

Billings West High School



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billingschools.org/our-schools/high-schools/west

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Mr. Fred Petak..... Assistant Principal
Mr. Dustin Gaugler..... Assistant Principal
Mr. Peter Hamilton..... Assistant Principal
Miss Gaye McNeil..... Assistant Principal
Mr. Alexander Bedford..... Assistant Principal
Mrs. Larissa Cruickshank..... Registrar
Ms. Kim Petersen..... Counseling Chair
Mrs. Allison McDowell..... Counseling Secretary

SCHOOL PROFILE 2025-2026

COMMUNITY

Located in the heart of Yellowstone County Montana is the growing metropolis of Billings. As of 2020, the population of Billings was 117,445. The economy is based on agriculture, healthcare, energy refinement, and Billings' function as a regional trade center offers shopping and business opportunities. Billings has two major hospitals, and serves the most advanced medical center for the region. Montana State University-Billings and Rocky Mountain College are also located in Billings.

SCHOOL DISTRICT

Billings School District 2 serves the population of Billings, Montana. As of 2023, Billings Public Schools serves approximately 16,120 students in grades Kindergarten through twelve in 30 different schools located across the city including 21 elementary schools, 6 middle schools, 3 high schools, 1 career center, 1 early childhood intervention program, and 1 adult education program. For the 2024-2025 School Year, Billings SD2 introduced 3 new public charter schools: Billings Early College School, Billings Opportunity School, and The Billings Multilingual School.

WEST HIGH SCHOOL

West High School is a four-year public comprehensive high school that opened in August of 1959 and graduated its first class in 1962 with 354 students graduating. As of August of 2025, there were 538 seniors, 546 juniors, 556 sophomores and 573 freshmen. The school year consists of two semesters, totaling 180 days. Class periods are 58 minutes in length, six periods a day and meet five times a week. The ethnic representation of our students is as follows: 79% White, 7% Hispanic/Latino, 4% American Indian, 1% Black, 1% Asian, 1% Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and 7% multiple races. The student to faculty ratio is 23:1.

FACULTY

The staff of West High includes 90 teachers, 6 administrators, 7 counselors, 3 librarians, 1 career coach, 1 social worker, 1 mental health specialist, and 1 Indian education coordinator.

CURRICULUM

The High School curriculum is comprehensive, ranging in scope from essential core classes to Advanced Placement courses in English, social studies, mathematics, and sciences; including college/university connection courses. Additional offerings include world languages, music, fine arts, culinary arts, computer technology, and career or technology courses. Students are also given the opportunity to attend the Billings Career Center for a full or partial day once they are eleventh or twelfth graders. The Career Center offers a combination of academic, career, and technical/vocational education courses.

West High School is accredited by the Northwest Accreditation Commission (NWAC) a Division of Cognia and the Montana State Department of Public Instruction.



Billings West High School

BILLINGS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Graduation Requirements

English	4 Credits
Math	2 Credits
World History	1 Credit
American History	1 Credit
US Government	5 Credit
Senior Social Studies5 Credit
Physical Science	1 Credit
Biological Science	1 Credit
PE/Health Enhancement	1 Credit
Visual/Performing Arts	1 Credit
Career Technical Education(CTE)	1 Credit
Electives	7 Credits

TOTAL 21 CREDITS

HONORS AND ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES


ENGLISH

- English 1 Honors
- English 2 Honors
- AP English Language and Composition
- AP English Literature and Composition

MATHEMATICS

- Geometry Honors
- Algebra 2 Honors
- AP Pre Calculus
- AP Calculus AB
- AP Calculus BC
- AP Statistics

SCIENCE

- Earth Science Honors
- Biology Honors
- Chemistry Honors
- AP Biology
- AP Chemistry
- AP Physics 1
- AP Physics 2
-  SOCIAL STUDIES
- AP World History
- AP US History
- AP U.S. Government & Politics
- AP Psychology

OTHER

- AP French
- AP German Language
- AP Spanish Language
- AP Art and Design
- AP Seminar
- AP Research

DUAL CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES

- College Writing
- College Algebra
- College Statistics
- College Intro to Public Speaking
- College American Government
- College American History
- College Intro to Business
- College Sociology

BWHS PLATINUM PROGRAM

The Platinum Program is designed for students who wish to sign on for 4 years of challenging courses with a culminating capstone project to demonstrate their academic growth. Students who are able to complete all requirements of the Platinum Program will be honored during graduation ceremonies, letters of recommendation will refer to the students' completion of the program and will reflect the rigor involved. West High transcripts will include specific mention of the Platinum Program and students who are undertaking it.

Platinum Program Requirements

- 15 Added Value Credits*
- A minimum of a "C" grade in all courses
- Adhere to policies outlined in the West High Student Handbook
- Enrichment Project-Students will be required to plan, submit, and complete an enrichment project that demonstrates personal or intellectual growth.

GRADING SYSTEM

Billings West High School's Official Transcript includes both a weighted and an unweighted grade point average. Weighted grades are given in those courses designated as either Honors or Advanced Placement (AP or H). The difference between weighted and unweighted in terms of grade point value is as follows. GPA and Class Rank are calculated using the weighted formula.

GRADING SCALE	UNWEIGHTED	WEIGHTED
A 90 – 100% (4 pts)	A = 4 grade points	A = 5 grade points
B 80 – 89% (3 pts)	B = 3 grade points	B = 4 grade points
C 70 – 79% (2 pts)	C = 2 grade points	C = 3 grade points
D 60 – 69% (1 pt)	D = 1 grade point	D = 1 grade point
F Below 60% (0 pts)	F = 0 grade points	F = 0 grade points

I - Incomplete P - Passing

TEST RESULTS

SAT

Results for Class of 2024-2025
Tested Seniors: 9

Evidence Based RW	Mathematics	Composite
620	600	1220

ACT

Results for School Year of 2024-25*
Tested Students: 492

Reading	English	Mathematics	Science	Composite
20.3	19.2	20.1	20.2	20.1

Advanced Placement Achievement

In 2024-2025, 347 students sat for 704 examinations.

The overall distribution of scores is:
5-14% 4 - 32% 3 - 37% 2 - 16% 1 - 2%

*ACT serves as the required Montana State assessment tool for all high school juniors

GPA RANGES CLASS OF 2025

Highest Weighted GPA: 4.75 Highest Unweighted GPA: 4.00
Average Weighted GPA: 3.06
Graduating Seniors of Class of 2025: 490

4 Year College or University: 47.9% United States Military: 2.8%
2 Year College: 8.5% Employment: 20.5%
Apprenticeship: 8.7% Other: 11.6%

Members of the past three graduating classes at Billings West High have attended over 150 unique Post-Secondary Institutions including, Stanford University, Brigham Young University, University of Southern California, and Yale University.

As well, graduates have received appointments to the United States Air Force Academy and the United States Naval Academy.