TO: **Trustees, East Helena Schools**

FROM: **Dan Rispens, Superintendent**

BOARD MEETING: **September 14, 2026**

RE: **Student Enrollment (September 8, 2026)**

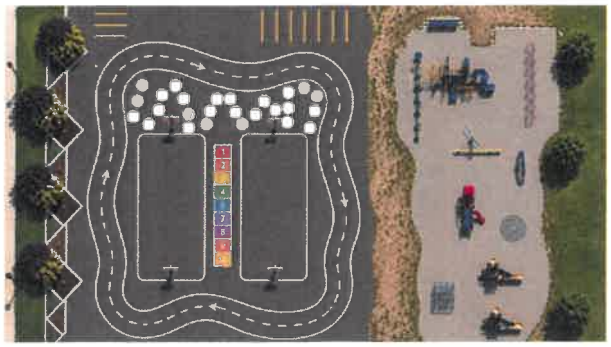
School	Grade Level	To Date	Month Ago (June)	Year Ago
Eastgate	Age-K	49	47	48
	K	115	140	145
EG Total		**[164]**	**[187]**	**[193]**
Prickly Pear	1	138	127	129
	2	127	131	132
Prickly Pear Total		**[265]**	**[258]**	**[261]**
Radley Elementary	3	128	155	158
	4	160	156	157
	5	161	148	151
Radley Total		**[449]**	**[459]**	**[466]**
East Valley	6	151	144	152
Middle School	7	141	141	152
	8	142	144	150
EVMS Total		**[434]**	**[429]**	**[454]**
East Helena High	9	164	165	176
	10	181	124	132
	11	129	122	134
	12	121	119	121
EHHS Total		**[595]**	**[530]**	**[563]**
EVMS 227	6	1	2	2
	7	13	15	13
	8	16	14	9
EVMS 227 Total		**[30]**	**[31]**	**[24]**
EHHS 227	9	2	12	6
	10	8	17	16
	11	19	18	23
	12	18	19	20
EHHS 227 Total		**[47]**	**[66]**	**[65]**
TOTALS		**1984**	**1960**	**2026**

School Board Report
September 8th, 2025

Chairman Walter and Trustees,
Here are some monthly items to share with you.

School Community
Our monthly school assemblies are designed to highlight and celebrate students and bring our two schools together for our school community. This year, we will be adding in another component. Each class will have a buddy class and prior to the assembly, these buddy classes will be participating in an activity to continue to enhance the school community. I want to thank Mrs. Bender, Mrs. Lunday, and Ms. Petersen for being integral in building these monthly buddy activities for all of the classes to enjoy.

EG Blacktop
Our blacktop at Eastgate received a "facelift" (design to the right). Different items were painted to provide our students with more opportunities and activities during recess. It has been great going out there and watching our students enjoy this new area.



First day procedures
As we kickoff another year, teachers and staff are working diligently to build in routines and classroom systems. As a building and school system, we are continuing to monitor other routines and procedures that are related to daily operations, safety, and traffic. We have sent out videos on our traffic flow and, overall, have had positive feedback with this extra layer of communication. As you know, Valley Drive continues to be an area that needs constant attention because of the high volume of traffic coming and going between Radley, Prickly Pear, and the high school.

Grade level items
Grade level teams meet on a 3 week cycle with our tutors, instructional coach, and myself. During our first round of meetings we are reviewing teacher's spring reflections and their classroom data from May of 2026 and following up from decisions made in the spring.

Enrollment
Student enrollment continues to ebb and flow with withdrawals and new students. Currently, we have 16-17 students in each LittleLante class, 15 students per class in kindergarten, 17-18 students per class in 1st grade, and 18-19 students per class in 2nd grade. The state accreditation for K-2nd is 20 students per class.

Upcoming Events and New Staff
- **Eastgate** - Mikaela Uhl - Para, Hanna Holley - Para, Laura Davis - Long Term Maternity Sub
- **Prickly Pear** - Olivia Nett - Tutor, Samantha Jones - Tutor, Isabelle Hallenberg - Year Long Student Teacher
- September 24th - Kindergarten Open House - 6:00 - 7:00
- September 28th - Early Release - Math, Instruction Group Planning
- October 7th - Walk To School Day

Thank you!
Brandon Crusat, Eastgate and Prickly Pear Elementary Principal

Month	Gen. Innap./Defiance	Playground	Fighting/Physical Contact	Bus	Weapons	Vandalism	Threat	Bullying	Harassment	Profanity	Total
September	5	1	4								10
October											0
November											0
December											0
January											0
February											0
March											0
April											0
May											0
June											0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10

10

*****All referrals and consequences include a conference with the student and a parent being notified*****

Month	Warning	Time Out	Bus Sus.	Alt. Recess	OSS	ISS	CSCT	Total
September		2		6	1	1		10
October								0
November								0
December								0
January								0
February								0
March								0
April								0
May								0
June								0
Total	0	2	0	6	1	1	0	0

Eastgate Elementary

Month	Gen. Innap./Defiance	Playground	Fighting/Physical Contact	Bus	Weapons	Vandalism	Threat	Bullying	Harassment	Profanity	Total
September	1	1									2
October											0
November											0
December											0
January											0
February											0
March											0
April											0
May											0
June											0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2

*****All referrals and consequences include a conference with the student and a parent being notified*****

Month	Warning	Time Out	Bus Sus.	Alt. Recess	OSS	ISS	CSCT	Total
September				2				2
October								0
November								0
December								0
January								0
February								0
March								0
April								0
May								0
June								0
Total	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0

Prickly Pear Elementary

EAST HELENA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School District No. 9 • PO Box 1280 • East Helena • Montana • 59635

Superintendent/Administration Office (406) 227-7700
Eastgate Elementary (406) 227-7770, grades pre & K
Prickly Pear Elementary (406) 227-7720, grades 1-2
Radley Elementary (406) 227-7710, grades 3-5
East Valley Middle School (406) 227-7740, grades 6-8
East Helena High School (406) 227-7730, grades 9-12

SUCCESS FOR ALL

September 14, 2026 Radley Elementary Board Report Gus Somerfeld

- Since returning in August, student enrollment has fluctuated moderately. The district enrolled 24 new students, while 16 withdrew between the spring and the start of the school year—a net gain of eight students. By comparison, during the same period last year, 33 new students enrolled and only eight withdrew.

- Our school year is off to a great start, thanks to several new staff members who have hit the ground running to support our students. I am deeply impressed by our veteran staff, who have embraced mentorship roles with immense professionalism, as well as our new staff's dedication to serving our students and school community. In particular, our early-career educators are delivering exceptionally strong performances.

- This year's staff theme focuses on becoming *Opportunity Leaders*. During our opening meeting, we explored how to maximize our impact on factors within our control while minimizing energy spent on what we cannot control regarding our 3rd–5th grade students. Drawing from John Hattie's research on high-yield practices, we established visions for the school year centered on improving teacher clarity and teacher credibility. I am already seeing remarkable momentum as our staff actively embodies these schoolwide goals.

- 2026-2027 Radley Elementary Schoolwide Goals:

  ACADEMIC: Increase student academic growth by ensuring 100% of classrooms consistently implement clear Learning Intentions and Success Criteria, keeping instruction focused strictly on high-impact controllable factors.
  Core Focus: Reduce cognitive overload by making learning visible so every student knows what they are learning, why they are learning it, and how they will know they have succeeded.
  BEHAVIOR: Shift behavioral responses by training staff to practice active cognitive reframing, viewing behavior challenges as opportunities for skill-building and data-driven solutions rather than dead-end obstacles.
  Core Focus: Focus 100% of professional energy on controllable behavioral interventions, filtering out external factors outside our control to maintain a safe, solution-oriented environment for all students.
  CULTURE/CLIMATE: Foster a wrap-around environment of trust and shared success by strengthening Teacher Credibility through the four core pillars: Trustworthiness, Competence, Caring, and Dynamism.
  Core Focus: Build collective efficacy across grade-level teams by engaging in reflective data practices,

maintaining a unified goal consensus, and establishing strong partnerships with parents and the East Helena community.

- Discipline Report

September Resolution Data				
Total Resolutions	**Total Students**	**3rd Grade**	**4th Grade**	**5th Grade**
9	7	2	2	5
Before Class	**After Class**	**During Passing**	**Cafeteria/Recess**	**During Class**
0	0	0	5	4
Classroom	**Cafeteria**	**Hallway/Stairs/Gym**	**Restroom**	**Playground**
1	2	1	0	5

Year to Date Resolutions				
Total Resolutions	**Total Students**	**3rd Grade**	**4th Grade**	**5th Grade**
Before Class	**After Class**	**During Passing**	**Cafeteria/Recess**	**During Class**
Classroom	**Cafeteria**	**Hallway/Stairs/Gym**	**Restroom**	**Playground**

2026-2027 --- Radley Discipline Report

TYPE of REFERRAL

	General Misbehavior	Open Defiance	Fighting or Intent to Harm	Bullying	Bus Discipline	Chronic Minor Behavior	Weapons or Substances	Vandalism	Threat or Intimidation	Theft	Harrassment	Profanity	monthly totals
September	2	2	5										9
October													0
November													0
December													0
January													0
February													0
March													0
April													0
May/June													0
total	2	2	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9

CONSEQUENCES

	Warning	Time out	Work Detail	Conference	Parent Meeting	Bus Suspension	Recess Det.	Lunch Detention	Detention	**ISS	***OSS	Alternative	monthly totals
September							1			1	7		9
October													0
November													0
December													0
January													0
February													0
March													0
April													0
May/June													0
total	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	7	0	9

* Every office discipline referral results in a parent phone call, at a minimum.
** In-School Suspension
*** Out of School Suspension

EVMS September Board Meeting

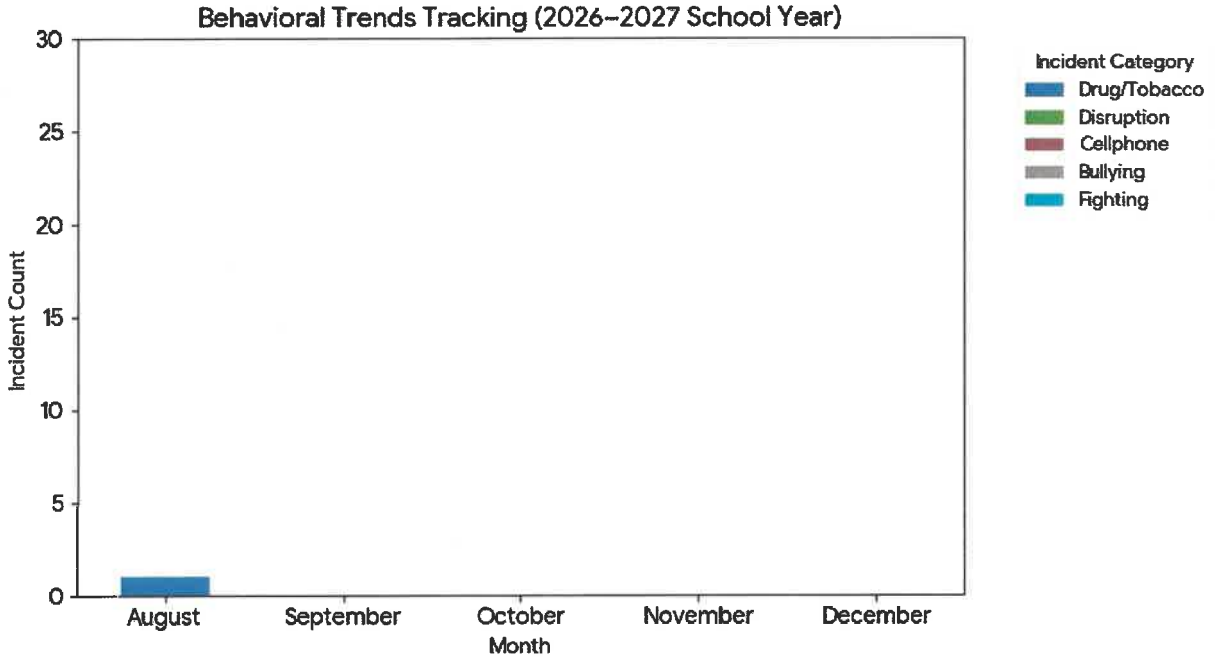
EVMS is off to an amazing start. We have students in classes and everyone is practicing their locks, routines, and expectations.

EVMS 2026-27 New Staff

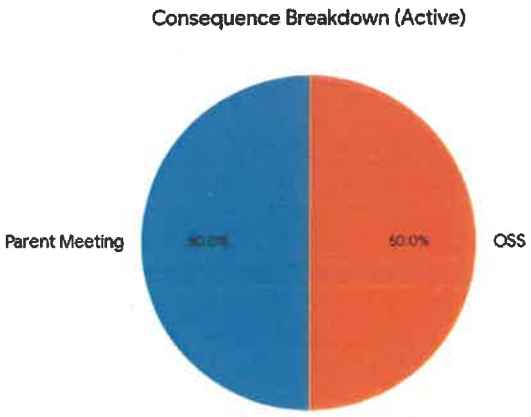
Mrs. Jones~ Computers
Mrs. Haines~ Life Tools
Mr. Zoeckler~ Counselor
Ms. Wischmeier~ Sped data collection/Interventions/small groups

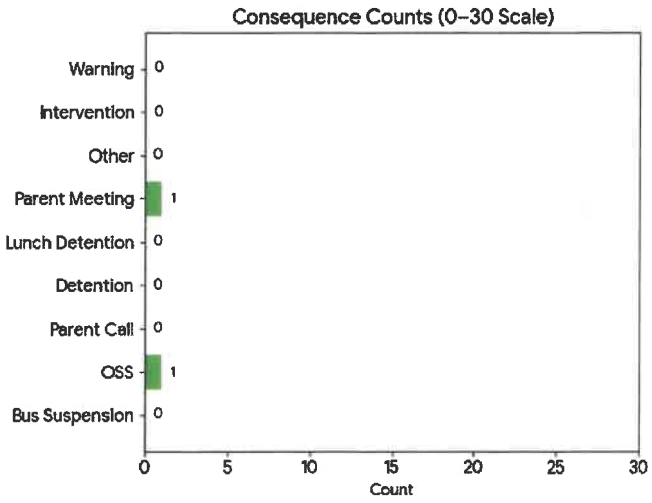
Academics:
We will start our benchmark testing in September through our math program, iReady, and our reading program, IXL.

Behaviors:
EVMS and middle school 227 Academy students have started strong with only one write up for drugs during the EHHS football game.

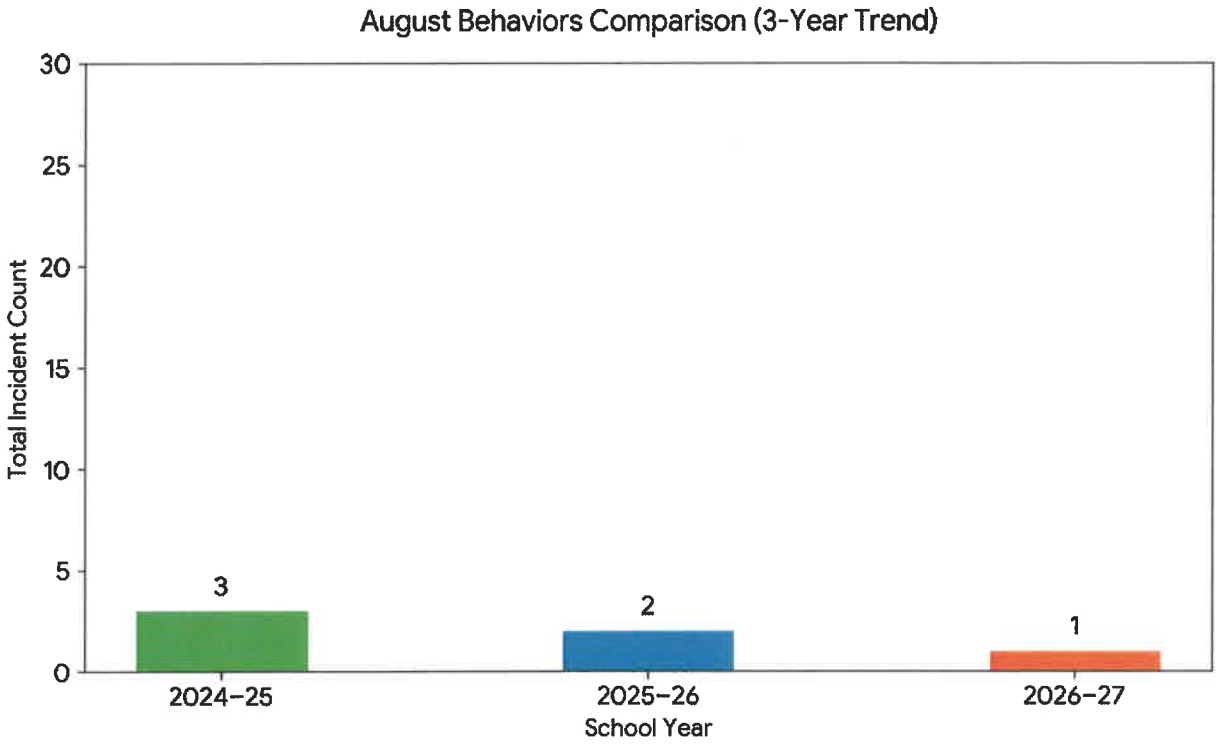


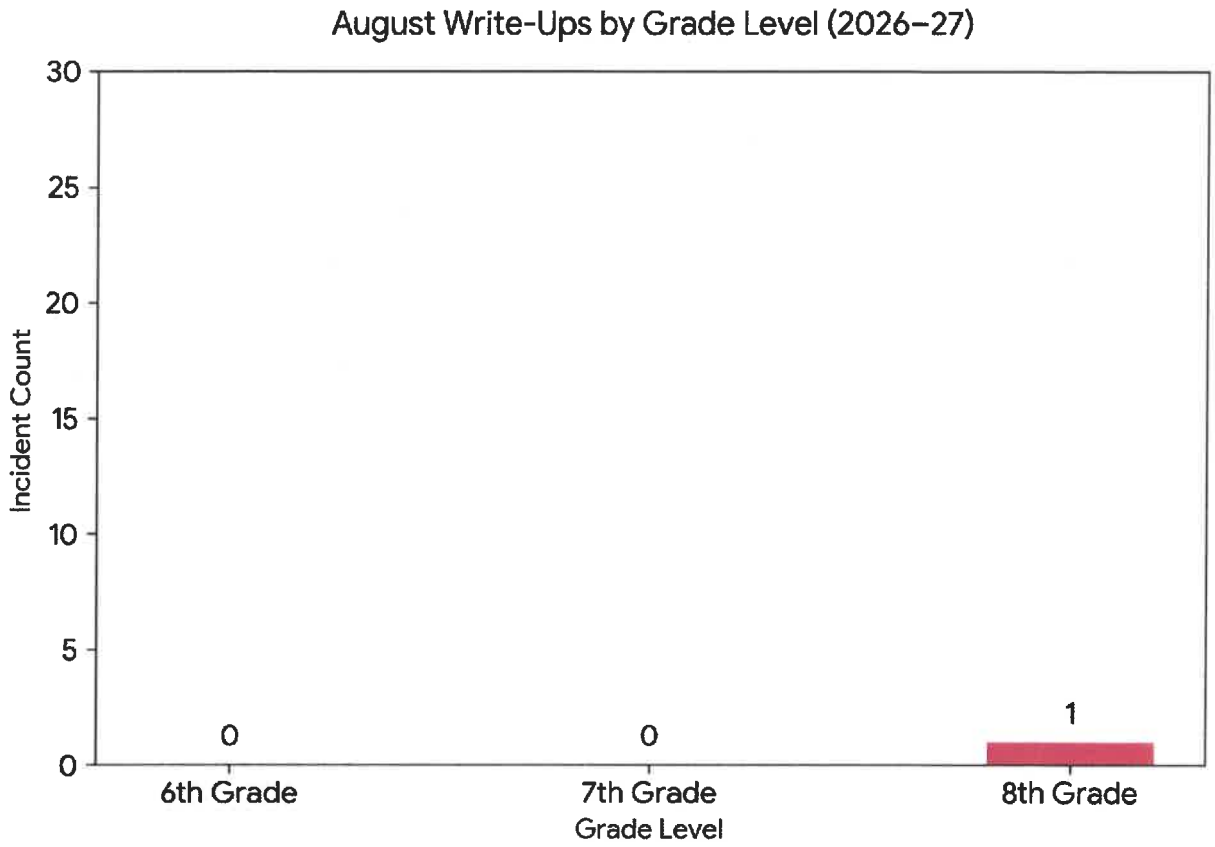
Consequence:





Yearly Comparison





EVMS Sports

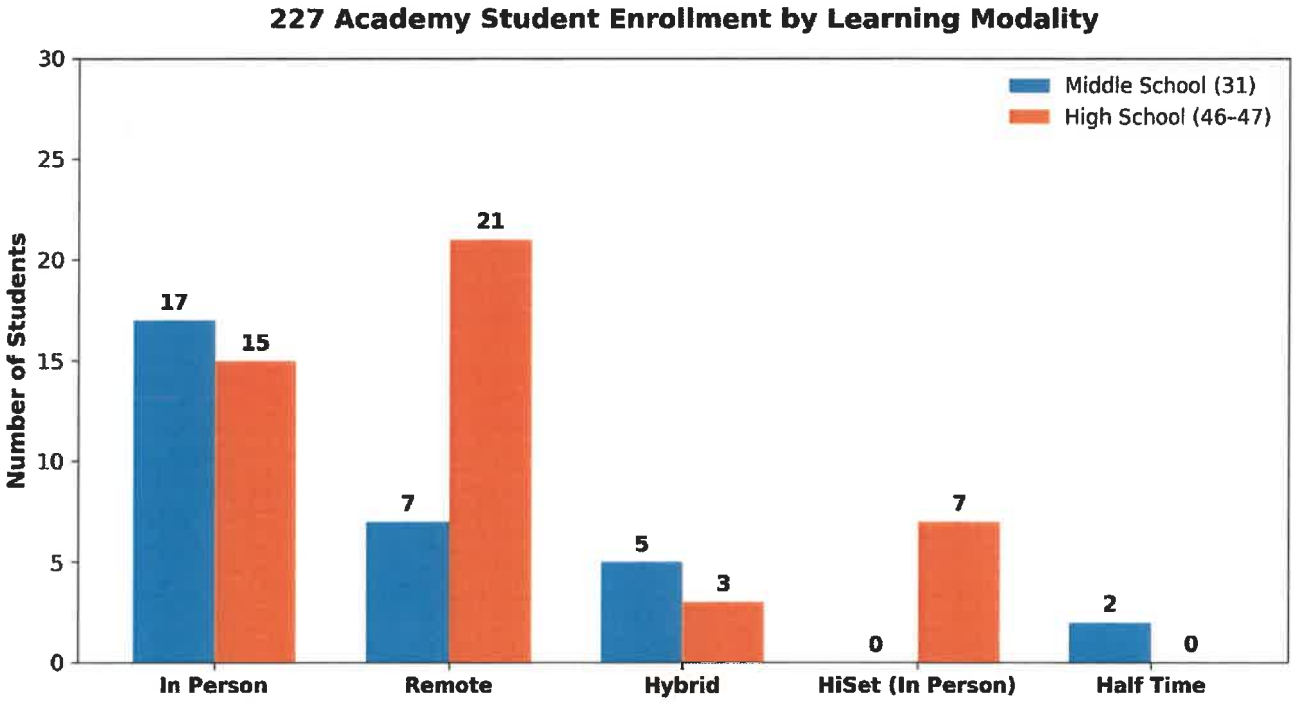
We have started our 2026-27 sports season with Cross Country and Volleyball.

We have 26 volleyball players and 17 cross country runners.

227 Academies

Students in the academies have schedules ironed out, parent meetings completed, enrolled on Edmentum if remote, and routines taking place.

A total of 69 meetings have been completed between both academies. Shout out to Mr. Kemper, Mr. VanNice, Mr. Sebestyen, and Mr. Yackley for all their support in these meetings. Serving a combined student body of 76 students.



Middle School 227 Academy Breakdown

Modality	Student Count	Percentage
In Person	17	54.8%
Remote	7	22.6%
Hybrid	5	16.1%
Half Time	2	6.5%
Total	**31**	**100.0%**

Completed Meetings: 23 total meetings (8 conducted via phone by Mr. Yackley for returning students).

High School 227 Breakdown

Modality	Student Count	Percentage (of 46)
Remote*	21	45.7%
In Person	15	32.6%
HiSet (In Person)	7	15.2%
Hybrid	3	6.5%
Total (Itemized)	**46**	**100.0%**

Completed Meetings: 38 total meetings focused on scheduling and academic future planning. HiSet meetings are conducted by Mr. Condon

East Helena High School
"Home of the Vigilantes"
2760 Valley Drive, East Helena, MT 59635
(406) 227-7730 - Phone ■ (406) 227-3520 - Fax

EHHS Principal Report

September 2026

School is back

We have (as of September 9th) 644 students (HS = 595, 227 Academy = 49). We are 36 students more than last year.

We have met with teachers to continue helping teachers create a positive academic and socially appropriate school environment, and continuing to work with community, students and teachers to create our unique and evolving Vigilante Culture and Norms.

This year we have put Study Hall's back in with teachers, and implementing a new pass system Securly, and continuing to refine our Cell Phone policy expectations.

New Teachers

We would like to welcome our new teachers to the High School:
Kayleigh Neal – Social Studies
Gunner Gleason – Social Studies
Josiah Romo - English
Gage Vermillion – Industrial Arts
Nora Klick – PE/Health
Sage Bryden - Math

New Curriculum Adoption

Math will be operating with a new Curriculum this year after teachers trained through last year and this Summer to put all the pieces in place. This year will see the CTE, Art, Health Enhancement, Music, and Languages teachers working on what Curriculum they will use starting 2027-28.

HS Scheduling

A lot smoother and quicker this year as we continue to look at ways of improving our delivery and setting up the schedules. The 227 Academy includes in person, online, and HiSET students is up and running in its 3rd year.

227 Sign Design Winner

Heath Galbavy was the student winner of the new sign design for the '227 Stadium'.

Homecoming Parade

The Homecoming Parade will be at 2pm on Friday September 18th, followed by the Home Football Game v Lockwood, with the theme of 'Vigilante Out'. On Saturday night will be the Homecoming Dance in the HS Commons until 11pm.

Shout Outs

To our dedicated sports coaches in Football, Volleyball, Soccer, Golf, Cross Country and Flag Football who have been working hard with our student athletes in the late summer and fall sports seasons.

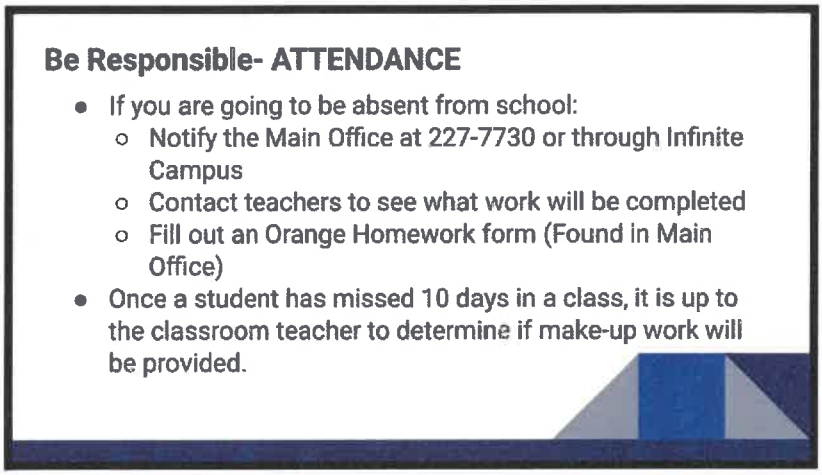
To our Community members who have been running a myriad of activities for students in our community, especially during the summer months.

To Mr. Skains and the custodial staff who worked all summer to keep our building looking immaculate and safe for our students to return to the classroom.

To Ms. Kerpa and Mr. Hoffman who dealt with the fixing of schedules in the High School, and the 227 Academy.

September School Board Report
East Helena High School

PBIS Program/Expectations:
At the beginning of the school year, we do a schoolwide review of the behavior expectations and cover our student handbook. Each class period covers a set number of slides to help students understand what it means to be a Vigilante. Below is a screenshot of one of the slides covered at the beginning of the school year!



This helps students review what they need to complete in high school (graduation requirements), attendance rules, behavior matrices, involvement in extracurricular activities and being a part of the school. The students also used this time to make sure they are in the correct Google Classroom to vote on various school topics (227 Stadium Sign, Homecoming royalty, etc.) and get announcements important to just their graduating class. We want to thank the AMAZING high school staff for not only covering this material but for teaching and reteaching these expectations each year for our students!

Office Referrals
We have had 9 office referrals the first four days of school in August. All referrals resulted in a conversation with the students, phone calls/emails home and time in the office. Students are also understanding the progression of discipline and consequences for actions in classrooms based on the conversations with Mr. Condon and myself to start this year. Most of our students have learned that the expectations are much higher once they are in high school and are doing a great job. Almost all of the students are adjusting behaviors to meet those standards, even if they have a consequence from the first part of school. All 9 office referrals in the month of August were different students and in different grade levels.

Vigilante Stars
We are off to a solid start with recognizing our students who are doing exactly what is expected in classes and on campus. We have handed out 17 Vigilante Stars to date. This is a great

number and shows that our students are doing well adjusting back to school. I wanted to share a huge thank you to the EHHS Booster Club for providing $2500 for prizes for students to keep this amazing program running and stocked with prizes for students. Without this funding, we could not keep up the recognition of our students! Thank you so much Booster Club for always supporting the students and staff at EHHS!



Sincerely,
Mrs. Klock
EHHS Vice Principal

BE RESPECTFUL · BE ENGAGED · BE RESPONSIBLE · BE A GRADUATE

East Helena High School

School District No. 9 * P.O. Box 1280 * East Helena, MT. 59635

District Office (406) 227-7700 * EHH School Office (406) 227-7730

"Success For All"

To: East Helena School Board

From: Shaun Murgel

Subject: 09/14/2026

Activities: We are off and going full tilt with all of our Fall Activities. We are very excited as all of our programs have been very competitive so far this season. We have hosted several successful events this month. We had home volleyball, soccer and golf invitationals and our coaches have helped make these events a success. Cross country has started their season this month and are looking to have a pretty competitive boys season with some veteran runners. Flag football is one of the best teams in the state and will have their season over before the next board meeting as well as state golf.

Transportation: We are already busy with not just the school bus routes, but also our drivers have been taking our kids all over the state for competition. They are doing a great job of transporting all of our students.

Kirk Hedrick khedrick@ehps.k12.mt.us Transportation Supervisor Contact

https://ehhs.ehpsmt.gov/ehhs-athletics-activities/athletics-updates/sports

District Website link: https://www.ehpsmt.gov/

AD Newsletter link: https://ehhs.ehpsmt.gov/ehhs-athletics-activities/athletics-updates

Facilities: Janie has done a great job of making sure that all of our schools know the schedules and events that are scheduled for each building. It is a big task to ensure that all this runs smoothly. The communication that is done each week is amazing and we have very little issues with over or double booking thanks to her.

Facility Use Schedule Link and my email:

https://www.ehpsmt.gov/district-facilities/district-facility-use/facility-reservation-instructions

smurgel@ehps.k12.mt.us.

Thanks

Shaun Murgel

EHPS Technology Report

Sept 14th, 2026

To the EHPS Chairman and Board of Trustees,

One of the larger projects of the summer was the deployment of 60 new Windows PCs. Generally, this would not be an especially difficult task, but since I started with the district, I have been transitioning our Windows computers to Microsoft Intune and Autopilot. While we already had a dozen or so devices configured this way, this was the first time deploying a large number at once and it provided valuable feedback that will help improve the process moving forward. This method gives the district a more modern way to configure and manage computers without relying as heavily on our traditional local network and servers, while also making the deployment process much faster. In addition, we transitioned our Apple devices away from Mosyle and into Microsoft Intune, allowing us to consolidate more of our device management into a single platform.

We also completed several network infrastructure upgrades over the summer. Older HP Aruba network switches were replaced with Ruckus switches, bringing those areas in line with the equipment currently used throughout the rest of the district. In addition to standardizing our network equipment, the new switches provide significantly more Power over Ethernet (PoE) capacity. This has become increasingly important as more devices, such as our intercom system, phones, and cameras rely on the network for both connectivity and power.

On the student information side, I built additional reporting tools to assist with transportation. This included updating our annual registration process to collect route information and provide transportation staff with more accurate, up-to-date bus and shuttle rosters. I also automated the creation and disabling of student accounts using data pulled directly from Infinite Campus. This has been a time-consuming manual process in the past. A better solution would be an identity management system, such as Clever IDM, something that we hope to explore in the future.

Security-wise, the IT department has transitioned to YubiKeys for administrative accounts, providing stronger protection through the use of a physical security key rather than relying solely on traditional passwords or text-message authentication. This helps reduce the risk of phishing and unauthorized access to critical district systems.

Thank you for your time,

Eric Power
Technology Coordinator

Policy 3231: Searches and Seizure **Status:** DRAFT

Original Adopted Date: 09/09/2022 | **Last Revised Date:** Pending | **Last Reviewed Date:** 09/09/2022

The goal of search and seizure with respect to students is meeting the educational needs of children and ensuring their security. The objective of any search and/or seizure is not the eradication of crime in the community. Searches may be carried out to recover stolen property, to detect illegal substances or weapons, or to uncover any matter reasonably believed to be a threat to the maintenance of an orderly educational environment. The Board authorizes school authorities to conduct reasonable searches of school property and equipment, as well as of students and their personal effects, to maintain order and security in the schools.

The search of a student, by authorized school authorities, is reasonable if it is both: (1) justified at its inception, and (2) reasonably related in scope to the circumstances which justified the interference in the first place.

For the safety of the student body and staff, school authorities are authorized to utilize ~~any~~ reasonable means of conducting **physical** searches, including but not limited to the following:

~~A "pat down" of the exterior of the student's clothing;~~

A search of the student's clothing~~, including pockets~~ by requesting that the student remove any coat, jacket, or other outer wear which can then be searched and by requesting that the student empty their pockets;

A search of any container or object used by, belonging to, or otherwise in the possession or control of a student; and/or

Devices or tools identified in school district policy or the student handbook or deemed necessary by the Superintendent or designee.

~~The "pat down" or "search' of a student, if conducted,~~ Any search of a student will be conducted by ~~a~~ **2 staff members, unless exigent circumstances exist.** ~~school official or employee of the same gender as the student being searched.~~

School Property and Equipment and Personal Effects of Students

School authorities may inspect and search school property and equipment owned or controlled by the District (such as lockers, desks, and parking lots).

The Superintendent may request the assistance of law enforcement officials, including their use of specially trained dogs, to conduct inspections and searches of lockers, desks, parking lots, and other school property and equipment for illegal drugs, weapons, or other illegal or dangerous substances or material.

Students

School officials may search any individual student, his/her property, or District property under his/her control, when there is a reasonable suspicion that the search will uncover evidence that he/she is violating the law, Board policy, administrative regulation, or other rules of the District or the school. Reasonable suspicion shall be based on specific and objective facts that the search will produce evidence related to the alleged violation. The types of student property that may be searched by school officials include but are not limited to lockers, desks, purses,

backpacks, student vehicles parked on District property, cellular phones, or other electronic communication devices.

Students may not use, transport, carry, or possess illegal drugs or any weapons in their vehicles on school property. While on school property, vehicles may be inspected at any time by staff, or by contractors employed by the District utilizing trained dogs, for the presence of illegal drugs, drug paraphernalia, or weapons. In the event the school has reason to believe that drugs, drug paraphernalia, or weapons are present, including by alert-trained dogs, the student's vehicle will be searched, and the student expressly consents to such a search.

Also, by parking in the school parking lots, the student consents to having his/her vehicle searched if the school authorities have any other reasonable suspicion to believe that a violation of school rules or policy has occurred.

Seizure of Property

When a search produces evidence that a student has violated or is violating either a law or District policies or rules, such evidence may be seized and impounded by school authorities and disciplinary action may be taken. As appropriate, such evidence may be transferred to law enforcement authorities.

United States Constitution	**Description**
Fourth Amendment	Unreasonable Search and Seizure

United States Supreme Court	**Description**
469 U.S. 325 (1985)	New Jersey v. T.L.O.
557 U.S. 364 (2009)	Safford Unified School Dist. No. 1 v. Redding

Cross References

Code	**Description**
3200	Student Rights and Responsibilities
3330	Use of Alcohol Sensor Device

Policy 5322: Military Leave

Status: DRAFT

Original Adopted Date: 09/09/2022 | **Last Revised Date:** Pending

Pursuant to the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) and the Montana Military Service Employment Rights, the Superintendent shall grant military leave to employees for voluntary or involuntary service in the uniformed services of the United States, upon receipt of the required notice.

Military Leave

A District employee who is a member of the national guard of Montana or any other state or who is a member of the organized or unorganized reserve corps or military forces of the United States and who has been an employee for a period of at least 6 months must be given leave of absence with pay at a rate of 120 hours in a calendar year or academic year if applicable, for performing military service. The full 120 hours of leave must be credited in full to an employee after 6 months of employment and in each successive calendar year, or academic year if applicable.

Military leave may not be charged against the employee's annual vacation time. Unused military leave must be carried over to the next calendar year, or academic year if applicable, but may not exceed a total of 240 hours in any calendar or academic year.

Right to Return to Work

After a leave of absence for state military duty, an employee is entitled to return to employment with the same seniority, status, pay, health insurance, pension, and other benefits as the employee would have accrued had the employee not been absent for state military duty. If an employee was in probationary status when ordered to state military duty, the District may require the employee to resume the probationary period upon returning to employment with the District.

Benefits shall be maintained for these employees as required by law and/or collective bargaining agreements. A service member who returns to the District for work following a period of active duty must be reinstated to the same or similar position and at the same rate of pay unless otherwise provided by law.

Time spent in active military service shall be counted in the same manner as regular employment for purposes of seniority or District service unless otherwise provided in a collective bargaining agreement.

Nondiscrimination

The District will not discriminate in hiring, reemployment, promotion, or benefits based upon membership or service in the uniformed services.

Requests for Leave

All requests for military leave will be submitted to the Superintendent, in writing, accompanied by copies of the proper documentation showing the necessity for the military leave request.

When possible, all requests for military leave will be submitted at least one (1) full month in

advance of the date military service is to begin.

Persons returning from military leave are asked to give the Superintendent notice of intent to return, in writing, as least one (1) full month in advance of the return date.

The District shall post notice of the rights, benefits, and obligations of the District and employees in the customary place for notices.

Montana Code Annotated	Description
10-1-1001, et seq	Montana Military Service Employment Rights

Policy 5323: Personal and Emergency Leave **Status:** DRAFT

Original Adopted Date: Pending

Personal and Emergency Leave

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, and in accordance with District policy and any applicable collective bargaining agreement, employees may be granted personal or emergency leave at the discretion of the Board of Trustees pursuant to the following conditions:

1. Leave will be without pay unless otherwise stated. If leave is to include expenses payable by the District, leave approval will so state.

2. Leave will be granted only in units of half (½) or full days.

3. Notice of at least one (1) week is required for any personal leave of less than one (1) week; notice of one (1) month is required for any personal leave exceeding one (1) week.

4. The Board hereby delegates to the Superintendent the authority, in unusual or exceptional circumstances, to grant immediate personal or emergency leave to employees who have exhausted or are not covered by sick leave or vacation pending Board approval of personal or emergency leave.

Policy 5324: Civic Duty Leave **Status:** DRAFT

Original Adopted Date: Pending

Jury Duty

When an employee is summoned for jury duty, the Superintendent may request that the Court excuse the employee from jury duty if the employee's presence at work is necessary for the proper operation of the District. If the employee is not excused or no request is made to excuse the employee, a leave of absence for jury duty will be granted. The employee may elect to receive regular salary or to take annual leave during jury time. An employee who elects not to take annual leave, however, must remit to the District all juror and witness fees and allowances (except for expenses and mileage).

Witness Subpoena

When an employee is subpoenaed to serve as a witness, the employee may elect to receive regular salary while serving as a witness, or take annual leave. An employee who elects not to take annual leave, however, must remit to the District all witness fees and allowances (except for expenses and mileage).

Public Office

If an employee is elected or appointed to a city, county, or state public office, the District shall grant to the employee a leave of absence while the employee is performing public service, not to exceed 180 days per year. An employee granted a leave of absence shall make arrangements to return to work within 10 days following completion of the service for which the leave was granted. If the District employs 10 or more persons, the employee will be restored to their position with the same seniority, status, compensation, hours, locality, and benefits as existed immediately prior to the leave of absence.

During the leave of absence, the employee cannot be required to perform work or to use leave or benefits without the consent of the employee. If the District provides health care benefits to the employee, the District shall continue offering the employee health care coverage at the employee's own expense. ~~benefits with the same covered benefits and covered persons during the leave of absence.~~



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9 or 12 days | Kansai region | Tokyo | Extension to Sapporo City

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EVERYTHING YOU GET:

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Sightseeing: 3 sightseeing tours led by licensed local guides; 3 sightseeing tours led by your Tour Director *(5 with extension)*; 1 walking tour

Entrances: Osaka Castle; Fushimi Inari-taisha Shrine; Golden Pavilion; natural cave; Lake Saiko and Iyashi no Sato Nenba; Meiji Shinto Shrine; Tokyo National Museum; arcade experience; Asakusa Kannon Temple; sumo-style hot pot dinner; Immersive Scavenger Hunt; Shin-Yokohama Ramen Museum; Tokyo Tower; *with extension: Asahiyama Observatory; Sapporo TV Tower; Upopoy National Ainu Museum and Park; Noboribetsu Hell Valley and Oyunuma Pond; dairy farm*

Personalized learning guide: Our personalized learning experience engages students before, during, and after tour, with the option to create a final, reflective project for academic credit.

All of the details are covered: Round-trip flights on major carriers; comfortable motorcoach; 1 bullet train; *2 internal flights with extension*; 7 overnight stays in hotels with private bathrooms *(10 with extension)*; dinner on arrival day; breakfast and dinner on Days 3–8 *(and 9–11 with extension)*; breakfast on departure day; *lunch on Day 10 with extension*



Kiyomizudera Temple



Harajuku shopping district

Anyone can see the world.

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As you can see, your EF tour includes visits to the places you've learned about in school. That's a given. But it's so much more than that. Immersing yourself in new cultures—surrounded by the people, the language, the food, the way of life—creates inspirational moments that can't be listed in an itinerary. They can only be experienced.

And the experience begins long before you get your passport stamped and meet your Tour Director in your arrival city. It begins the moment you decide to go. Whether it's connecting with other travelers on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram, or delving deeper into your destinations with our personalized learning experience, the excitement will hit you long before you pack your suitcase.

When your group arrives abroad, everything is taken care of so you can relax and enjoy the experience. Your full-time Tour Director is with your group around the clock, handling local transportation, hotels, and meals while also providing their own insight into the local history and culture. Expert local guides will lead your group on sightseeing tours, providing detailed views on history, art, architecture, or anything you may have a question about.

When your journey is over and you're unpacking your suitcase at home, you'll realize the benefits of your life-changing experience do not end. They have just begun.

@EFtours I attribute my college semester abroad to the love for travel I discovered on an EF Tour in high school #traveltuesday

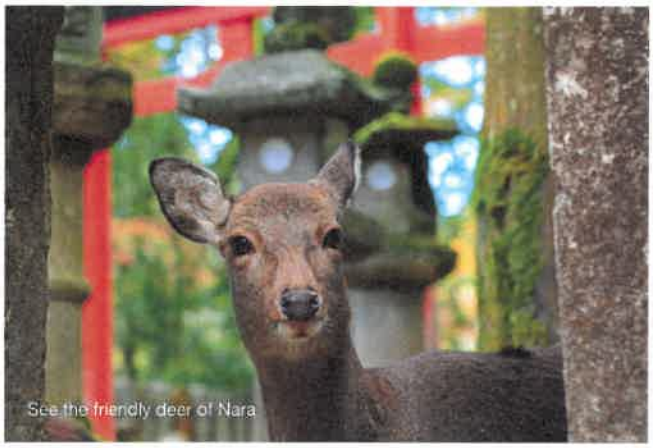
– MELISSA, TRAVELER

Via Twitter




A view of Mount Fuji


Water purification fountain at the entrance of the Meiji Shinto Shrine


See the friendly deer of Nara



CHECK OUT WHAT A TOUR IS ALL ABOUT

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Your teacher's Tour Website

What you'll experience on your tour

Day 1: Fly overnight to Japan

Day 2: Kansai region
– Meet your Tour Director at the airport in Osaka.

Day 3: Kansai region
– Visit Osaka Castle, a renowned landmark surrounded by moats and gardens, rich with Samurai history.
– Travel to Nara and take a guided tour. Visit the Todaiji Temple, see the Daibutsu, the world's largest bronze Buddha, say hello to the area's famous and friendly deer in Nara Park, and visit Kasuga-taisha, Nara's most celebrated shrine.
– Travel to Kyoto, a city that conjures images of sunlit walks around tiered pagodas and quiet lakes lined with cherry blossom trees.
– Visit the Fushimi Inari-taisha Shrine, located near the base of Mount Inari. Originally constructed to honor the Shinto god of rice, the elaborate complex welcomes visitors through thousands of red torii gates.

Day 4: Kansai region
– Take a tour of Arashiyama, known for its shrines and temples—and, most of all, its incredible bamboo forest.
– Take an expert-led tour of Kyoto. As the national capital for over a millennium, Kyoto offers you a unique glimpse into the history of Imperial Japan.
– Experience the rich flavors of matcha green tea ice cream, a Japanese culinary and cultural delight.
– Visit the tranquil Golden Pavilion, a Zen Buddhist temple painted in delicate gold leaf.

Day 5: Kansai region | Fuji-Hakone-Izu region | Tokyo
– Travel by bullet train to the Fuji-Hakone-Izu region, an area known for its crater lakes, sulfur springs, and sights of Mount Fuji.
– Enjoy views of the awe-inspiring Mount Fuji *(weather permitting)*.
– Discover one of Mt. Fuji's natural caves.
– Visit Iyashi no Sato Nenba, a former farming village on the shores of Lake Saiko at the base of Mount Fuji. After a landslide in 1966, the historic village has been reconstructed into charming shops, museums, and galleries.
– Continue on to Tokyo.

Day 6: Tokyo
– Take a guided tour of Tokyo. With your expert local guide you will see the Metropolitan Government Building.
– Explore the Asakusa Kannon Temple.
– Take a tour of Akihabara Electric Town.
– Visit the Tokyo National Museum, Japan's oldest and largest museum, and explore it's extensive collection of art and archaeological artifacts.
– Time to explore Ueno Park.
– Visit a local arcade and experience the unique gaming culture of Japan.
– Enjoy a sumo-style hot pot dinner.

Day 7: Tokyo | Yokohama
– Take a day trip to Yokohama.
– Explore Yokohama during a self-guided Immersive Scavenger Hunt designed exclusively for EF.
– Visit the Shin-Yokohama Ramen Museum for an immersive look into Japan's ramen culture.
– Time to explore Yokohama's Chinatown
– Time to explore more of Yokohama or
⊕ participate in a karaoke experience.

Day 8: Tokyo
– Venture up the Tokyo Tower, the second tallest structure in the country.
– Take a walking tour of the Harajuku area, a vibrant district known for its quirky fashion scene, colorful street art, and eclectic shops.
– Counteract the bustle of Tokyo's streets with a visit to the Meiji Shinto Shrine. Quiet and stillness reign inside its elaborate Inner Garden, a wooded oasis in the middle of the city.
– Take a walking tour of Shibuya, a major commercial and finance center with a famously crowded pedestrian crossing.
– Spend time exploring more of Tokyo.

Day 9: Depart for home

⊕ 3-DAY TOUR EXTENSION

Day 9: Tokyo | Sapporo City
– Fly to Sapporo City.
– Enjoy Tour Director-led sightseeing of Sapporo City to see the Asahiyama Observatory, Sapporo Clock Tower, and Sapporo TV Tower.
– Stop for a photo at Lake Shikotsu.

Day 10: Sapporo City
– Enjoy Tour Director-led sightseeing of Shikotsu-Toya National Park.
– Explore the Nijo Seafood Market.
– Learn about the Indigenous Ainu people on a guided visit to the Upopoy National Ainu Museum and Park.
– Take a guided tour of the natural hot spring at Noboribetsu Hell Valley and Oyunuma Pond.

Day 11: Sapporo City | Tokyo
– Visit a local dairy farm.
– Fly back to Tokyo.

Day 12: Depart for home

TOP THREE THINGS I WILL SEE, DO, TRY, OR EXPLORE

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

⊕ Optionals and excursions

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2026 | JPW27+

My daughter has gained such an amazing view of the world and history from this experience. She has not stopped talking since I picked her up at the airport. Thank you for all the organization, helpful hints, flexible payment plan, and knowledgeable tour guides.

–CHARLOTTE, PARENT OF TRAVELER

Tour review

THE WORLD LEADER IN INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

For over 55 years, EF has been working toward one global mission: *Opening the World Through Education*. Your teacher has partnered with EF because of our unmatched worldwide presence, our focus on affordability, and our commitment to providing experiences that teach critical thinking, problem solving, collaboration, and global competence. What's more:

- **We always offer the lowest prices** so more students can travel.
- **We're fully accredited, just like your school,** so you can earn credit while on tour.
- **All of our educational tours feature experiential learning activities** and visits to the best sites.
- **We're completely committed to your safety.** We have more than 600 schools and offices in over 50 countries around the world, so local EF staff members can react quickly and in person wherever you travel.
- **Your full-time Tour Director is with your group** every step of the way on tour, providing insight about your destinations as well as great local tips.

Education First

Summer Work and Upgrades (2026)

As usual, we always try to get some of our bigger (and smaller) maintenance projects completed over the summer break. Here's a brief rundown of what the crews were working on this year:

- Asphalt repair at Eastgate and playground re-seal
    - Activities painted on the playground for students
- Replace the final portion of Radley's roof, and roof repairs in other buildings as needed.
- EVMS Chiller Replacement and HVAC Upgrades
- Summer maintenance and care of all grounds and landscaping including fertilizer and weed control
- Deep cleaning of all buildings
- Gym floor resurfacing (All gyms)
- Tennis Court Resurface (2 courts) at PPE
- Replaced HVAC Air filters in all schools
- Replaced Drinking fountain filters in all schools
- Playground surface upgrades and maintenance
- New Music Risers for EVMS
- Re paint of EVMS interior halls
- Paint Radley gym
- Replace side baskets in Radley gym
- Restripe staff parking and main entrance at EHHS including a fire lane
- Reinstalled gate post by football field
- Misc plumbing repairs (faucets replacements, flush valve replacements)
- Upgrade light fixtures in girls bathroom at Eastgate.
- Misc outlet and fixture repairs
- Replace ballasts at Eastgate and EVMS where needed
- Fill and touchup painted walls at EHHS where needed
- Relocate 4 classrooms at Radley (moving all contents of room)
- Complete teachers wishlist in all buildings
- Restock copy paper, toilet paper, hand towels,hand soap in all buildings

East Helena Public Schools

School District No. 9

P.O. Box 1280 * East Helena, MT. 59635

Superintendent/Administration Office (406) 227-7700

Eastgate Elementary School (406) 227-7770 * Prickly Pear Elementary (406) 227-7720

Radley Elementary School (406) 227-7710 * East Valley Middle School (406) 227-7740

East Helena High School (406) 227-7730

"Success For All"

Memorandum of Understanding

September 14, 2026

Effective immediately, the East Helena School District and the East Helena Education Association agree, without setting a precedent, to allow District teachers to substitute as paraprofessionals during a period that would normally be the teacher's prep period.

The teacher providing sub coverage during their prep will be paid at an hourly rate for the prep periods he/she takes after the school day when he/she subs as a para during the normal prep period. The hourly rate of pay will be the board adopted hourly rate for certified teachers of $23/hour.

The Memorandum of Understanding achieves this mutual intent. This Memorandum will be in effect for the remainder of the 2026 - 2027 school year and does not constitute a change in the Master Agreement or set precedent for future matters. The employee and Association waive their right to grieve the provisions in the contract as stated in this Memorandum.

Signed this 14th day of September, 2026.

_____ _____

President, East Helena Education Association Superintendent / Board Chair

_____

Employee

Attest,

_____

District Clerk

RESOLUTION 247

WHEREAS, Section 20-6-602 (MCA) designates the power and responsibility to hold in trust all real and personal property of the district for the benefit of the schools and children of the district to the Board of Trustees; and

WHEREAS, Section 20-6-604 (MCA) authorizes the Board of Trustees to sell or otherwise dispose of real or personal property that they determine is or is about to become abandoned, obsolete, undesirable, or unsuitable for the school purposes of the district; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees has determined that certain personal property of the district is or is about to become abandoned, obsolete, undesirable, or unsuitable for the school purposes of the district,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 9, LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY,

that a detailed list of the personal property that is abandoned, obsolete, undesirable, or unsuitable will be prepared; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,

that the detailed list of personal property will be available to interested citizens at the Central Office, 250 Academic Street, East Helena, Montana, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,

that all identified property will be sold by bid at a time and place to be determined by the board of trustees and subsequently disposed of if proven undesirable for sale.

Dated this 14th of September, 2026

Jane Knudsen
Clerk, Board of Trustees
School District No. 9
Lewis and Clark County

Scott Walter
Chairman, Board of Trustees
School District No. 9
Lewis and Clark County

Items include, but are not limited to:	Recommended Minimum Resereve
Pugmill with vacuum. Brand: Nidec-Shimpo Model: PM-071/PM-071V	$2,000
60" Commercial Gas Range. Brand Intertek; Model ATO-4B36G(NG)	$0 (poor functionality)