



March 18, 2022

Dear Helena Public Schools Families and Staff,

At this time last Friday, we were contenders. Today, we are victors. Congratulations to the Capital High Bruins, who earned their third Boys AA State Title last weekend in Billings!

Saturday night's 62-48 win over Bozeman was a true team effort – testament to the skill of Coach Guy Almquist and his staff; a group of talented athletes; and some great team chemistry that showed on and off the court.

And it wasn't just the players who showed what our Bruins are made of last weekend. Our super fans were the picture of spectator sportsmanship, showing in force – a positive force – to cheer the Capital Boys to victory. I also want to again thank the young men and women of our dance and cheer teams for pumping up our team spirit!

The Bruins weren't the only Helena Public Schools rockstars to claim state titles in Billings last weekend.

The Helena High Business Professionals of America Chapter [won five Computer Science events and placed in 18 others](#) at the BPA State Leadership Conference in Billings, with nine members qualifying to compete in the BPA National Leadership Conference in May in Dallas, Texas.

Six of the Bengal's qualifiers made nationals in two or more events, which is rare. Under the leadership of Helena High Teachers Buffy Smith and Samantha Humphrey, the Chapter earned the Silver Star Chapter Award for Chapter Development.

Business Professionals of America is a career readiness organization that prepares students to serve as global professionals through the advancement of leadership, citizenship, academic, and technical skills. Indeed, we expect to see these students continue to do great things on the state, national, and world stage.

Meanwhile on Saturday, the [Capital High Science Bowl Team](#) claimed Second Place at the state tournament, (normally held in Billings, but virtual this year). Science Bowl is a Jeopardy-style competition in which students answer timed questions in the fields of chemistry, physics, math, earth sciences, space sciences, biology, and energy. Under Coach DeLacy Humbert, who teaches physics and earth science at CHS, the Bruins Science Bowl Team has earned the first- or-second place title at the state competition each of the past six years. Thank you Science Bowl Team and Coach Humbert for representing Helena!

Our student musicians also continue to show us the remarkable talent of our students. On Tuesday evening, 8th- and 9th-Grade Musicians from CR Anderson Middle School, Helena Middle School, Capital High, and Helena High shared the stage for the Combined Orchestra Concert. You can still catch the concert via [Microsoft Teams](#) (music begins at 0:15:10).

Meanwhile, CR Anderson Middle School students Vivian James and Tatum Campbell recorded public service announcements this week with the Montana Radio Company. Vivian and Tatum remind their peers to strengthen their friendships by keeping social media time in check. The girls wrote the messages for their 8th-grade English class as part of an assignment from teacher Corinna Krick. Listen for their voices on your favorite local station. It's a good message for us adults as well!

We certainly do have much to celebrate this spring, and another favorite event is right around the corner.

The 97th Helena Public Schools Vigilante Parade will return to its traditional format downtown this year on Friday, May 6. We are grateful to Capital High School Principal Brett Zanto for his leadership in organizing this beloved community tradition. We'll keep you posted as we get closer to parade day!

As the sun gets warmer and we enter our last week before Spring Break, I'm reminded that we have much to look forward to and much to be grateful for.

I want to close this week's update with a nod to Hawthorne Elementary 5th-grader Tabitha Lynch, who also reminds us to be kind.

Tabitha just won \$250 from the [Hershey's Heartwarming Project Action Grant](#) to launch a Kindness project at her school. We'll share details as Tabitha launches her project. In the meantime, congratulations, Tabitha, and thank you for reminding us of what really matters.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rex M. Wertz". The signature is stylized with a large, looping "W" and a distinct "Z" at the end.

Rex M. Wertz
Superintendent, Helena Public Schools