial prices are in the area of \$60,000, with \$20,000 for 3-year warranties. We are not planning to purchase warranties for this batch, and instead will conduct all repairs in-house to evaluate if they're a necessary expenditure in the future. My estimate on this based on current prices of repair parts and number of breakages, this will save approximately \$15-18,000 annually.

Finally, we were awarded two grants from Montana DES. The first provides 250 staff licenses for Knowbe4, a service we currently use to provide cyber awareness training to staff. The other is a \$3,488 grant for Oliver and I to attend a specialized cyber security training.

Thank you for your time,

Eric Power
Technology Coordinator



Dan Rispens <dripsens@ehps.k12.mt.us>

Thank You for Contacting EPA's Clean School Bus Program

1 message

cleanschoolbus@erg.com <cleanschoolbus@erg.com>

Mon, Dec 30, 2024 at 10:29 AM

To: Dan Rispens <dripsens@ehps.k12.mt.us>

Dear Dan,

EPA is aware that Lion Electric has sought debtor protection from the insolvency and bankruptcy courts in Canada and the United States. EPA recognizes that this may impact Clean School Bus Program applicants and selectees. As more information becomes available, EPA will provide relevant updates where applicable, including on program accountability and technical support for award selectees.

For more information, please visit the Clean School Bus Program website. Sign up for the listserv to stay in touch about Clean School Bus Program Funding with the link at the bottom of the page.

Regards,

Madison
ERG, Contractor to U.S. EPA
EPA's Clean School Bus Program
www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus

From: cleanschoolbus@erg.com
Sent: Thursday, December 19, 2024 4:44 PM
To: 'Dan Rispens' <dripsens@ehps.k12.mt.us>
Subject: Thank You for Contacting EPA's Clean School Bus Program

Dear Dan,

Thank you for your question about EPA's 2023 Clean School Bus Rebates. We are reviewing your question and will contact you with a response as soon as possible.

For more information, please visit the Clean School Bus Program website. Sign up for the listserv to stay in touch about Clean School Bus Program Funding with the link at the bottom of the page.

Regards,

Madison
ERG, Contractor to U.S. EPA
EPA's Clean School Bus Program
www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus

From: Dan Rispens <drupal_admin@epa.gov>

Sent: Thursday, December 19, 2024 3:38 PM

To: cleanschoolbus@erg.com

Subject: Webform submission from: Contact Us About Clean School Bus Program Funding

CAUTION: Don't open links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and know they are safe.

Submitted on December 19, 2024 3:38 pm EST

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Subject

Technical Assistance

Organization

East Helena Public Schools

Name

Dan Rispens

Email

drispens@ehps.k12.mt.us

State

MT

Funding Opportunity

2023 Rebates

Feedback

Hello,

We were approved for 3 rebates with lion Electric but now they have filed for creditor protection and are not taking new orders. is it possible to get an additional extension on our rebates, and is it possible to have them re-assigned to a different supplier? You can email me or call 406-227-7700.

THANKS!

Are you human?

yes



EPA Options

1 message

Richard Lee <Richard.Lee@thelionelectric.com>
To: Dan Rispens <drispens@ehps.k12.mt.us>

Wed, Jan 8, 2025 at 9:43 AM

Dan,

Good Morning, hoping you are well!

I have engaged with our Grants team and our EPA representative to best provide background on how best to manage your deadline to submit a PO securing your funding for a later decision.

Here is what Lion/EPA recommends:

- Submit a “conditional” PO to Lion Electric that will secure your funding for future decisions.
- PO needs to specifically state that E. Helena School District has the options to:
 1. Purchase Lion Electric units upon completion of the bankruptcy process's.
 2. Request that the EPA funding either be transferred to E. Helena Public Schools or to alternative OEM for vehicle purchases.
 3. Request that the PO be rescinded and the funding is returned back to the EPA program.

Per our internal conversations, early April the bankruptcy process will be completed, either Lion will exist or not, our suggestions listed above will provide time to determine what and how the company will exist.

I wish there was a better message and/or game plan but currently there are many unknowns as the bankruptcy process solicits Letters of Intent to purchase the company.

State and Local
Cybersecurity Grant Program

FY 2022 Award Letter



Dan Rispens
East Helena School District
226 E Clinton St
East Helena MT, 59635

Superintendent Dan Rispens,

Congratulations, on behalf of Montana Disaster and Emergency Services (MT DES), the application submitted under the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program, End User Cybersecurity Awareness Training has been approved. East Helena School District will receive the services through Montana State Information Services Technologies Division (SITSD) in lieu of direct funding. East Helena School District is not required to match the FY2022 award with any amount of non-Federal funds.

Before East Helena School District may receive the services, acceptance of this award acknowledges that the terms of the following are incorporated into the agreement and must be followed:

- Agreement Articles (attached to this Award Letter)
- State of Montana – KnowBe4 Contract (attached to this Award Letter)
- FY 22 State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program Notice of Funding Opportunity

Per the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), all sub-recipients are required to complete the following:

- Complete the Nationwide Cybersecurity Review (NCSR)
- Register and maintain CISA’s no cost Cyber Hygiene Services (CyHy)

East Helena School District will work with SITSDs Representative through the onboarding and activation of the services. The actual dates of service will be based on the State contract.

East Helena School District will receive the following services per the application request:

Number of KnowBe4 Licenses	250
----------------------------	-----

Actual number of licenses may vary based on the actual activation of services. MT DES must be notified if a change in the overall number of licenses is greater than 10% of the awarded amount to ensure sufficient licenses are available.

Please make sure you read, understand, and maintain a copy of these documents for your records. In order to establish acceptance of the award and its terms, please complete, sign and return this document to MT DES at mtdesprep@mt.gov.

Burke S. Honzel
Digitally signed by Burke S. Honzel
Date: 2024.12.20 15:59:39 -07'00'

Burke S. Honzel
Preparedness Bureau Chief
Montana Disaster and Emergency Services

CC Eric Power

FY2022 Award for Services Acknowledgement

Organization: East Helena School District

Project Name: End User Cybersecurity Awareness Training

Project Point of Contact: Eric Power

Point of Contact Phone: 406-227-7700

Point of Contact Email: epower@ehps.k12.mt.us

By signing this award agreement, East Helena School District acknowledge and agrees to the terms and conditions of the State of Montana KnowBe4 contract and grant articles of agreement.

Signatory authority



State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program

FY 2022 Award Letter

Dan Rispens
East Helena School District
226 E Clinton St
East Helena MT 59635

Superintendent Dan Rispens,

Congratulations, on behalf of Montana Disaster and Emergency Services (MT DES), the application for financial assistance submitted under the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program, Professional Cybersecurity Training, has been approved in the amount of \$3,488.00 for eligible training. East Helena School District is not required to match this award with any amount of non-Federal funds.

Before East Helena School District requests and receives any of the Federal funds, acceptance of the award must be established. By accepting this award, East Helena School District acknowledges that the terms of the following documents are incorporated into the terms of this award:

- Agreement Articles (attached to this Award Letter)
- Obligating Document for Award (attached to this Award Letter)
- FY 22 State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program Notice of Funding Opportunity

Per the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), all sub-recipients are required to complete the following:

- **Complete the Nationwide Cybersecurity Review (NCSR)**
- **Register and maintain CISA's no cost Cyber Hygiene Services (CyHy)**

Please make sure you read, understand, and maintain a copy of these documents in the official file for this award. In order to establish acceptance of the award and its terms, please complete, sign and return the Obligating Document for Award to your MT DES Grant Coordinator.

For additional assistance, please contact your MT DES Grant Coordinator.

Sincerely,

**Burke S.
Honzel**

Digitally signed by Burke
S. Honzel
Date: 2024.12.20
15:41:55 -0700

Burke S. Honzel
Preparedness Bureau Chief
Montana Disaster and Emergency Services

CC Eric Power

EAST HELENA HIGH SCHOOL

PROFILE OF A GRADUATE

Self-Motivated

- ◆ Accountable for actions
 - ◆ Disciplined
 - ◆ Reliable
- ◆ Forward-thinker
 - ◆ Engaged

Communicative

- ◆ Basic soft skills
- ◆ Appropriate technology use
- ◆ Sound reasoning skills
- ◆ Respect for self and others
- ◆ Clearly articulate ideas



Critical Thinker

- ◆ Problem solving skills
- ◆ Ability to apply learned content
 - ◆ Ability to reason
- ◆ Acceptance of Ideas outside their own
- ◆ Stays informed and recognizes reliable information

Leaders

- ◆ Build positive relationships
- ◆ Takes responsibility for actions
 - ◆ Quality work ethic
 - ◆ Decision Makers
- ◆ Builds on strengths and weaknesses

VIGILANTES ARE CAREER, COLLEGE, AND LIFE READY.



Dan Ripens <drispens@ehps.k12.mt.us>

Profile of a graduate addition

1 message

Kirk Yoder <kirkayoder@gmail.com>
To: drispens@ehps.k12.mt.us

Tue, Nov 26, 2024 at 3:09 PM

Dear Mr. Ripens,

One might add, especially for the namesake of the mascot, that the graduates should have a sense of fearless integrity. Standing on integrity and humble respect toward others is key to most of the items listed on the profile.

Kirk Yoder
Kirkayoder@gmail.com



Profile of a grad

1 message

Dani Mitchell <dmitchell3@ehps.k12.mt.us>
To: drispens@ehps.k12.mt.us

Tue, Nov 26, 2024 at 3:29 PM

Hi Dan,

You know you can't ask for a critical review on something written and not have me respond! It's a good start but I do have suggestions.

First and foremost, there is an updated and better logo! (Or whatever we're calling it.) I'll attach it to this email although I'm sure you have access to it. Please don't use this outdated one as it is not as easy to read and the message gets lost.

Regarding the written statements, the Profile doesn't read as well as it could due to some inconsistencies in syntax (eg. how often verbs are used/omitted and when singular or plural forms are used).

When I read this, I automatically think: According to the logo, students are to be respectful, responsible, and engaged. If they become graduates, we hope to label them as self-motivators, communicators, critical thinkers, and leaders. Understanding this, I now want to see these action words listed as active verbs rather than passive verbs in the Profile. Now I have to decide whether or not to pluralize them. If we name this one-pager "EHHS Profile of A Graduate", then I would assume we leave these active verbs singular since we're talking about A (or ONE) graduate. These labels now become:

Self-Motivator
Communicator
Critical Thinker
Leader

Now as I look at these, I want the list to read with the same feeling throughout. There are times when bullet points start with a verb, and times when they don't. We need to standardize this. Again, active voice is more powerful than passive voice, so I would standardize the lists to begin with a verb (but will omit helper verbs like "is" or "has"). Please note that there will also be slight changes of wording for clarification, etc.

Self-Motivator

- Accountable for actions (**note that this is also used under Leader)
- Maintains discipline
- Reliable
- Forward-thinking
- Engaged

Communicator

- ** What in the world are "basic soft skills" and do we want to start with that? I would omit.
- Appropriately uses technology
- Demonstrates sound reasoning skills
- Respectful to self and others
- Clearly articulates ideas
- Engages in social and academic discussion (**this is just an idea and is perhaps what "soft skills" was intended to mean)

Critical Thinker

- Applies problem solving skills
- Applies learned content (** you may want to come up with a different verb)
- Reasons (with what?/with whom? Perhaps we change this to Reasonable and Ethical)
- *** I do not like or agree with "acceptance of ideas outside their own" because no one HAS to accept every idea or any idea. I believe this is better worded as "Respectfully engages in discussion and considers new ideas"
- Recognizes reliable information
- Desires to stay informed

Leader

- Builds positive relationships
- Takes responsibility for actions or Responsible for actions (** note that this is listed under Self-Motivated)
- Demonstrates quality work ethic
- Confidently makes decisions



East Helena Public Schools

School District No. 9

P.O. Box 1280 * East Helena, MT. 59635

Superintendent/ Administration Office (406) 227-7700

Eastgate Elementary School (406) 227-7770 * Prickly Pear Elementary (406) 227-7720

Radley Elementary School (406) 227-7710 * East Valley Middle School (406) 227-7740

East Helena High School (406) 227-7730



"Success For All"

Memorandum of Understanding

January 13, 2025

Effective immediately, the East Helena School District and the East Helena Education Association agree, without setting a precedent, to allow up to three (3) EHPS teachers willing to teach driver's education to apply for district funds to reimburse the tuition and fees necessary to earn the initial 8 credits necessary to earn the appropriate certification. The tuition reimbursements will be made available on a first come first served basis. To qualify as "first come first served", the employee must provide evidence to the superintendent of registration, enrollment, and fees paid. Typically this would be a tuition payment receipt. The cost for tuition and fees will be reimbursed to the employee conditionally as follows:

- The teacher must successfully earn the appropriate certification and present the certificate to the superintendent's office,
- The teacher makes a commitment to teach at least 6 classes or sessions of driver's education in the five years after earning the certification.
- If the teacher does not meet the instructional requirement, the cost of the tuition and fees will be repaid to the School District by the employee via payroll deduction.

The Memorandum of Understanding achieves this mutual intent. This Memorandum will be in effect immediately and through August 31, 2026 and does not constitute a change in the Master Agreement or set precedent for future matters. The employee and Association waive their right to grieve the provisions in the contract as stated in this Memorandum.

Signed this 13th day of January, 2025.

President, East Helena Education Association

Superintendent / Board Chair

Employee

Date signed by employee

Attest,

District Clerk

Central office use only:

Date Certificate was awarded _____

Dates of classes or sessions taught _____



Jennifer Cordell <jcordell@ehps.k12.mt.us>

2025-26 Calendar

1 message

Paul Condon <pcondon@ehps.k12.mt.us>

Mon, Jan 6, 2025 at 10:30 AM

To: Dan Rispens <drispens@ehps.k12.mt.us>, Jennifer Cordell <jcordell@ehps.k12.mt.us>

Hi Dan and Jen,

After voting Option 1 was the winner.

Option 1 62 votes

Option 2 41 votes

Option 3 38 votes

All 3 Options

Thanks,

Paul Condon
Principal
East Helena High School



phone (406) 227-7730 ext 5002

fax (406) 227-9730

2025/26 EHPS Calendar - Option 1

August 2025						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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September 2025						
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October 2025						
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November 2025						
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December 2025						
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January 2026						
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February 2026						
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March 2026						
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April 2026						
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May 2026						
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June 2026						
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July 2026						
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Aug 25, 2025	PIR Days	Jan 19, 2026	MLK Day	Jun 9, 2026	Last Day of School
Aug 27, 2025	First Day of School	Feb 16, 2026	Presidents Day	Jun 10-11, 2026	PIR Days
Sep 1, 2025	Labor Day	Mar 23-27, 2026	Spring Break		
Oct 16-17, 2025	MEA Days	Apr 6, 2026	Easter Monday		
Oct 26-28, 2025	Thanksgiving	May 25, 2026	Memorial Day		
Dec 22-Jan 2, 2026	Christmas Break	May 29, 2026	Graduation Day		

2025/26 EHPS Calendar - Option 2

August 2025						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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September 2025						
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October 2025						
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November 2025						
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December 2025						
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January 2026						
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February 2026						
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March 2026						
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April 2026						
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May 2026						
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June 2026						
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July 2026						
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Aug 21, 2025	PIR Days	Jan 19, 2026	MILK Day	Jun 5, 2026	Last Day of School
Aug 25, 2025	First Day of School	Feb 16, 2026	Presidents Day	Jun 8-9, 2026	PIR Days
Sep 1, 2025	Labor Day	Mar 23-27, 2026	Spring Break		
Oct 16-17, 2025	MEA Days	Apr 6, 2026	Easter Monday		
Oct 26-28, 2025	Thanksgiving	May 25, 2026	Memorial Day		
Dec 22-Jan 2, 2026	Christmas Break	May 29, 2026	Graduation Day		

2025/26 EHPS Calendar - Option 3

August 2025						
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September 2025						
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October 2025						
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November 2025						
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December 2025						
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January 2026						
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February 2026						
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March 2026						
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May 2026						
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June 2026						
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July 2026						
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