



April 22, 2022

Dear Helena Public Schools Families,

What a great week this has been, topped off by a victory ride through town yesterday afternoon for our Capital High Boys Basketball AA State Champs. Thank you to the City of Helena Fire Department for giving our community the chance to cheer. GO BRU!

The honks and waves were the perfect ending to a week that saw accolades for our high school students roll in fast and furious. Before sharing these exciting achievements, I want to give a couple quick reminders and announcements:

- [Helena College will host its Dual Enrollment Night on May 2, from 6:30-7:30 p.m.](#) The Montana University System's Dual Enrollment allows high school students to earn college credit – for free – while still in high school. In addition to cost savings, high school students get a taste of college-level academics and can complete a two- or four-year degree faster by getting pre-requisites out of the way. I strongly encourage you to attend if you have an eighth-grader or a high school student.
- **The deadline to apply to serve as a Student Representative to the Helena Public Schools Board of Trustees is coming up on Friday, May 6, at 4 p.m.** This is an excellent opportunity to learn the working of government and administration first-hand, while representing your student body. Students who will be high school juniors or seniors for the 2022-23 school year are eligible. Please see your school principal or counselor for details.
- In last week's letter I noted the excellent work of our HPS Transportation Department, especially when winter weather creates hazardous road conditions. Meanwhile, the transportation team was recognized this month at the national level. Director Tom Cohn and his staff were featured in two national trade magazines for best practices in communication and succession management. Please join me in congratulating Tom and team. The articles can be found here:

[School Bus Fleet](#)
[School Transportation News](#)

- And last, but certainly not least, I want to congratulate Capital High Assistant Principal Walt Chancy on earning the Special Education Lifetime Achievement Award from the Montana Council for Exceptional Children. Walt is retiring at the end of the school year after 46 years with the district as both a teacher and an administrator. One could write volumes about Mr. Chancy's remarkable career, but I encourage you to [watch this video from MCEC](#), which pretty much says it all. Mr. Chancy, you are an inspiration.

As I noted above, it's been a week to celebrate, with the accolades and awards shared below representing student success across many disciplines. Some of the proud recipients have excelled throughout their school careers. Others have overcome steep obstacles to accept hard-won rewards.

But behind each of these student achievers is a common thread. Each was supported by a team of adults whose love – given through teaching, coaching, comforting, applying gentle pressure, picking up, dropping off, feeding, refeeding, organizing, advocating, inspiring, advising, and so much more – has brought out their best.

That is the essence of our district's mission – to work together as educators, parents, and community partners to prepare our children to succeed in the world beyond high school. And while each of the students honored here stands out in their area of expertise, they reflect the excellence of their teachers, programs, and peers.

As we celebrate the achievements below, I would like to congratulate our students and thank all who made them possible.

Have a wonderful weekend,

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

Rex Weltz
Superintendent, Helena Public Schools

CHS Team Wins First Place in Montana Personal Finance Challenge Statewide Competition

Congratulations to Capital High, which placed first in the [Montana Personal Finance Challenge](#) state competition! Paul Mousel, Ethan Hull, and Evan Coble made up the Bruins team. Sponsored by the Montana Council for Economic Education, the competition drew more than 380 students from across Montana. The mission is to empower students to take ownership of their financial futures, as personal finance brings personal success. And thank you to Coach Guy Almquist and Teacher Mat Reyant for making this opportunity possible!

HHS students take firsts at Montana SkillsUSA Competition

Congratulations to HHS First Place finishers at the Montana SkillsUSA Competition. Tithen FitzGerald placed first in the Intermediate Drafting and Job Skill Demo categories and Maddox Schuller placed first in Small Engines. Both are eligible to compete at the [SkillsUSA National Leadership Conference](#) in Atlanta, Georgia, in June. We appreciate our Career and Technical Education teacher teams at HHS and

CHS, who prepare our students for fulfilling careers. [Find other top Montana Skills finishers on the Student and Educator Recognitions page.](#)

CHS students medal at HOSA State Leadership Conference

Helena Public School's Career and Technical Education Programs (CTE) include pathways to good-paying and rewarding careers in healthcare. A total of 20 CHS students medaled at the recent HOSA Future Health Professionals State Leadership Conference, with some placing among the top three in multiple categories.

The conference consisted of competitive events, workshops/symposia, and networking with students from across Montana. Pharmacology, Medical Math, Family Medicine and Surgery Tech are just a few of the categories in which CHS students placed. Way to go Capital High HOSA competitors!

HOSA Gold Medalists: RaeAnnLowen, Behavioral Health; Karter Arensmeyer- Gold (Pharmacy Science), Silver (Pharmacology); Ella Simpson- Gold (Surgery Tech), Silver (Behavioral Health)

See a full list of HOSA medalists on the [Student and Educator Recognitions Page.](#)

HPS teams earn high marks at Science Olympiad

HPS competitors placed first in multiple categories at the Montana Science Olympiad at MSU-Bozeman earlier this month. Congratulations to all who represented Helena in this rigorous event!

CHS and CR Anderson Middle School both took second place overall for their age groups. HHS took fourth place and Helena Middle School took eighth overall. Props also are in order for Coaches DeLacy Humbert (CHS), Claire Pichette (HHS), Sara Grotbo (HMS), Megan Lane (CRA), and Leslie Hagengruber (CRA), as well as Mr. Driggers (HHS math) and both high school science departments for making this growth opportunity possible for students.

Find Science Olympiad Results on the [Student and Educator Recognitions Page.](#)

Helena students earn prestigious MUS Honor Scholarships

One of our state's most prestigious academic awards, the Montana University System Honor Scholarship provides a four-year tuition waiver at any of our state university system campuses. The scholarships are awarded through a ranking system based on GPAs and ACT or SAT scores. Congratulations and thank you to each of our MUS Honor Scholarship recipients for your dedication to academic excellence! Visit the [Student and Educator Recognitions Page](#) for a list of recipients.

Helena High School students earn MUS STEM/Healthcare Scholarships

The Montana University System STEM/Healthcare Scholarships provide \$6,000 over 4 years to students pursuing careers in healthcare. Congratulations to our HPS scholarship recipients from Capital and Helena high schools, who are striving to serve our communities in the healthcare sector! Visit the [Student and Educator Recognitions Page](#) for a list of recipients.

Helena High School inducts 2022-23 National Honor Society members

Helena High School inducted 56 exemplary students into its [National Honor Society](#) (NHS) April 21 at a ceremony in the Helena Middle School Auditorium. NHS students are invited to apply for NHS in the

spring of their junior year based on their cumulative GPA. Students who apply and are accepted spend their senior year participating in community service projects and other activities. Congratulations our NHS inductees! Your commitment to grow as individuals and serve our community is commendable. Visit the [Student and Educator Recognitions Page](#) to see the list of inductees.

Watch for news of Capital High's NHS inductees following their ceremony May 3, at 6 p.m., in the CHS auditorium.