

CUSTER SCHOOL DISTRICT # 15

MARCH 2025 NEWSLETTER

www.custerschools.org

NO SCHOOL – MONDAY, MARCH 10

There will be no school Monday, March 10 due to our State BPA Convention in Billings. However, school will be in session Friday, March 14.

SOUTHERN C DIVISIONALS BASKETBALL

The Southern C Divisional tournament will be held in Lockwood, March 5-9. Our girls placed 2nd at Districts. Our boys did not get to move on this year but they had a great season. Great job to all of you!

Our Lady Rebels play Wednesday, March 5 against Ekalaka at 5:00 in Lockwood.

GOOD LUCK REBELS!

THANK YOU

Custer School would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped out during our high school basketball season. We would like to thank those people for taking care of the clocks, keeping books and taking tickets for our home basketball games.

We appreciate all of the different organizations that helped with the concessions at all of our home games.

A big thank you goes out to our parents and fans for supporting and encouraging our young people this season. Your support of our students and school is greatly appreciated.



SPRING BREAK

Custer School will be April 18-21. School will begin Tuesday, April 22.

JANUARY STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Students of the month for January are Kyra Buller, Austin Stieg, Ashtyn Sian and Brexly Sian. Congratulations to all of you!

MUSIC NEWS

Pep Band: District BB February 20-22, Divisional BB March 6-8

Tri-County Band Day- March 17 at Billings Central

District Festival Large Group- March 31

District Festival Solo/Ensemble- April 7

Tri-County Honor Band Mini-Tour- April 9

Honor Band Tour to Minneapolis- April 23-27

State Music Festival-May 2

Spring Concert- May 13 @ 6:30 pm

SPELLING BEE

The school winners for Custer taking First Place Tripp Olson -Second Place Samuel Morgan and our alternate is Bryar Abel. Congrats to both of these contestants! Great job to everyone who participated.



PROM WILL BE APRIL 12

This year's 5-C Prom will be held on Saturday, April 12, TBD in Billings. The dance will run from 9 to midnight and there will be a photographer on site.

The Grand March will be around 9:30 PM.

We should have more information for you as we get closer to Prom.

CUSTER SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES POSITIONS OPEN

Two trustee positions are up for election – Sara Stieg (3 Year) and Kasey Keith (2 Year). You may file between now and March 28, 2025. This is for the election to be held. May 6, 2025. You may contact Marynell Perrin for the Declaration of Intent and Oath of Candidacy form to fill out and turn in by March 28, 2025. You must be a registered voter of this district. Any questions call (406)856-4117 Ext 3.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME IS MARCH 9

Don't forget to move your clocks ahead one hour!



Theater Club Presents "Good Cop Bad Cop"

Custer Schools' Theater Club invites you to their production of *Good Cop Bad Cop* on **April 10th at 6:30 PM** on the **old gym stage**. Enjoy a night of mystery and laughter as two rookie detectives try to crack a bizarre case filled with outrageous suspects—from a high school mascot to a suspiciously familiar video game character.

Dinner will be available before the show! Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$5 for students, and free for children under 4. Don't miss this entertaining performance—join us for a night of comedy, intrigue, and great food!

ELEMENTARY SWIM DAYS

Swimming starts Monday, April 28 in Hardin. The bus will leave at approximately 12:00 p.m. and return no later than 3:20 p.m.

Students are required to bring swimming suits and their own towels. If they have goggles, they may bring them.

Students may bring books, hand held video games, or other small items to use during the bus trip. This year's swim day will be: **APRIL 28 – APRIL 30 –MAY 5 – MAY 7**

Should these dates change, we will notify you immediately. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your child's teacher.

Counselor Corner - Custer Schools Assessment Update

MAST Testing Update

We are pleased to share that Window 2 of MAST testing has been successfully completed. Looking ahead, the end-of-year testing window is scheduled from **March 24th to May 23rd**.

We are excited to introduce the **Kite Parent Portal**, a secure website where you can access your child's score reports for all assessments administered through the Kite Student Portal.

When you are ready, access the Parent Portal at <https://parentportal-testlet.kiteaai.org/login>. Simply enter the email address registered with your child's

school district in the Email Address field. You will receive an access code via email, which is valid for 24 hours.

Additional resources, including the Kite Parent Portal Manual and guides to student score reports, are available on the MAST Portal. As always, if you have any questions, feel free to contact your student's teacher(s) or Jasmine Torralba. Thank you for using Kite Parent Portal!

Montana Science Assessment (MSA) Information

Custer Schools is preparing for the annual administration of the **Montana Science Assessment (MSA)**. According to our school calendar, students in **Grade 5 and Grade 8** will take the assessment between **March 3rd and May 23rd**.

State and federal law require all students to participate in this statewide grade-level assessment to ensure accountability and measure academic achievement.

Why is Participation Important?

Statewide assessments track the progression of essential skills and knowledge to ensure students graduate college and career-ready. Teachers use these assessments as one of the many tools to understand student performance, measure academic achievement, and identify areas where students may need additional support.

Custer Schools uses assessment results to:

- Measure progress toward state educational goals.
- Identify areas for academic improvement.
- Address equity issues within education.
- Set instructional goals at classroom and district levels.

About the Montana Science Assessment

- Aligned with Montana's academic achievement standards for science.
- Administered via the TIDE platform with computer-adaptive testing.
- Testing time is expected to be 1–2 hours.
- Assessment items are based on real-world scientific phenomena and developed in collaboration with Montana educators.
- Practice tests are available to familiarize students with the format and item types (note: these are not adaptive and may be more challenging than the actual test).

Following the assessment, individual student score reports will be provided to families. Our district prioritizes student privacy and ensures timely access to results, so parents, teachers, and principals can work together to address specific academic needs.

Statewide assessment results will be publicly available on the GEMS Student Achievement Dashboard and Montana's Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Report Card. These resources allow families to compare our school's performance to others across the state.

Pre-ACT and ACT Testing

Students in **Grades 8-11** will be taking the **Pre-ACT and ACT** respectively on **March 25th**.

State and federal law requires all students to participate in this statewide assessment for high school academic achievement reporting in Grade 11.

Participation in this test is important. The ACT with Writing is one of many tools used to understand individual student achievement (how much your child knows at the end of the year) and individual progress (how much your child has improved since the previous year).

Our school uses the score information to help families, teachers, and principals understand and address the specific academic needs of students in relation to the state mathematics, English language arts, and science standards. The achievement results will be used in combination with other data to help our overall efforts to address a more equitable education system for all learners.

Through **MyACT**, students may select up to **four college campuses** to send their ACT information to. This service typically costs \$13 per campus but is free to Montana high school juniors using the statewide assessment. The ACT's optional Educational Opportunity Service (EOS) provides students with information from colleges, universities, financial aid/scholarship agencies, government agencies, and organizations that offer educational, community, and career opportunities.

Results from the ACT with Writing statewide assessment provide the state, our district, our school, teachers, you, and your child with information about the knowledge gained over the past 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, they can complete the picture of a child's abilities and help them progress toward Montana's Content Standards.

We appreciate your support in ensuring student success at Custer Schools. If you have any questions, please reach out to your child's teacher or school administration.