



Friday, September 18

FRIDAY FLYER

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Dear families and the Helena Community,



We celebrated the ceremonial groundbreaking of the Capital High renovation yesterday evening!

As always, we appreciate all who have shown support, and for those who came out to help us ring in this very special part of the project's progress. A big thank you to Helena Area Chamber of Commerce, Capital High School, Slate Architecture, RTA Architects, Langlas & Associates, Hulteng CCM, and the rest of Capital's construction crew for the opportunity to have such great partnerships; thank you to our Facilities Department and Board for the leadership and insight to see the projects through; and of course, thank you to the Helena community for supporting our schools and making this vision a reality.

On the side of academics, our fourth podcast episode is out now! This week, we sit down to talk curriculum and data and assessment. These are incredibly important topics that help us tailor support, provide strong instruction, and identify how we can improve. They drive our daily work—sitting right alongside our students' safety and security as top priorities for our district. You can see the episode details on the right – give it a listen!

We'll see you next week!

Respectfully,

Rex M. Weltz, Superintendent
Helena Public Schools

FROM THE GROUND UP WITH HELENA PUBLIC SCHOOLS



S2 Ep. 4: Each Step of the Way

Superintendent Weltz visits with Justine Alberts, Assistant Superintendent for PreK-5th and Erin Hunt, Data and Assessment Administrator, about teaching and learning in the Helena Public Schools.

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

[LISTEN ON RSS](#)

[LISTEN ON APPLE PODCASTS](#)

[WATCH ON YOUTUBE](#)

Bonds Projects Updates

09/20 -
09/26

CHS PROJECT



WEEK 46:

- **Slate Architecture + RTA Updates:**
 - OAC Meeting on Site
 - Reviewing DD Pricing
 - Finish Meeting with the School
 - Construction Documents Package 4
- **Langlas & Associates Construction Updates:**
 - OAC Meeting
 - DD / CD Budget Alignment
 - Underground Rough-in
 - Above Ceiling Rough-in
 - Above Ceiling Temp Pathways
 - Saw cutting for MEP
 - Site Meetings with NWE
 - Plumbing and Electrical Rough-in Mechanical Well
 - Form / Pour Mechanical Well

09/20 -
09/26

HHS + PROJECT FOR ALTERNATIVE LEARNING (PAL) PROJECT



WEEK 48:

- **A&E + SMA Design Updates:**
 - HHS/PAL Construction Documents complete, Phase 3 bidding begins!
- **Dick Anderson & Team Construction Updates:**

■ QC footing forming	◦ Steed Concrete
■ Set Anchor Bolts	■ Forming walls
◦ Helena Sand and Gravel	■ Pour walls
■ Foundation Excavation	■ Tie Rebar
■ Backfill Foundation	

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!](#)

Upcoming Community Events

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



mosaic
architecture | planning | design



HELENA
AREA CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE

**GOLDEN EAGLE +
SWANK ENTERPRISES**
CONSTRUCTION



KESSLER PROJECT

09/20 -
09/26

WEEK 44:

- **Mosaic Architecture + Cushing Terrell Updates:**
 - Week 8 of Construction Documents
 - Design Team Coordination Meetings
 - Site & Foundations Bidding
- **Golden Eagle/Swank Construction Updates:**
 - Storm Drain Temp Provisions
 - Site & Foundations Bidding
 - Design Team Coordination Meetings



HPS DISTRICT KITCHEN

09/20 -
09/26

WEEK 48:

- **A&E + SMA Design Updates:**
 - Construction, OAC Meetings every Tuesday
- **Dick Anderson & Team Construction Updates:**
 - Boelter
 - Field verify cooler/freezer measurements
 - Pre-construction MEP meeting for kitchen equipment
 - Big Sky
 - Interior slab rough-in
 - Slate
 - Interior slab rough-in

HOT TOPICS

CONGRATULATIONS!

HHS National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists



Asher, Milo, James, Elizabeth,
Kamari, and Jaden!

CHS National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists



Mary & Luke!

Montana's 2026 NEA Award for Teaching Excellence Recipient



All State Music Results:

The following students will go to Bozeman October 14-16 to rehearse with guest conductors and peers from around the state. Their final concerts will be on October 16 at Gallatin High.

- CHS Choir - Lydia Marshall
- CHS Band - Tom Cook-Alto Saxophone, Lincoln Jetty-Trumpet
- CHS Orchestra - Claudia Cook-Bass, Faith Wendzel-Cello
- HHS Choir - Leah Leonard, Carley Kleeman, Maizy Parrett, Micah Langdji, Carter Flugge, Ayden Hinson
- HHS Band - Eliza Loveland-Clarinet, Jacob Lighthiser-Percussion (Alternate)
- HHS Orchestra - Elliot Cleary-Violin I, Lauren Eckdahl-Violin II, Emeline Jefferies-Bass, Isabel Ward-Violin II

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!

NOTE: If you applied last year, you must apply again for this year!

[APPLY BEFORE 10/11](#)

Fee Assistance

Scho Fee

Classroom Supplies

Health and Wellness Services

Clothing Items

IT'S MORE THAN A MEAL...

ONE FORM, COUNTLESS OPPORTUNITIES. APPLY BEFORE OCTOBER 11:

NOTE: If you applied last year, you must apply again for this year!

WHAT'S COMING UP FOR THE DISTRICT?

Septmeber 19, 2026 - October 3, 2026

Sunday, September 20:

Monday, September 21:

- Bryant Picture Day

Tuesday, September 22:

- Smith Picture Day
- HMS Family Day, 3:00 p.m. – HMS
- Montessori ice cream social, 5:00 p.m. – Broadwater

Wednesday, September 23:

- Central Picture Day
- Kessler g5 Water Watchers Field Trip

Thursday, September 24:

- CRA Wildside- Plot survey field trip with the Forest Service and City of Helena, 8:10 a.m.
- Jefferson Literacy Night (MakerSpace) – Jefferson

Friday, September 25:

****1st Quarter Midterms**

- Native American Heritage Day – Day at the Powwow (District 4th Graders bussing paid by HPS Indian Ed)
 - Demonstrations Day at the Fairgrounds 10:00AM-12:00PM
- Warren Walk to School Day
- HMS 6th Grade Field Trip to Willard Creek

Saturday, September 26:

Sunday, September 27:

Monday, September 28:

- ** HHS Homecoming Week
- ** College Application Week 1
 - College Fair, 11:00 a.m. – Carroll College
 - Bryant Fabulous First, 2:00 p.m. – Bryant

Tuesday, September 29:

- ** HHS Homecoming Week
- ** College Application Week 1
 - HEF Great Ideas and Spark Grant Fall Applications Due
 - JD g5 Water Watchers Field Trip

Wednesday, September 30:

- ** HHS Homecoming Week
- ** College Application Week 1
- Orange Shirt Day – Orange Shirt Society
- CHS Parent Council Meeting, 3:30 p.m. – CHS Library

Thursday, October 1:

- ** HHS Homecoming Week
- ** College Application Week 1
 - HMS Coffee with the Principal, 8:00 a.m. – HMS

Friday, October 2:

- ** HHS Homecoming Week
- ** College Application Week 1
 - HEF Let's Talk About Great Teacher's Nominations Due!

Saturday, October 3:

- Helena Sun Run for Smith Solar Panels- Smith
- HHS Homecoming Dance, 7:00 p.m. – HHS Gym



**HELENA
EDUCATION
FOUNDATION**

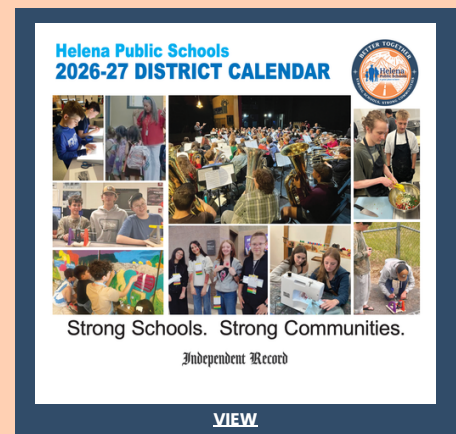
**DATES TO
REMEMBER...**

Spark Grants & Great Ideas Grants deadline:

Tuesday, September 29th

Let's Talk About Great Teachers nominations due:

Friday, October 2nd – [Form](#)



If we missed something, please let us know –

helenamtschools@helenaschools.org

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR OR MAKE NOTE OF:



2026 LAST CHANCE COMMUNITY POWWOW

[VIEW](#)

**LAST CHANCE COMMUNITY POW WOW
CELEBRATING 27 YEARS**
"HONOR THE CHILDREN" (Sept. 25-27, 2026)
EXHIBIT HALL AT LEWIS & CLARK COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
(98 W. Custer Ave., Helena, MT)

GRAND ENTRY TIMES:
Fri.: 6pm
Sat.: Noon & 6pm
Sun.: Noon

Free Admission.....Everyone Welcome

Announcer - Vince Short
Arena Director - Brandon Songer
Youth Arena Director - Kofi Songer
Head Dance Judge - Sugar Short
Host Drum - DB Express
Lead Girl Dancer - Tahiti Bear Comes Out
Lead Boy Dancer - Raymond Mendoza
Miss Last Chance Princess - Lilliana Longknife
Jr. Miss Last Chance Princess - Suzy Eaglespeaker
Lil' Miss Last Chance Princess - Myla Denny

HOST MOTEL: Comfort Suites, 3180 No. Washington, 406-495-0505.
Make your Reservations for Pow Wow rates!

CAMPING: Available on Site @ Fairgrounds Call 406-457-8516.

Contest Dancing & Specials* Drum Day Pay* Lil' Miss (6 & under), Jr. Miss (7-12), & Miss (13-17) Last Chance Princess Contests* Tiny Tot's 50/50 Raffles* Arts/Crafts* Concessions

VENDORS: Space (\$45/day or \$100/3 days) & Table (\$10/day or \$25/3 days)
406-439-5631 lccpw@hotmail.com lastchancepowwow.com Visit us on Facebook!

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS:

[VIEW](#)

**GREATER HELENA AREA TEACHERS AND STUDENTS
JOIN US FOR THE LAST CHANCE COMMUNITY POW WOW
27TH ANNUAL "DEMONSTRATION DAY"**

September 25, 2026 (Friday)
10:00 am to 12:00 pm - Exhibit Hall
(Lewis & Clark County Fairgrounds, Helena, Montana)



**HELP US CELEBRATE AMERICAN INDIAN AWARENESS DAY ON
DEMONSTRATION DAY...**

- It's a day designed for students to learn about the Native American culture in a fun setting.
- About 800 students usually participate in Demonstration Day.
- There will be Native American dancing, drumming, and singing.
- Students will have the opportunity to drum, dance, and ask questions.
- And, it's free!!!!

Grand Entry of the Last Chance Community Pow Wow starts at 6pm Friday and continues through Sunday. To learn more, call 406-439-5631 or e-mail lccpw@hotmail.com. Website: lastchancepowwow.com. Visit us on Facebook!

DEMONSTRATION DAY IS SPONSORED BY:

 "Providing Quality Healthcare Across Montana"

The Last Chance community powwow in Helena will be taking place this month at the end of September. The Indian Ed department will pay for 4th grade busing to the powwow demonstration on Friday, September 25. The powwow will continue throughout the weekend, and it is free of charge for those who would like to attend.

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR OR MAKE NOTE OF:

IRONHORSE ENROLLMENT--PAGE 2 OF 2

Preferred Shirt Size: _____
 Emergency Contact: _____
 Allergies: _____
 Other Medical or Special Needs: _____

STUDENT AND PARENT AGREEMENTS

To fulfill its mission and provide quality, educational experiences for students, student musicians need to make a commitment to the Ironhorse Consortium for Young Musicians. Please read Ironhorse Membership Policies (by ensemble) at <https://ironhorsemusic.org/policies/> and pay close attention to all expectations. Sign the member agreements at the bottom of this page before submitting your enrollment form.

STUDENT AGREEMENT

☐ I have read the Ironhorse Youth Music Membership Policies specific to my chosen ensemble(s) or other programs, and I agree to comply with said policies in full.

Student Signature _____ Date: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN AGREEMENT

☐ I have read the Ironhorse Youth Music Membership Policies specific to my child's chosen ensemble(s) or other programs, and I agree to comply with said policies in full.

☐ I hereby grant permission for the Ironhorse Youth Music to use my child's photograph for printed and online promotional materials and publications. I waive any rights of compensation or ownership thereto, and I acknowledge that Ironhorse Youth Music may choose not to use my child's photograph at this time, but may do so at its own discretion at a later date.

Guardian Signature _____ Date: _____



IRONHORSE YOUTH MUSIC 2026-2027

The Ironhorse Consortium for Young Musicians exists to inspire, educate, and connect people through music. All ensembles (along with our other existing programs) introduce classical and contemporary music literature to student musicians of all ages and provide a strong foundation of rehearsal and performance techniques. Through repertoire and other educational opportunities, Ironhorse brings students and audiences a community connection to other cultures and social issues facing our society.

Staff are excited to return to ensemble rehearsal, lessons, and other academic opportunities this season; we hope everyone will join us for these exciting learning opportunities!

Ensembles
 Instructions are preparing for a variety of ensemble rehearsals this year! Please visit <https://ironhorsemusic.org/> for updated information, detailed schedules and rehearsal schedules, and complete ensemble descriptions.

Ensemble Performances
 Winter Concert - Saturday, December 12 at 4:00 pm, St. Paul's United Methodist Church
 Spring Concert - Saturday, May 15 at 4:00 pm, St. Paul's United Methodist Church
 Other small performances for ensembles or chamber groups may be scheduled throughout each semester.

Other Programs
 Private Lessons - open to individual students, but lesson availability depends on enrollment and teacher schedules.
 A supplemental lesson form is required and available by request at <https://ironhorsemusic.org/lesson/>.
 Classes - open to all students, but availability depends on enrollment and class prerequisites.
 The MET Live in Schools - free and open to all students.

Tuition
 Most Ironhorse programs are made possible through enrollment fees that are calculated based on monthly costs to the organization. If you have any concerns regarding enrollment fees, please inquire about our fee waiver program. Ironhorse is committed to serving all student musicians in the community!

Ensemble Fees
 Each student's first ensemble enrollment is \$60 per month. Additional ensemble enrollments are \$25 per month for each student.
 All siblings enrolled in ensembles receive a 10% discount. Any student participant in Ironhorse summer camps or Ironhorse summer programs receive a 5% discount per program.
 Contact Mr. Cleary if you are interested in paying discounted semester or annual fees up front!

Class Fees
 Class enrollment fees vary depending on the class structure, but Ironhorse aims to keep class fees in line with the \$60 per month enrollment fees.
 Private Lesson Fees
 Private Lessons are offered on a sliding scale based on family income and student need. Weekly lesson times are scheduled with each teacher.

Please visit the Ironhorse website (<https://ironhorsemusic.org/>) for additional information about our organization and the many opportunities it provides to young musicians.

IRONHORSE CONTACT INFORMATION
 Kevin Cleary, Executive Director
 (406) 430-0009
kccleary@ironhorsemusic.org

IRONHORSE ENROLLMENT--PAGE 1 OF 2

Ironhorse enrollment forms are available at <https://ironhorsemusic.org/gbform>

Name: _____ Gender: Preferred Pronouns: _____
 Grade Level: _____ Birthdate: _____ School: _____
 Parent/Guardian Names: _____
 Address: _____ Zip Code: _____
 Phone: _____
 Email: _____

Student Instrument(s): _____ Years of Experience: _____

Ensemble Enrollment (Select all in which you would like to perform)

FULL ORCHESTRA ☐ Year ☐ Fall Semester ☐ Spring Semester
ORCHESTRAL WINDS AND PERCUSSION ☐ Year ☐ Fall Semester ☐ Spring Semester
CAMERA ORCHESTRA ☐ Year ☐ Fall Semester ☐ Spring Semester
YOUTH CHORUS ☐ Year ☐ Fall Semester ☐ Spring Semester

ACADEMY ENSEMBLES
BAND ☐ Beginner ☐ Intermediate ☐ Year ☐ Fall Semester ☐ Spring Semester
ORCHESTRA ☐ Beginner ☐ Intermediate ☐ Year ☐ Fall Semester ☐ Spring Semester
OTHER ENSEMBLES (Tell us what you would like to see added): _____

Other Programs:
CLASSES
EARLY CHILDHOOD MUSIC ☐ Movers and Shakers ☐ Walkers and Dancers
PRIVATE LESSONS ☐ I will also submit the required lesson supplement form
MET LIVE IN SCHOOLS PROGRAM ☐ Please keep me informed about this free opportunity!

Enrollment Fees:
PRIMARY ENSEMBLE ☐ \$60 PER MONTH ☐ \$25 PER MONTHLY X _____
ADDITIONAL ENSEMBLES ☐ \$60 PER SEMESTER X _____
DISCOUNTS ☐ Siblings (10%) ☐ SUMMER CAMP PARTICIPATION (5%) ☐ LESSON PROGRAM PARTICIPATION (5%)
OPTIONAL ONE TIME DONATION \$ _____
TOTAL \$ _____

Ironhorse will mail invoices to families once a month (September through December for the fall semester, and January through May for the spring semester). If you request a full semester or full year payment, an invoice will be emailed that includes an up-front payment discount.

Enrollment paperwork or check payments may be delivered to an instructor or mailed to:
 Ironhorse Youth Music • PO Box 817 • Helena • 59624

IronHorse Music

IronHorse Music is looking forward to another fantastic year! Enrollment is NOW OPEN - CLICK HERE!

"As with our summer programs, Ironhorse is committed to making school year ensembles and classes accessible to every student. The MET Live in Schools program is and always will remain free to every participant. We also provide scholarships for other programs to every student who meets income guidelines. Many Helena Public School students take advantage of our fee waiver program each year."
<https://ironhorsemusic.org/>



1st Place in each category

- Wins an introductory flight around the winner's hometown with up to two guests (weight and size restrictions may apply due to aircraft limitations).
- All three first place winners will be presented with a trophy, certificate, and their framed artwork during the awards presentation by a state official.

2nd and 3rd Place in each category

Trophy and Certificate of Achievement.

Categories:

- Category 1: Kindergarten - 5th Grade
- Category 2: 6th - 8th Grade
- Category 3: 9th - 12th Grade



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Entry Requirements:

- Artwork must have a Montana aviation theme.
- Artwork can be color or black and white in any medium.
- Entries must be submitted no later than Friday, April 10, 2027.
- All Montana students in grades K - 12 are eligible to enter.
- Size of poster should not exceed 11" x 14".
- All submissions must be original artwork (no tracing, AI, etc.).
- All artwork must have a cover sheet with the following information written clearly on or attached to the back of the artwork:
 - Student's Name
 - Student's Grade
 - Student's Mailing address
 - Student's Phone Number
 - Student's Email Address
 - School Name
 - Art Teacher's Name, email, and phone number
 - Do you want your artwork returned? Yes or No

Mail Artwork & Cover Sheet to:
 MDT Aeronautics Program
 Art Contest
 P.O. Box 200507
 Helena, MT 59620-0507

For more information, please contact the MDT Aeronautics Program at mdtad@mt.gov or 406-444-2506.

2026 Aviation Teacher Workshop

September 24 and 25

Earn 18 Office of Public Instruction renewal credits!
 Join the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) Aeronautics Program, and the Montana Learning Center (MLC), for this hands-on Aeronautical Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) workshop.

- Introductory flights in general aviation aircraft
- Tour aviation facilities highlighting career paths
- Learn affordable, classroom-ready aviation experiments
- Hands-on aeronautical STEM experience for grades 6 to 12 teachers

Two nights lodging at the MLC, meals, and snacks provided. Limited to 18 participants. Class begins at 7 a.m., September 24, at the MLC located at 7653 Canyon Ferry Road, Helena.

Tuition is FREE!

For more information, contact the MLC at 406-475-3638 or mdtad@mt.gov, or MDT Aeronautics at 406-444-2506 or mdtad@mt.gov.

Scan the QR Code to apply.

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