



March 25, 2022

Dear Helena Public Schools Families,

It's officially spring and we have a gorgeous weekend ahead to prove it.

Our tennis, track, and softball athletes will get plenty of sunshine as they train for their first spring sports competitions, which start next week on a normal schedule. I hope you can attend an event to cheer them on!

Meanwhile, our outstanding Bengals and Bruins continue to claim top spots in the academic arena.

I am honored to share that [Helena High Seniors Lucy Lantz and Erik Callery have been named National Merit Finalists](#). Lucy and Erik, who were recognized as semi-finalists last fall, are now eligible to compete for prestigious National Merit Scholarships to be announced later this spring. Representing less than 1 percent of U.S. high school seniors, National Merit Finalists are selected on the basis of their skills, accomplishments, and potential for success in rigorous college studies. Thank you, Lucy and Erik, for representing Helena in this esteemed group of scholars!

And congratulations to Mckenzy Heppner, of Capital High, who placed first in the Business Law & Ethics competition at the state Business Professionals of America Leadership Conference in Billings. The Bruins BPA Chapter placed in multiple events alongside the Bengal's BPA team, whose results I shared last week. [Five of the Bruin's competitors qualified to travel to Dallas, Texas, in May](#) for the BPA National Leadership Conference, where they will join nine qualifiers from Helena High. Both CHS and HHS earned Silver Star Awards for outstanding implementation of the mission and strategies of BPA. We're so proud of these future business leaders, who are getting a head start on college and career in areas such as business law and ethics, computer programming, digital communication, and banking and finance.

I love sharing these inspiring student accomplishments and feeling the energy in our hallways as we bring home spring trophies and titles. And there's much more to look forward to between now and the last day of school. As I mentioned last week, we continue planning for the Vigilante Parade, which includes coordination of parking and traffic control. We'll keep you updated on the details, but it's never too early to remind everyone to plan ahead for street closures and limited parking downtown during the parade on Friday, May 6. Watch for more details to come soon.

Speaking of planning, the [2022-23 District Calendar](#) is now available on our website, with holiday and student dismissal dates, academic milestones, and more to help you and your family start charting our next school year. It's an exciting time as we sprint to the finish line of this school year and look ahead to 2022-23.

But in the week ahead, I hope you can find time to simply relax, unplug, and make memories with family and friends.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rex M. Weltz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Rex" and middle initial "M." written in a smaller, more compact style than the last name "Weltz".

Rex M. Weltz
Superintendent, Helena Public Schools