



February 25, 2022

Dear Helena Public Schools Families and Staff,

Spring was definitely not in the air this week as we dipped to double-digits below zero. But it is right around the corner. And that means it's time to register for the Fall 2022-2023 school year if you have incoming kindergartners or high schoolers in your household.

If you have a child who will be five years old on or before September 10, 2022 and have not yet signed them up for kindergarten, please do so as soon as possible. Registration instructions are available on our [website](#). Registering will ensure that you receive information on orientation activities prior to the first day of school. We look forward to welcoming your little one and supporting them every step of the way to graduation!

If you have an eighth-grader who will attend high school next year, you also received information on registration and orientation activities. Please be sure to make time with your student to review the information you received on Dual Enrollment courses through the Montana University System.

Dual Enrollment allows students to earn college credit – for free – while they are still in high school. I can't over-emphasize how important these opportunities are to give your child a head start on their college education and career. This holds true whether your student wants to pursue a four-year degree or earn a two-year degree or certificate in a Career and Technical Education (CTE) field such as welding or machining. In addition to saving on higher education time and costs, Dual Enrollment helps prepare students for academic success in college. See the links at the end of this letter for more information.

My other piece of advice to parents of incoming freshmen: Fasten your seatbelts! High school is a challenging, rewarding, and dizzying time of growth as teens chart their futures and discover their skills, talents, and passions. One of the most gratifying experiences as an educator is watching young people navigate this exciting, but challenging time and emerge as leaders, especially when they have faced adversity. Such is the case for Helena High School Senior Dakotah Hurley.

On Tuesday, Shodair Children's Hospital named Dakotah its 2022 Children's Miracle Network Champion. He joins Champions from each state representing 170 hospitals around the nation. Dakotah will travel to communities across Montana to share his story and raise awareness around adolescent mental health treatment. Congratulations, Dakotah!

And please help me give a big round of applause to our Helena Middle School super spellers, who swept the Lewis and Clark County Spelling Bee this week. Timothy Cline took first place in the online

competition, followed by Kumari Leland in second place and Oliver Grotzke in third. Timothy and Kumari will compete at the Montana State Spelling Bee in Bozeman March 12 and Oliver will join them as an alternate. Way to go Timothy, Kumari, and Oliver!

You can find more information about Dakotah, our super spellers, and other students making news on our social media channels: Facebook - @HelenaSchoolDistrict; Instagram - @HelenaPublicSchools; and Twitter - @SchoolsHelena. Student and staff recognition and district news can also be found on our website at www.helenaschools.org

I wish you a wonderful weekend and hope you're able to get outside to enjoy some sunshine!

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rex M. Weltz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Rex M. Weltz
Superintendent, Helena Public Schools

For more information on the Dual Enrollment visit:

[Capital High Dual Enrollment](#)

[Helena High Dual Enrollment](#)

[Montana University System](#)