Friday, November 20

FRIDAY FLYER

CONTACT US | FOLLOW US | VISIT US

Dear families and the Helena community,



Right now, Our school communities and Helena community partners are doing so much to provide resources to those in our community who may need an extra hand this winter and holiday season. In the same regard, there are many meaningful way to provide support and lend a hand to our neighbors if you are able. You can find more information on these local resources and opportunities a few pages down in the *Community Corner* section. We will also have the same and more information on our *Community Corner* webpage soon.

Please also keep in mind that this season isn't always a happy or easy time for everyone. Let's continue to lean on one another and show kindness and a welcoming spirit to all we cross paths with in our schools and around town.

Speaking of crossing paths, but on a different note, many of our students and staff ran into rival fans today at school as they celebrated the Cat/Griz spirit ahead of tomorrow's big game. Thank you to all who joined the fun and kept it respectful! Stay tuned for pictures of those who participated to show up on our socials soon.

Stay warm, enjoy the weekend, and go Griz!

Respectfully,
Rex M. Weltz, Superintendent
Helena Public Schools

FROM THE GROUND UP WITH HELENA PUBLIC SCHOOLS



S2 Ep. 9: Twelve Thousand Miles!

Superintendent Weltz visits with coach Jesse Zentz and HHS athlete Willa Sweeney of the Helena High girls cross country team, who recently won their first state championship in many years. These are some SERIOUS athletes who are nationally ranked and will soon compete in a regional showdown!

LISTEN OR WATCH WHEREVER YOU'RE AT IN YOUR DAY:

LISTEN ON RSS

LISTEN ON APPLE PODCASTS

WATCH ON YOUTUBE

NXR Northwest Regional Live Broadcast Info

- JV girls/Rising Stars: 9:15 am MT
- JV boys/Rising Stars: 10:30 am MT
- Top JV girls/Open Invite 2 (our 8-14 runners): 11:45 am MT
- Top JV boys/Open Invite 4 (our 8-12 boys): 12:55 pm MT
- Championship Girls/Varsity: 3:15 pm MT
- Championship Boys/Varsity: 3:55 pm MT

The championship division features the top 22 teams for boys and girls in the seventh state region: Montana, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, Wyoming, Alaska, and Hawaii. There are competitors from both Helena High and Capital High!

HOT TOPICS

JUDGES NEEDED

HEAR ME ROAR

HELENA HIGH SCHOOL
Speech and Debate

Speech & Debate
CHS



VALLEY OF GOLD SPEECH & DEBATE TOURNAMENT

4 & 5 DECEMBER 2026

INTERESTED IN JUDGING? SIGN UP ONLINE BY SCANNING THE QR CODE:

HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/2026VOGJUDGES

HOT TOPICS





HELENA EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Thank you to everyone who joined us for Great Conversations! It was a wonderful evening of engaging discussions and great company. We're grateful to our table leaders and everyone who helped make the evening a success.

A special thank-you to our Great Conversations sponsors! Your support helps make events like this possible and strengthens HEF's work to enrich education in Helena Public Schools.

BWP Premier Best Western Helena Great Northern Hotel

Sullivan Financial Group

sodexo

Alan and Nancy Nicholson

mosaic architecture | planning | design

Apex Electric

Opportunity Bank of Montana

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



VIEW

See attached 2026 Helena Holiday Helper above for details on the below.

Holiday Resources

THANKSGIVING

- Thanksgiving Day Meals – Served
  - God's Love
  - Salvation Army
- Thanksgiving Meals – Ordered
  - Helena Food Share: Online ***registration required***

CHRISTMAS

- *Veteran & Family Christmas Dinner - December 15*
- Christmas Day Meals – Served
  - God's Love
- Christmas Meals – Ordered
  - Helena Food Share: Online registration required — begins December 1
- GIFT SUPPORT: *Click the resources above.*

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

Bonds Projects Updates

11/22 - 11/28 CHS PROJECT

WEEK 55:

Slate Architecture + RTA Updates:

- OAC Meeting on Site
- Construction Administration
  - Contractor RFI Response
  - Architect Supplemental Instructions
  - Submittal Review
- Landscaping Meeting
- 50% CD Budgeting Coordination
- Refined design and developed 95% Construction Documents.
- Thanksgiving!

Langlas & Associates Construction Updates:

- OAC Meeting
- Remodel – Mechanical Room Pads
- Remodel – Mechanical Room Concrete Sealing
- Remodel – Light Well Window Removal
- Remodel – Gas Installation
- Remodel – Bathroom Framing
- Remodel – Chilled Beam Wet Side Install
- CTE – Rebar Delivery
- CTE – Precast Coordination
- CTE – Excavation Finished
- Aux Gym – Excavation Continued
- Aux Gym Rebar Delivery
- Aux Gym – Precast Coordination
- Aux Gym – Helical Pile Install
- 50% CD Budgeting & Design Coordination
- Thanksgiving

11/22 - 11/28 HPS DISTRICT KITCHEN

WEEK 57:

A&E + SMA Design Updates:

- Construction, OAC Meetings every Tuesday

Dick Anderson & Team Construction Updates:

- DAC
  - Begin exterior insulation and thermal Z girts
  - Install treated parapet cap
- RDJ
  - Continue framing and exterior sheathing
  - Complete parapet framing
- Merit
  - Complete install of all roof curbs and exhaust fan curbs
- Big Sky
  - Complete install of roof pipe penetrations
- Slate
  - Install any electrical conduit penetrations through the roof
- Summit
  - Possible roofing material delivery

KESSLER PROJECT 11/22 - 11/28

WEEK 53:

Mosaic Architecture + Cushing Terrell Updates:

- Week 17 of Construction Documents
- QAQC of 100% documents
- Construction Administration
- Thanksgiving Holiday

Golden Eagle/Swank Construction Updates:

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

HHS + PROJECT FOR ALTERNATIVE LEARNING (PAL) PROJECT 11/22 - 11/28

WEEK 57:

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
  - Slab and Footing Prep
- Central Plumbing & Heating
  - Underground Rough-in
- Central Electric
  - Underground Rough-in
- Gruber Masonry
  - PAL Block wall

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

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

(406) 442-9600 or (800) 442-3006
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!

HELENA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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.

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

How to help young people understand AI chatbots



Explain: AI chatbots don't *retrieve* information; they *generate* responses by making millions of predictions.

Ask: How do you think AI chatbots work? Why do you think they sometimes get things completely wrong?

For more on this topic, subscribe to Scroll Smarter, a monthly newsletter for families.

newslit.org/scroll-smarter

scroll smarter | News Literacy Project

Gaggle Information for Families

Creating a safe learning environment is a shared partnership among students, families, and Helena School District. Under our annual Acceptable Use Policy, school rules apply to all district-issued devices and accounts, both on and off campus.

To help keep students safe online, we have begun using Gaggle for grades 3–12. Gaggle monitors district-owned accounts and platforms for content that may indicate a safety concern or policy violation. When potential issues are flagged, trained safety professionals and designated staff review the content, follow up with appropriate school personnel, and contact families when necessary.

Key reminders for families:

- School policies apply to everything created, shared, or stored on district technology. Encourage students to regularly review their saved files.
- Use caution when connecting personal devices to school technology, as personal files may automatically sync to district accounts.
- Students can also use Gaggle SpeakUp to report concerns.

This tool helps us support students early and maintain a safe school community. Please talk with your child about responsible technology use, and reach out if you have any questions about Gaggle.

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

WHAT'S COMING UP FOR THE DISTRICT?

November 21, 2026 - December 5, 2026

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)
- PAL Thanksgiving, 12:30 p.m. - PAL Commons
- 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:

Sunday, November 29:

Monday, November 30:
- Start of Trimester 2 (Grades K-5)
- Grades 4/5 and PAL to Nutcracker on the Rocks

Tuesday, December 1:
- HEF Spark Grant Applications Due
- Freshman Winter Orchestra, 6:00 p.m. – CHS Auditorium
- HHS Winter Choir Concert, 7:00 p.m. – HMS Auditorium

Wednesday, December 2:

Thursday, December 3:
- Upper Class Orchestra Concert, 12:30 p.m. – Capitol Rotunda
- PAL Info Night
- Central Christmas Market, 6:00 p.m. – Central Gym
- Rossiter Parent Council Meeting, 6:00 p.m. – Rossiter Library

Friday, December 4:
** K-5 Staff Records Day - Grades K-5 Noon Dismissal, Grades 6-12 Full School Day
- 2nd Quarter Midterm
- Broadwater Winter Performance
- Valley of Gold Speech and Debate Tournament – Speech at CRA, Debate at HHS

Saturday, December 5:
- Valley of Gold Speech and Debate Tournament – Speech at CRA, Debate at HHS
- HHS Winter Formal, 7:00 p.m. – HHS Gym

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