



Great People...Great Falls Public Schools

June 2026,

As summer settles into Great Falls, our schools may be out of session, but they are far from quiet. Across the district, students continue learning and growing through summer school, the Virtual Academy, Innovative Learning Camps, Culture Camp, Extended School Year services, Summer Jumpstart programs, swimming lessons, and our Summer Foods Program. Classrooms, playgrounds, cafeterias, and community spaces remain filled with opportunities designed to support students throughout the summer months. As we wrap up the 2025–2026 school year, thank you for your continued support of Great Falls Public Schools. We will be back to visit with you in August. Until then, celebrate the birthday of our nation safely, enjoy time with family and friends, and have a wonderful summer. Welcome to the final edition of *Highlights with Superintendent Hoyer* for 2025-2026.

Great Community...

Hustling Through Summer Learning – Initial numbers for summer opportunities

- Learning continues well beyond the final bell. This summer, Great Falls Public Schools is providing opportunities for approximately 448 students through a variety of programs designed to support academic growth, enrichment, and exploration. Current participation includes 151 students in Summer Jumpstart (PK–3), 118 students in High School Summer School, 77 students receiving Extended School Year services, 68 elementary/middle school students and 14 high school students participating in Innovative Learning Camps, and 20 students attending Culture Camp. From astronomy and coding to literacy and credit recovery, students are continuing to build skills, confidence, and connections throughout the summer.

Hands-On Horizons – Growing future builders

- Forty fifth- and sixth-grade students recently participated in the annual *Construction Camp* hosted at C.M. Russell High School. During this free three-day experience, students learned construction basics, practiced workplace safety, measured, cut, assembled projects, and worked collaboratively to build birdhouses, tool totes, and community planters. Experiences like these help students begin exploring career pathways while developing problem-solving, teamwork, and technical skills that support our Kindergarten-to-Capstone vision.

Honoring Every Path to Graduation – Celebrations of (their) success

- Graduation season provided a powerful reminder that success looks different for every student. This year, Great Falls Public Schools celebrated 976 completion opportunities across a variety of programs including high school diplomas, HiSET graduates, Connections 101, English Learner completers, Certified Nursing Assistant students, Secondary Life Skills students, and graduates from the Paris Gibson Education Center and CCRC. Whether crossing a stage, ringing a bell,

receiving an eagle feather, earning an industry credential, or completing a workforce pathway, each accomplishment represents perseverance, growth, and a future filled with possibility.

Honoring Academic Ambition – Culmination of hours of preparation

- This spring, Advanced Placement students once again demonstrated a commitment to academic excellence. Across 16 testing days, students completed 356 Advanced Placement exams covering 14 different content areas, supported by 24 dedicated proctors. These rigorous opportunities allow students to challenge themselves academically while potentially earning college credit before graduation. We extend our appreciation to our teachers, counselors, administrators, and Curriculum Director Beckie Frisbee for coordinating this significant undertaking.

Helping Families Through Community Partnerships – Generous Partners

- Great Falls continues to demonstrate what makes this community special. Throughout the school year, community partners stepped forward in meaningful ways to help reduce food insecurity and support students and families in need of assistance paying for school lunch bills. We extend our sincere appreciation to Arby's of Great Falls/ AES Foundation, the Malmstrom Spouses Club, Leadership Great Falls, and the many individuals who participated in community giving initiatives. Their generosity helped provide assistance to dozens of families and serves as a powerful reminder that student success is strengthened when schools and communities work together. Thank you to all who contributed their time, resources, and compassion to ensure students had the support they needed to thrive both inside and outside the classroom.

Harnessing the Power of Communication – Strategic goals of communication

- Strong schools depend upon strong communication. During the 2025–2026 school year, Great Falls Public Schools expanded its outreach to families and community members through multiple communication platforms. Social media engagement continued to grow, with Facebook followers increasing to more than 14,000 and Instagram followers surpassing 1,200. ParentSquare communication reached more than 10,000 parent accounts, helping schools connect with families quickly and effectively. These tools allow us to celebrate student success, share important information, and strengthen partnerships between home and school.

Healing Beyond Borders – Once in a lifetime experience

- This summer, a group of dedicated Great Falls Public Schools students and advisors participated in “Squads Abroad” in Ghana, Africa, where learning extended far beyond the walls of a classroom. Health Science and Medical Pathway students worked alongside healthcare professionals in community medical clinics observing, and when appropriate, assisting with a wide range of procedures—from tooth extractions and patient assessments to labor and delivery care. Beyond developing technical knowledge, students gained a deeper understanding of global healthcare challenges, cultural perspectives, and the importance of service to others. Experiences like these provide an extraordinary platform for developing tomorrow's healthcare leaders, combining compassion, professional learning, and a commitment to making a difference in the lives of others. We extend our appreciation to the students, advisors, and healthcare partners who represented Great Falls Public Schools with professionalism, curiosity, and a servant's heart.

Honing Our Focus – Being honest about our strengths, and needs

- While we are proud of who we are as a school district and the opportunities we create for students, families, staff, and our community, we also recognize that our work is never complete. Great Falls Public Schools remains committed to addressing challenges that impact student success, beginning with attendance. We know that ensuring students are present, engaged, and ready to learn is a collective effort between schools and the families who entrust us with their children each day. We will continue to prioritize literacy and numeracy, particularly in grades K–3, where strong foundational skills serve as the cornerstone for future academic achievement. As always, our eyes remain fixed on the graduation stage—not simply as a destination, but as a milestone that represents years of growth, perseverance, and opportunity.

Hope for Tomorrow – Turning the page to 2026-2027

- As we reflect on the 2025–2026 school year, we are reminded that public education is ultimately about creating opportunities and opening doors. Whether students were learning to read, building a house, earning college credit, competing in athletics, exploring careers, attending summer camps, or walking across a graduation stage, each experience helped prepare them for the future. Thank you to our students, staff, families, Board of Trustees, and community partners for helping us continue **Building What Matters**. Together, we are creating opportunities today and building tomorrow, together.

Warm regards,

Heather Hoyer
Superintendent, Great Falls Public Schools

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