



December 3, 2021

Dear Helena Public Schools Families and Staff,

I hope you enjoyed a restful and delicious Thanksgiving, whether your family pulled your chairs up to the same table or connected online.

My family gathered online to adore our newest grandchild. Wyatt was born November 9th in Germany, where my oldest son lives with his wife after serving there in the U.S. Air Force. While Wyatt's arrival is my family's greatest joy this holiday season, we always look forward to this time of year and the opportunities it brings to help others.

Giving trees, toy collections, food drives, and clothing drives abound in Helena. And, if you are looking to give, I also encourage you to check out the [Angel Fund](#), which was founded more than 30 years ago to support Helena Public School children with basic needs and scholarships. If your family needs support this holiday season, please don't hesitate to ask your school's principal or counselor to help you connect with the many organizations that can assist.

As we continue a gradual return to our pre-pandemic routines, we're bringing back a favorite tradition of the season, which is our winter school performances. A big thank our principals, teachers, and staff for their hard work to adapt these time-honored traditions to virtual formats. While we all hope we can return to in-person programs next year, we appreciate their behind-the-scenes efforts to bring us these cherished events online.

On the operational side, I would like to thank our Facilities and IT Departments for their work over the summer and fall to move our district administrative offices to the Lincoln Center (the former Lincoln School building) at 1325 Poplar, St. The move provides a more central location within the district, improves public accessibility, and centralizes operations by bringing our administrative offices together with our IT department on one campus.

On the topic of facilities, the Board of Trustees met this week to discuss steps needed to begin a district-wide facilities master planning process. Our former district headquarters, the May Butler Center at 55 S. Rodney St., will be part of this process, which will begin next year with assessments of the physical state and educational functionality of our existing buildings. Watch for updates and the opportunity to provide input as this work continues in 2022.

Moving our district forward academically and operationally remains the mission of the Board of Trustees and our office, even as we continue to manage the ever-changing demands of COVID. The needs of the present are bigger than ever. But we will keep our foot on the gas to build a bright future for our kids, our district, and our community.

I wish you a great weekend with your family!

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rex Wertz". The signature is stylized with a large, looping "R" and a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Rex Wertz  
Superintendent, Helena Public Schools