Dear Parents and Families,

Greetings to you and your families. This update pertains to a number of ongoing matters including finalized grading plans for this quarter.

Grading:
Attached, you will find a document that outlines our grading practices for this fourth and final quarter of this school year. Across the last two months, we have worked to craft a plan that, as needed, provides both consistency and flexibility. You will note changes at each level including grade format options for our middle and high school students. Please read through this information carefully including the Frequently Asked Question section toward the end of the document.

Graduation:
We continue to plan for our Graduation Ceremonies for our Class of 2020. At this time, these plans center on in-person graduation ceremonies that can flex in accordance with local and state guidance and needed health related precautions. As we work to finalize plans, we will continue to work with our partners including Lewis & Clark Public Health and Carroll College. Additional specifics included tentative ceremony dates and times will be communicated next week.

Ongoing Food Services:
Remote food services through Sodexo will continue beyond this scheduled 2019/2020 school year through June 30th. These ongoing services will include seven-days of meals (breakfast and lunch), distributed every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. As of July 1st, we will shift to our normal, summer services continuing through the months of July and August. Additional information pertaining to summer food services will be communicated in the coming weeks. For now, please know that the current services and schedule will continue through June 30th.

Year-End Procedures:
As Montana continues to reopen, we are being mindful of options associated with year-end procedures. In the coming weeks, you will receive information pertaining to the return of materials including library books, textbooks, and technology. Additionally, we are working through options to recollect any personal belongings that remain on campus. As always, we will carefully follow safety protocols to ensure that families are able to return/retrieve items in a manner that minimizes risk.

This week, we celebrate our amazing educators as part of Teacher Appreciation Week. While we are fortunate to have exceptional teachers here in Helena, we are also grateful for your ongoing efforts and support. It is said that a child's parent/guardian is their first teacher and that this role is one of lifelong responsibility. This spring, the many hats we wear as parents and family members have taken on roles that even months ago, were beyond our imagination. The spring of 2020 has reshaped much of what we do each day. Yet, this crisis has also reconfirmed the importance of what really matters in our daily lives. On behalf of everyone in the Helena Public Schools, thank you for all that you continue to do for your family and for our community.

Please take care, stay safe and stay connected.

Best,

Tyler Ream
Superintendent, Helena Public Schools