



Friday, August 28

FRIDAY FLYER

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Dear families and the Helena Community,



We are thrilled to be back in action for the 2026-27 school year! Building the foundation for a strong start and great year takes a lot of dedication and preparation.

Teachers and school staff have spent weeks preparing for students' return. In fact, many of our team members worked straight through the summer to ensure a seamless start, including our Lincoln Center staff and our tireless Facilities and Maintenance Department teams. Thanks to all their hard work behind the scenes, we were ready to go on Wednesday!

As our schools began to reopen, leadership from both Helena Public Schools and the City of Helena also came together to directly address recent discussions surrounding a temporary parking area near Helena High School. The experience served as a catalyst to strengthen communication and streamline review processes so we can continue on track to welcome students into the new school facilities in August 2028.

Classes are now underway for most of our students, with Kindergarten and KinderSprouts beginning on Monday, August 31. Open houses and meet-and-greets will continue across our schools through mid-September.

Thank you for your partnership, your support, and your dedication to our students.

Respectfully,

Rex M. Wertz, Superintendent
Helena Public Schools

GET INVOLVED WITH YOUR STUDENT'S SCHOOL

Life is a balancing act. Your time is incredibly valuable—and we know you're not made of money. We want to assure you that there is no single "right" way to be involved in your student's school community. But it is important to be involved one way or another.

Every single act of support, no matter how small, directly benefits our students and shows them that their community cares. We appreciate your partnership, no matter the shape or form!

Read school and teacher newsletters	2-5 MINUTES	Pay attention to school, teacher, and school parent group emails
Donate to RevTrak or your school's Parent Group	5 MINUTES	Donate classroom items (tissues, pencils, etc.)
Show up to school/classroom events and activities	10-50 MINUTES	Show up to your school's Parent Group events
Volunteer at your student's school	10 MINUTES - A SCHOOL DAY	Volunteer for your school's parent group events
Communicate with your school's admin, staff, and teachers	10 MINUTES - A SCHOOL YEAR	Communicate with your school's parent group
Serve on your school's and parent group committees	VARIES	Serve on your school's parent group - maybe even chair it

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

As always, keeping students safe is our top priority. For our volunteers, the [Volunteer Checklist](#) provides step-by-step instructions on how to submit consent forms, schedule appointments, and complete the approval process.

For those [interested in becoming a volunteer](#), please reach out to [Jacque Young](#) in Human Resources with any questions. Thank you for your partnership and for your help in keeping our schools safe and strong!

Bonds Projects Updates

08/30 - 09/05 HHS + PROJECT FOR ALTERNATIVE LEARNING (PAL) PROJECT



WEEK 45:

- **A&E + SMA Design Updates:**
 - HHS/PAL Construction Documents - Week 20
- **Dick Anderson & Team Construction Updates:**
 - Helena Sand and Gravel
 - Foundation Excavation
 - DAC
 - RAP Layout
 - QC footing forming
 - Set anchor bolts
 - GTFC
 - RAP Installation
 - Pioneer Tech
 - Monitor RAP Installation
 - Steed Concrete
 - Forming footings & walls
 - Pour Footings & walls

HHS wants to recognize and remember the deep history of the old building. Current students are putting together a living history of HHS to capture the memories, lifestyles, and storied history of those who walked the hallowed halls. If you, a family member, or others attended HHS and would like to be part of this project, please scan the QR to complete the form (it should be linked, so you can click on it and it will take you to the form).

Helena High History Interview Interest



08/30 - 09/05 HPS DISTRICT KITCHEN



WEEK 45:

- **A&E + SMA Design Updates:**
 - Construction, OAC Meetings every Tuesday
- **Dick Anderson & Team Construction Updates:**
 - Matrix
 - Rebar, anchor bolts, Form and pour interior footings
 - Form interior foundation walls
 - Tetra Tech
 - Concrete testing and compaction testing of backfill
 - Big Sky Plumbing
 - Install sleeves through the interior foundation on Grid B
 - Slate
 - Install sleeves through the interior foundation on Grid B
 - Mockel
 - Excavate interior spread footings, grid B foundation wall and cooler demising wall

08/30 - 09/05 CHS PROJECT



WEEK 43:

- **Slate Architecture + RTA Updates:**
 - OAC Meeting on Site
 - Reviewing DD Pricing
 - Construction Documents Package 4
 - CTE Equipment Finalization
 - Code Review and Design Updates
- **Langlas & Associates Construction Updates:**
 - Mechanical Well Excavation
 - Interior & Exterior Wall / Slab Saw Cutting
 - Interior Shoring and Bracing For Selective Demolition
 - MEP Demolition Continued
 - Interior Framing Begins
 - MEP Temp-in & Rough-in
 - Bids Due for Package 3
 - DD Pricing Review Continued

Upcoming Community Events

SAVE THE DATE
JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL

Brews & Blueprints

CAPITAL HIGH CAMPUS GROUNDBREAKING EVENT

SEPTEMBER 17, 2026 | 5:30 P.M.



CAPITAL HIGH CAMPUS
SE PARKING LOT



SAVE THE DATE
JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL

Brews & Blueprints

KESSLER ELEMENTARY CAMPUS GROUNDBREAKING EVENT

OCTOBER 7, 2026 | 5:30 P.M.



KESSLER CAMPUS-
STAY TUNED FOR
MORE DETAILS



KESSLER PROJECT

08/30 - 09/05

WEEK 41:

- **Mosaic Architecture + Cushing Terrell Updates:**
 - Week 5 of Construction Documents
 - 8/31: Progress meeting with City of Helena
- **Golden Eagle/Swank Construction Updates:**
 - City Meeting
 - Site and Foundation - Bid Phase 1 - Solicitation
 - Continuous Constructability/Cost Analysis

PARKING, STREET CLOSURE, SCHOOL ENTRANCES, AND WALKWAY GUIDANCE

We want our students, staff, and community as safe and informed as possible as our schools get farther along in their construction phases.

[PLEASE VIEW ALL PROJECT UPDATES HERE!](#)



IT'S MORE THAN A MEAL...

ONE FORM, COUNTLESS OPPORTUNITIES. APPLY TODAY:

Fee Assistance
Scho Fees
Clothing Items
Classroom Supplies
Health and Wellness Services



HPS Community Support Resources Community Corner

- HPS THREE WAYS TO DONATE
- RUNNING RESOURCE LIST ON OUR WEBPAGE
- HPS SCHOOLS' FOOD DRIVES AND OTHER RELATED EVENT LISTINGS
- CONTACT CENTER FOR QUESTIONS AND TO GET CONNECTED (WEBPAGE)

[VIEW WEBPAGE](#)

It's More Than a Meal

Free & Reduced Meal Application

Even if your child attends a school where meals are already free, please take a few minutes to complete the application - it can make a big difference for our schools and students! It's quick, confidential, and can have a lasting impact on our schools:

[APPLY BEFORE 09/10](#)

HOT TOPICS

FROM THE GROUND UP WITH HELENA PUBLIC SCHOOLS



2026-27 Educator of the Year Cassie Koch (HHS) and Paraeducator of the Year Molly Meyer (all over the District) joined us to lay out what they look forward to this year and what they love about education.

LISTEN OR WATCH WHEREVER YOU'RE AT IN YOUR DAY:

[LISTEN ON RSS](#)[LISTEN ON APPLE PODCASTS](#)[WATCH ON YOUTUBE](#)

PFAS/PFAO TESTING UPDATE

HPS has received the confirmation testing results for the Rossiter well site, and it does show a detection of PFAS/PFOA. However, we are still waiting for confirmation testing results for Jim Darcy. Please note: Once the samples are sent to the lab, it is out of our hands on when we receive results. We will provide updates to you as soon as we can.

The drinking water remains safe to use at both schools per the specialized water filters implemented into the water bottle filling stations, and daily operations will continue to be business as normal.

As another reminder, when it comes to hand washing, we continue to follow the [most recent guidance](#) from environment officials that this and other water utilizations are not harmful.

Please be assured that we are working closely with environment officials on further testing and contingency plans, and we will continue to keep you updated along the way.

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns you may have. You can contact the [HPS Facilities Department](#) for specifics on district operations and the [MT DEQ](#) for more information regarding PFAS, state requirements, or if you need additional resources.

WHAT'S COMING UP FOR THE DISTRICT?

August 29, 2026 - September 12, 2026

Saturday, August 29:

Sunday, August 30:

Monday, August 31:

**First Day of School for Kindergarten and KinderSprouts

- Smith Cheers and Tears Kinder Welcome, 8:30 a.m. – Smith Sun Shelter

Tuesday, September 1:

- HHS Picture Day
- Policy Committee Meeting, 12:00 p.m. – Lincoln
- HEF Great Ideas and Spark Grants Fall Workshop, 3:45 p.m. – Lincoln Center

Wednesday, September 2:

- September 2: CHS Picture Day
- HMS 7th and 8th Grade Meet and Greet, 3:30 p.m. – HMS
- CRA 7th and 8th Grade Open House, 6:00 p.m. – CRA

Thursday, September 3:

- Warren PTO Meeting, 6:00 p.m. – Warren Library
- CRA 7th and 8th Grade Open House, 6:00 p.m. – CRA

Friday, September 4:

Saturday, September 5:

Sunday, September 6:

Monday, September 7: NO SCHOOL

****District CLOSED**

Tuesday, September 8:

- BOT Budget and Finance Committee Meeting, 12:00 p.m. – Lincoln
- Bryant Open House, 4:30 p.m. – Bryant
- Board of Trustees Meeting, 5:30 p.m. – Lincoln Center

Wednesday, September 9:

- BOT Teaching and Learning Committee Meeting, 12:00 p.m. – Lincoln
- Central Fabulous Firsts, 2:45 p.m. – Central
- HHS Senior Meeting with Jostens
- HHS Open House, 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, September 10:

- Broadwater Fabulous Firsts, 2:45 p.m. – Broadwater
- CRA Picture Day
- PAL Info Night
- 4Gs PTO Meeting, 6:00 p.m. – 4Gs

Friday, September 11:

- HMS Picture Day
- Smith Fabulous Firsts, 2:30 p.m. – Smith
- Bengal Tailgate – HMS

Saturday, September 12:

If we missed something, please let us know –

helenamtschools@helenaschools.org

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WHAT'S COMING UP?

CARNIVAL CLASSIC

SUNDAY, 11 A.M.-3 P.M.
SEPTEMBER 13
MEMORIAL PARK

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of Montana

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