



Great People...Great Falls Public Schools

August 2026,

Great Falls...

We are excited to welcome the 2026–2027 school year! Summer at Great Falls Public Schools has been anything but quiet. Our halls and buildings have been filled with the energy of professionals preparing classrooms, programs, facilities, and learning spaces for the return of students and families. As we begin a new year, our theme is *“Building Tomorrow, Together.”* It captures the collective work we do every day to provide hope, opportunity, confidence, and possibility for the incredible students entrusted to us. Just as last year’s Highlights celebrated the preparation and progress happening across GFPS, this year we look forward to sharing the people, partnerships, and possibilities that make our district so special. *Welcome to the Back-to-School edition of GFPS Highlights with Superintendent Hoyer.*

Hometown Pride – Celebrating the unique spirit and traditions of Great Falls.

- Memorial Stadium will welcome students, athletes, families, and fans this fall with a brand-new scoreboard. This project is a wonderful example of what can happen when a community believes in its schools and invests in opportunities for students. We are fortunate to have community partners who believe deeply in our students and are willing to invest their time, talent, generosity, and resources. A very special thank you to several Great Falls businesses for helping us get this ready for student athletes: Guy Tobacco Construction, AT Klemens Electrical crew, and Jack Norris/GFPS Grounds department. Football and soccer are only two of the opportunities for our students to wear Blue and White or Green and Gold this year. The fall sports season is kicking off, to include Girls’ Flag Football —check out the first competitions below and visit <https://gfps.k12.mt.us/departments/athletics-sports-schedules> for full schedules.

CMR	GFHS
Golf – 8/24 Great Falls Invite	Golf - 8/24 Great Falls Invite
Football – 8/28 @ Capital	Football – 8/28 vs Flathead
Soccer – 8/27 vs Senior	Soccer – 8/28 vs Belgrade
Volleyball – 8/29 vs Glacier/Flathead	Volleyball – 8/29 vs Glacier/Flathead
XC – 8/28 Time Trials @ Cut Bank	XC – 8/28 Time Trials @ Cut Bank
Flag Football – 8/29 vs Gallatin	Flag Football – 8/29 vs Gallatin
**Cheerleading and Spirit/Dance are also preparing for the fall sports season.	

Historic Achievements – Building on the proud legacy of Great Falls Public Schools.

- The arts are taking center stage in a new way at GFPS. This fall, the new GFPS Marching Band will perform at home football games, bringing music, energy, and school spirit to our stadiums. This exciting opportunity is supported by the generosity of an anonymous donor and the newly

established *GFPS Fine Arts Permanent Fund*, an investment that will continue to support the arts for generations of students to come.

- And there is even more to celebrate in the arts! Our first art show of the year is currently being installed in the Dahl Gallery at Great Falls High School. We invite our community to stop by and experience the Fall '26 GFPS Faculty Art Show firsthand. The incredible talent of our own art teachers is on display, and it is a beautiful reminder that the people who teach creativity are creators themselves. We hope you will take the time to visit, enjoy the work, and celebrate the remarkable artistic talent within GFPS.

Healthy Minds and Bodies – Summer support for our students and families

- You may have seen the green mobile food trailers being pulled around the city by dedicated employees this summer. Through our Summer Food Program and partnerships with the USDA, Benefis, and No Child Hungry Montana, we supported over 741 breakfasts and 16,190 lunches for a total of 16,931 meals for hungry students in our community. This is a substantial increase over the summer of 2025 when we served just over 15,000 meals.

Hands-On Learning – Building Confidence through summer learning opportunities.

- Summer learning has officially wrapped up, but the impact of these experiences will continue into the school year. These programs reflect an important belief: learning and growth do not stop when the traditional school calendar ends. Summer provided students with opportunities to strengthen and build skills. Our students took advantage of a wide range of opportunities to learn, grow, recover credits, build relationships, and prepare for what comes next:
 - **Innovative Learning Camp:** 68 elementary students and 14 high school mentors
 - **Extended School Year:** 77 students
 - **Summer Jumpstart PreK–3:** 151 students
 - **High School Summer School:** 118 students recovered 358 half credits
 - **Culture Camp:** 20 students

Heroic Teachers – Welcoming new members to the GFPS family

- We are thrilled to have these educators joining our team. For some, this fall will be their first experience standing in front of their own classroom. For others, it marks a return to GFPS after time spent elsewhere. No matter the journey that brought them to our doors, we are excited to welcome them to their new professional home. We know they will bring fresh ideas, experiences, energy, and heart to our schools—and we are grateful they have chosen to build tomorrow with us. Thank you to Montana Federation of Public Employees for hosting breakfast and Bravera Bank for the BBQ luncheon during our annual professional development days for new teachers.



Heartfelt Commitment – Here is to another year, serving our community!

- At the heart of everything we do is our commitment to students, families, employees, and the Great Falls community. Last year, we talked about finding our “upper arrow”—those small but meaningful actions that elevate the experience of the people we serve. This year, we carry that spirit forward through *“Building Tomorrow, Together.”* Building tomorrow means showing up for one another. It means believing in what our students can become, creating opportunities for them to discover their strengths, and giving them the confidence to imagine possibilities beyond what they may see today. It means educators, families, community partners, and students working together—with purpose, optimism, and a shared belief that our collective efforts matter. There is tremendous work ahead of us, but there is also tremendous possibility. Thank you for trusting us with your children, for believing in public education, and for being part of the GFPS family. We are ready for the year ahead, and we are excited about what we can accomplish together.

Here’s to a wonderful 2026–2027 school year—and to *Building Tomorrow, Together.*

Warm regards,

Heather Hoyer
Superintendent, Great Falls Public Schools

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