Friday, November 13

FRIDAY FLYER

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Dear families and the Helena community,



I want to provide a quick recap of the great events that took place across our district this week. You might have already seen some social posts about them, and rest assured, there's more to come.

I'll start by highlighting Rock Your Mocs week, which students and staff across the district proudly celebrated to honor Indigenous cultures, traditions, and community pride by participating in theme days and lessons.

This morning, students, families, and staff at Central Elementary participated in Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day, honoring civil rights history and promoting community connection.

On Wednesday, the Trustees held a special Board meeting that included guided tours of the HHS/PAL/District Kitchen and CHS construction projects, led expertly by our bond project teams. Speaking of our bond projects...

We are excited to share that the bids for the HHS/PAL/District Kitchen project came back on budget. Given recent material cost fluctuations and inflation, this is a major milestone in the current construction world. We are incredibly grateful to our diligent project team for keeping us on track. Also, The next round of bond offerings will go out on November 19, and Helena Public Schools has officially received another strong AA bond rating, reflecting our district's financial strength and responsible stewardship.

Thank you all for your continued support of our students and schools. Have a wonderful weekend!

Respectfully,
Rex M. Weltz, Superintendent
Helena Public Schools







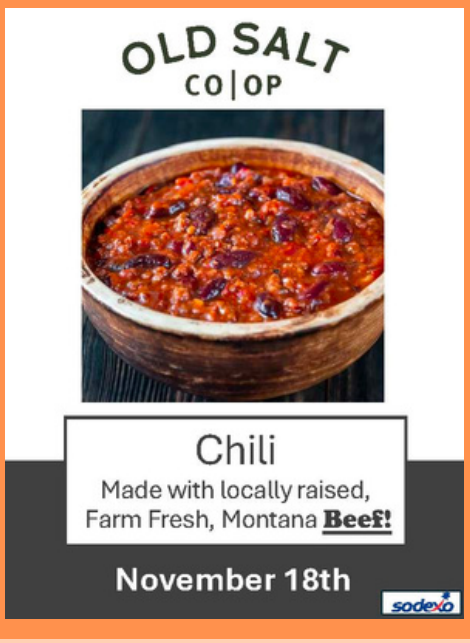


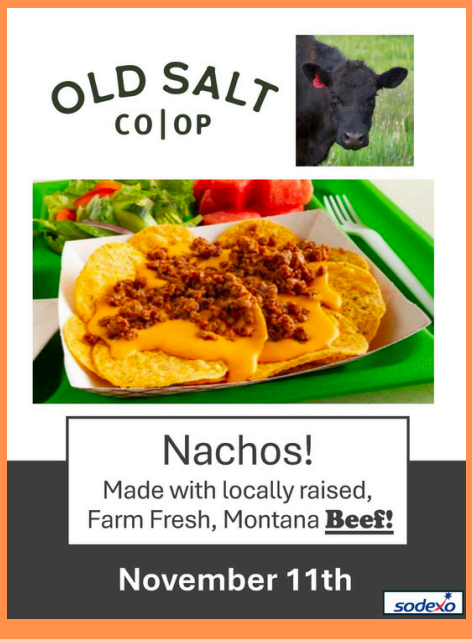




HOT TOPICS

Our district Sodexo kitchen team has partnered with Old Salt Co-Op to acquire Montana Beef into school lunch menus! Take a look!







Explore the Tables and Register!

SACC WINTER FUN & ACTIVITIES

DECEMBER 21-23 & 28-30

Join us for winter fun and activities for current Helena School District children K-5!

Bryant Elementary School, Entry #5
8am-4pm
$60 per child per day

REGISTRATION OPENS NOVEMBER 16.
FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO WWW.HELENASCHOOLS.ORG AND CLICK ON SCHOOL AGE CHILD CARE (SACC). TO REGISTER EMAIL JAMIE AT JMERRILL@HELENASCHOOLS.ORG.

More Information

HELENA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

BROUGHT TO YOU BY OUR LIBRARIES...

to help close the gap of our students' misunderstanding of media and media literacy in an increasingly complicated information landscape!

Implementing news literacy helps ensure our K-12 students learn to think critically and engage responsibly with the news and information through District built curriculum standards. Per appropriate grade-level lessons, students will:

- Evaluate the credibility of news and information.
- Recognize the difference between news and other kinds of information.
- Navigate social media algorithms and influencer content.
- Understand why the First Amendment matters to American democracy and how a free press helps keep the public informed.
- Understand how artificial intelligence affects their information diet.

NEWS LITERACY PROJECT

It's not about telling kids what to think — it's about giving them the tools to think for themselves and spot false and misleading information.

News Literacy Project

QUESTIONS? CONTACT:

EMILY LINDER, CAPITAL HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARIAN - ELINDER@HELENASCHOOLS.ORG
TAYLEE SCHLAUCH, HELENA HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARIAN - TSCHLAUCH@HELENASCHOOLS.ORG
AMY FRIEZ, HELENA MIDDLE SCHOOL LIBRARIAN - AFRIEZ@HELENASCHOOLS.ORG
JENA MARSHALL, WARREN ELEMENTARY LIBRARIAN - JMARSHALL@HELENASCHOOLS.ORG

Bonds Projects Updates

11/15 - 11/21 CHS PROJECT

WEEK 54:

Slate Architecture + RTA Updates:

- OAC Meeting on Site
- Construction Administration
  - Contractor RFI Response
  - Architect Supplemental Instructions
  - Submittal Review
- Meeting with Kitchen Group for Final Equipment and Utility Layout
- Meeting with Shop Teachers for Final Equipment and Utility Layout
- Refined design and developed 95% Construction Documents.

Langlas & Associates Construction Updates:

- OAC Meeting
- Remodel – Interior Pour Backs
- Remodel – Corridor Ducting Installation
- Remodel – Fire Sprinkler Relocation for Main Ducting
- Remodel – Light Well Excavation
- CTE – Begin Excavation
- CTE – Irrigation Line Move
- Aux Gym – Begin Excavation
- Aux Gym - Begin Deep Foundations
- 50% CD Budgeting

11/15 - 11/21 HHS + PROJECT FOR ALTERNATIVE LEARNING (PAL) PROJECT

WEEK 56:

A&E + SMA Design Updates:

- Bidding came in on budget!

Dick Anderson & Team Construction Updates:

- QC footing/wall forming
- Set Anchor Bolts
- Helena Sand and Gravel
  - Foundation Excavation
  - Backfill
  - Slab Prep
- Steed Concrete
  - Form footings/grade beams/walls
  - Pour Footings/grade beams/walls
  - Vapor Barrier / Tie Rebar
  - Pour Slab
- Central Plumbing & Heating
  - Underground Rough-in
- Central Electric
  - Underground Rough-in
- Gruber Masonry
  - PAL Block wall

KESSLER PROJECT 11/15 - 11/21

WEEK 52:

Mosaic Architecture + Cushing Terrell Updates:

- Week 16 of Construction Documents
- Bi-Weekly OAC Meeting
- Design Team Coordination Meetings
- Construction Administration

Golden Eagle/Swank Construction Updates:

- Work Onsite:
  - Retaining Wall Footing form/pour
- Structural Design Meeting

HPS DISTRICT KITCHEN 11/15 - 11/21

WEEK 56:

A&E + SMA Design Updates:

- Construction, OAC Meetings every Tuesday

Dick Anderson & Team Construction Updates:

- Door Layout
- Complete Base Plate Grouting
- APEX
  - Steel erection – finishing touches
- Tetra Tech
  - Steel Inspections
- RDJ
  - Layout and start framing
- Merit Mechanical
  - Wall Duct Layout
- NWE
  - Connect gas service
- Big Sky
  - Install Roof Drains and Pipe Penetrations

BONDS AND BIDDINGS UPDATE



MUNICIPAL BONDS

On or about Thursday, November 19, 2026
D.A. Davidson & Co. expects to offer:

$11,500,000*
School District No. 1 (Helena)
Lewis and Clark County, Montana
General Obligation School Building Bonds, Series 2026
Maturities*: July 1, 2029-2047
Insurance: Build America Mutual Assurance Company
Ratings: S&P Insured: "AA"
Moody's Underlying: "A1"

$80,000,000*
High School District No. 1 (Helena)
Lewis and Clark County, Montana
General Obligation School Building Bonds, Series 2026
Maturities*: July 1, 2029-2057
Insurance: Build America Mutual Assurance Company
Ratings: S&P Insured: "AA"
Moody's Underlying: "A1"

NOT Bank Qualified — New Issue — Book-Entry Only

Tax-Exempt: In the opinion of Dorsey & Whitney LLP, Bond Counsel, based on existing law and assuming the accuracy of certain representations and compliance with certain covenants, interest on the Bonds (i) is excludable from gross income for federal income tax purposes under Section 103 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), (ii) is not an item of tax preference for purposes of the federal alternative minimum tax imposed on noncorporate taxpayers by Section 55 of the Code, and (iii) is excludable from taxable income for Montana individual income tax purposes. Interest on the Bonds may, however, be taken into account in determining adjusted financial statement income for purposes of the federal alternative minimum tax imposed on corporations by Section 55(b)(2) of the Code, and is includable in the computation of income for purposes of the Montana corporate income tax and the Montana alternative corporate income tax. The Bonds are not private activity bonds within the meaning of Section 141(a) of the Code.

Security: The Bonds are general obligations of the Districts payable from the proceeds of an ad valorem tax that each District will covenant to levy annually on all taxable property within the respective District, without limitation as to rate or amount.

Elementary Purpose: The proceeds of the Elementary District Bonds, proceeds from the Elementary District's General Obligation School Building Bonds, Series 2025 issued in the aggregate principal amount of $11,500,000 (the available funds, if any, will be used for the purpose of providing funds to (i) pay all or a portion of the costs designing, constructing, furnishing, and equipping a new Kessler School building in replacement of the existing Kessler School building, related improvements and costs, and (ii) pay costs associated with the sale and issuance of the Elementary District Bonds.

High School Purpose: The proceeds of the High School District Bonds, proceeds from the High School District's General Obligation School Building Bonds, Series 2025 issued in the aggregate amount of $ 58,000,000 (the available funds to include the remaining authorized but unissued bonds in the principal amount of $50,000,000, will be used for the purpose of providing funds to (i) pay all or a portion of the costs designing, constructing, furnishing, and equipping of a new Helena High School building in replacement of the existing Helena High School building, along with associated improvements and (ii) improvements to the Helena Middle School, including demolition of veneers and related improvements, and costs and (ii) pay costs associated with the sale and issuance of the High School District Bonds.

Redemption: The Bonds maturing on or after July 1, 2036 are subject to redemption prior to maturity at the option of the respective District on January 1, 2036 and on any date thereafter at a price equal to the principal amount being redeemed plus interest accrued to the date of redemption, without premium.

Maturities/Interest Rates*: The Elementary District Bonds will mature on July 1 of each year with maturities in 2029 through 2047. The High School District Bonds will mature on July 1 of each year with maturities in 2029 through 2057. Interest rates on the Bonds are expected to be established on or about Thursday, November 19, 2026.

*Preliminary, subject to change

Please contact D.A. Davidson & Co. in advance for expected yield information.

The Bonds are subject to availability and to the acceptance of an offer to purchase. This is neither an offer to sell nor a solicitation of an offer to buy any of these securities. The offering will be made only by the Official Statement, copies of which are available from D.A. Davidson & Co.

D|A|DAVIDSON
D.A. Davidson & Co. member NYSE and FINRA

(406) 442-9600 or (800) 443-3006
40 W 14th St | Helena, MT 59601

Information can be obtained by contacting any D.A. Davidson & Co. branch office.

The next round of bonds offerings will go live on November 19. Helena Public Schools received another AA Bond Rating. For more information:

VIEW TOMBSTONE

Bids Update

We are thrilled to share that the bids for the HHS/PAL/District Kitchen projects came back on budget! This is a big deal in the construction world when mitigating material cost fluctuations and inflation.

ALL UPDATES AND INFORMATION

We want our students, staff, and community as safe and informed as possible as our schools get farther along in their construction phases.

PLEASE VIEW ALL PROJECT UPDATES HERE!

We're Hiring!!

- Special Education Paraeducators
- Evening Custodians
- CHS Attendance Secretary
- Substitute Specialist
- Physical Therapist
- Occupational Therapist

We also have multiple coaching positions open

- Assistant girls soccer - CHS
- Assistant Softball - HHS and CHS
- Assistant Tennis - HHS
- Assistant Wrestling - CHS

If you or anyone you know is interested, please apply on *HERE*.

Year-to-Date Attendance (YTD) Update | as of 10.30.26

*Analyzing **DISTRICT** YTD attendance trends in comparison to this time last year.*

2026	2025
94.42%	94.81%

Attendance is down 0.40% from last year at this time.

Every day in the classroom is an opportunity to learn, grow, and build connection. Consistent attendance helps our students stay on track academically, develop strong habits, and build meaningful relationships with their peers and teachers. Thank you to our families, staff, and community partners for working together to support our students and ensure they show up ready to thrive.

Fill Out the District's 2026-27 Family Survey!

The survey will be open through December 4th. We appreciate you taking the time to complete the survey. The information gathered will help the district evaluate how well we are meeting our goals and where additional attention or resources may be needed.

This survey is an important part of building the district's Long Range Planning efforts over the course of the 26-27 school year. The district has established Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to help measure progress toward its strategic goals and priorities. Your feedback will provide valuable information to help us monitor these indicators, better understand family experiences, identify areas of strength and opportunities for improvement, and make informed decisions about the future of our schools.

FILL OUT SURVEY

HPS Community Support Resources

Community Corner

- HPS THREE WAYS TO DONATE
- RUNNING RESOURCE LIST ON OUR WEBPAGE
- HPS SCHOOLS' FOOD DRIVES AND OTHER RELATED EVENT LISTINGS
- CONTACT CENTER FOR QUESTIONS AND TO GET CONNECTED (WEBPAGE)

VIEW WEBPAGE

Judges Needed for Valley of Gold Speech and Debate Tournament!

HHS will host the big Speech and Debate Tournament on December 4 and 5. This tournament is one of the top events of the year, and we the teams are looking for judges to help ensure this tournament can continue to take place. Debate events will take place at HHS with Speech events happening at CRA. There is no experience necessary to judge and it is rewarding to see the students compete at a high level. The meet will start at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, December 4 and 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 5. If you are interested in judging, please use the link below to sign up for your slot(s).

SIGN UP





WHAT'S COMING UP FOR THE DISTRICT?

November 14, 2026 - November 28, 2026

Saturday, November 14:
- Jim Darcy PTO Holiday Bazaar and Craft Fair, 10:00 a.m. – JD Gym
- CHS Fall Theater Production of Mamma Mia – CHS Auditorium
- HHS Theater Production of Charlotte's Web, 2:30 p.m. - Little Theater

Sunday, November 15:

Monday, November 16:
- Broadwater Picture Retakes and Class Photos

Tuesday, November 17:
- MS and HS Students at MET Live in Schools: Macbeth, 8:30 a.m. - Cinemark.
- HMS Parent/Teacher Conferences
- PAL Info Night – PAL Commons
- Smith PSS Meeting

Wednesday, November 18:
- Bryant Panther Pies, 3:30 p.m. – Bryant Hub
- Warren Turkey Shoot Out, 5:00 p.m. - Warren
- HEF Great Conversations, 5:30 p.m. – Great Northern
- HMS PTO Meeting, 7:00 pm – HMS Library

Thursday, November 19:
- Central Coffee with the Principal, 8:45 a.m. - Central
- HMS Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Senior Scholarship Information Night, 6:00 p.m. - HHS Library
- CRA All Orchestras Concert, 6:00 p.m. – HMS Auditorium
- Warren Math Family Night
- Bryant PTA Meeting, 5:30 p.m. – Bryant HuB

Friday, November 20:
- 4Gs Team Spirit Day
- Shakespeare in the Schools – HMS
- Queen City Production of the Nutcracker

Saturday, November 21:
- 4Gs Food Drive Community Night, 5:00 p.m. – Brothers Tapworks

Sunday, November 22:

Monday, November 23:

Tuesday, November 24:
- 1st Trimester Ends (Grades K-5)
- Last Chance Drummers at Central, 2:30 p.m. – Central Gym

Wednesday, November 25: NO SCHOOL, THANKSGIVING BREAK

Thursday, November 26: NO SCHOOL, THANKSGIVING BREAK – District Closed

Friday, November 27: NO SCHOOL, THANKSGIVING BREAK – District Closed

Saturday, November 28:

If we missed something, please let us know -

EMAIL US

MARK YOUR CALENDAR OR MAKE NOTE OF:



School	Date	Time	Grades	Location
Broadwater	12/4/2026	9:30	K-5	Broadwater
Central	12/11/2026	9:30	K-5	Central
Central	12/11/2026	1:30	K-5	Central
Kessler	12/11/2026	9:45	K-5	HMS
Four Georgians	12/15/2026	9:00	K, 3, 5	Four Georgians
Jefferson	12/16/2026	9:00	K-5	Jefferson
Jefferson	12/16/2026	10:30	K-5	Jefferson
Jefferson	12/16/2026	1:30	K-5	Jefferson
Smith	12/16/2026	9:00	PK-5	HMS
Jim Darcy	12/17/2026	9:45	K-5	Jim Darcy
Jim Darcy	12/17/2026	1:45	K-5	Jim Darcy
Warren	12/17/2026	12:30	PK-5	HMS
Bryant	12/17/2026	2:00	Sprouts	Bryant Library
Rossiter	12/18/2026	9:30	K-2	Rossiter
Rossiter	12/18/2026	1:30	3-5	Rossiter
Bryant	12/18/2026	1:30	K-5	Bryant Gym