

HIGHLAND PARK NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2026

1207 WASHINGTON AVE. 406-395-8555

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

As the leaves begin to change our students are busier than ever! We are diving into our new math curriculum and learning to be the best PAX Leaders that we can be by bettering our world and bettering ourselves.

We recently started recognizing PAX Leaders of the Month!

Please remember as the weather gets cooler to make sure your child is dressed appropriately for school.

GO PONIES!

MRS. CRINER



PAX LEADERS

Congratulations to our **September**
Pax Leaders of the Month

Kindergarten

Clarke Konesky
Maverick Hartsock
Emma Minnick
Kynlee Robertson
Aubrey Brough
Emmett Larson

First Grade

Anthony Peck
Kaia Lewis
Brynn Donovan
Ledger Hansard
Rose Lind
Ricky Nelson
Bentley Eagleman



Recognizing students for being Pax Leaders and making Highland Park a great place to be!



CUSTODIAL/MAINTENANCE DAY

Special thanks to our wonderful custodial staff, Ian and James. Thanks for keeping our building clean and cared for, we appreciate all you do for HP!



THANK YOU

We enjoyed seeing you at Literacy Under the Lights, Family Involvement night! Thanks for spending time with us, keep reading!

FRIENDLY REMINDERS



- If you need to change your students after school plans, please call the office or send a note.
- All drop off and pick up is on the West (playground) side of the building.
- Spills and accidents happen! 1 extra set of clothing is needed for each student, please place clothes in a ziplock bag labeled with your child's name.

HAVRE ELEMENTARY PTO

Otis Spunkmeyer Fundraiser orders are due before October 1st. Product delivery will be at Lincoln McKinley Elementary, dates and more details to follow. Check out HEPTO on Facebook, join the next meeting on October 6th or contact
CHRISTINA MARSH
President of HEPTO with any questions.
406-845-2749 marshc@blueponyk12.com

NEWSLETTER CONTINUED

PICTURE DAY OCTOBER 6

Picture Ordering Information:

Details for ordering school pictures will be available starting October 13th, 2026.

After that date, please follow the steps below to place your order:

1. Visit my.photoday.com
2. Click "Get Started"
3. Enter your cell phone number
4. Enter the verification code sent to your phone
5. Fill in your personal information to create an account
6. When prompted to enter the Student Code, use the code provided.

DRESS FOR THE WEATHER

This time of year the mornings are cool, the afternoons can become warm and the weather is overall less predictable. Please help keep recess enjoyable by sending your child to school with a coat and appropriate clothing for the changing temperatures. Thank you!

AUTUMN CARNIVAL

In order to promote inclusion, comfort and safety of all students at Highland Park we will NOT be wearing costumes at school on October 29th. Keeping with our traditional Autumn Carnival and decorating of sugar cookies all students will have an opportunity to share a time of celebration with each other. Please do not send your student to school dressed in their costume or with their costume on October 29th, and instead save these for your celebrations at home. Thank you.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION



Registration for Community Education begins on October 12, 2026. The session runs from October 26th through January 29th, so you have plenty of time to find something that interests you! Register through www.blueponyk12.com under the Community Education tab found in District Programs. Come enjoy learning new hobbies, staying healthy, and meeting new friends!

SUPPORT FRIDAYS

Support Fridays at Highland Park, though optional, are academic based. We will be teaching reading, math along with rotations of PE, music, library and counseling. These Fridays, from 8 AM-12 PM, are a wonderful opportunity for students to continue learning and building foundation skills. If students are signed up for busing, the buses will pick them up at their regularly scheduled time and place and return them to their drop off location after school is dismissed. Breakfast and lunch will be provided during these Support Fridays. Attendance on Support Fridays will not impact their daily attendance record.

PONY POST

Click the link to view the Pony Post



SAVE THE DATE

- No School October 2, 9, 15, 16, 30
- Picture Day October 6
- Parent Teacher Conference October 8, 9
- Boys and Girls Club closed October 14, 15, 16
- Picture Retakes/Class Pictures October 20
- Support Friday 8:00-12:00 October 23
- Early Release November 25 @ 1:30
- Thanksgiving Break November 26-27

RED RIBBON WEEK

Red Ribbon Week will be the week of
October 26-30

The goal of Red Ribbon Week is to inspire kids to be happy, brave, and drug-free.

Monday: Ready for a Drug Free Life! WEAR RED

Tuesday: Being drug free is no sweat! WEAR SWEATS

Wednesday: Hats off to being drug free! WEAR a HAT

Thursday: Team up against drugs!

WEAR BLUE PONY GEAR

Friday: NO SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER CONTINUED

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCE

Parent-Teacher Conferences are scheduled

Thursday October 8th 4:15-7:15 PM

Friday October 9th 8:00 AM-12:00PM

Notes from the teacher with individual conference times will be sent home with students.

This is an opportunity for you and your child's teacher to discuss your child's progress.

Your attendance at conferences is greatly appreciated!

You can prepare for conferences by doing the following things:

- Talk with your child: Find out his or her favorite subjects and activities. Ask if there are any concerns he or she would like you to discuss with the teacher.
- Review assignments: Are there some areas where your child really shines and others that might need a little extra work? Discuss both strengths and weaknesses with the teacher.
- Be on time: The conference schedule is tight. Teachers need all parents to be on time. If something comes up, notify the teacher as soon as possible. Try to reschedule, even if it is a telephone conference.
- Remember that conferences are brief: A typical parent-teacher conference lasts about 15 minutes. If you need additional time, ask for a follow-up session.
- Keep an open mind: Some parents get upset when teachers discuss trouble spots. Remember that these conferences are meant to help you understand your child's school performance. Working together with the teacher will help your child succeed.
- Make plans: Find out what you can do to follow through at home. Decide together what you, your child, and the teacher need to do to help your child succeed.

We look forward to seeing you at the fall Parent-Teacher Conferences!



OCTOBER 2026



MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

			1 October Wear Blue Pony Gear	2 CUSTODIAL/MAINTENANCE APPRECIATION DAY No School Homecoming
5	6 HEPTO MEETING HP LIBRARY 4:30 School Picture Day	7	8 Parent Teacher Conferences	9 Parent Teacher Conferences
12 Columbus Day Indigenous Peoples Day School Lunch Week	13 BOARD MEETING HMS 6:30	14 BOYS & GIRLS CLUB CLOSED	15 PIR No School BOYS & GIRLS CLUB CLOSED	16 PIR No School BOYS & GIRLS CLUB CLOSED
19 School Bus Safety Week	20 Picture Retakes & Class Pictures	21	22	23 Support Friday 8:00-12:00
26 Red Ribbon Week Wear RED	27 Wear SWEATS	28 Wear a HAT	29 Autumn Carnival Wear Blue Pony Gear	30 No School

iEFA Happenings

Native American Heritage Week

The week of September 21-15 was Native American Heritage Week. Students at Highland Park celebrated by visiting our tipi with their class and sharing a Native American story. Our students also had an opportunity to visit our indigenous garden to see and smell the sweetgrass and peppermint currently growing there. During the week students observed, identified, and discussed our 8 Montana reservations and their tribal flags. In addition, students learned about Native traditions, cultural heritage, music, legends, and new vocabulary. Native American Heritage Week at Highland Park was truly a celebration of diversity and discovery!



News from HPS Nurse

Courtney Finneman

REASONS TO KEEP YOUR CHILD HOME FROM SCHOOL

Havre Public Schools Guidelines

If you have questions, please contact Courtney Finneman RN at finnemanc@blueponyk12.com

What are their symptoms?	When to stay home and seek medical care?	When can they return to school?
FEVER	Keep them home if they have a fever of 100.4 or higher. Seek medical attention for any of the following: ear pain, sore throat, rash, stomachache, headache or tooth pain.	Return to school when they have not had a fever overnight without the use of fever reducing medication and are feeling better.
Vomiting and/or diarrhea	Keep them home if they have vomited in the past 24 hours or if their stools are watery and urgent. Seek medical care if they have stomach cramping and fever, bloody or black stool or are showing signs of dehydration.	Return to school when they have not vomited overnight, are able to drink liquids without throwing up, and diarrhea has resolved.
Persistent cough and/or trouble breathing	Keep them home and seek medical care if they have a persistent cough, difficulty breathing or develop a fever.	Return when they are feeling better, are fever free without fever reducing medication and if taking antibiotics, no sooner than 12 hours after first dose.
Rash	Keep them home and seek medical care if the rash has blisters, is draining, is painful, looks like bruises, covers a large portion of their body or they develop a fever.	Return once rash has healed or they have been cleared for return by a healthcare provider.
Eye Irritation	Keep them home and seek medical care if they have eye swelling, eye pain, trouble seeing or their eye is draining yellow discharge.	Return when they are feeling better and/or 24 hours after first dose of antibiotic drops.
Sore Throat	Keep them home and seek medical care if they are drooling, have trouble swallowing, have a fever and/or a rash.	Return when they are feeling better and are fever free, if prescribed antibiotics 12-24 hours after the first dose.

Student Attendance

September Student Attendance

92.22%

Thank you Parents and Guardians for helping set examples of responsibility and punctuality!

Attendance Matters

Did you know? Regular attendance is one of the most important factors in your child's success at school! Each day of learning builds on the previous one. When students are present consistently, they gain the full benefit of their education—academically, socially, and emotionally.

HOLLY PATTISON PHOTOGRAPHY

School Picture Day

Havre High School

SEPTEMBER 1ST

Havre Middle School

SEPTEMBER 3RD

Sunnyside

OCTOBER 8TH

Lincoln-McKinley

OCTOBER 7TH

Highland Park

OCTOBER 6TH

-ORDER PHOTOS ONLINE
-PREVIEW BEFORE ORDERING
hollypattisonphotography@gmail.com

Red Ribbon Week

October 26-30



Monday (Oct 26)– “Be ready for a drug free life!” Wear RED 

Tuesday (Oct 27) – “Being drug free is no sweat!” Wear your sweats 

Wednesday (Oct 28) – “Hats off to being drug free” Wear your favorite hat 

Thursday (Oct 29) – “Team up against drugs” Wear your Blue Pony Gear 

Friday (Oct 30) - NO SCHOOL



**Be Happy!
Be Brave!
Be Drug Free!**

Highland Park September Monthly Attendance Award



Kindergarten

Mrs. Schwenke's Class
95.25% in attendance

1st Grade

Mrs. Meldrum's Class
95.41% in attendance



Havre Public Schools

4256 Street-POBox7791
Havre, MT59501

October 2026

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Havre Public Schools is preparing for the *Montana Aligned to Standards Through-Year (MAST)* assessment through the Montana Office of Public Instruction. Students in Grades 3-8 will take Math and English Language Arts (ELA) assessments in three administration windows as indicated below.

	Window 1	Window 2	Window 3	
	October 19 – December 11 (8 weeks)	January 11 – March 5 (8 weeks)	March 29 – May 21 (8 weeks)	
Math	3-5 Testlets	3-5 Testlets	3-5 Testlets	1 Math OR ELA Anchor Test
ELA	2 BOY Testlets	2 MOY Testlet 1 Performance Task Testlet	2 EOY Testlets	

**The actual number of testlets your child(ren) takes each testing window will be contingent on your district's local curriculum sequence.*

What is the purpose of the MAST assessment?

The Montana OPI in partnership with New Meridian has developed an improved assessment system that will reflect the needs of our students, teachers, and administrators, while providing useful flexibility in terms of test administration. The MAST Assessment implements “through-year” assessments across the state that satisfy federal testing requirements and better aligns assessment with instruction.

The ultimate goal with the “through-year” model is to support the formative instructional process that is closer to the local decisions required to support teaching and learning needs. Rather than a single end-of-year assessment, the MAST assessment is broken into smaller testlets over the course of the academic year. The “Through-Year Assessment” design benefits students, teachers, parents, and administrators by closely aligning assessment with instruction while providing actionable data throughout the school year.

It is important to remember that statewide assessments provide only one measure of student learning, but when combined with grades, classroom activities, unit quizzes and tests, and district-level assessments, statewide assessments can complete the picture of a child's abilities and help him/her down a path toward academic success inreaching Montana's Content Standards.

Details about MAST Administration:

- **Participants:** 3-8 Grades Math and ELA
- **Administrations** : 3 administration windows throughout the year
- **Total Estimated Testing Time:** 15-30 minutes per testlet
- **Technology** : Computer-based test delivery via secure site
- **Reports:** Student reports will be available weekly after completion of each testlet. Individual student reports will provide results from each testlet.

Areas to Note about the MAST Test:

- Your child's privacy will be protected. State and federal laws, such as the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), ensure this data remains confidential.
- Students with Individual Educational Plans (IEPs), Section 504 plans, or English Learner plans will be assessed based on individual student needs, consistent with all state and federal laws and regulations.

Ways You Can Help:

- Encourage your child to do their best on everything they do in school, including the MAST assessment.
- Make sure your child gets plenty of sleep the night before each test and has a healthy breakfast.
- Support your child by explaining the purpose of the tests and helping with homework and test reviews.

To learn more about MAST development follow this [link](#) to the Montana OPI MAST webpage. New Meridian is a non-profit organization that creates high-quality, innovative assessment solutions that focus on the skills that matter most for success in school and in life. You can learn more about New Meridian [here](#). Parent MAST resources can be found on the [MAST Portal](#) under *Resources for Parents*.

We appreciate your partnership in helping Havre Public Schools fulfill this state and federal requirement for statewide assessments and supporting your child to do their best.

Sincerely,

Lisa Passon

Lisa Passon

MTSS Director/District Testing Coordinator

Robins Administration Building