

# Helena Public Schools 2022-2023 District Calendar



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**Public Schools**  
*A great place to learn*

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**Every step of the way**



**District Calendar 2022-2023**

*Independent Record*

## August 2022

Greetings Helena Families and Community,

We look forward to seeing you again as we usher in a new school year of learning, growth, and connections.

Our students made great academic strides last year. In the 2022-23 school year, we'll continue our intensive work to close learning gaps. We'll also continue our focus on implementing a consistent "instructional framework" throughout all grade levels and content areas.

Think of the instructional framework like framing a house. The bones of the house must meet consistent and proven building quality standards. The family then customizes the design and details of their home.

In the same way, the instructional framework establishes research-based best practices for delivery of instruction, along with common curriculum and resources. The teacher builds on this framework according to their teaching style. The instructional framework also provides clear direction for students regarding what they will learn each day, and what mastery of those skills and concepts will look like. Student engagement and success are strongly linked to having a sound instructional framework in place, which is what makes this work so important.

But it's our people, and the connections they build with our students, who make learning and growth happen.

This holds true at every step of the way, from the kindergarten teacher who gives a jittery student a warm hug on the first day of school, to the middle school teacher who inspires a student to master a foreign language, to the high school welding teacher who helps a student land their first job.

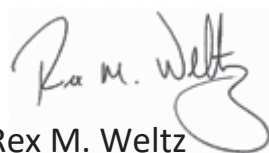
And these connections extend beyond our staff to our community partners: Those who host field trips, visit our classrooms to talk about careers, give scholarships, chaperone a dance, coach a sport, offer a student an internship, collect school supplies and clothes for students in need, or simply volunteer to read a book. Our students know they have our entire Helena community behind them. We are deeply grateful to the Helena Education Foundation and its many generous community partners for their two decades of vital support of our students, educators, and programs.

As superintendent, I'm committed to keeping our community informed about your Helena Public Schools – where we're going, where we're succeeding, where we need to improve and how we're doing it. We'll be tackling major initiatives this year, including a facilities master plan, a safety audit, program reviews, and addressing the district's budget shortfall.

If you're a parent, please be sure to read my weekly Friday updates to keep yourself in the know. If you're a community member, you can subscribe to receive the Friday letter by email at [bit.ly/helenaschoolnews](https://bit.ly/helenaschoolnews). And don't forget to follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter!

We're here to support your student and your family, every step of the way

Respectfully



Rex M. Weltz  
Superintendent, Helena Public Schools



**Superintendent Rex M. Weltz**

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# Helena Public Schools

## welcomes our new administrators



**Mick Morris**

**Capital High School Assistant Principal**

Mr. Morris is the new assistant principal at Capital High School, where he joins Principal Brett Zanto and Assistant Principal Kathy Kidder. Mr. Morris comes to Helena from Missoula where he was the dean of students at Hellgate High School. He previously taught in the Conrad School District and in the Nampa School District. Mr. Morris has a Bachelor of Art's Degree in Social Sciences from the University of Montana and a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership from the University of Idaho. He has two sons and two golden retrievers.



**Eric Peterson**

**C.R. Anderson Middle School Assistant Principal**

Mr. Peterson is the new assistant principal at C. R. Anderson Middle School. He joins Principal Kathleen Prody and Assistant Principal Sol Jones. Mr. Peterson is a graduate of Carroll College where he received a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Studies. He also earned a Bachelor of Science in Biology from the University of Montana and a Master's in Educational Leadership from MSUB Bozeman. Mr. Peterson and his wife, Kate, have three children and three Labrador retrievers. He enjoys hunting, mountain biking, and camping with his family.



**Kathleen Prody**

**C.R. Anderson Middle School Principal**

Ms. Prody comes to Helena from Belt Schools, where she was superintendent for 11 years. She joins Assistant Principals Sol Jones and Eric Peterson. She was previously an English teacher at HHS and a middle school English teacher in Rapid City, SD. Ms. Prody received a Bachelor's in English and Speech Communication from the University of South Florida (USF), a Master's in Speech Communication Education from USF, and a Master's degree in Educational Leadership from UM. Ms. Prody and her husband, Dennis, have three grown children and four grandchildren. They have two rescue dogs, Logan and Sophie.



**Riley Thatcher**

**Kessler Elementary School Principal**

Ms. Thatcher is excited to join the Kessler School community and begin meeting students, families, and staff. She comes to Kessler from Jim Darcy Elementary School, where she worked with students and staff as an instructional coach. Ms. Thatcher received both a Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education and a Master's in Educational Leadership from the University of Montana. She and her husband, Sean, have six children and enjoy chasing them to and from sporting events and school activities.



**Julie TeNyenhuis**

**Helena High School Assistant Principal**

Ms. TeNyenhuis is the new assistant principal at Helena High School. She joins Principal Steve Thennis and Assistant Principal Willie Schleppe. She was previously principal at Roosevelt Charter School in Colorado Springs. Ms. TeNyenhuis earned a Bachelor of Science in Education, a Master's in Education and a Certificate of Advanced Study in Education from the State University of New York at Paltz. She has a broad range of experience in special education. Ms. TeNyenhuis and her husband, Matthew, have two children and a boxer puppy.



**Todd Verrill**

**Support Services Director**

Mr. Verrill comes to Helena Public Schools from the Montana National Guard, where he served as construction and facilities management officer and was previously the deputy commanding and operations officer. Mr. Verrill is a graduate of the US Military Academy and the US Army War College. He and his wife, Marty, have two children and a German shorthair named Birdie.



## 2022-2023 Board of Trustees and Strategic Priorities

These priorities were drafted to align with the Mission and Vision of the Helena Public Schools and were crafted through a variety of inputs including:

- Our district's most recent strategic plan.
- Qualitative data gathered and considered.
- Priorities represent the **"optimal state,"** meaning these statements will be true when our district has reached an optimal level of performance in a designated area.

Priorities represent two distinct but interrelated areas:

### • Teaching and Learning

- o Ensure that each HPS student is engaged in learning opportunities that are authentic, meaningful, and relevant.
- o Ensure that every HPS graduate has multiple career, college, or service options available to them upon high school graduation.
- o Ensure a culture of interdependence exists on every HPS campus in which self-awareness, self-regulation, and collaboration are taught and continually fostered as necessary 21st Century skills.

### • Management and Operations

- o Ensure that the learning of every HPS student and employee is supported by a school facility that is safe, healthy, and neutral to additive to optimal student learning.
- o Ensure an aligned, balanced, and sustainable budget supports the varied needs of our students while providing predictability and consistency for our HPS colleagues and community.
- o Ensure that each HPS stakeholder receives and has access to timely, informative, and relevant school and district information via a varied communications platform.



**Siobhan Hathhorn**  
Chair



**Jennifer McKee**  
Vice-Chair



**Janet Armstrong**



**Terry Beaver**



**Lois Fitzpatrick**



**Luke Muszkiewicz**



**Kay Satre**



**Jennifer Walsh**



**Rex Weltz**  
Superintendent



**Keiran Boyle**  
CHS



**Loreley Drees**  
HHS



# Learning Life Skills

Extracurricular activities such as student clubs, theater, orchestra, and volunteer opportunities help students build professional and social skills that last a lifetime.

Whether it's competing in a state orchestra competition, learning computer coding in a business club, or volunteering to feed hungry families, these enrichment activities create well-rounded individuals who are ready to fully participate in their communities.

Helena Public Schools is grateful to our staff who make these opportunities possible inside and outside the classroom, as well as our many community partners who support extracurricular activities.

The entire Helena community is part of our mission to prepare students for academic, professional, and personal success. Thank you!



*Mock Trial*



*Speech & Debate*



*Night to Shine DECA fundraiser at the Helena Civic Center*



*Arbor Day  
Volunteers*



*Science Bowl*



*Business Professionals of America*



*Green Group*



*Helena Food Share Volunteers*



*AA State Band Festival*



# AUGUST 2022

## Hawthorne Elementary



**Students recite the Pledge of Allegiance followed by their daily school pledge at Hawthorne Elementary.**



Early school mornings can be cold and dark, but the Hawthorne Hawks have a morning ritual to spark their hearts, minds, and bodies for a day of learning.

The Hawks gather around the flag pole every morning — rain, snow, or shine — to recite the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the Hawthorne School Pledge:

"I pledge to live this day with hope in my heart, energy in my mind, and gentleness in my spirit. Strong Minds, Gentle Hearts."

### **Did you know?**

Mental health as well as good coping and social skills are foundational to student success. Students are receptive to learning when they feel safe and confident that their teacher and peers know and care about them. Helena Public Schools elementaries use the Second Step Program to teach K-5 students skills for resolving conflicts, working with others, forming healthy relationships, and making good decisions.

JULY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6

# August 2022

SEPTEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	1

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 HAW Parent Council 12 pm	11 HS Golf Season Officially Begins	12 HS Fall Sports Officially Begin	13
14	15 <b>Health Insurance Enrollment Begins for All Employees (8/15-9/9)</b> Employee Health Fair 9:30-2 pm Lincoln Center	16	17	18	19	20 HHS Bengal Booster Free BBQ 11-1:30 pm, softball fields; CHS Booster Club BBQ
21	22 HHS - Senior Parking Permit Day <a href="https://www.permitsales.net/helenahs">https://www.permitsales.net/helenahs</a>	23 HHS Junior Parking Permit Day <a href="https://www.permitsales.net/helenahs">https://www.permitsales.net/helenahs</a>	24 CHS- Senior textbook/schedule pickup 12-3 pm; HHS Sophomore Parking Permit Day <a href="https://www.permitsales.net/helenahs">https://www.permitsales.net/helenahs</a> Student Schedule Access-Power School Sr: 8:30-11:30 am Jr: 12:30-3:30 pm	25 CHS: Junior textbook/schedule pickup 12-3 pm; HHS – Freshman Parking Permit Day <a href="https://www.permitsales.net/helenahs">https://www.permitsales.net/helenahs</a> Student Schedule Access-Power School Sph: 8:30-11:30 am Frsh: 12:30-3:30pm	26 CHS- Sophomore textbook/schedule pickup 12-3 pm  HHS new student schedule pickup and Chromebook checkout: HHS Counseling Office	27
28	29 Staff Orientation  Open Houses: JEFF, BRY, CEN: 5:30-6:30 pm  JD Open House 5-6 pm; HAW Open House 4-5:30 pm  HMS: 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Meet & Greet 4 pm	30 Staff Orientation  Open Houses: WAR, SMI and ROSS 5:30-6:30 pm; 4Gs 5-6 pm; BRO 1:30-3:30 pm  HHS: Frsh/Parent Night, 6:30 Little Theater	31 <b>First Day of School for Grades 1-5, 6, 9 and PAL</b>  RBLC Family Orientation  CRA 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Open House: 8:05 am and 6 pm  CHS Bruin Beginnings: 9 <sup>th</sup> grade book and schedule pickup			



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# SEPTEMBER 2022

## Jefferson Elementary



**Every kindergartner at Jefferson Elementary gets to take home a gourd planted by the previous year's class.**

Each spring, kindergarteners and first graders at Jefferson Elementary plant pumpkin, squash, and sunflower seeds in the school's beautiful community garden. When they return in the fall, the fruits of the harvest await.

"They just love putting their hands in the dirt," said Kindergarten Teacher Jill Putnam, who tends the garden over the summer with fellow kindergarten teacher Andrea Thisselle. "They get to dig the hole and put the seed in and cover it up. A lot of the kids bring back seeds from their pumpkins that they want to plant."

The garden, started in 2018 by former Jefferson teacher Tia Wilkins (now Principal at Warren Elementary), was made possible by a grant from the Helena Education Foundation. Family volunteers helped build the raised flower beds and pumpkin trellis.

"People say, 'I walk by it every day and it's so beautiful to look at,'" said Putnam. "It's here for the community to enjoy."



### **Did you know?**


The Jefferson Garden is inspiration for art projects for students and is also used to supplement the Mystery Science curriculum used by schools districtwide. Mystery Science includes units on weather, seasons, plant and animal life cycles, and the push-and-pull forces of the natural world.



AUGUST						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3

# September 2022

OCTOBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	1	2	3	4	5

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 St. Peter's Health				<b>1</b> First Day of School for Grades 7-8 & 10-12	<b>2</b> Bryant Fabulous Firsts 2:30 pm	<b>3</b> SM/ HHS Tailgate BBQ
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Labor Day No School	<b>6</b> First Day of School for Kindergarten  JD PTO Meeting 6:30 pm  BRO Fabulous Firsts 2:30 pm	<b>7</b> HMS PTSO Noon  CHS Picture Day  HEF Great Ideas Grant Workshop, 3:45, Lincoln Ctr	<b>8</b> Bryant PTA 5:30 pm JEFF Picture Day ROS Parent Council 6 pm HMS: Open House 6 pm CRA: 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Open House 6-7 pm CRA: 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Open House 7-8 pm	<b>9</b> Last Day – Employee Health Insurance Open Enrollment  JD Fabulous Firsts 2:30 pm ROSS Fabulous Firsts 2:45 pm  HHS Freshman Football BBQ	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> Helena Education Foundation (HEF) Carnival Classic 11 am – 3 pm Memorial Park	<b>12</b> Early Dismissal Elementary 2:30 pm Middle School 2:15 pm High School 2:30 pm KESS Open House 5-6 pm; HP Montessori 5:30-6:30 pm; PAL Info Night 4 pm; HHS Booster 5:30 pm, Library  HHS Homecoming Week	<b>13</b> CEN and HMS Picture Day  Board of Trustees 5:30 pm Lincoln Ctr	<b>14</b> HAW Parent Council: 12 pm  Picture Day: HAW, KESS, HHS  CEN Parent Council	<b>15</b> KESS Fabulous Firsts (Time TBD)  WAR PTO: 6 pm  CRA Picture Day  CHS Open House	<b>16</b> SMI Fabulous Firsts 2:30 pm  CEN Fabulous Firsts (Time TBD)  WAR Walk-to-School  Smith Picture Day	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Early Dismissal Child Find at RBLC; PAL Info Night 4 pm; BRO-PTC 6 pm; HAW & WAR Fabulous Firsts 2 pm; HS Divisional Golf Week	<b>20</b> SMI PSS 5:30 pm	<b>21</b> JEFF Fabulous Firsts 2:45 pm	<b>22</b> Helena High School Open House 6 pm	<b>23</b> 4Gs Fabulous Firsts 2:45 pm	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Early Dismissal  High School State AA Golf  CHS Homecoming Week	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> HMS/CRA Orchestra; 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Great Beginnings 8 am - 8 pm HMS Auditorium; State Golf Meet Helena	<b>30</b> CHS Homecoming BBQ  HAW Family Night  State Golf Meet Helena	



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# OCTOBER 2022

## Jim Darcy Elementary



**Maclean, a second-grader at Jim Darcy last year, dressed up as her hero for Halloween. "We were walking through Costco, she saw a pilot costume and decided then and there that she wanted to be "Jim Darcy," said her mother, Katie Johnson.**



Jim Darcy Elementary is a school steeped in tradition. The school's namesake was a U.S. Army pilot killed in the Vietnam War in 1967.

Jim grew up near the site of the school, and design elements in his honor can be found throughout the building, including photos of Jim as a child outside of every classroom. Jim Darcy students celebrate his birthday every year, learning about the bravery and sacrifice of all who serve.

"The culture of this building, celebrating the namesake and what it means to be a hero, is ingrained into the importance of what it means to be a Mustang," said Katie Johnson, a teacher and parent at Jim Darcy. "There is pride and respect for the sacrifices made. At an age when many kids don't understand true heroism, Jim Darcy students do."

### **Did you know?**


Jim Darcy School is one of three elementary schools to be rebuilt in recent years, along with Central and Bryant. The district is conducting a Master Facilities Planning process to ensure that all of our facilities meet today's rapidly changing education needs.



SEPTEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	1

# October 2022

NOVEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	1	2	3

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	<b>3 Early Dismissal</b> Elementary 2:30 pm Middle School 2:15 pm High School 2:30 pm  Helena Public Montessori Parents 5:30-6:30	4 JD PTO 6:30 pm  Great Ideas Grants Due	5 Walk to School Day: HAW, JEFF, BRO, CEN, SMI  HMS PTSO: Noon  HHS Jostens Senior Order Day  HHS FAFSA Night- Library 5-7 pm	6	7 Broadwater Cub Run 1 pm	8
9	<b>10 Early Dismissal</b>	11 Board of Trustees 5:30 pm Lincoln Center	12 HAW Parent Council: 12 pm  CEN Parent Council	13 Bryant PTA 5:30 pm  ROSS Parent Council 6 pm	14	15
16	<b>17 Early Dismissal</b>  Child Find at Ray Bjork Learning Center  BRO PTCs 3:30-6:30 pm	18 SMI PSS 5:30 pm; CEN Picture Retakes; High School AA Soccer Playoffs; HHS-CHS Fall Orchestra	19  CHS Picture Retakes  BRO PTCs 3:30-6:30	20  Educator Conferences – No School	21  Educator Conferences – No School	22  State Cross Country Meet Missoula
23	<b>24 Early Dismissal</b>	25 PTCs: HAW, JEFF, WAR, JD, 4Gs, CEN 4Gs Book Fair  CRA Picture Retakes	26 Picture Retakes: HHS and KESS;  HHS Shakespeare in Schools, HMS Auditorium	27 PTCs: HAW, JEFF, WAR, JD, Central, 4Gs  4Gs Book Fair  HS State Champ Soccer 10/27-10/29	28 Smith Picture Retake	29 JD Trunk or Treat 2-4 pm  State Soccer Championship Location TBD
30	<b>31 Early Dismissal</b>					



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# NOVEMBER 2022

## Rossiter Elementary

The annual hot air balloon launch at Rossiter Elementary is one part science, one part art, and one part pure joy.

Teams of fifth-graders lovingly craft each balloon with 36 sheets of tissue paper and a copious number of purple glue sticks. On the morning of the Vigilante Day Parade in May, all grades gather on the playground in a state of high anticipation.

"When they start fifth grade, they're like, 'This is the year we get to build balloons!'" said Rossiter Secretary Kristen Cetraro. "They'll start asking literally from day one. It's something they really look forward to."

Early prototypes were inflated with hairdryers. But after a lot of blown fuses, parent Russ Wattnem came to the rescue with custom-built propane heaters. Wattnem, who owns a local construction company, launches the balloons in rapid succession to create colorful bouquets in the sky. While his daughter is long-since grown, he hasn't missed a balloon day in more than 20 years.

In addition to being impossibly fun, the balloon launch engages students in math, physics, meteorology, and art," said Cetraro. "When they're involved in creating something that they're going to launch and the school is going to watch, they're really engaged and they're excited about learning."

Russ Wattnem hasn't missed a Rossiter Hot Air Balloon Launch in more than 20 years. A local construction company owner, he custom-built propane heaters for the event when his daughter was in fifth-grade.



**Students recover their balloon, "The Flying Birdie," upon its descent onto the Rossiter playground. Teams of two to three fifth-graders build about 20 balloons each year.**

### Did you know?


Helena Public Schools relies on our community partners to help us fulfill our mission. These include parent volunteers, higher education, medical providers, law enforcement, local government, and arts organizations, as well as philanthropic organizations such as the Helena Education Foundation and the Angel Fund.



OCTOBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	1	2	3	4	5

# November 2022

DECEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
28	29	30	1	2	3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 St. Peter's Health		1 JD PTO Meeting 6:30 pm	2 ROSS PTCs	3 JEFF School Picture Retakes; ROSS PTCs; HS Div Volleyball	4	5
6 Daylight Savings Time Ends	7 Early Dismissal Elementary 2:30 pm Middle School 2:15 pm High School 2:30 pm  HS 2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter begins  Helena Public Montessori Parents 5:30-6:30	8 Parent Teacher Conferences: RBLC, KESS, BRY, SMI  Board of Trustees 5:30 pm Lincoln Center	9 HAW Parent Council: 12 pm  HMS PTSO Noon  CRA PTC  CEN Parent Council	10 PTCs: RBLC, KESS, Bryant, CRA, SMI  ROS Parent Council 6 pm; WAR PTO 6 pm  HMS Choir 6 pm  HHS-CHS Cross Town Theater at CHS Auditorium  All Class Volleyball Bozeman 10/11-10/12	11 State Volleyball Tournament Continues Bozeman	12 State Volleyball Tournament Continues Bozeman
13	14 Early Dismissal  HHS Booster Club 5:30 pm Library	15 SMI PSS 5:30 pm  HMS PTCs	16 HEF Great Conversations, Great Northern Conference Center, 5:30 pm	17 Bryant PTA 5:30 pm; HMS Par-Teach Conf; CRA Choir Concert: 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade 6 pm 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade 7 pm 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade 8 pm	18 State Football (11/18-19/22)  HAW Family Night	19
20	21 Early Dismissal Child Find at RBLC; PAL Info Night 4 pm; BRO- Parent Teacher Council 6 pm	22	23 Thanksgiving Holiday: No school	24 Thanksgiving Holiday: No school  District Closed	25 Thanksgiving Holiday: No school  District Closed	26
27	28 Early Dismissal	29 CRA 6 <sup>th</sup> and 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Orchestra Concert	30			




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# DECEMBER 2022

## Bryant Elementary



**Bryant Elementary fifth-graders "go to college" once a month to study everything from nursing to creative writing, culminating in a year-end graduation ceremony.**



Incoming fifth-graders at Bryant Elementary have the unique opportunity to start their last year of elementary school and their first year of college at the same time.

The young scholars will study topics from biology to creative writing to nursing at the Helena College Campus, located a short walk across the street from Bryant. The once-a-month field trips will culminate in a graduation ceremony this spring for the "Honorary Helena College Students." Helena College professors volunteered their time to create multiple fields of study and career paths. The fifth-grade class of 2021-22 was the first to participate in the new program.

"The joy and energy sparked in students is incredible to watch as the year has progressed," said Bryant Principal Trish Klock. "It sparks not only the love of learning, but exposes students to educational and career possibilities they can begin to explore."

### Did you know?


If you have an eighth-grader or high school student, now is the time to explore the Montana University System's Dual Enrollment program. Dual Enrollment allows your student to earn college credit – for free – while still in high school! In addition to saving on higher education time and costs, Dual Enrollment helps prepare students for academic success in college. Contact your counselor or visit [mus.edu/dualenroll/](https://mus.edu/dualenroll/) for more information.



NOVEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	1	2	3

# December 2022

JANUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 HMS Orchestra Concert @ 6:30 pm	2 High School Winter Sports Competition Begins	3
4	<div>5 Early Dismissal Elementary 2:30 pm Middle School 2:15 pm High School 2:30 pm</div> <div>PAL Info Night 4pm</div> <div>Helena Public Montessori Parents 5:30-6:30</div> <div>2<sup>nd</sup> Trimester Begins for K-5</div>	6 <div>CRA 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Jazz Band 7 pm Myna Loy</div> <div>JD PTO 6:30 pm</div> <div>HHS Winter Band 7 pm at the HMS Auditorium</div> <div>HEF Spark Grants Due</div>	7 <div>HMS PTSO Noon</div>	8 <div>Bryant PTA 5:30 pm</div> <div>JEFF Winter Program 1:30 pm</div> <div>ROSS Parent Council 6 pm</div> <div>HMS Band 6 pm</div>	9 <div>HAW Winter Program at HMS: 9:30 am</div> <div>BRO Winter Pro HMS 1 pm</div> <div>JEFF Winter Program 10 am and 1:30 pm</div>	10
11	<div>12 Early Dismissal</div> <div>HHS Booster Club meeting 5:30 pm Library</div>	13 <div>Board of Trustees 5:30 pm Lincoln Center</div>	14 <div>HAW Parent Council 12 pm</div> <div>CEN Parent Council</div> <div>CRA 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Orchestra Winter Performance Myrna Loy</div>	15 KESS Winter Pro at HMS 9:30 am BRO- Caroling CRA 6 <sup>th</sup> and 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Band Concert CRA Upper Gym HHS Advanced Orchestra concert (Capitol Rotunda)	16 <div>SMI Winter Program HMS 9:30 am</div> <div>Ironhorse Youth Orchestra and Chorus Helena Tour</div> <div>JD Winter Music Program</div>	17
18	<div>19 Early Dismissal Child Find at RBLC</div> <div>WAR Reindeer Express</div> <div>BRO Parent-Teach Council 6 pm</div>	20 <div>Smith PSS 5:30 pm</div> <div>Winter Orchestra HHS &amp; CHS at the CHS Auditorium</div>	21 <div>Bryant Holiday Program 10 am</div> <div>WAR Winter Program at HMS</div>	22	23 Winter break: No School	24
25	26 Winter Break: No School District Closed	27 Winter Break: No School District Closed	28 Winter Break: No School	29 Winter Break: No School	30 Winter Break: No school	31



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# JANUARY 2023

## Smith Elementary

Megan Skolrud's son was in the first grade when she started volunteering with Parents for Smith, the parent teacher organization (PTO) that supports her children's school. Now the mom of a fourth-grader and a second-grader, Skolrud says her involvement makes her feel more engaged with her kids' education.

"I feel like I have a better idea of how my kids are doing and it makes us all a team because we all are – parents and teachers," Skolrud said.

As with PTO groups across the district, much of the work Parents for Smith does is focused on community building. The group hosts a "Coffee and Kleenex" event to welcome parents of kindergartners on the first morning of school and hosts family nights where students and parents can make new connections. Parents for Smith also supports staff, providing dinner for teachers during long evenings of parent-teacher conferences and purchasing art supplies and other classroom materials.



"They do a really good job of making sure that all of the needs of the school are met," said Smith Principal Sarah Simpson. The same can be said for all of our Helena Public Schools PTO groups. Whether you have a lot of time to give or only a little, our district's PTO groups are always happy to accept volunteers!



**Smith students build robotic Snapology go-karts, an activity paid for through the fundraising efforts of the school's "Parents for Smith" PTO group.**

### Did you know?

Each of our district's public schools, from elementary to high school, has a parent teacher organization or booster club and there are endless ways to get involved.

Are you good with numbers? Volunteer to be treasurer. Are crafts your cup of tea? Help decorate for the school carnival. Love social media? You could run your PTO's Facebook page.

Check with your school's secretary to learn how to connect with your PTO.



DECEMBER						
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# January 2023

FEBRUARY						
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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Winter Break: No school District Closed	3 JD PTO Meeting 6:30 pm	4 HMS PTSO Noon	5	6	7
8	9 Early Dismissal Elementary 2:30 pm Middle School 2:15 pm High School 2:30 pm  HHS Booster Club 5:30 Library	10 CRA Orchestra Movie Screening  Board of Trustees 5:30 pm Lincoln Center	11 HAW Parent Council 12 pm  CEN Parent Council  HEF Great Ideas Grant Workshop, 3:45 pm, Lincoln Ctr	12 Bryant PTA 5:30 pm  Warren PTO 6 pm  ROSS Parent Council 6 pm  4Gs Open Gym 6-7 pm	13	14
15	16 Martin Luther King Jr. Day: No school	17 Smith PSS 5:30 pm  High School Semester testing	18 High School Semester testing	19 K-8: Early Dismissal at 12 pm  High School Semester testing	20 High School Staff In-service record day  No school for K-12 students	21
22	23 Early Dismissal  Child Find at Ray Bjork Learning Center  3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter begins for grades 6-12	24	25	26	27 State AA Speech, Billings  HAW Family Night	28 State AA Speech Billings
29	30 Early Dismissal	31  HEF Spark and Great Ideas Grants Due				



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# FEBRUARY 2023

## Warren Elementary



**Warren Elementary students wait for the signal to dig into their 100th Day Sundaes.**



Every Helena Public School adheres to the same standards of academic excellence. What makes each a unique and treasured part of its local community is tradition — seasonal events that are often experienced and cherished by multiple generations.

Started in 1980 by Rose Powell, Warren Elementary School's 100th Day Sundae Celebration is often referred to as "the best day of the year" by students and parents alike. Students gather in the cafeteria along 100 feet of rain gutter (wrapped in foil) full of ice cream and all the fixings. When they hear the signal — "It's time to scoop ice cream!" — the kids grab their spoons and the fun begins.

Throughout the day, students celebrate the 100th Day of School with counting activities, "If I was 100" imaginative writing projects, and more! "This is a day to celebrate student success," said Principal Tia Wilkins. "It's impressive the growth students make in 100 days!"

### Did you know?

HPS adopted the math and reading standards required at the national and state level in 2010. These curricula are routinely reviewed and updated.

Student progress toward these goals is measured using multiple assessment tools ranging from daily teacher assessments in the classroom to state and district testing. Effectively sharing this student progress data with parents is an important part of supporting student success.


HPS uses Standards-Based Reporting for grades K-5, in place of traditional A through D "grade" report cards, to show parents how their student is progressing toward specific learning goals based on state standards. For each goal, parents can see whether their student "Meets Standard" or "Approaches Standard," or if "Support (is) Needed." The parent and teacher can then work as a team to help the student reach specific grade-level learning targets. The overarching goal is more meaningful report cards and collaborative parent-teacher conferences.



JANUARY						
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February 2023

MARCH						
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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <div>St. Peter's Health</div>			1 HMS PTO Noon  ROSS PTC Conferences	2 HHS Thespian Festival Play  ROSS PTC	3 HHS Thespian Festival Play  High School Wrestling Seeding Tourney, Butte  HEF Distinguished Achiever Nominations Due	4 HHS Thespian Festival Play  High School Wrestling Seeding Tournament Butte
5	6 Early Dismissal Elementary 2:30 pm Middle School 2:15 pm High School 2:30 pm CRA Concert Band with CHS  PAL Info Night 4 pm  HP Mont Parents 5:30-6:30	7 WAR 100 <sup>th</sup> Day Sundae Celebration  WAR PTC  JD PTO 6:30 pm	8  HAW Parent Council: 12 pm  CEN Parent Council	9  Bryant PTA 5:30 pm  WAR PTC  ROSS Parent Council 6 pm	10  State Swim Meet, Great Falls  State All-Class Wrestling, Billings	11  State Swim Meet, Great Falls  State All-Class Wrestling, Billings
12	13 Early Dismissal Child Find at RBL  PAL Info Night 4 pm;  HHS Booster Club 5:30 Library;  BRO PTCs 3:30-6:30 pm	14 Board of Trustees 5:30 pm Lincoln Center	15 CRA PTCs  BRO PTCs 3:30-6:30 pm	16  CRA PTCs	17	18
19	20  President's Day: No school	21 PTCs: HAW, RBL, JEFF, JD, 4Gs, CEN  Smith PSS 5:30 pm;  HMS 6/7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Orchestra Concert 6:30 pm	22	23 PTCs: HAW, RBL, JEFF, 4Gs, CEN, JD  CRA Choir Concert: Sixth grade at 6 pm Seventh grade at 7 pm Eighth grade at 8 pm  CRA Orchestra at CRA	24  CRA Orchestra	25
26	27 Early Dismissal	28 PTCs: KESS, BRY, SMI, HMS				




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# MARCH 2023

## Ray Bjork Learning Center



**A City of Helena arborist delights RBLC students with a tree trimming demonstration. From bakers to firefighters, community members volunteer across the district to raise awareness of career paths.**



At the Ray Bjork Learning Center (RBLC), students begin learning about the wider world in preschool thanks to community volunteers.

From field trips to watch a local baker make bread to visits by local musicians, students learn that people of many talents make our community tick. Principal Erin Maxwell believes volunteers who give their time benefit at least as much as her students.

"When a kid comes up to you and has all these questions about something you're really passionate about, you can't help but get excited about that," said Maxwell. "An opportunity to teach somebody something I think is a gift that we as a school give to our community."

The Ray Bjork Learning Center is home to the district's Special Education PreSchool and PEAK Gifted & Talented programs.

### Did you know?


Helena Public Schools students begin learning about college and career options in elementary school through field trips and classroom visits by local professionals and trades people. In middle school, students explore career pathways through STEM activities and curriculum that demonstrate how concepts and skills apply to various career fields. In high school, students have the opportunity to get a jump start on college and career goals through classes and internships in areas as diverse as nursing and automotive. Business-co-op arrangements between schools and employers even allow students to receive credit for on-the-job training.



FEBRUARY						
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# March 2023

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 St. Peter's Health			1 KESS PTCs HMS PTSO Noon	2 PTCs: Bryant, Smith, HMS; Western AA Divisional (Boys & Girls) Basketball, Kalispell	3 Western AA Divisional (Boys & Girls) Basketball, Kalispell	4 Western AA Divisional (Boys & Girls) Basketball Kalispell
5	6 Early Dismissal Elementary 2:30 pm Middle School 2:15 pm High School 2:30 pm AA Band Festival Helena  Helena Public Montessori Parents 5:30-6:30	7 JD PTO Meeting 6:30 pm  HHS Pre-Festival Choir Concert at HMS 7 pm  AA Band Festival Helena	8 HAW Parent Council 12 pm  HMS 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Band Festival  CEN Parent Council	9 Bryant PTA: 5:30 pm  WAR PTO: 6 pm  ROSS Parent Council: 6 pm  4Gs Open Gym 6-7  State AA Basketball (Boys & Girls), Butte	10  State AA Basketball (Boys & Girls), Butte	11  State AA Basketball (Boys & Girls), Billing Butte
12  Daylight Savings	13 Early Dismissal HS Spring Sports begin  HHS Booster Club 5:30 pm Library  3 <sup>rd</sup> Trimester Begins K-5	14 HMS 8/9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Orchestra Festival 6 pm  CRA Orch Festival 6 pm  Board of Trustees 5:30 pm Lincoln Center	15	16	17  HAW Family Night	18
19	20 Early Dismissal Child Find at RBLC; BRO Parent-Teach Council 6 pm  HMS 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Choir Festival 6:30 pm  CRA Band Festival (Subject to Change)	21  Smith PSS 5:30 pm  HHS Pre-festival Band Concert HHS Gym 7 pm  CRA Band Festival (Subject to Change)	22	23	24	25
26	27 Spring Break: No school	28 Spring Break: No school HEF Spark Grants Due	29 Spring Break: No school	30 Spring Break: No school	31 Spring Break: No school	



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# APRIL 2023

## Four Georgians Elementary



**Four Georgians Elementary students get their hearts pumping for the Spring Fling Fun Run.**



Learning the benefits of an active lifestyle in childhood can build good fitness habits that last a lifetime.

At Four Georgians Elementary, spring means it's time to lace up those sneakers or put on your dancing shoes – or both!

The school's annual Spring Fling and Fun Run Night is part fun run and part talent show. The evening begins with a Fun Run for 3-5th graders followed by a second heat for kindergarten through second grade.

Once students cross the finish line, it's on to the Spring Fling, where the young athletes perform dance choreography they have perfected all spring.

Baskets created for each grade are raffled off as well as prizes donated by parents and staff.

### Did you know?

The Helena Public Schools Wellness Committee is comprised of teachers, school administrators, parents, community members, and Board of Trustees members who are dedicated to building a culture of wellness as a foundation for learning.

The Committee reviews nutritional and fitness best practices from across Montana and the nation that enhance student learning. The goal is to implement these practices locally to inspire students, families, and school employees to make healthy lifestyle choices.



MARCH						
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# April 2023

MAY						
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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 Early Dismissal Elementary 2:30 pm Middle School 2:15 pm High School 2:30 pm  4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter begins	4 JD PTO meeting 6:30 pm	5 HMS PTSO Meeting 12 pm	6	7	8
9	10 Early Dismissal	11 HMS 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Extravaganza  Board of Trustees, 5:30 pm, Lincoln Center	12 HAW Parent Council: 12 pm  CEN Parent Council	13 Bryant Alliance PTA 5:30 pm  District Music Festival, Helena (Subject to Change)  ROSS Parent Council 6 pm	14 District Music Festival, Helena (Subject to Change)	15 District Music Festival, Helena (Subject to Change)
16	17 Early Dismissal  Child Find at Ray Bjork Learning Center  BRO- Parent-Teach Council 6 pm	18 SMI PSS 5:30 pm  HMS 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Night	19	20 Broadwater Bingo for Books 6 pm	21 CRA 6 <sup>th</sup> and 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Orchestra Festival at Our Redeemer's Church	22
23   St. Peter's Health	24	25	26	27	28 State All-Class Powerlifting, TBD  HAW Family Night	29 State All-Class Powerlifting, TBD
30						



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# MAY 2023

## Central Elementary



**Central Elementary students deliver spring cheer to their neighborhood.**



Founded in 1875, Central School represents the district's past and its future. The district's oldest elementary now occupies one of three new, state-of-the art elementary school buildings.

But some traditions never change. Each November and May, Central students deliver "Happy Harvest Bags" and "May Day Baskets" to surrounding homes and businesses, including an update on school news and events.

The kids team up with younger or older mentor buddies as they walk, wave, and exchange spring greetings with their neighbors.

"I really see the older kids blossom when they can be teachers to the little ones," said Teacher Amy Casne-Fetz.

### Did you know?


Central Elementary offers a broad range of programs to meet a wide range of student needs. In addition to 11 traditional classrooms, Central offers three Montessori classrooms, two Functional Life Skills classrooms and a Trailhead classroom to support students with special needs.



APRIL						
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# May 2023

JUNE						
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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1 Early Dismissal</b> Elementary 2:30 pm Middle School 2:15 pm High School 2:30 pm  PAL Info Night 4pm;  HP Montessori Parents 5:30-6:30	<b>2</b>  JD PTO 6:30 pm	<b>3</b>  HMS PTO Meeting 12 pm  Broadwater- Kinder Jumpstart  JEFF Kindergarten Orientation 3:45-4:30	<b>4</b>  CRA 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Choir Concert 6pm	<b>5 Vigilante Day:</b> No School for Grades 9-12 <b>11 am Dismissal for Grades K-8</b> State Music Fest Missoula	<b>6</b>  State Music Festival, Missoula
<b>7</b>	<b>8 Early Dismissal</b>  HHS Booster Club 5:30 pm Library  HEF Celebration of Excellence, 5:30 pm, Great Northern Conference Center	<b>9</b> Board of Trustees 5:30 pm, Lincoln Center	<b>10</b> HAW Parent Council 12 pm  Smith Kindergarten Parent Info 5:30 pm  CEN Parent Council	<b>11</b> Bryant PTA 5:30 pm; WAR PTO 6 pm; ROSS Parent Council 6 pm  4Gs Spring Fling and Fun Run 6 pm; HHS Spring Theater Production	<b>12</b> HAW School Carnival  JD Ag Day  HHS Spring Theater Production	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>15 Early Dismissal</b> PAL Info Night 4pm;  BRO Parent Teach Council 6 pm;  HAW Kinder Jump Start 3:30-5 pm;  HS Divisional Tennis; HS Divisional Track & Field	<b>16</b> Bryant Kinder Jumpstart  HMS/CRA Orchestra Concert 6 pm  HS Divisional Tennis; HS Divisional Track & Field	<b>17</b> High School Divisional Tennis; HS Divisional Track & F  CEN Kindergarten Round-Up  HAW Kindergarten Jump Start 3:30-5 pm	<b>18</b> JD Art Show  CRA 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Choir Festival 1:30 pm  HS Divisional Tennis Boz; HS Div Track & Field Hel  Spring Theater Production	<b>19</b> Ironhorse Youth Orchestra and Chorus Helena Tour  HS Divisional Tennis Bozeman; HS Div Track & Field Helena  Spring Theater Production	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>22 Early Dismissal</b>  HHS Spring Band Concert HMS Auditorium 7 pm	<b>23</b> WAR Kindergarten Round Up  HHS Spring Choir Concert HMS 7 pm	<b>24</b>  RBLC End of Year BBQ	<b>25</b> HMS Band Concert 6 pm  State Tennis Kalispell; State Softball, Helena; State Track & Field, Boze	<b>26</b> State Tennis Kalis  State Softball, Helena  State Track & Field, Bozeman	<b>27</b> State Tennis Kal; State Softball, Helena; State Track & Field, Boze
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Memorial Day: No school	<b>30</b> HHS & CHS Spring Orchestra Concert, CHS Auditorium; Senior Finals; CEN & Broadwater BBQs	<b>31</b>  Senior Finals			

# JUNE 2023

## Broadwater Elementary



**The Outdoor Habitat at Broadwater Elementary is a place to study nature, enjoy class outdoors, and gather for the occasional pizza party. "It's calming and soothing," said Principal Kellie Boedecker. "It's just a really relaxing environment."**



The Outdoor Habitat at Broadwater Elementary unites learning and nature. Tucked in an interior courtyard, the outdoor retreat teams with life — chirping birds, butterflies, bat houses, and a gurgling stream. Coy fish rest in the cool shadows of a quiet pond.

Established in 2002 through a grant from the Helena Education Foundation, the habitat is tended by students. The kids hauled out 18 bags of dead leaves and foliage last spring to prepare for a new growing season, said Principal Kellie Boedecker.

"It serves as a great natural classroom for our kids," said Boedecker. "We have botany lessons here and our kids take care of it so it gives them a sense of responsibility and taking care of nature."

### Did you know?


Helena Public Schools campuses are home to a significant portion of Helena's green spaces. The district works with community partners to maintain these community resources for all to enjoy. In April 2022, the district partnered with "Growing Friends of Helena," a nonprofit community group, to plant 16 new shade trees along public walkways at Capital and Helena high schools. The new trees create welcoming spaces, reduce runoff, and help counter the "heat island" effect of parking lots.



MAY						
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# June 2023

JULY						
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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 <b>KESS BBQ Smith Family Event</b>  <b>HMS Day Choir Concert</b>  <b>CRA 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Pop Music 1:45 pm</b>  <b>CRA All Bands Concert at Civic Center</b>  <b>Senior Finals</b>	2 <b>Field Days: WAR, JD &amp; 4Gs</b>  <b>HAW BBQ</b>	3 <b>High School Graduation</b>
4	5 <b>Early Dismissal</b> <b>Elementary 2:30 pm</b> <b>Middle School 2:15 pm</b> <b>High School 2:30 pm</b>  <b>Bryant &amp; Jeff BBQ &amp; Field Daya</b>  <b>CEN Field Day</b>	6 <b>Field Days:</b> <b>HAW, BRY &amp; SMI</b>  <b>WAR BBQ</b>  <b>JD PTO 6:30 pm</b>  <b>High School semester testing (undergraduates)</b>	7 <b>ROSS BBQ &amp; Field Day</b>  <b>Broadwater-Field Day</b>  <b>High School semester testing (undergraduates)</b>	8 <b>Last Day of School (12 pm Dismissal for grades K-8)</b>  <b>KESS Field Day</b>  <b>High School semester testing (undergraduates)</b>  <b>Last Day K-8 Staff</b>	9 <b>High School Staff In-Service Records Day</b>  <b>Smith Kindergarten Jumpstart</b>	10 <b>Last Day for 9-12 Staff</b>
11	12	13 <b>Board of Trustees, 5:30 pm, Lincoln Center</b>	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
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# JULY 2023

## Kessler Elementary



**The Schatz award recognizes students who have improved the most in reading and math and comes with a \$50 savings bond.**

### Did you know?

HPS elementary students participate in small, staff-guided learning groups focused on math or reading concepts. Working alongside peers with similar needs, students are able to focus on areas where they need extra support or, conversely, would benefit from enrichment activities. These "What I Need," or WIN groups, match students with the learning they need, when they need it.



***The District Office will be closed in observance of Independence Day.***



**Frank Schatz**

Kessler Elementary School reflects the long tradition of community giving and support that make our Montana public schools among the nation's best. The school is named for brewer and brick manufacturer Nickolas Kessler, who funded construction of its first wooden structure near Spring Meadow Lake, followed by its first brick building in 1886. Kessler later donated the land where the present-day school stands.

His generosity was echoed by farmer and rancher Frank Schatz, who served 36 years as chairman of the Kessler School Board, beginning in the 1940s. Schatz established a trust fund to provide an award to two fifth-grade students each year. Students chosen to receive the \$50 savings bonds are not those with the highest grades, but rather, those who have shown the most improvement in the fundamentals of reading and math.

"Frank Schatz felt that if the students knew the basic fundamentals, they could go as far as they wanted to go in life," said former Principal Lisa Lowney, who retired last spring and has helped present the award for more than 30 years. "It's part of our school culture the same today as it was years ago."



# HELPING CHILDREN IN THE HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT SINCE 1989!



Central Elementary

## THE ANGEL FUND

*Together, we are changing the world one child at a time.*



### Stuff the Bus!

The Angel Fund's 16th annual school supply drive will again provide supplies to schools in bulk. If you need supplies, please call your child's school the week before school starts.

For more information or to donate online go to: [www.angelfundhelena.org](http://www.angelfundhelena.org)



### Running for Montana's Future

Helena Police Department and Angel Fund partner to promote healthy physical activity by providing athletic shoes for Helena public school students.

**Almost 900 pairs of shoes purchased since 2010!**

### Pay it forward ...

*A quote from a Principal:*

*"Thank you so much for your generous and kind gift for our students. I remember last year, an extremely at-risk student was having a terrible day. I asked what happened, and he said his backpack was broken. Being able to take him to his counselor and get a new backpack was one of my favorite moments of the year. Thank you for allowing moments like that to happen. Your support is greatly appreciated."*

*Sincerely,  
Broadwater ES Principal*

## Our Mission

The Angel Fund is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) Corporation helping Helena School District children with school items including clothing, shoes, school supplies, backpacks, classroom materials, field trip fees and other required items to be successful in the classroom. The Angel Fund also awards Montana post-secondary scholarships to qualified graduates at Access to Success, CHS, HHS, and PAL based on financial need, academic success and a commitment to give back to their community.

## History

- **1989** The Angel Fund began helping students at Helena Middle School

- **1998** The Fund went District-wide to help ALL children needing assistance in Helena's 18 schools.
- **2021-2022** School year helped almost 900 students in the Helena School District and awarded 35 graduates a \$1,000 - \$2,000 scholarship to help with college expenses fall 2021 at a Montana College/ University.
- The Angel Fund has 40 Angel Coordinators and volunteers that help students in their school.

## How to Apply

If your student needs school clothes or other required items, please contact your child's **Helena School**

**District Angel Coordinator** for an application. Applications will be available **Monday, October 3, 2022**. Students who qualify for free/reduced lunch also qualify for Angel Fund assistance.

## How to Donate

Your contribution allows The Angel Fund to continue helping children in the Helena School District. "Pay it Forward" instills community and kindness; one day your generosity will be passed on. For more information or to make a donation, please contact Janet Riis at (406) 459-1889 or P.O. Box 7436, Helena, MT 59604. Donations are also accepted online at:

[www.angelfundhelena.org](http://www.angelfundhelena.org)

# College & Career Ready

## Courses put middle and high school students on career path

When Helena High Class of '22 graduate Byren Stoner signed up for welding courses his freshman year, he looked forward to a fun class.

Now he's looking forward to a fulfilling career.

As businesses compete for a limited pool of skilled workers to replace retiring, longtime employees, high school graduates like Stoner – those skilled in areas such as welding, drafting, auto mechanics, culinary work, and coding and programming – are in high demand. Helena Public Schools is preparing students to seize these opportunities through its robust Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs.

"If you're looking for a job in high school, CTE is the place to be," said Stoner, whose welding teacher at Helena High helped him land a part-time job with a local contractor, South Hills Electric. While Stoner has enjoyed honing his welding skills at South Hills over the past two years, the job opened new doors as he fell in love with electrical work. This fall, Stoner will begin the associate's degree program in electrical technology at MSU-Northern in Havre. He'll continue to work in the electrical field as he studies through the university's partnership with the State of Montana apprenticeship program.

"Now I've found my career and I'm really grateful for that," said Stoner, who is a Helena High School Class of 2022 valedictorian. CTE courses are "a really good way to get exposed to what's out there."

### Courses tailored to employers' needs

Cindy Galbavy, Stoner's welding teacher at HHS, said she's seen a steady uptick over the past seven years of businesses interested in training and recruitment at the high school level. "More and more of them are knocking on our doors," Galbavy said.

She encourages businesses who are interested in working with the high schools to serve on a school CTE advisory board. Required as a condition of the district's federal funding for CTE training, the boards include business representatives who help align curriculum with the needs of local employers.

*cont. on page 31*



**Class of '22 HHS grad Byren Stoner will work as a paid apprentice while attending MSU Northern to earn his associate's degree in electrical technology.**

### Did you know?

There are multiple ways for high school students to get a jump start on college and career:

- **Dual Enrollment:** The Montana University System's Dual Enrollment program allows high school students to earn college credit for free.
- **Certifications:** High school students enrolled in CTE courses can graduate with certificates in fork-lift operation, welding, OSHA 10 safety requirements and more, making them competitive for good-paying jobs right out of the gate.
- **Clubs:** CTE-focused school clubs or "Career and Technical Student Organizations" such as BPA (Business Professionals of America), SkillsUSA, and DECA (focused on emerging business leaders and entrepreneurs) also prepare students to compete in the job market.



# Career and College exploration begin early

*cont. from page 30*

Students are often placed in jobs or internships with businesses that participate on the boards.

Administered by the Montana Office of Public Instruction, the federal Perkins IV program for career and technical education requires that all CTE coursework be tied to specific and demonstrated career pathways. “We have to prove all along that we’re getting our students college-and career-ready,” said Joan Leik, Culinary Arts Teacher at Helena High. Leik’s students work as interns with a variety of local businesses, including Chili O’Brien’s Catering and food services at Touchmark Senior Living.

Educating students and parents about CTE career pathways, and the potential for good-paying jobs, is critical, Leik said. “Over the years I’ve had students say, ‘I’d really like to be in culinary as a career, but my parents won’t let me,’ said Leik. “It’s a perception that it’s a low-paying career, but in reality, chefs in Montana make \$50,000 a year and more.”

## Opportunities begin in middle school

Middle school students begin exploring career pathways in the classroom through STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) activities and curriculum that explain how concepts and skills apply to various career fields. Middle school students also have the opportunity to take technical courses in areas such as computer coding, computer animation, web design and workplace computer applications such as Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. Industrial Technology courses covering safety and skills such as drafting and hand tool use prepare middle school students for more advanced work.

In high school, students who take CTE courses can graduate with certificates in areas including forklift training, welding and OSHA 10 safety requirements that make graduates competitive for good paying jobs right out of the gate.

Career and Technical Student Organizations such as BPA (Business Professionals of America), SkillsUSA, and DECA (focused on emerging business leaders and entrepreneurs) also prepare students to compete in the job market, said Galbavy. “Employers will see that club on their resume and they’ll hire that kid over someone who doesn’t have it.”

Helena’s BPA clubs earned high placements at the organization’s National Leadership Conference in Dallas, Texas, this spring. The Capital High Presentation Management Team took 8th place nationwide, while Helena High had two individual medalists:

Foster Smith took 5th place nationwide in Java programming and Kaden Price took 10th place in C# programming.

## Perks for top talent

Paid college tuition, health benefits, and on-the-job training and certifications are among the perks employers are offering to recruit top high school talent.

*cont. on page 32*

*“Now I’ve found my career and I’m really grateful for that,” said Stoner, an HHS Class of 2022 valedictorian. CTE courses are “a really good way to get exposed to what’s out there.”*



**Students at Helena Middle School take a computer coding writing class.**

# Career and College exploration begin early

cont. from page 31

The Boeing Company, which has an aviation component manufacturing plant in Helena, is leading the way with an innovative new internship program in partnership with Capital High School.

Beginning this summer, two students of CHS Machining and Welding Teacher Jim Weber are participating in three-month, paid internships at the company's Helena plant. While Boeing has worked with schools elsewhere to provide internships and aerospace curriculum, the partnership with Capital High is the company's first paid manufacturing internship for high school students in the state of Montana. The interns may transition to full-time, hired positions on a case-by-case basis. Boeing will cover the full cost of college tuition for those who are hired.

*"The opportunity for these students, it's hard to even describe how many jobs there are and how many good careers are available out there right now. There's more than any time in my life," said Weber. "If you take someone who is skilled and has a strong work ethic, they can pretty much write their ticket."*

"We have a lot of folks who will be exiting the workforce in manufacturing and in advanced manufacturing as it continues to evolve," said John Turner, Senior HR Manager with Boeing Commercial Airplanes' Fabrication sites in Salt Lake City and Helena. "These programs are vital to the success of our future workforce."

## Career opportunities abound

Weber worked with Boeing to help the company understand how the school's curriculum for CNC machining – CNC stands for computerized numerical control, meaning the computerized manufacturing process – translates to Boeing's entry-level requirements. "We were so surprised at the level of curriculum the students were doing and their ability to communicate the skill sets they've learned and the processes they're following," Turner said.

While the Boeing internship is new, Weber has long placed students in internships with manufacturers in Kalispell, Columbia Falls, Great Falls, and Bozeman. Those opportunities often turn into jobs or apprenticeships that allow students to

work while pursuing degrees at Helena College, Great Falls College MSU, or Flathead Valley Community College. Some choose to continue their studies at MSU Bozeman, Montana Tech, or a school out of state.

Weber, who has taught for 31 years, says he loves his profession more than ever, even as he works harder to stay abreast of technology that's evolving at an ever-faster pace.

"The opportunity for these students, it's hard to even describe how many jobs there are and how many good careers are available out there right now. There's more than any time in my life," said Weber. "If you take someone who is skilled and has a strong work ethic, they can pretty much write their ticket."



**CHS machining and welding student Mariah Olson is doing a paid internship this summer at Boeing's Helena-based aviation manufacturing plant.**



# ***Congratulations to our Helena Public Schools 2022 Team State Champs!***

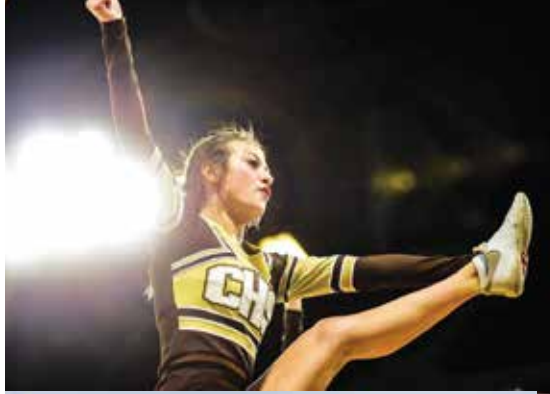
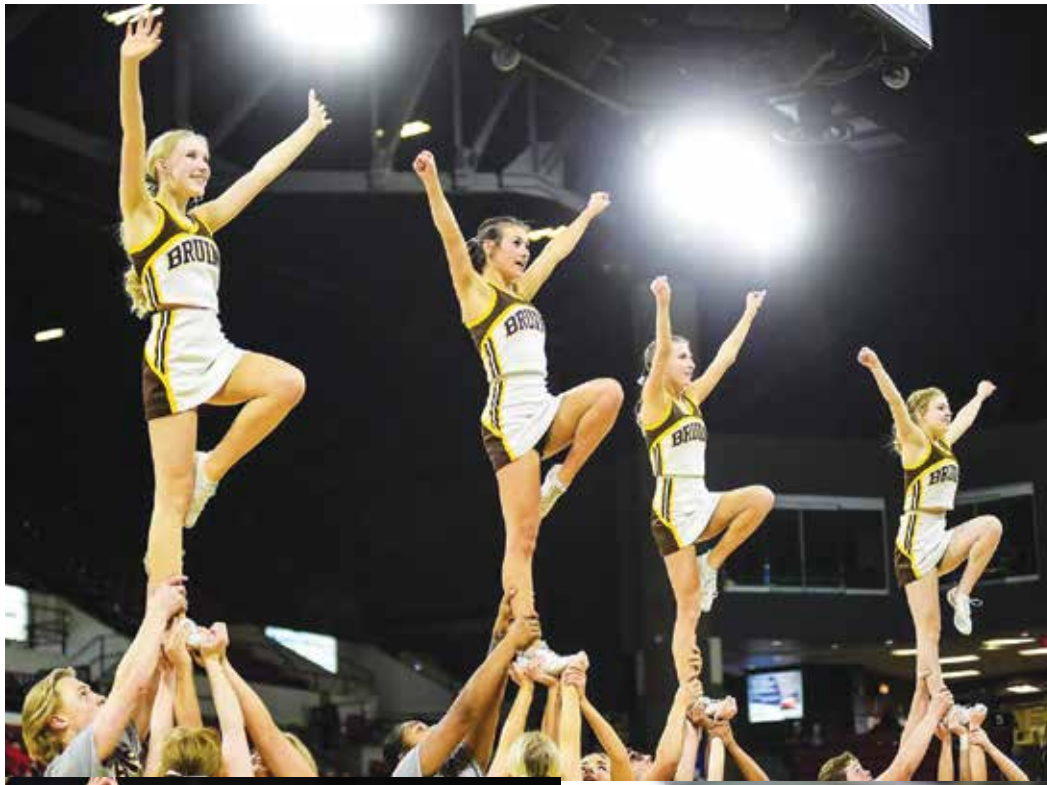
## **Helena High Girls Track & Capital High Boys Basketball**

Helena Public Schools athletes returned to a full sports schedule in 2021-22 and took high school state athletics by storm, winning multiple team and individual championships. We wish our student athletes another banner year in 2022-23.

***WE'RE PROUD OF YOU!***









# Helena Public Schools

Lincoln Center  
1325 Poplar St.  
Helena, MT 59601  
<http://www.helenaschools.org>

General Information.....	324-2000
Superintendent .....	Rex Weltz..... 324-2001
Assistant Superintendent 6-12 .....	Josh McKay..... 324-2004
Assistant Superintendent PK-5.....	Brian Cummings ..... 324-2004
Chief of Staff.....	Barbara Ridgway ..... 324-2006
Human Resources Director .....	TBD ..... 324-2010
Business Services Director.....	Janelle Mickelson ..... 324-2007
Curriculum & Instruction Director .....	Joslyn Davidson ..... 324-2002
Federal Programs/Data & Assessment .....	Kaitlyn Hess ..... 324-2002
Substitute Teacher Office .....	Deanna Tolman..... 324-2011
Health Benefits Manager.....	Rich Franco ..... 324-2008
Payroll System Coordinator .....	Angie Ford..... 324-2009
Special Education Director .....	Sean Maharg ..... 324-2005
Aesop Substitute System.....	800-942-3767

## Front Street Learning Center – 815 Front St.

Activities Services Administrator.....	Tim McMahon ..... 324-2107
Traffic Education Administrator.....	Tim McMahon ..... 324-2107

## Transportation Services

Bus Services .....	Tom Cohn ..... 324-2100
Bus Delay Line.....	324-2057

## Other Services

Adult Learning Center/Access to Success.....	Josh McKay ..... 447-6937
Facilities Manager .....	Rob Brewer ..... 324-1702
Copy Center/Warehouse .....	Virginia Thom ..... 324-2943
Director of Support Services .....	Todd Verrill ..... 324-1720
Food Services Director .....	Robert Worthy..... 324-2512
Helena Education Foundation .....	Lisa Cordingley..... 443-2545
Technology Support .....	324-2114
School Age Child Care (SACC) .....	Kristen Roush..... 324-1260
Educational Technology Director .....	Gary Myers ..... 324-2114

# Schools/Principals

<b>Capital High School</b> .....	100 Valley Dr. ....	Attendance: 324-2499
Principal.....	Brett Zanto.....	324-2500
Assistant Principal.....	Mick Morris .....	324-2500
Assistant Principal.....	Kathy Kidder .....	324-2500
<b>Helena High School</b> .....	300 Billings Ave. ....	Attendance: 324-2211
Principal.....	Steve Thennis.....	324-2200
Assistant Principal.....	Willie Schlepp .....	324-2200
Assistant Principal.....	Julie TeNyenhuis .....	324-2200
<b>Project for Alternative Learning</b> .....	815 Front St.....	Attendance: 324-1630
Principal.....	Matt Carey .....	324-1630
eNET .....		324-1646
<b>C.R. Anderson Middle School</b> .....	1200 Knight St. ....	Attendance: 324-2802
Principal.....	Kathleen Prody .....	324-2800
Assistant Principal.....	Sol Jones.....	324-2800
Assistant Principal.....	Eric Peterson .....	324-2800
<b>Helena Middle School</b> .....	1025 N. Rodney ....	Attendance: 324-1008
Principal.....	Cal Boyle .....	324-1000
Assistant Principal.....	Dawn Rowling .....	324-1000
<b>Broadwater Elementary School</b> .....	900 Hollins Ave.	
Principal.....	Kellie Boedecker .....	324-1130
<b>Bryant Elementary School</b> .....	1529 Livingston Ave.	
Principal.....	Trish Klock.....	324-1200
<b>Central Elementary School</b> .....	402 N. Warren	
Principal.....	Nick Radley .....	324-1230
<b>Four Georgians Elementary School</b> .....	555 Custer Ave.	
Principal.....	Sean Morrison.....	324-1300
<b>Hawthorne Elementary School</b> .....	430 Madison	
Principal.....	Justine Alberts.....	324-1370
<b>Jefferson Elementary School</b> .....	1023 Broadway	
Principal.....	Lona Carter .....	324-2060
<b>Jim Darcy Elementary School</b> .....	990 Lincoln Rd. W.	
Principal.....	Jill Nyman .....	324-1410
<b>Kessler Elementary School</b> .....	900 Hollins Ave.	
Principal.....	Riley Thatcher .....	324-1700
<b>Ray Bjork Learning Center</b> .....	1600 8th Ave.	
Principal.....	Erin Maxwell.....	324-1130
<b>Rossiter Elementary School</b> .....	1497 Sierra Rd. W.	
Principal.....	Dr. Wynn Randall .....	324-1500
<b>Smith Elementary School</b> .....	2320 5th Ave.	
Principal.....	Sarah Simpson .....	324-1530
<b>Warren Elementary School</b> .....	2690 York Rd.	
Principal.....	Tia Wilkins.....	324-1600

A young Boy Scout in a tan uniform and red vest is shown in profile, carrying an American flag on his back. The vest is adorned with several patches, including an American flag, a 'WEBelos' patch, a 'SCOUTING FOOD' patch, and a 'MONTANA COUNCIL' patch. He is also wearing a green cap with a red and blue striped band.

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