

GREAT FALLS HIGH SCHOOL WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

TREAT OTHERS THE WAY YOU
WANT TO BE TREATED



DO WHAT'S RIGHT



DO THE BEST YOU CAN

OFFICE INFORMATION

* Important phone numbers:

Attendance: 406-268-6251

Counseling: 406-268-6330

Finance: 406-268-6317

Main Office: 406-268-6250

Records: 406-268-6315

Nurse: 406-268-6332

* Important To-Do's:

• Update PowerSchool Information:

- Please remember to update phone numbers and addresses that may have changed over the summer.
- Call or email Debbie at:
 - 406-268-6337 or
 - Debbie_Munson@gfps.k12.mt.us

[Click here to read handbook:](#)



• Activity Participation Forms:

- If you do not want your student to participate in certain GFHS clubs and/or organizations, you need to complete the ACTIVITY PARTICIPATION form.

* 1st Semester Finals

- Tests: January 20th - January 22nd.
- No school for students on Monday the 19th and Friday the 23rd.



* Attendance Notifications:

GFHS Parents/Guardians

In order to receive attendance notifications regarding your student, you must be signed up with PowerSchool!

Call attendance for support!



REGULAR			PLCT			EARLY OUT			ASSEMBLY (40 MIN)		
PERIOD	START	END	PERIOD	START	END	PERIOD	START	END	PERIOD	START	END
0	7:00	7:54	0	7:07	7:54	0	7:24	7:55	0	7:05	7:55
1	8:00	8:53	1	8:00	8:47	1	8:00	8:31	1	8:00	8:48
2	8:59	9:52	2	8:53	9:40	2	8:36	9:07	2	8:53	9:41
3	9:58	10:51	3	9:46	10:43	3	9:12	9:43	ASSEMBLY	9:46	10:26
4	10:56	11:49	4	10:49	11:36	4	9:48	10:19	3	10:31	11:18
LUNCH	11:49	12:19	LUNCH	11:36	12:06	5	10:24	10:56	4	11:23	12:10
5	12:25	1:18	5	12:12	12:59	6	11:01	11:33	LUNCH	12:10	12:40
6	1:24	2:17	6	1:05	1:52	7	11:38	12:10	5	12:45	1:32
7	2:23	3:15	7	1:58	2:45				6	1:37	2:24
									7	2:29	3:15

Principal's Message:



Dear Bison Family,

It is the end of the first semester! This week we have our semester tests. Please take note of the schedule below.

Go Bison!

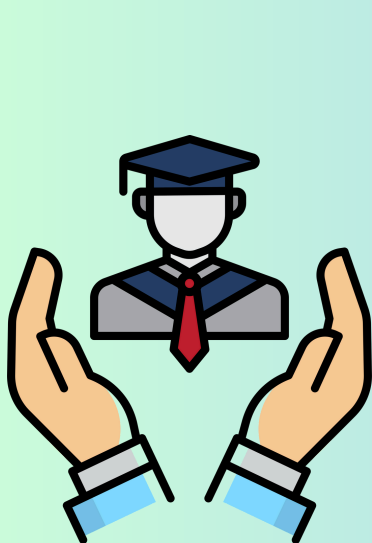
Geoffry Habel



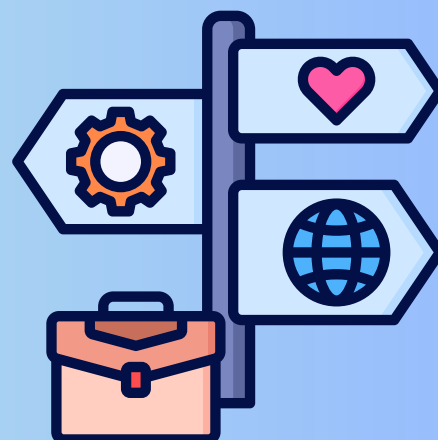
* LOST AND FOUND

- GFH sends all unclaimed lost items to charity at the end of the semester.
- Any unclaimed item left after January 23, 2026 will be donated.

Great Falls High School Counselor Corner



USE THE QR CODE OR [CLICK HERE](#) FOR SENIOR CLASS NEWS



USE THE QR CODE OR [CLICK HERE](#) FOR COUNSELOR NEWS

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GFHS Fine Arts At A Glance

January 8th and 9th	Jazz Workshop	CMR
January 27th	EMS Showcase	EMS
January 29th - 31st	GFHS Drama Showcase	Davidson Auditorium
February 2nd and 3rd	AA Orchestra	CMR
February 9th	Orchestra Concert	Davidson Auditorium
February 12th and 13th	Thespian Festival	Missoula
February 19th - 21st	Musical: Grease	Davidson Auditorium
February 23rd	Montana Youth Sing	Davidson Auditorium
February 26th - 28th	Musical: Grease	Davidson Auditorium

Frottage Revisited VICKIE MEGUIRE



Opening Reception
January 29th, 3:15 - 4:30 PM
Norman T. Dahl Gallery, GFHS



Current Student Exhibit Schedule:

12/11/2025, Ongoing, 2nd floor display cases, New work 1/15
01/09-02/17/2026, Crosstown AP Studio Art Exhibit, Luna Coffee

Upcoming Student Exhibit Schedule:

02/19-21/2026, Dark Horse in Celtic Cowboy, HS Student Exhibit,
Reception February 19th, 2026, 4:00-5:30 PM
03/05-04/28/2026, GF Public Library, GFPS K-12 Youth Art Month
Exhibit, Reception March 6th, 2026, 4:00-5:30 PM
March, State Capital, Helena, MAEA K-12 Youth Art Month (YAM)
Exhibit, no reception, open to the public
March, Russell Country Credit Union & Four Seasons, Young
Russell Juried Exhibit, Western Art Week
March, Horizon Credit Union & Heritage, Young Masters Juried
Exhibit, Western Art Week



**AP Studio Art & Design
Crosstown Exhibit**
Jan 9th - Feb 17th, 2026,
Luna Coffee Bar, 9 5th Street North



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This Week in Extra-Curriculars

SPORT	DAY	DATE	OPPONENT		LOCATION	LEVEL	VARSITY	JV	SOPH	FROSH
GBB	MON	1/19/2026	GFH	BELT	GFH OLD GYM	S			3:30 PM	
BBB	THURS	1/22/2026	GFH	CMR (GFH HOME)	GFH FH-OG	V-JV-S-F	7:00 PM	5:30 PM	4:00 PM	4:00 PM
GBB	FRI	1/23/2026	GFH	CMR (GFH HOME)	GFH FH-OG	V-JV-S-F	7:00 PM	5:30 PM	4:00 PM	4:00 PM
WR	FRI	1/23/2026	GFH	FERGUS GIRLS INVITE	LEWISTOWN	V	11:00 AM			
WR	SAT	1/24/2026	GFH	FERGUS GIRLS INVITE	LEWISTOWN	V	9:00 AM			
WR	SAT	1/24/2026	GFH	AA DUALS	GFH-FH	V	10:00 AM			
SW	SAT	1/24/2026	GFH	STACY FREY INVITE	GFH POOL	V-JV	12:00 PM			



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Semester 1 Test Information 2025-2026

Please share the following information with all of your students to familiarize them with and make them accountable for the adjusted schedule for Semester Tests.

SEMESTER TEST SCHEDULE – SEMESTER 1

Tuesday, January 20
Adjusted Bell Schedule
Period 7 2:00 – 3:15
Bells will ring on PLCT
Times except Period 7
School will dismiss at 3:15

Wednesday, January 21
Period 1 8:00 – 9:25
Period 3 9:35 – 11:00
Lunch 11:00 – 12:00
Period 5 12:05 – 1:30

Thursday, January 22
Period 2 8:00 – 9:25
Period 4 9:35 – 11:00
Lunch 11:00 – 12:00
Period 6 12:05 – 1:30

NOTE: Semester Tests for 7 AM classes will be scheduled individually by each teacher.

1. All teachers will administer a semester test, as opposed to a unit or quarter tests. The test is to carry a designated weight which has been coordinated with the department head and preannounced to students. The test will be administered according to the above schedule in the class's regularly assigned location. Students are therefore required to attend all classes.
2. Study hall attendance is required on test dates unless PRIOR arrangements are made by the parents through the attendance office.
3. Classes which normally meet for 2 hours will test during the first hour of the two-period class. Classes that regularly meet periods 2 and 3 would then be tested during period 2 (for example, Construction Tech).
4. Students must remain in the class for the entire testing period. **Teachers are not to release students prior to the bell for any reason.** **There are to be no students in the halls during tests.**
5. Lunch will be served in the cafeteria on both test days.
6. Only students with a verified medical excuse for an absence will be given the opportunity to make up missed semester exams. Students receiving an "I" Incomplete will have until February 2nd (2 weeks) to make up incomplete work. Students not receiving an Incomplete must have all work/exams made up prior to the last day of the semester, January 19th. Permission to give an "I" Incomplete or an "IR" Incomplete Credit Recovery must be obtained from one of the GFHS administrators.
7. On January 21st and 22nd, all buses will pick up students at approximately 1:45 PM.
8. All students are required to be present on the day of their semester test. All absences must be pre-approved through their Associate Principal.

GREAT FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

JOB FAIR

GFPS Human Resource representatives will be at Paris Gibson Education Center to answer any questions and assist in applying for positions.



Tuesday,
January 27, 2026



2:00 - 4:00pm



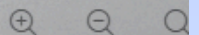
Paris Gibson Education Center
2400 Central Ave

Hiring crossing guards, substitute teachers, teacher aides, food service and more.

GFPS will be hiring on the spot, pending background checks and references.



PLEASE FILL OUT AN APPLICATION PRIOR TO ATTENDING



FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO FILL OUT AN APPLICATION: 406-268-6010 WWW.GFPS.K12.MT.US

GFHS TITLE I STATUS

Great Falls High is a Title I high school, which means we receive federal support to help ensure every student has access to a high-quality education.

- Our goal is to improve academic outcomes for all students by providing the resources and support they need to succeed.
- If you ever have questions or concerns about your student's progress, please don't hesitate to reach out to their counselor or associate principal.
- We are here to partner with you and problem-solve together.



Paul Culbertson, Associate Principal	406-268-6322	Students A-G
Tami Faulkner, Associate Principal	406-268-6313	Students H-N
Shianne Currey, Associate Principal	406-268-6314	Students O-Z
Chad Getten, Guidance Counselor	406-268-6334	Students A-C
Amy Schoenen, Guidance Counselor	406-268-6338	Students D-G
Clint Houston, Guidance Counselor	406-268-6336	Students H-L
Rosie Rossberg, Guidance Counselor	406-268-6333	Students M-R
Dana Freshly, Guidance Counselor	406-268-6335	Students S-Z

MORE STUDENT SUPPORTS:

- **Saturday School:**
 - **No Saturday School this next weekend**
 - **After School Support - 1/12/25**
 - **Math 3:20-5:10pm in South Campus 108**
 - **English 3:45-5:10 in Main Campus 211**
- ***Watch here for weekly updated information**



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GFHS TITLE I STATUS

WE WANT ALL FAMILIES TO KNOW

- **We Care Deeply About Your Child's Success:**
 - Our teachers and staff are committed to your child's academic achievement, personal growth, and well-being, striving to help them become confident, capable, and responsible individuals.
- **We Foster Growth Beyond Grades:**
 - We focus on developing lifelong skills like problem-solving, self-advocacy, responsibility, and work ethic, preparing students for future success in and out of the classroom.
- **We Challenge and Support:**
 - We hold high expectations, pushing students to grow while providing compassion, encouragement, and individualized support to meet their unique needs.
- **We Build Relationships:**
 - Our staff strives to be trusted mentors, creating a safe and welcoming space where students feel valued, heard, and motivated to succeed.
- **We Invest Time and Heart:**
 - We work with many students daily and pour our energy, compassion, and resources into helping each child progress, even when faced with challenges.
- **We Work as a Team:**
 - Your child's success is a collaborative effort. We need your support to reinforce expectations for your child to be in class every day so we create an environment where learning thrives.

We are a Second Home: Our school is more than a place for learning—it's a community. We are here for our students and families from 7:00 a.m. until late in the evening, offering support, connection, and care.



HAPPENING THIS WEEK:

Week of 01/18-01/24/26

GFH - No School - Staff PIR Day	01/19/26	Monday		All Day
GFH - Pre College Advisory	01/21/26	Wednesday	HUB	10:30-12:00 pm
GFH - MT Air National Guard	01/21/26	Wednesday	HUB	11:36-12:06 pm
GFH - Traffic Education Parent Meeting	01/21/26	Wednesday	Library	5:00-7:00 pm
GFH - Grant Writing/Teacher Assistance	01/22/26	Thursday	MC 107	1:30-4:00pm
GFH - End of Quarter/ No School - Staff on Duty	01/23/26	Friday		All Day



ParentSquare

PARENTSQUARE INFORMATION:

ParentSquare is the new district communication tool.
Click on the links below for more information:

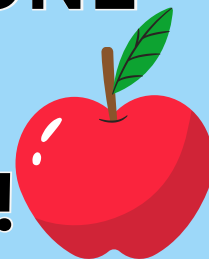
[GFPS District Letter](#)
[Getting Started Guide](#)



Free and Reduced paperwork makes
a HUGE difference FOR EVERYONE
connected with GFH.



Please [CLICK HERE](#) to apply!



CONNECT WITH US!

Social Media

- GFH Website: <https://gfhs.gfps.k12.mt.us/>
- Instagram: @greatfallshighbison
- Facebook: @GFHBISON

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LIBRARY



HAVE YOU FINISHED A BOOK FROM THE GREAT FALLS HIGH
LIBRARY THIS MONTH THAT YOU WANT TO SHARE WITH THE
SCHOOL?

Complete a "Student Recommendation"
card to be placed by the book you read.

Include:

- Author
- Title
- A brief description of the book (we have examples)
- Why you recommend this book

On the Back:

- Your Name
- ID Number

When you complete the card, your name is put in a drawing to win a \$10 gift card from Big Dipper Ice Cream, a \$10 gift card to [MacKenzie River Pizza](#), and a \$20 gift card from [Cassiopea Books](#). The drawing will be at the end of each month.



GFHS PROFILE OF A LEARNER

LEARNER TRAITS, SKILLS AND CHARACTERISTICS (9TH – 12TH GRADE) THAT WE BELIEVE WILL MAKE EVERY STUDENT BETTER:

GREAT FALLS HIGH SCHOOL IS COMMITTED TO TAKING STEPS EVERY DAY TO INSTILL THESE QUALITIES INTO OUR STUDENTS:



CRITICAL THINKER

- Investigate a question with an open mind
- Evaluate sources of information for reliability
- Integrate different viewpoints
- Synthesize information to take action

STRONG COMMUNICATION SKILLS

- Articulate ideas to a targeted audience effectively
- Use conflict resolution strategies effectively
- Actively listen for understanding
- Collaborate with others
- Reflect on their communication with others

WORK ETHIC

- Persevere to complete difficult tasks
- Understand how to balance time and priorities
- Use interpersonal skills and seek resources to help complete tasks
- Complete activities to the set standard and show pride in work
- Integrate academic skills with workplace skills to demonstrate readiness for life beyond high school

PROBLEM SOLVER

- Integrate other points of view into the problem-solving process to generate an optimal solution
- Evaluate information and compromise to reach a solution
- Identify healthy risks and take them when needed

INTEGRITY

- Behave empathetically to others
- Self regulate
- Follow through
- Consider the good of the whole and act accordingly
- Self-regulate
- Do the right thing while demonstrating grace, pride, and kindness, even when it is difficult
- Apply talents to better their community

Great Falls High School Historical Article Of The Week

Tribune article from May 17th, 1984

Schools to offer two kinds of diplomas

By LANCE LOVELL
Tribune Staff Writer

The Great Falls school board unanimously adopted an optional college preparatory curriculum for high school students Monday and again listened to opposition to the program.

Great Falls High School teacher Bruce Cusker said students know who are "the bluebirds" and "the magpies" in school, and said the diplomas will separate college-prep students into a higher class.

Trustee George Walker met the opposition by saying it's time for teachers and the school board to stop "striving for commonality," and to start striving for "the excellence we're after" in education.

Walker said students who go to college should have the best high school background available so they can be achievers in college.

Graduating seniors this year who completed the program's requirements will receive a gold seal on their diplomas.

Cusker said, however, it will not be fair to students who almost completed the requirements this year but failed to do so because they didn't know about them earlier.

"If you're going to have them, you should be playing fair," Cusker said. He advocated "grandfathering in" the diplomas instead of issuing them immediately.

The school board adopted differential diplomas in March, and has completed work it began about seven months ago to draft the curriculum.

The matter has been before board committees several times, meeting little opposition until after it had been adopted by the board in March. Those opposed to the new program have primarily been teachers.

Trustees have said they wanted the program to reward students who want to take stringent academic classes while in high school, and to make it clear to parents and students that colleges want students to take these stringent classes.

Montana university system officials have indicated that they want to establish minimum acceptance standards and do away with the current open college enrollment.

Students earning the new diploma will have to earn 22 credits, two more than required to earn general diplomas. In addition to general requirements, the program requires

students to take an extra credit of math, an extra credit of science, a credit of fine, visual or performing arts and two credits of a foreign language. The language requirement can be substituted with two credits of language arts, math, science, social studies or computer science.

However, the math credits are about the same for both general and college-prep students because the class of 1987 is required to take two credits of math plus another credit of math, science or technology.

The general diploma also requires students to earn four credits of English or language arts, 3½ credits of social studies, a credit of science and two credits of health and physical education.

According to statistics compiled by James Bergene, assistant superintendent of secondary education and the head of a special curriculum committee that studied the issue, many of this year's graduates are already meeting the additional credit requirements of the new program.

Bergene has said, however, that students will undoubtedly have to work harder to earn the college-prep diploma. And for some, he said, it

might be too stringent.

Statistics show that 491, or 64.4 percent, of the 763 seniors at both high schools had earned at least 19.5 credits going into their second semesters of their final years. That means 64.4 percent of seniors had to take only 2½ credits, or five classes, their last semesters to earn 22 credits by graduation.

Of the 491 students who already had 19.5 credits, 93, or 18.9 percent, of them had completed 21.5 credits or more.

CROXFORD & SONS



Funeral Directors

Telephone 406-453-0315

NOPEN — Services for Ruth Nopen, 75, of Las Vegas, Nev., will be held Thursday at 11 a.m. in Croxfords Rose Room with burial to follow in Highland Cemetery.

HENDRICKSON — Services for Sigurd Hendrickson, 95, 1217 3rd Ave. So., will be held Thursday at 2:00 P.M. in the St. Paul Lutheran Church, Fairfield, Mt. Rev. Reid Seastrand of Our Saviors Lutheran Church will officiate and burial will follow in the St. Paul Cemetery. Memorials are suggested to Our Saviors Lutheran Church or to the St. Paul Lutheran Church.

Article courtesy of:

The Great Falls Tribune and
Newspapers.com