



May 6, 2022

Dear Helena Public Schools Families and Staff,

Happy Vigilante Day! I hope you were able to get downtown to catch the parade or watch the KTVH livestream. Our volunteer judges had some tough choices to make this afternoon!

We Helenans can be proud to have one of the nation's oldest community parades – one that gets our young people excited about our unique local history. Generations of HHS and CHS grads lined the parade route to cheer and reminisce about parade days past.

Anyone who has been involved knows the tremendous amount of work that happens on and off our campuses before the sirens announce the first float. Every high school staff member at HHS and CHS had a parade assignment. And I'm sure there are plenty of parents out there who burned the midnight oil helping prepare floats for prime time. Thanks also to the local businesses and community sponsors who have pitched in to help our community come together to celebrate.

Leading it all was CHS Principal Brett Zanto and his team, who deserve big props for keeping this beloved community tradition alive.

And a big thank you to volunteer parade judges Kirby Lambert, Jon Axline, and Melissa Munson.

Today is also the final day of Teacher Appreciation Week, and I would like to recognize our Parent Teacher Organizations that pulled out all the stops! From classroom dance parties to "Tootles" thank you-note campaigns to delicious treats, our teachers felt the love. Thank you to our teachers and parents for the remarkable work you do together to make our classrooms places where students thrive.

There is still much to look forward to as we start the last full month of the school year.

Today and tomorrow, some of Montana's most talented young musicians are gathered in Helena for the western division of the MHS State Solo and Ensemble Music Festival at Helena High and Helena Middle School. HPS is privileged to host the first State Music Festival in three years! All performances are free and open to the public: [Friday Schedule](#), [Saturday Schedule](#).

On May 17, we will welcome two new faces to the Helena Public Schools Board of Trustees. Newly elected Trustees Kay Satre and Lois Fitzpatrick, along with incumbent Siobhan Hathhorn, will be *sworn in* at a special Board meeting that evening.

Serving as a school board trustee is no small commitment. Our trustees are true community servants, giving their time for many hours of meetings, events, and study at home. As the name implies, they are trusted stewards of one of our community's most precious resources. Please join us in supporting Kay, Lois, and Siobhan as they take on, or recommit to, this important civic responsibility.

We'll also say farewell on the 17th to Trustees Libby Goldes and John McEwen. We are tremendously grateful to Libby and John for their dedicated service to our school district and our community, during

which they have each served in multiple leadership roles. Libby served a total of 15 years as a trustee, including as chair of the Board and of various committees. We wish them both well in their future endeavors as leaders in our community.

We're also grateful to our Student Representatives to the Board, Eliza Lay, of Capital High, and Rylie Schoenfeld, of Helena High, for their leadership on behalf of their peers. Both Eliza and Rylie were engaged, thoughtful, and professional participants in Board discussions and we know they will continue to be leaders in their colleges and communities.

Finally, I would like to share some important changes to school lunches. Over the course of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the District's Food Services team served more than 2 million breakfasts and lunches to our community's children – free of charge – with funding from the US Department of Agriculture.

As we return to a normal school environment, that federal funding is ending. This means three things for our district families as we return to pre-pandemic meal policies:

- Beginning with the fall 2022-23 school year, students who are not qualified to receive Free and Reduced Lunch must pay the regular price for meals.
- **To qualify for the Free and Reduced Lunch Program next school year, families must fill out a 2022-23 Free and Reduced Lunch application** or be “direct certified” via participation in a federal program such as SNAP or as a foster family. [Please visit our Food Services page](#) on our website to find out if your family already qualifies or to apply.
- The [“Munchtana” food truck](#) will provide free meals in the parks again this summer, but with some changes. Children must be present to receive meals and food must be eaten on site (weekly take-home meals will no longer be provided.)

We want every one of our students to have the nutrition they need to learn and thrive at school. If you qualify and would like your child to participate in the Free and Reduced Lunch Program next year, please fill out an application form as soon as possible.

Finally, I am pleased to share the results of the 2022 Vigilante Parade! Congratulations to the winners and all who participated today. And thank you to our community for coming out to cheer on our Bengals and Bruins!

Have a wonderful weekend!

Respectfully,



Rex M. Weltz
Superintendent, Helena Public Schools

Vigilante Day Parade Award Winners 2022

This year's Vigilante Parade had 75 floats, with 35 percent of all Helena High and Capital High students participating in the parade. The senior class won the A.J. Roberts Cup with 52 percent.

Grand Champion

Last Chance Gulch During the Gold Rush: Erik Callery, Laurel Maronick, Isaac Nehring, Marisa Pargot, Eva Santos, Evan Stefaniak, Naomi Sweeney, Melony Campbell, Alyssa Kline, Neillea Warden

American Indian

1922 Montana State Fair Inter-Tribal Indian Relay Race: Ace Dolecheck, Deacon Eagleman, Chase (Chey) Harris, Clay Kroll, Trenton Salway

Historic Helena

1. **Helena's State Fair (1909-1915):** Malea Brancamp, Aricia Campillo, Caleb Dalton, Jordan Escamilla, JaeLynn Fishburn, Brisies Gauer, Phoenix Griego, Sean Herrera, Collin Hurlburt, Jacob Janacaro, Abby Simmons, Cindy Simmons, Jesse Taylor, Brooklynn White Pittman
2. **Last Chance Stampede (Began 1960):** Caitlyn Brown, Brynn Cotton, Jady Gilliam, Tristyn Gilliam, Lane Kosena, Keaton Normandy, Sam Petersen, Zach Pullin, Madeline Stroman, Alex Zimmerman
3. **Mann Gulch Fire (1949):** Taylor Parisot, Ian Rasmann, Sam Schiltz, Trey Schlepp, Dimitri Sebastian, Elliot Stimpson, Henry Sund

Pioneer Life

1. **Belmont Ski Club, Now Great Divide:** Ryal Evans, Trevin Kockler, Logan Kosena, Logan Lysager, Tanner Miller, Colin Richem Casey Terry
2. **Dorothy's Rooms (Brothel):** Keiran Boyle, Kenzie Grotbo, Aiden Kelly, RaeAnn Lowen, Carlin Onstad, Isabel Beasley

Helena Business

1. **KTVH TV – First Television Station in Helena:** Mike Bartsch, Alex Brisko, Logan Colberg, Jacob Curry, Tyler Cutler, Alexis Jacobs, McKenna Robertson, Tucker Zanto
2. **Imperial Lanes Bowling (1957):** Jack Anderson, Lance Baumgart, Jenna Boltz, Jacob Brown, Abigail Ecke, Sarah Logan, Tycen Mooney, Carter Perlinski, Kennedy Pocha, Hayden Langemo, Mikayli McDowell
3. **Helena Brewery:** Cole Christensen, Luke Dowdy, Henry Gross, Hudson Grovom, Luke Hanson, Quinn Hanson, Colton Lindgren, Joey Michelotti, Nick Michelotti, Hayden Optiz

Famous People

Fannie Sperry Steele: Liz Bowen, Madison Curry, Destiny Estep, Ruby Forman, Keelie Hankins, Amelia Hansen, Ethan Martin, Drew Morgan, John Pida, Sienna Pisciarelli, Aydan Tomlin, Tyler Zito

Mining and Transportation

Last Chance Gulch During Gold Rush: Melony Campbell, Alyssa Kline, Neillea Warden

Antique Vehicles

Allis Chalmers in All its Glory: Philip Patten

Historical Society – Most Historically Accurate

Henry Sieben’s Cattle Ranch: Nathan Dupler, Bryton Kipp, Collin Leckner, Cameron Mann, Evangeline Och, Avery Powell, Tyten Sichelstiel, Alyvia Sperry, Iyana Stanger,