



# Great Falls Public Schools 2016-2017 Accomplishments



July, 2017

Dear Trustees,

I believe that in order to plan our future wisely, it is necessary that we understand and appreciate our past. To do that, I asked GFPS leaders to compile our points of pride, highlights, learning experiences, accomplishments, fait accompli, moments in time...anything worth memorializing from the previous year. The following will document those results.

You will first see district-level accomplishments followed by those generated by individual departments and then schools. No specific direction was given to format or content so each list is unique. The lists are a snapshot of our work and are not all inclusive. It is certain that not every big and little victory has been listed, but I think it provides a sense of some of the accomplishments that happened during the 2016-2017 school year. I'm impressed and hope you will be too.

Sincerely,

*Tammy L. Lacey*

Superintendent

## DISTRICT LEVEL ACCOMPLISHMENTS



### Our Kids

#### Academic Achievement

- Implementation of new technology curriculum that support the implementation of the Montana Technology Standards.
- The NMS Science Academic Bowl Team won the Regional National Science Bowl for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row.
- 2017 ACT and SBAC Scores: To be reported in August.
- 2016 GFPS ACT scores increased on every subtest while the State scores declined or stayed the same. The GFPS composite is 20.8 compared to 20.3 for the state.
- GFPS was one of five Montana school districts and among 433 districts nationwide honored by the College Board the Advanced Placement (AP<sup>®</sup>) District Honor Roll. To earn the distinction, districts must have increased access to AP<sup>®</sup> coursework while maintaining or increasing the percentage of students earning scores of 3 or higher on AP<sup>®</sup> exams.
- Project-based learning provides educational relevance:
  - The Montana Project (formerly War Fair), March 30, 2017
  - STEAM Expo, April 1, 2017



#### Career and Technical Education (CTE) Achievements

- 2 High School Houses completed by 25 students for the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of program.
- 38 CNA students graduated
- Welding and Carpentry Cohorts at GFC-MSU (1 year Dual Credit Programs): 9 welding graduates
- Computer Science Dual Credit Courses at GFC-MSU: 2 students
- The September Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours program featured food catered by Culinary Arts students, music played by GFPS students, products by Grizz Biz, Rustler Gear, Bison Wear, Lynx Grafix, and Bison Welding, and the Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs): BPA, DECA, CyberPatriot, FFA, Bison Business, Art, Skills USA, HOSA, High School Houses, Interior Design, FCCLA, etc.
- See other CTE related accomplishments in the department section.



## Curriculum Adoptions

- Elementary:
  - K-3 Handwriting Program - Handwriting Without Tears
  - K-5 Counseling Program - Second Step
  - K-6 Library Media/Information Literacy Curriculum
- Middle and High School:
  - Science:
    - 8th Grade Physical Sciences
    - 9th Grade Earth & Space Sciences
    - Bio 1-2 and Bio 3-4
    - Chemistry (General, Honors & Advanced)
    - Physics (Applied, General & Honors)
  - Business
    - Accounting
    - Financial Tech
    - Management
    - Multimedia
  - Technology Creative Coding & Design with Python Course
  - Health Sciences (Med-Prep)
  - Library Media/Information Literacy



## Data

- Began implementation of the on-line Power School assessment tool.

## Graduation

- Continued focus on Graduation Matters bold goals.
  - Through educational opportunities for preschool-aged children and their families, Graduation Matters will increase the percentage of students who are prepared to succeed (as measured by the Boehm Test of Basic Concepts) to 80 percent.
  - To increase the percentage of proficient and advanced readers in 3rd grade to 85 percent.
  - To decrease the number of high school students who are chronically absent from school and demonstrate poor school performance.
  - Increase the number of students who graduate on-time and ready for college or career.
- 707 Graduates: CMR 316; GFH 278; Paris 113
- Year two of differentiated diplomas:
  - 90 Honors Diplomas
  - 279 Concentrator Diplomas
  - 338 Comprehensive Diplomas
- 2016 On Time Graduation Rate = 83.4%
- Scholarship Nights, hosted by the Foundation, were held at each high school.
  - 225 attended at CMR and 310 attended at GFHS
- Ready Families Ready Learners-preschool outreach accomplished the following activities:
  - Preschool Expo Fair- March 18, 2017
  - Class of 2029 t-shirts given to kindergarten students.



## High School Athletics Tops in State

- CMR Softball State Champions
- GFHS (boys' basketball) & CMR (softball) students Gatorade Players of the Year
- CMR Wrestling received the Academic All-Team Award from MHSA.

## Professional Development for Instruction

- Project-based learning via Chromebooks was an emphasis. See Technology section for more details.
- 147 separate sessions of PIR staff development training were held.
- New Teacher Training held for 1<sup>st</sup> (5 days), 2<sup>nd</sup> (3 days) and 3<sup>rd</sup> year teachers (3 days).
- Managed the Montana Institute on Educational Technology (MIET) which provides technology training to GFPS and Montana teachers.
- All secondary classroom teachers trained in Trauma Informed Classrooms and Schools.
- All elementary classroom teachers received training on technology standards.





- Trauma informed interventions for at-risk students was presented by Stacy York to elementary staff.
- All special education teachers attended an intervention institute hosted by the Student Services Department for the first time.
- Suicide prevention training was held K-12. (Mental Health First Aid & Question/Persuade/Refer (QPR))

### School Climate

- The Montana Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) was given to 7-12 random sample of students.
- "Chasing the Dragon" movie and panel was presented to 7-12 students in conjunction with the Health Department and GFFD.
- Elementary Student Leadership Council was successfully deployed for the 5<sup>th</sup> year in a row.
- GMGF student forums resulted in school-based Graduation Matter Weeks of celebration.
- Developed a targeted immersion program for at-risk Native American students.

### Other

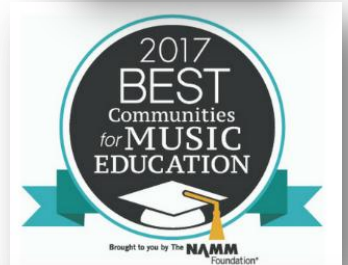
- All schools received full accreditation status.
- The GFPS Foundation provided \$16,178 in scholarships to pay for dual credit college courses.
- The Air Force JROTC program at GFHS had over 50 participants in its first year.



## Our Community

### The Arts

- Great Falls named Top 100 Best Communities for Music Education 2017...6<sup>th</sup> year in a row.
- The O.C. Seltzer Art Gallery was officially opened at CMR.
- Fisher Memorial Garden was completed and dedicated.
- See other arts related accomplishments in the department section.



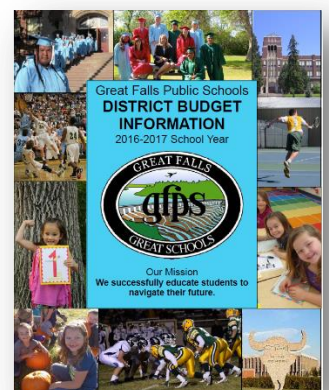
### Communication

- 20 editions of Tammy's Top Ten on Tuesday were published and emailed to 1500 subscribers
- Community Budget Meetings were held for the fourth consecutive year.
- The Facility Bond Election was communicated in a variety of ways: 50 Tribune letters, 3 Tribune editorials, 10 Tribune guest editorials, 19 print news stories, 13 TV news stories, 16 radio spots and 1070 yard signs. In addition, 579 volunteers worked 236 shifts during the campaign.
- The GFPS Facebook page has 2543 "likes" as of June 30, 2017.



### Finance

- In the last 15 years, the General Fund budget has increased at a rate less than inflation.
  - \$50,478,160 (2000-2001) to \$70,007,445 (2016-2017) which is a 28% increase or an average increase of 1.65% per year
  - Inflation July 1, 2000 to July 1, 2016 = 39.26% or 2.31% per year
  - (Source: [http://inflationdata.com/Inflation/Inflation\\_Calculators/Cumulative\\_Inflation\\_Calculator.aspx](http://inflationdata.com/Inflation/Inflation_Calculators/Cumulative_Inflation_Calculator.aspx))
- \$64 million in bonds were sold at an interest rate of 3.17% to finance facility projects.
- Workers' compensation claim amounts continued to decline resulting in decreased premiums.
- Red Flag Fraud Warning System fully implemented with 0 fraud reports.
- All budget and audit information available on-line.
- \$54,800 in Discovery Grants were awarded by the GFPS Foundation to 26 projects district-wide.
- The \$100,000 "Dream Big" grant awarded by the GFPS Foundation to the GFHS Prairie Expedition project was fulfilled.
  - 450 GFH 9th grade students, including special education students, went to First Peoples Buffalo Jump
  - Curriculum included learning about the ecosystems, native plants, Montana land math and geography, Great Plains history, GPS/geocaching activities, native people, prairie landscape and vegetation, animals, and the buffalo.
  - Students created digital projects that reflected their learning.



- Students applied for the American Prairie Reserve trip by preparing a resume and cover letter.
- Thirty students traveled to Malta to collect and plot data, visit the museum, visit Bear Paw Battlefield, and visit a working ranch.



## Partnerships

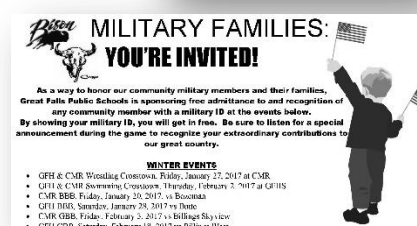
- GFPS hosted the annual National Qualifying Speech and Debate meet in February. This required over 200 community members to volunteer as judges.
- Three \$500 grants were provided by Calumet refining to the CMR Agriculture Department, CMR Biology Department, and NMS Grizz Biz.
- The Great Falls Youth Pow Wow was held in May. It was organized by the GFPS InterTribal Strong youth group. It attracted youth dancers from the region.
- 33 student scholars and 33 educators were honored at the Foundation's Excellence in Education Celebration. BNSF Railway sponsored two Teacher of the Year awards of \$2500 each.
- GFPS hosted these MHSA State Tournaments: Swimming (Feb. 10-11, 2017), AA Boys' & Girls' Basketball (March 9-11, 2017) and AA Softball (May 25-27, 2017)
- Individual school PTAs raised money and donated substantially to their schools. These items included such things as computers, Chromebooks, playground equipment and reader boards for communication.
- Donations were received from various generous donors. These items included: 6 vehicles, tools, engines, 231 computer monitors, cameras, learning materials and a wireless microphone system.
- City Motor Company generously donated a 2017 Toyota Tacoma to the GFPS Foundation. The Foundation coordinated the sale of 12,432 tickets, raising \$124,320 to help support public education in Great Falls. 45 GFPS student organizations sold raffle tickets and received 60% of their ticket sales for a total of \$68,484. The Foundation received the remaining 40% which was \$55,836. Therefore, 100% of ticket sales went to support public school students in Great Falls.
- Food Pantries and local groups worked together to reduce food insecurity.
- The Great Falls Area Chamber of Commerce continued its sponsorship of Leadership High School. (50 students)
- GFPS participated in the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade for the 4<sup>th</sup> year in a row. Passed out pencils to kids. The high school Patriot Band entertained the crowd.



- Superintendent's Community Advisory Panel and Parent Advisory Panel each met 4 times in addition to a joint meeting held on March, 2017.
- The Great Falls Public Schools' Job Shadow Program has been matching students with employers since 2005, and the successful relationships we have built with community partners continue to grow. See <http://gfpsweb.weebly.com/job-shadows.html> for more information. A new coordinator was hired to enhance the program.
  - 29 Medical Internships were placed in our community
  - 307 Job Shadows were sponsored by community businesses
- The Indian Parent Advisory Council (IPAC) met monthly with Cabinet and Board members attending.
- The Transportation Task Force was commenced which produced updated communication strategies.

## Military Collaboration

- A new MAFB Liaison was appointed to enhance collaboration efforts.
- The annual MAFB Family Fair was held at Loy Elementary in August.
- Eleven Military Appreciation nights were held at athletic events with a special announcement read to honor military families and veterans.
- Superintendent Lacey spoke at the MAFB Women in Leadership Conference.
- Loy Principal Kim Ray attended the Air Force Global Strike Command (AFGSC) Educational Symposium, April 25-27, 2017 at Barksdale AFB in Bossier City, LA
- Purple Up Day was held on April 21, 2017.





## Staffing

- GFPS celebrated retirees and longevity at the annual dessert reception on May
  - 38 retirees (1 administrator, 12 teachers and 25 others) with a total of 867 years of service
  - 18 staff with 25 years; 5 employees with 30 years; and 2 employees with 35 years of service.
- Teacher Education Week ranked Great Falls Public Schools as 69<sup>th</sup> best place to work in the nation for K-12 teachers based on job availability, comparative salary, cost of living, residents with degrees, safety, and amenities.  
[http://blogs.edweek.org/teachers/teaching\\_now/2017/05/report\\_names\\_best\\_cities.html?cmp=soc-fb-promo-best+cities+teacher&utm\\_source=facebook&utm\\_medium=cpc&utm\\_campaign=Facebook+Ad](http://blogs.edweek.org/teachers/teaching_now/2017/05/report_names_best_cities.html?cmp=soc-fb-promo-best+cities+teacher&utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=Facebook+Ad)

## Supporting Others

- Eleven elementary schools, the preschool and the DOB held food drives in December.
- 2500 pounds of food was collected in December for the Salvation Army.
- *Angels in Action* was implemented and raised over \$1500 to support employees in need.
  - [http://gfpsweb.weebly.com/uploads/2/7/3/6/27366965/angels\\_in\\_action\\_outline2.pdf](http://gfpsweb.weebly.com/uploads/2/7/3/6/27366965/angels_in_action_outline2.pdf)
- GFPS was a Pacesetter for the United Way Giving Campaign for the first time.
  - 5 GFPS employees donated at “Base Camp” and above levels.
- GFPS employees gave a record \$53,919 via the annual fall Giving Campaign.



## Policies

- Board adopted 35 new or revised policies with the most significant being those for use of school facilities, investigations relating to students, student wellness and policies pertaining to the Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010.



**Our Future**



## Facilities

- See Buildings and Grounds Department list.
- A \$98.8 million bond levy passed on October 4, 2016 with a 62% margin.
  - Architectural renderings for the Roosevelt replacement school and CMR additions were presented to the Board.
- 18 new windows were installed at GFHS with the Foundation funding 6, the GFHS Heritage Foundation funding 4 and GFPS funding 8. A total of \$48,000 was raised in private funds.



## Health/Wellness

- GFPS recognized by the US Department of Agriculture with a Certificate of Appreciation for efforts to comply with the Healthy Hungry Free Kids Act to include incorporating the Community Eligibility Provision and the Breakfast in the Classroom initiative.
- 5793 students were provided dental health support via collaboration with the City-County Health Department. The project was funded by the Foundation.
  - 2,688 1st, 3rd & 5th graders received a visual screening conducted by 19 community dentists who volunteered their time and services.
  - 2,067 2nd & 4th graders participated in Oral Health Care classes.
    - Students received toothbrushes, toothpaste and floss thanks to a \$1800 GFPS Foundation grant
  - 1,038 K and pre-K children received an oral health presentation and tooth brushing demonstration.
- Wear Orange Days were held in April to raise awareness for childhood hunger.
- The Employee Wellness Program sponsored provided for: The Financial Fitness Common Cents Challenge, the Healthy Habits Bingo Challenge, the Fitness Center with before and after school hours, fitness classes (zumba, circuit training, yoga, water exercise, swimming and), on-site blood draws, the 35<sup>th</sup> annual Cross Town Run Around, a GFPS Spring Activity Challenge, a Poker Walk, Wellness Wednesdays and the Employee Assistance Program.

The Oral Health Education Program focuses on promoting good oral health through education in the schools and organizing visual dental screenings between schools and local, volunteer dentists. All public elementary schools (city and rural), two parochial schools, and five Huettner Colonies are included in the program.

"The Oral Health lessons have been so valuable to our students. After the Rethink Your Drink lesson, I have observed students looking at labels daily, calculating the amount of sugar in the drinks and discussing the results with their peers. I have also noticed students switching from sugar rich drinks like Gatorade to water now. The lesson with the disclosing tablets was also very powerful in reinforcing what students had learned about brushing and flossing because students were able to concretely see where they were getting their teeth clean and what they still needed to work on. Thanks for taking the time to share these lessons with us weekly!"  
 -Alissa Kline, 4th grade teacher, Roosevelt Elementary



## Enrollment

- Cropper GIS conducted a demographic study to aid GFPS in forecasting enrollment.

## Safety

- All schools participated in the statewide Shake Out Earthquake drill in October.
- Cabinet members conducted 4 tabletop safety exercises at the Command Center.
- GFPS leaders participated in a tabletop exercises featuring seven different crisis scenarios.
- The District Safety Plan was revised and Board approved.
- The Crisis Manager App was fully operational.
- Overall SRO response to calls district-wide were 515 compared to 550 in 15-16 and 492 in 14-15
- Ten Emergency Response to Armed Intruder trainings held.
- Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) surveys completed at NMS, EMS & West.
- More doors replaced for additional security.
- Upgraded video surveillance coverage.
- Staff badges provided by Lifetouch and guest sign-in applied for increased security.



## Staff

- Piloted the new Principal Educator Performance Appraisal System (EPAS) for teacher evaluation.
- Substitute Task Force was completed.

***This list of accomplishments is not all inclusive. This is a sampling only.***

# STAFF AWARDS AND APPOINTMENTS

(List may not be all inclusive)

2016-17				
Staff Member	School	Position	Award	Presenting Organization
Bobby Ingalls	CJ	Principal	2017 Distinguished Service Award - General Educator	MT Council of Administrators of Special Education
Brenda Huston	CMR	Finance Officer	Mildred Adams Award	MT High School Association
Gary DeGooyer	DOB	Supervisor of Health Enhancement	Outstanding Contributor/Sustainer of the Year	MT Traffic Education Association
Gary DeGooyer	DOB	Supervisor of Health Enhancement	National Athletic Director of the Year	National High School Athletics Association
Heather Hoyer	GFH	Principal	Community Service Award	MT Jurisdiction Church of God in Christ
Jamie McGraw	DOB	College and Career Coordinator	2017 Future Administrator Award and Scholarship	MT Association of Secondary School Principals
Jan Mader	GFH	Science Teacher	State-level Finalist for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching	MT Professional Teaching Foundation
Joe Wilkins	Paris	IT (auto tech)Teacher	2016 David Strong Award	MT Association fro Career and Technical Education
Jordann Lankford	CMR/ PGEC	Indian Ed Academic Achievement Coach	2016 Governor's Award for Excellence in Performance	Governor Steve Bullock
Jordann Lankford	CMR/ PGEC	Indian Ed Academic Achievement Coach	Indian Education Teacher of the Year	MT Indian Education Association
Karen Spencer	CMR	Teacher	Chemistry Teacher of the Year	MT Science Teachers' Association
Kim Ray	Loy	Principal	2017 Distinguished Service Award - General Educator	MT Council of Administrators of Special Education
Lance Boyd	SS	Principal	Region II 2017 Leadership Award	MT Office of Public Instruction
Michelle Brown	GFH	Math Teacher	Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Member of the Year	Great Falls College - Montana State University
Michelle Mitchell	GFH	IE Academic Achievement Coach	Outstanding Specialist	Jobs for America's Graduates
InterTribal Strong Indian Youth Group	CMR/GFHS /PGEC		2016 Award of Excellence	Montana Native Youth Conference
Paul Hogan	CMR	Welding Teacher	EMT of the Year	Great Falls Emergency Services
Rachel Cutler	VV	Principal	2017 Distinguished Service Award - General Educator	MT Council of Administrators of Special Education
Randy Remsen	GFH	Special Education	Retirement Recognition	MT National Guard
Russ Kellogg	CMR	Band Teacher	Quarterfinalist for 2018 Music Educator Award	Recording Academy and the Grammy Museum
Ruth Uecker	DOB	Assistant Superintendent	Adrian Langstaff Award	MT Association of Elem and Middle School Principals
Tammy Lacey	DOB	Superintendent	Person of the Year Legacy Award	The History Museum
Tammy Lacey	DOB	Superintendent	Distinguished Service Award	MT Society of Health and Physical Educators
Appointments/Elections				
Staff Member	School	GFPS Position	Position	Organization
Corri Smith	Paris	Director of Indian Education	Board of Directors	Great Falls Community Food Bank
Jon Konen	Lincoln	Principal	SAM President 2016-17	School Administrators of Montana
Lisa Von Bergen	District	Student Services Coordinator	Regional Director	MT Council of Administrators of Special Education
Paul Culbertson	EMS	Associate Principal	2017-18 MASSP Vice President	Montana Association of Secondary School Principals
Susan Quinn	PGEC	Teacher	Data Task Force	Office of Public Instruction
Tom Hering	DOB	Director of Instructional Technology	Data Task Force	Office of Public Instruction

# DEPARTMENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

AS PROVIDED BY DEPARTMENT SUPERVISORS

## Buildings and Grounds Department's Accomplishments 2016-2017

### ADA

- Continuing door replacement

### Emergency Responses

- Responded quickly to a community request to open CMR High School for the neighborhood evacuation of last year's fire.
- Bat mitigation at CMR

### Energy Savings

- New boilers
- Finished CMR water well recovery
- Continued temperature control replacement
- Continued upgrading to LED lighting

### Hazardous Materials Work

- Continual asbestos abatement/monitoring
- Science chemical disposal
- Continual training
- Labeling/safety data sheet

### Indoor Air Quality

- HVAC air duct cleaning
- Moisture mitigations
- Repaired ventilation system at GFH Fieldhouse in time for graduation
- Continual monitoring

### Maintenance

- Painted Whittier Elementary classrooms
- Replaced carpet at several sites
- Continued completion of work orders
- Parking lot sealing and painting
- Supported PTA playground projects
- Kitchen remodel at Sunnyside
- Started remodel of Russell Elementary for the B&G's new shops
- Continual grounds work throughout District
- Spruced up GFH locker rooms and hallways, including new paint in time for State Swim meet

### Safety

- Passed 3 Department of Labor inspections!
- Continued intercom replacement projects
- Supported SRO recommendations for safety
- Continued deployment of 3M floor maintenance systems
- Fire alarm repairs
- Ongoing safety training

### Bond Work

- Moved 5 trades department into one location at the new B&G site located at Russell Elementary
- Abated asbestos and lead from Lowell for the demolition contractors
- Saved a considerable amount of bond money by doing work "In House"



## **Career and Technical Education Achievements 2016-2017**

CTSO students who qualified at state to attend nationals:

- 10 for BPA- GFHS 8 CMR 2
- 16 for DECA- GFHS 7 CMR 9
- 11 for HOSA- GFHS 3 CMR 8
- 4 for FCCLA- CMR 4
- 2 for SkillsUSA- GFHS 1 CMR 1
- 12 for Electric City FFA
- 38 CNA graduates
- 9 Welding cohort graduates
- 25 High School House students
- 29 Medical Internships placed in our community
- 307 Job Shadows placed in our community
- 2 students participating in GFCMSU Computer Science courses

## **Fine Art Department's Accomplishments 2016-2017**

- CMR Chanteur Choir performance at NAFME-NW in Bellevue, WA (Feb 2017)
- New OC Seltzer Art Gallery dedicated at CMR (Dec 2016)
- HS Art Gallery shows featuring local area artists, retired art educators, Artist in Residence, past alumni, and current students.
- MHSA All-State Festival and MMEA Music Educators Conference Host site and manager (Oct 2016)
- 58 All-State Musicians from GFHS and CMR
- 18 NAFME-NW student musicians from GFHS and CMR in All-NW Honors Ensembles (Band, Choir, Orchestra)
- Bison Blue Man group concert
- AA Choir and AA Orchestra Festivals hosted in GF
- Jazz Workshop event
- Art Shows outside of District Buildings: Colors of the Fall (4 Seasons), Ergon (GFC-MSU), Youth Art Month (Library and also display in Helena at Capitol), Young Masters (Heritage), All-City (Paris Square)
- AP ART tours to Seattle, WA (CMR) and Phoenix AR (GFHS)
- Music Tours to Salt Lake City, Spokane, Seattle, Calgary AB

Hundreds of Concerts, Programs, Art displays, and other performances delivered to the Community of Great Falls over the course of the year.

## **Indian Education Department's Accomplishments 2016-2017**

- 1) The Indian Education Department collaborated with Paris Education Center to create the InterTRIBAL Academic Immersion School. This is a school within a school that worked toward:
  - Renewed hope and an opportunity for success for lost students.
  - Being culturally responsive to the needs of our American Indian students.
  - Working with our most unique and distinct students, providing a time to heal and at time to shine.
  - Collaboration among the Indian Education Department, Paris Gibson Education Center and both middle and high schools.
  - An end goal: Every Immersion student leaves with an earned diploma that has prepared them for the next step in their life.

This project was a reallocation of Title VI funds; at this point no new money has been infused. We have a commitment from all involved to pilot this for two more years. The program will continually change and adapt to the ever-changing needs of our students.

- 2) InterTRIBAL Strong is an American Indian Youth Leadership high school group. This group includes Great Falls Public School American Indian students from CM Russell High, Great Falls High, and Paris Gibson Education Center. The goals of InterTRIBAL Strong are twofold: 1) to increase the graduation rate of American Indian students, and 2) through service projects communicate a positive view of American Indians.

This year this student leadership group took on bring back the Youth Pow Wow to Great Falls Public Schools. The District has not had a Pow Wow in seven years, and the students made it happen this year. Starting in Oct. 2016 these student leaders met every other Monday to plan and implement this service project. The Youth Pow Wow, was held on May 13, 2017. A Pow Wow is an American Indian social gathering with singing, dancing, food and arts and craft vendors. InterTRIBAL Strong felt it was crucial to educate all our schools and surrounding community about American Indians through this cultural gathering.

## Food Service Department's Accomplishments 2016-2017

- Remodel of Paris Gibson Storage area including new walk in refrigerator and freezer.
- CMR Cafeteria was painted by the district painters and the metal CMR Bison skull was created by Paul Hogan the Industrial
- Remodel of Sunnyside dish room along with the replacement of the dishwasher.
- Remodel of the West Kitchen including the Floor tile and replacement of the dish machine and stainless steel dish table.
- Added Breakfast in the Classroom to Valley View Elementary School.



## Warehouse Accomplishments 2016-2017

The warehouse staff was able to empty Little Russell so Buildings and Grounds could move in while still not having the buildings ready to move into. They did this while maintaining their daily routes all while having a mountain of mechanical issues with the trucks.

## Technology Department's Accomplishments 2016-2017

### Data

- Improved backup processing of all databases for recovery of data
- Improved TOE reporting by creating customized reports (best year ever)
- Created data transfers for Hero, PowerSchool Assessment, and Admin Walkthrough applications
- Created data transfer for PK Grant

### Technology

- Piloted 700 Chromebooks at Elementary and Middle Schools. Board approved full implementation on 1/23/17
- Elementary - Trained 65 teachers and staff on Chromebook use in 11 different sessions. Teachers turned in 201 lesson plans and logged 104 coaching appointments
- Elementary Tech Coach completed 122 preconference/planning sessions, 130 modeled lessons, 50 post-conferences, 22 tech support sessions, 25 observed lessons, 8 teacher tech team meetings, and logged 474 coaching opportunities
- Secondary – 95 preconference/planning sessions, 8 modeled lessons, 2 post-conferences, 31 tech support sessions, 13 observed lessons, and 8 teacher tech team meetings
- Submitted and was granted \$204,356 in E-Rate funding for network switches, cabinets and UPS
- 154 secondary network switches installed/configured to replace out dated network equipment
- 21 Smart UPS Battery Backups placed at each school to provide uninterrupted power for network equipment
- 4 main distribution facility wiring closets & 4 intermediate distribution facility wiring closets upgraded
- 22,000 feet of cat5E and 1,500 feet of fiber optic cable was installed to accommodate growth in technology
- Recycled / E-wasted 60 pallets of obsolete technology equipment
- 77% of District converted to Windows 10 & Office 2016
- Conducted Security Assessment by 3<sup>rd</sup> party security vendor. 17 of 23 identified vulnerabilities remediated
- Conducted wireless surveys on 10 Elementary locations. Recommendation to expand coverage on 3
- Deployed 2630 new and replacement computers (501 Refurbished PCs, 186 Refurbished Laptops, 1778 Chromebooks, 112 New Laptops, 53 New PCs)
- Installed full campus video surveillance system at Loy (24), Valley View (11), Riverview (21), Little Russell (9). Added to CMR (3), replaced at EMS (4), replaced at GFH (31), added to GFH (1), replaced at NMS (2). Total cameras in district - 553
- Upgraded 3 Data Center servers and added 20 Tb of disk storage for speed and capacity

### Other

- 5 year Technology Strategic Plan approved
- Ran Tech Levy campaign - failed
- Voice over IP phone system RFP and decision
- Planned, organized and executed 2017 MIET Conference on June 13-14, 2017. 63 sessions, 96 attendees (52 GFPS), 9 vendors

***This list of accomplishments is not all inclusive. This is a sampling only.***



# SCHOOL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

AS PROVIDED BY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS

## EARLY LEARNING CENTER

- Preschool **children** earned **4,214 BEE TICKETS** by being SAFE, KIND and READY!
- Preschool **staff** earned **PLATINUM recognition at MBI** for sustaining early childhood positive behavior supports with fidelity.
- Spring 2017, **69%** of full day students were performing at **benchmark** in **Early Literacy Skills**. (Fall 17%)
- Spring 2017, **80%** of full day students were performing at **benchmark** in **Early Numeracy Skills**. (Fall 41%)
- Preschool was awarded **\$4,500 from United Way Cascade County** to sustain family engagement efforts.
- Preschool was recognized by Special Olympics Montana as
  - **2016-17 OUTSTANDING UNIFIED CHAMPION SCHOOL!**
- Preschool Family Engagement Liaison **strengthened relationships and communication** between school, home and community.
- Preschool **collaborated with Junior League** to provide Thanksgiving dinners for 5 families.
- Preschool Special Education Team **evaluated 55 preschool age children** for special services.
- Completed year 2 of **Montana Preschool Development Grant (MPDG)**
- Preschool continued implementation of **Academic Parent Teacher Team (APTT)** meetings with families in all preschool classrooms.

## CHIEF JO ELEMENTARY

- Chief Joseph had 3 students place in the city speech meet.
- Chief Joseph had its second annual get active Walk-A-Thon sponsored by the PTA.
- Chief Joseph continued to have our BASE Lunch Buddy Program. This year we had over 15 base buddies volunteering over 40 hours.
- Chief Joseph continued to have a great relationship with Schulte's and celebrated 10 students of the month.
- Chief Joseph principal received the Distinguished Service Award from the Montana Council of Administrators of Special Education.

## LEWIS AND CLARK ELEMENTARY

- Lewis and Clark Teachers participated in 2 rounds of Lesson Study as a means of improving instruction and incorporating technology into instruction.
- Held our first annual school-wide speech meet this May.
- Teachers participated in Trauma Training and used this information to become more trauma-informed in when interacting with students. We look forward to more work on this next year.
- Implemented Academic Parent Teacher Teams in 4 classrooms.
- Continued Partnerships with New City Church and Schulte's.
- PTA raised \$10,000 through our annual walk-a-thon and donated this amount to purchase computers for our building. This money was used to purchase a cart of Chromebooks.
- Sixth Grade accessed Chromebooks during this school year. This increased access to technology increased student engagement and improved student achievement based on MAP data.

## **LINCOLN ELEMENTARY**

- Parent Engagement Advocate – Working with families and meeting needs outside of school, as well as in school. Held several school-wide events over the school year: Movie night, Children’s museum night, Grams for Grandparents, Preschool Orientation Night
- Discovery Grant Winners – Laurie Matteson, Susanne Halley, and Miwa Combs.
- Strong PTA – fund raising events for the school raised over \$15,500 for computers, flexible seating, new bottle filling station, and books for the library.
- PTA Walk-a-thon raised over \$12,000.
- Fundraising for students doing Lincoln Service Projects. We raised over \$3000 this school year. We also supported many causes in our community: 2<sup>nd</sup> grade flower project, local church beautification,
- Over 1,760 acts of great citizenship with the Lion’s 19 Program developed off of Ron Clark’s 55 Essential Rules – much like random Acts of Kindness (See our Lion’s 19 Bulletin Board on our Facebook Page).
- Almost 600 Facebook followers! Reached 200 posts on our Caught Reading program at Lincoln.
- Adopted Chromebooks in grades 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, and purchased for 6<sup>th</sup> this year.
- School-wide Read A-louds: Wonder and Ish.
- Put more emphasis on Culture Building Activities: Buddy Classrooms and Community, School-wide theme of Perseverance.
- Increased Safety Awareness: practicing dog safety, school evacuation procedures, and other safety procedures.
- Several Celebrations of Learning: I Love to Read Week, Kindergarten Learning Lunches, Kindergarten STEM Parent Night, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Wax Museum, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Insect Project and Presentations, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Constitution Day Parade, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade State Report Project and Presentations, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Veteran Tea, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Country Projects and Presentations, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Biome Projects, Marshall the Miracle Dog Assembly, Respect Rally,

## **LONGFELLOW ELEMENTARY**

- Longfellow reorganized our RTI process to improve data collection, progress monitoring, and problem-solving discussions.
- Longfellow provided Thanksgiving dinners for 25 families in need over the holidays. We also provided Christmas gifts to over 50 families.
- The Longfellow food pantry was expanded to serve more families in need. Longfellow averaged 10 families a week needing this support.
- We continue to cultivate relationships with the business community. Eklunds donated a refrigerator to the food pantry.
- We had a student recognized by a local business for reading one million words this school year.
- Longfellow hosted a Traditional Round Dance after the Holiday Concert bringing in much community participation.
- Safety! Met with and developed specific plans with outside agencies for building evacuations; conducted an evacuation drill.
- We developed the Running Club for students during recess.
- Longfellow continues to support technology initiatives to include the implementation of chromebooks at two grade levels.
- Longfellow continues to partner with the United Way to support Graduation Matters. This included Kindergarten partnering with the Graduation Walk with high school students culminating in a year end celebration.

## LOY ELEMENTARY

The 2016-2017 has come to a close and Loy Elementary accomplished many things throughout the year. Character Education, student safety and working closely with MAFB and the school liaison officer (SLO) were the focuses for the year.

**Character Education** continued to be an emphasis throughout the year. Character Assemblies will take place in the gym on the last Wednesday of every month. For the assemblies, we had students sit with their Loy Families. We will introduce the character trait for the next month and recognize the students who were selected for demonstrating the character word of the month throughout all settings in the school. Any full-time employee can nominate a student who best exemplifies the character trait from the previous month. These nominations may include more than one student or no student at all. This will not only give more students a chance to be recognized, but also ensure that they are all deserving of the award. In addition, students that joined our school community during the month will be welcomed and given a Loy coin that represents our character education program and exemplifies our “Believe, Discover, Achieve” motto.

This year we created our **Loy Families**. Each full-time staff member will have 15-18 students divided between grades K-6 (all students participate) in their family. This offered our students the opportunity to build positive relationships with an adult besides their classroom teacher, but also form relationships with students in other grades. Our families met once a month (the last Wednesday of the month) and did fun activities that focused on building positive relationships and teamwork.

**Student safety** is always a continual focus as we want students to feel safe and welcomed in the building at all times. The building is now equipped with cameras in the hallways and outside to help monitor student and community safety.

Monthly meetings were held with the **SLO** to further open communication between Loy and MAFB and work together to improve transitions for all military children. These meetings also gave way to more opportunities for the staff at Loy to learn about MAFB and the jobs that the parents of our students do on a daily basis and the hardship that families incur. We started the year with a briefing and tour of several departments on base to help the teachers understand the job responsibilities that our parents have at MAFB. In April, the principal, School Liaison Office and two other MAFB officials attended an Educational Symposium in Barksdale, AFB in Bossier City, LA. The symposium focused on building the ties between the school liaison officer and the school and what the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children/MIC3 means for schools and how best to support families/children.

Every year we honor **Veteran’s Day** by having an assembly and we were privileged to have Colonel Allen from Malmstrom Air Force Base as our keynote speakers for the event. At the end of the year, the 6<sup>th</sup> grade students had a fieldtrip to MAFB and spent the day learning first-hand what it takes to work in a variety of fields (jobs).

### **Other events and activities:**

- Weekly Indian Education Club
- STEAM Expo
- Starbase Program for 5<sup>th</sup> grade students
- Music Programs (Holiday and spring concerts)
- Geography Bee and Spelling Bee
- School and City Speech Meet
- Data Day Meetings (RTI) every 6 weeks
- DARE (drop everything and read) & Scholastic Book Fairs to promote the importance of reading
- Various fundraisers in conjunction with PTA
- 5/6<sup>th</sup> Grade activity nights (once a month)



## MEADOW LARK ELEMENTARY

- **Olweus Kickoff Assembly** for Anti-bullying was by Higher Impact Entertainment. Students learned that they have opportunities to IMPACT by impressing, motivating, being positive, achieving, having courage and working together to stop bullying behavior!
- The **Meadow Lark PTA** purchased an electronic marquee to keep our families updated with communication year round.
- In our school, we worked to strengthen **Community Relationships** by finding ways to support others:
  - **Cameron Family Center**- our leadership students volunteered once a month and served dinner to the families that are staying in this facility. They also organized a school-wide collection of toiletries and baby items to donate as well. They collected well over 600 items that over the course of four months.
  - **Meals on Wheels**- our school organized a collection of small items to be delivered to the participants in the Meals on Wheels Program for the holidays. This 12 Days of Christmas allowed each recipient to open a small gift from December 12-24 to anticipate the holiday. This year we were able to wrap and send 52 gift bags filled with the 12 items.
  - **Giving Trees**-Parents and staff shopped, wrapped, and gave presents to support families in our community from other schools.
  - **Canned Food Collection**-Our students collected non-perishable food items and donated to GFPS school food pantries in several elementary schools.
  - **Lost and Found**-We made several donations of clothing items throughout the year to other elementary schools and community agencies.
  - **Mystery Readers**-We invited many community professionals to read to our students and discuss their profession and how reading impacts their lives.
  - **Red Cross Blood Drive**-Our PTA hosted our own Blood Drive promoted by our 4<sup>th</sup> grade students as part of their science curriculum. Each adult that donated nominated a student to donate for to encourage our students to donate their own blood when they are adults.
  - **Leadership Campus Cleanup**-Every student participated in a variety of spring cleaning activities for our school. This effort was led by our Sixth Grade Student Leadership students. They were able to fill many garbage bags with trash, weeds, and branches. Our school looks amazing!
- **Graduation Matters:**
  - School-wide **National Walk to School Day** at Meadow Lark with students, families, and alumni high school students (wearing their high school logo) joining this event to encourage exercise, wellness, and graduation.
  - **Assemblies** were put on by our local high school students to encourage our students to be part of music, theatre, and sports.
  - Graduation Matters/United Way teamed up with our kindergarten and sixth graders to do activities and participate in a Sixth Grade Farewell Walk through our hallways on the last day of school.
- **Contest Winners:**
  - **PTA Reflections:** several students participated in this program at the school, state, and national level.
- **Professional Development:**
  - Continued implementation of school-wide behavior guidelines called **P.A.W.S.**, which stands for **P**romptly following directions, **A**lways being respectful, **W**orking hard and doing our best, and **S**electing safe choices. Several staff members are participating in the Montana Behavior Institute Initiative training at MSU in Bozeman.
  - **Project-based Learning**– our students are engaged in utilizing our technology standards and Chromebook devices into lessons for reading, writing, and math! Students are motivated with the hands-on learning!
  - **Lesson Study**-teachers collaborated to plan lessons and analyze the learning of students in the areas of reading and math intervention. Our goal is always for each and every student to make one year's growth. Staff too!

## MORNINGSIDE ELEMENTARY

First Day of School- "Hollywood Style"

Celebrated the first day of school with a stretch SUV limo on the front lawn provided by **BlackedOut 406!** Photo Ops galore!

### Amazing School Partnerships:

- Great Falls Lions Club: Two free breakfasts for students and families; food pantry donations
- Living Grace Church: Food pantry donations, clothing needs, ice cream treats on last day of school
- My Student in Need Program: Various clothing and personal need items.
- Great Falls Masons: Reading Challenge donation of **5 Kindles**
- Agencies with Holiday Family Support: GFPD- Shop with a Cop; Meadow Lark Country Club; GFFD-
- Paul's Holiday Wish; Morningside Families.
- Lemonade sale for the Cameron Family Center- students raised over \$140.

### Wellness:

- Health Enhancement teacher taught a Fit Kids two afternoons a week to our students. We received a grant from Fit Kids for \$1,000 to buy equipment!
- Literacy teacher taught yoga to our students one morning a week before school

### One Fantastic PTA:

- MCT: Missoula Children's Theater production of Peter and Wendy
- 3 Skating Parties at Wheels of Thunder for our students and families
- "STAR-STUDDER" BBQ at Heren Park
- "Now Featuring" PTA Carnival
- "Movie Premier" Night- movie and popcorn evening family fun
- \$500 per classroom for class supplies; \$100 "class cash" for incentives

## MOUNTAIN VIEW ELEMENTARY

- For the fall fund raiser, PTA elected to sell spirit cups and sold the most cups in a 3 state region. Mountain View had three of the four top sellers in the region. The spirit cup company partnered with the Fuel Up to Play 60 folks and Mountain View Earned an NFL assembly. Marc Mariani surprised students at Mountain View with his attendance at an assembly on March 6, 2017. His message was get outside and play for at least 60 minutes every day and eat a healthy diet. He signed autographs and T-shirts and had pictures taken with each grade level. Through this affiliation, Mountain View became a Fuel Up to Play 60 ambassador school. Mrs. Konen was awarded a grant for alternative seating (wobble stools, balls, rocking chairs) and a smoothie machine for each grade level, complete with supplies.
- 48 fourth graders took the NAPE (National Assessment of Educational Progress) Test.
- 19 students participated in the Extended Curriculum program.
- On April 26, 2017 Mountain View students were treated to a visit from Montana Shakes, a division of the Shakespeare in the Park group. They opened with an all school play and then did workshops in grades three through six.
- Mountain View Student Support Specialist supported 80 students throughout the year. These students were supported in a variety of ways. Some needed tools like fidgets, therapy sand and rocking chairs. Mrs. Konen had grade level groups where she taught Zones of Regulation to students. She went into the fourth grade classes to teach the students whole group about Zones.
- On May 22 and 23, 2017 Mountain View had Kristin Souers, co-author of the book *Fostering Resilient Learners, Strategies for Creating a Trauma-Sensitive Classroom* visit our school. She visited every classroom and then met with teachers to share feedback on the positive things she saw. She also gave suggestions for creating a more trauma-sensitive classroom.
- On June 14, 2017 Mountain View partnered with the Eden Market to sponsor Summer Read 6 book give away. We gave away 86 books to 43 children. We served Hot dogs and after the students selected their books, they

were invited to decorate a luminary bag for the River's Edge Trail walk. We have Summer Read 6 book give aways scheduled for July 14, 2017 and August 14, 2017.

- A True Transformation: Creating A 21<sup>st</sup> Century Library at Mountain View Elementary. 4 teachers and one school psychologist wrote Discovery Grants totaling 15, 000.00 to make over our out dated library. It was one of the largest Discovery Grants ever awarded by the Great Falls Public Schools Foundation. The money will be used to purchase new, custom made bookshelves and an interactive TV. Kira Fercho, and artist out of Big Sky has donated her time to create an amazing Aspen Tree mural in the library.
- Mountain View 5<sup>th</sup> grade was fortunate to have 2 Lawyers From the firm Davis, Hatley, Haffeman & Tighe come and stage a mock trial of Goldilocks and the 3 bears as part of the Law Day celebration. Students were assigned parts and did a reader's theater type play. The 3 bears accused Goldilocks of being rude. The jury found Goldilocks not guilty!
- 16 sixth graders earned the Presidential Gold Award by having a 3.5 GPA in all of 4<sup>th</sup> grade, all of 5<sup>th</sup> grade and the first semester of 6<sup>th</sup> grade. 2 students earned the Silver award by showing outstanding educational growth but do not meet the criteria for the gold award.
- Mrs. Konen has been awarded a Fuel Up to Play 60 grant. The grant is close to 4,000.00 and the money will be used to purchase alternate seating such as wobble chairs, balls and rocking chairs. She also will purchase a smoothie maker for every grade level complete with shelf sustainable smoothie mix. The idea is students can earn smoothie parties for following school rules.

## **RIVERVIEW ELEMENTARY**

- Riverview students and staff elected our first group of 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades to our building leadership team. They worked together to plan our building wide SBAC kick-off assembly, brainstorm weekly behavior rewards, and plot a plan of action to future needs of Riverview Elementary.
- Riverview staff was honored with numerous gold stars through the GFPS Foundation.
- Riverview students read to earn the opportunity to participate in the "Pie in the Face" and "Dunk Tank" celebrations at the end of each semester.
- Riverview PTA organized the annual cookie dough fundraiser. Students stepped up to make it another great year, and are being rewarded with nearly \$20,000 of new technology.
- Riverview PTA organized the first annual walk-a-thon. All funds raised are going towards upgrading two old water fountains by replacing them with filtered fountains with water bottle fillers.
- Riverview will have cameras installed in all common areas and outside to continue to address ongoing safety concerns, thanks to our PTA.
- Riverview has purchased two-way radios to improve communication between the office and all areas of the building.
- Riverview students, parents and community came together to provide 25 holiday baskets for families in need.
- Riverview continued our tradition of delivering May Day baskets around the community. In addition, each classroom cleaned up the streets along the delivery route.
- Riverview staff received its first ever GFPS Discovery Grant to create sensory buckets for classrooms.
- Riverview students and staff partnered with Montana Special Olympics and adopted the Great Falls Lions team for the next three years. We look forward to supporting the athletes in all of their adventures.



## ROOSEVELT ELEMENTARY

Roosevelt Students were recognized for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row as having read the most minutes of any school in the state of Montana during the 2016 summer by Scholastic.

**In our school** we worked to strengthen community relationships, help students get their needs met, and build stronger relationships with parents with the goal of increasing student achievement.

- Teachers communicated with parents monthly and logged communication. Each grade level hosted at least one parent luncheon to build capacity in parents.
- Held several school-wide events over the school year: Children's Night at the Museum, Bingo Night, Color Run
- Fundraising for a family with medical needs and another family who lost their father was successful.
- Brought in 2 authors in to share the importance of reading and writing as well as the importance of being kind.
- Kindness Crew comprised of leaders in 4, 5, 6 grades did multiple community service activities this year.
- We delivered May Day baskets to our new neighbors and our existing neighbors as a way of thanking them for their support and showing them ways the school can give back.
- STEAM Expo—greatly increased the number of students participating.

### **Amazing School Partnerships:**

- New Hope Church and Crossroads Church: Food pantry donations, clothing needs, multiple volunteers to read with students, assisted with celebrations
- My Student in Need Program: Various clothing and personal need items.
- Great Falls Masons: Reading Challenge donation of 3 Kindles.
- Participated in the 9-Innings of reading with the Great Falls Voyagers.

### **Graduation Matters:**

- Paris Gibson Alternative School hosted our leadership students in learning about the importance of graduating while completing multiple activities. The Paris Gibson graduates attended our final celebration for our 6<sup>th</sup> Graders and lead them on a graduation walk.

### **Grants:**

- 2 Roosevelt Teachers received One Class At a Time Grants
- 2 Roosevelt Teachers received a Great Falls Public Schools Foundation Grant

### **Professional Development:**

- Implemented a yearlong theme of building the language skills of our students.
- We implemented monthly social skills and character traits instruction in all classrooms.
- Safety was improved through refining our drill procedures and armed intruder on-site training.
- Our teachers met (on their own time) multiple evening throughout the spring to help to plan our new building! Thank you, Great Falls!
- Our teachers also spent a Saturday learning about the effects of trauma on students.

## SACAJAWEA ELEMENTARY

### **Schoolwide Celebrations:**

**STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT:** Trauma Informed School: Sacajawea staff participated in many trainings this year to understand trauma and how that affects the students, we teach. We watched "Paper Tigers", participated in a book study "Fostering Resilient Learners, Strategies for Creating a Trauma-Sensitive Classroom" and then began to implement strategies into classrooms. All classrooms have at least one student rocking chair to help students calm their bodies and refocus back to instruction.

**STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT:** Technology Standards: Technology standards were rolled out this year and teachers as well as students embraced the learning opportunities that came with new standards. 5<sup>th</sup> grade students worked on Chromebooks all year and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students received toward the end of the year. It was amazing to see the project based learning with such an efficient device. Student engagement was phenomenal while using the Chromebooks.

**STEWARDSHIP AND ACCOUNTABILITY:** Implemented EPAS Teacher Evaluation System/Goal Setting: All teachers set a goal under our new EPAS teacher evaluation system and had two opportunities to share the goal and data related to the goal. Teachers signed up to teach one component of a domain at PLCT and became the “expert” in that component.

**HEALTHY SAFE AND SECURE SCHOOLS:** We continued our focus on attendance this year and posted classroom attendance per month. Students could easily see how their class was doing as they walked past the office daily. At the end of the year, the two classes that tied for the highest attendance were recognized at an assembly for the whole school to see that their class had attended school 96% of the school year. This year, we used “SUPERHERO BADGES” to reward positive behavior and had weekly “SUPERHERO BADGE” drawings to reward and acknowledge good behavior.

**Student Celebrations:**

- Sacajawea students have a reputation for participating in the PTA Reflections program each year. This year, six students placed first in the following categories: Film Production, Music, Visual Arts, Photography, and Dance. This year, a Kindergarten student placed at the national level and received an Award of Merit in Film Production.
- This year, 6<sup>th</sup> grade students at Sacajawea participated in a Scholastic Poster contest in which he/she had to draw their principal as a Super Hero. One of our students received runner up and was awarded a novel set of “Captain Underpants” as well as supplementary novels pertaining to the upcoming “Captain Underpants” movie premier.
- Sacajawea had many students place in the City Speech meet and one of our 6<sup>th</sup> graders won the Impromptu category. Several students earned gold medals for their STEAM projects as well.
- Two 5<sup>th</sup> grade students presented about robotics for the STEAM Expo and Tomorrow’s Technology in Today’s Classroom at Paris Gibson Education Center.

**PTA Celebrations:**

- PTA had successful fundraisers this year to raise money for classroom libraries so students had more variety to choose from for independent reading time. They also donated over \$13,000.00 to purchase new Chromebooks for the library so students have an efficient device to do research and project based learning.
- Missoula Children’s Theater production “Treasure Island”
- One day Book Fair profit over \$7,000.00 including online sales

## **SUNNYSIDE ELEMENTARY**

- Every grade level and individual class completed a community service project during the 16-17 school year. The service projects ranged from working and supporting the law enforcement agencies within our community, a sock drive for the Receiving Home, raising funds for a mother who is terminally ill with cancer and many more.
- Sunnyside teachers participated in the SHAPE MT 150 initiative. This allowed students to work with their classes to have 150 minutes of movement time during their day. Students participated in yoga, school moves, boot camp drills, dancing and much more during the 2016-2017 school year.
- Sunnyside provided 14 families dinner at Thanksgiving and twenty families dinner at Christmas.
- Sunnyside families and students also supported 90 students and families for Christmas. Families provided games, books and household items to help those families in need at Sunnyside.
- Attendance Plans and Promotion- Students worked to keep their attendance in the green. Students that had 7 or fewer absences for the year were recognized and earned a Smoothie Party.
- Sunnyside was the proud recipient of four “One Class at A Time” Grants. Teachers used this money to support students and make learning a little easier and fun for students.
- Sunnyside Elementary was selected as the recipient of a NFL Play 60 grant to help support our efforts for promoting a healthy and active lifestyle. Smoothie machines were purchased to replace sugar items during classroom celebrations.
- Participation with MAPRIL Cleanup during April and May- All 455 kids cleaned up our campus and surrounding allies and streets.
- Librarian Mrs. Cathy Allen was selected for a Great Falls Public Schools Foundation Discovery Grant for investment into Chromebook Technology for our Library.
- Sunnyside 4th Grade student was a selected as honorable mention in Flag Essay Contest. This student earned a flag assembly for the entire school.

- Mr. Boyd was presented with the Region 2 CSPD Leadership award.
- Sunnyside students participated in annual bike-a-thon as a way to promote healthy life style choices.
- Student Leadership worked with principal and faculty to have healthy snacks for sale for a quarter during selected Friday's throughout the year.

## VALLEY VIEW ELEMENTARY

- Finishing our third year of APTT (Academic Parent Teacher Teams) implementation. Two staff members were awarded Great Falls Public Schools Foundation Discovery Grants for their work with APTT.  
Our counselor created an after school jump rope team that met twice each week. The team's goals are to have fun, learn skills, and possibly jump competitively in the future.
- Staff, PTA, and Malmstrom volunteers collaborated to paint and refurbish our playground.  
Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Jitterbug Competition was a great success with 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders competing in a fun contest to showcase the skills they learned in health enhancement classes.  
We successfully implemented Youth Athletes (in conjunction with Special Olympics) to build the physical and social skills of approximately 60 students.  
Our 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classes participated in Embark Credit Union's Money on the Bookshelf program (with three students earning gift cards for completing the challenge).
- We raised almost \$2000 for a young child with medical needs in our Courage for Coleman fundraiser.  
We also implemented Breakfast in the Classroom and saw an increase in the number of students eating breakfast each day.  
Finally, we hosted a Veteran's Day assembly for invited guests, where 6<sup>th</sup> grade students taught younger students about Veteran's Day, 3<sup>rd</sup> graders performed patriotic songs and a group of students explained the significance of the "missing man table".

## WEST ELEMENTARY

- PTA purchased an additional piece of playground equipment for the playground
- Purchased West Wildcat Wall Art for the hallways
- Continued partnership with Kiwanis Club continue the "Book Nook" where students could go and listen to stories read by Kiwanis and other community members as well as trade or keep books
- Partnered with Kiwanis to Initiate the BUG (Bring Up Your Grades) and Improved Attendance recognition to motivate students to improve grades and attendance
- Discovery Grant – 2 teachers to complete their goal of purchasing movement chairs
- One Class at a Time Grant – 3 teachers
- Embark Student Savings Program – students completed the challenge of reading books and learning about saving money
- Big Sky Fit Kids Grant – PE Teacher
- Yoga to start the day three times a week!
- Continued grant for Free Breakfast and Lunch for all students
- Continued implementation of after school Indian Culture Club – which included cultural activities and dancing
- Continued use of MILEPOSTS for weekly data collection for RtI progress monitoring and planning for specific interventions
- West Students read **80 MILLION** words, participating in our AR Reading Incentive Program, greatly surpassing their goal!
- Had 2 teachers earn their Masters in Education
- Completed another GREAT year with Great Falls Public Schools!

## WHITTIER ELEMENTARY

- Continued and expanded our Graduation Matters partnership with UGF this year. The Providence Formation Group has adopted 4 grade levels here at Whittier (seniors with 3rd graders / juniors with 2nd graders / sophomores with 1st graders / freshman with kinder). We also celebrated a graduation at UGF with our 3<sup>rd</sup> graders and our graduating UGF Seniors! They have been with their adopted grade level for 4 years! The relationships and volunteer hours these students are logging with their adopted grade levels are incredible!
- We continue our 100% free breakfast and lunch program at Whittier. We also have breakfast-in-the-classroom, the backpack food program for weekends, and an active food pantry. Our students get fed!
- Student leadership worked a school store and used their proceeds to fund free yearbooks for all students again this year. The yearbook was a collaborative project with our librarian and many highly motivated students. They created an amazing product!
- Continuation of the STARBASE program offering a full 5 days of STEM experiences for ALL GFPS 5th grade students throughout the year.
- Whittier kids again participated in the 9-Innings of reading with the Great Falls Voyagers. Orbit came, encouraged our kiddos to read, and offered a bunch of fun incentives! Thanks Voyagers!
- Whittier's interior was painted this year and our office was remodeled to add a parent window. It is much more inviting to our families and everything looks shiny and new.
- 1st year implementing our Character Education Program where we focus on monthly skills to be good school citizens. Our theme was "Bee the Best You Can Bee!"
- Increased PTA Membership
- 6<sup>th</sup> grade piloted Chromebooks in the classroom this year. (4<sup>th</sup> grade began this spring)
- We had our 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Kids Night Out with our UGF Partners. Many great activities provided here at Whittier courtesy of the UGF Teams and Athletic Department.
- Several new cameras were installed this year, increasing our safety factor and helping with supervision.
- Student Leadership began each day delivering the morning announcements and leading our school in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Continued a strong relationship with both the Bison/Rustler Buddy program and the Girl Scouts to provide services and activities for Whittier students.

## EAST MIDDLE SCHOOL

- East Middle School under the lead of Mrs. Bell held a Respect Rally to Spread the Word to End the Word. Some of the students and teachers wore T-Shirts to get the message out as well.
- East Middle School had a student take 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Cascade County Spelling Bee.
- The Dynamo team delivered May flowers to our EMS neighbors.
- Students from Mrs. Vehrs and the VIP Team at EMS raised \$450 to make blankets and to buy other essential supplies for people at the Cameron Center.
- EMS held an assembly to talk to a panel of community experts about the opioid problem. They also watched the film "Chasing the Dragon" as part of their understanding of the problem.
- Velocity student at EMS created advertising projects in their English classes with Mrs. Milling. The students competed for an opportunity to present their projects to a local advertising agency.
- At the EMS awards assembly 14 8<sup>th</sup> grade students were recognized for having a 4.0 GPA for their two years at EMS.
- At the EMS awards assembly six students were awarded perfect attendance for the school year, including two 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who had perfect attendance for both years at EMS.
- The 7<sup>th</sup> grade honors English class of Mrs. Weir competed in the Letters about Literature state-wide competition. Two of EMS's students earned runner-up awards and 4 other students were recognized as well.
- Mrs. Culliton and Mr. Olson both won the One Class at a Time award.
- EMS under the direction of Ms. Arnott held a Graduation Matters Pep Assembly to have some fun and to reinforce the importance of graduating from high school.

- Mr. Kumm and Mrs. Shull were both selected for the Excellence in Education award.
- Eighth Grade EMS students could listen to presentations from community members about careers. This was an effort to help students know what they may want to do someday and the importance of learning today.
- EMS held four Prestige Breakfasts to honor students who have shown Ram Pride. These are well attended events that celebrate students for doing their best in and out of the classroom. Former EMS students who are seniors at GFH spoke at these celebrations encouraging students to do their best.
- EMS hosted two parent to school lunches. These lunches are opportunities for parents to come to EMS and enjoy the lunch period with their child.
- EMS hosted our annual Christmas Tea. Staff at EMS makes a lunch for former EMS employees to be able to come back and enjoy the company of other retirees and current EMS staff.
- Implemented Tiered Math Program that helped support all math intervention students in the building. Several Tier II students moved out of intervention math programs as a result.
- Implemented Structured Literacy Program that helped all literacy intervention students, including those in general education. The program was designed to focus on fluency first and then comprehension. Students in the intervention program expressed more confidence in the general education classroom.
- Implemented an ECS Math Program that aligned better for transition into high school math.
- Continued building a 6th grade transition program that consisted of administration visiting elementary schools, students attending a 2 hour session at EMS, a parent night, an ECS Math parent night.
- Implemented a better system for assigning incoming 6th graders to teams. This helped balance out the students among teams. One of many reasons that discipline improved with our 7th graders.

## **NORTH MIDDLE SCHOOL**

- Grizz Biz added GrizzWare - pottery
- Grizz Biz earned a Calumet Grant as well as donations from various supporters of the student run business
- 6 NMS students traveled to Washington DC on an all-expenses paid trip to participate in the National Science Academic Bowl for the second year in a row
- Developed a two new core math levels to better meet the needs of our students.
- Math Lab students had an average growth of 120 pts; expected growth in 1 year is only 50 pts.
- Reading Lab students had an average growth of 70 pts
- MBI Youth leadership team created video lessons for new students to share what we do at NMS.
- NMS leadership students visited 6th grade classrooms to teach lessons comparing Elem. to M.S. and gave advice on how to be successful students.
- Mathcounts competition: 3 students earned 3 superior ratings each, another student two superior, and two others students one superior each. A total of 14 students represented NMS.
- 12 students participated in Science Olympiad in Bozeman;
- 5 students went to the Big Sky Regional Academic bowl NMS Champions
- City Champions in Basketball (boys and girls), Track, Football, Volleyball, and Cross Country.
- Implemented a new Chromebook Pilot program with success and enthusiasm.
- Inducted 181 students into National Junior Honor Society
- NMS Student took 3rd place in County Spelling bee and traveled to Billings for State competition.
- Every team participated in community service projects. Once example is our Gladi8or team volunteering two half days and over 100 students at the Cameron Center.



## C.M. Russell High School

- Members of this class have earned over a million dollars in scholarships
- 63 class members have been initiated into the National Honor Society
- 13 seniors were awarded the Montana University System Honor Scholarship
- 65% of the class have post-graduate plans to continue their formal education
- 13 students maintained a perfect 4.0 cumulative GPA throughout high school
- 95 seniors were recognized for making the honor roll all 4 years of high school
- 95 seniors (30%) maintained a 3.5 cumulative GPA or higher in high school
- 164 members of the class (52%) maintained a 3.0 or higher cumulative GPA
- The CMR Drama Department raised 1,197 pounds of food during Trick or Treat so Kids Can Eat
- 12 senior student athletes will compete at the college level in their respective sports
- 32 athletes were recognized as Montana Coach's Association All-State Team members
- 8 seniors were named to the All State Choir and 9 to the All State Band.
- 8 FFA members were awarded their State Degree
- 3 seniors won gold medals in Special Olympics
- The CMR softball team won their back to back state championship

## GREAT FALLS HIGH SCHOOL

### Our Kids

#### ***Professional Development for Instruction***

- Literacy Coaches, Yolanda Westerberg and Kayte Howell focused on literacy instruction through writing in all content areas
- Mr. Mel Riddle focused on professional leadership development within the school setting
- Ann Ganzert worked with the school leadership team on developing a portable best practice profile

#### ***Grant***

- Received a Title I School Support grant for the 2016-2017 school year to support the Professional Development for Instruction (listed above) and purchase intervention supplies for English Language Arts classes
- Dream Big Grant winning project took students to Glacier National Park, First People's Buffalo Jump, American Prairie Reserve, and farm/ranch experiences near Malta

#### ***Culture***

- "Student Voice" focus groups and "Teacher Voice" surveys provided insight and influenced school improvement goals for the 2017-2018 school year leadership retreat in June
- InterTRIBAL Strong! Students participated in the state leadership forum
- Bison Beginnings annual kickoff for freshmen and students new to Great Falls High
- Hosted a brunch for new upper class students the first day of school and linked them to an upper classman for lunch, finding their classrooms, etc.
- 43% of our student body is engaged in extracurricular activities
- Started the state's first Air Force JROTC program.
- Sent three football players and two cheerleaders to the Shrine Game
- Hung a banner for the GFHS two-time boys basketball *Gatorade Player of the Year*, in addition to his breaking both school and AA state scoring records.
- Unveiled a Gatorade Player of the Year and Montana Coaches' Association Hall of Fame wall displays to honor alumni and former coaches
- Individual State Champions in wrestling
- State champions in Policy Speech & Debate with National Tournament qualifiers
- National Honor Society chapter members provided 932 hours of tutoring for students in all subject areas, before and after school, during Saturday school and in the STAT rooms.
- Biology, geology and chemistry students participated in field studies in the Greater Yellowstone ecosystem

- Senator John Tester surprised our Government classes with a visit, thanking them for their letters and answering questions
- Montana Secretary of State Corey Stapleton visited history classes

#### ***Academic Achievement***

- The total amount of scholarship money awarded on Honors Night, (including MUS scholarships) was over \$290,000.00
- Three National Merit Scholarship semifinalists and one finalist
- Capitalized on dual credit opportunities, helping GFHS to be recognized as a leader in the state in savings to families utilizing this college jump-start opportunity
- Mathlete Contest
- TrigSTAR contest
- WorldQuest Competition at UM
- Montana Project (formerly WarFair)
- Principal Cup competition at Simms High School
- Montana National Guard Academic All Team Trophy – Boys' Basketball

#### ***Career and Technical Education Achievement***

- High School House # 36 was built for NeighborWorks
- Students earned ASE, CDA, CNA and EMT certifications
- Students created websites and provided graphic design services for local businesses
- Opened the Bison Baristas Coffee Bar, the result of a business plan developed by students and teachers
- Students in HOSA, SkillsUSA, DECA and BPA won state awards and qualified to compete at their national conferences
- Bison Wear created and sold customized clothing
- Bison Catering worked with school and community groups to provide catering services for over 50 events

#### ***Visual and Performing Arts Achievement***

- 6 GFHS Choir students named to the NAFME All-Northwest Choir
- 4 GFHS Band students named to the NAFME All-Northwest Band
- 29 music students were selected for All-State Band, Choir or Orchestra
- The Bison Blueman performed before two very enthusiastic audiences
- Drama produced three successful shows
- Marching band performed 2 shows and marched in the Homecoming parade last fall
- The Delphian choir placed third in The American Prize in Choral Performance
- Senior AP Art students painted a mural in the South Campus weight room
- Senior AP Art students created ceramic tiles to complete the Bison installment on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor
- Art students hung and displayed art at the State Capital in Helena

#### **Our Community**

#### ***Partnerships***

- CARE/TEG/Threat Assessments
- CopCorn (with the SRO – raises money for the Bison Giving Tree)
- Cascade of Talent (Embark Credit Union)
- Developing Child classes at ELF Center
- Student musicians from Delphian Choir, Chamber Orchestra, Rhapsody Choir and Jazz Band participated in over 100 performances this year at our elementary schools, retirement homes, Benefis Hospital, as well as Special Olympics, civic group activities, and community bands. Plus, several National Anthem performances...too numerous to count!
- Buddy Walk partners – GFHS Cheer
- Special Olympics – celebrating diversity and support athletes activities
- American Red Cross blood drives
- Cross Town Clash partnerships with Voyagers Baseball

- GFCMSU partners in education for IT cohorts and dual credit
- UGF partnership for sports practice and competition venues
- Benefis CNA classes
- GFPD – *Chasing the Dragon* presentations

#### **Communication**

- Crisis team at DOB and GFPD support during times of crisis
- Facilities Updates
- GFPS Foundation for support of students and teachers

#### **Innovation**

- Beth Thomas, BNSF Teacher of the Year
- Coding Classes
- Bison Baristas coffee shop

#### **Service**

- Bison Giving Tree
- Student Council is helping to replace another window to improve our building and donated over 1,000 hours of service to our school and community. They donated a little over \$1,000.00 to *Doctors without Borders* and *The Leukemia Foundation*
- Senior class donated over \$1000 to a classmate in need of support
- National Honor Society provided thousands of hours of service, working Leap Up Night and educating our community about our food pantry, clothing pantry and tutoring services available to incoming freshmen and their parents.
- Students staffed both the food pantry and clothing pantry for 3 days before the start of the school year, providing students and families with school supplies, clothing, food and personal care items.
- Collected 1,000 + pounds of food during the annual “Trick or Treat So Kids Can Eat” campaign
- Collected and distributed food for 170 food boxes between Thanksgiving and Christmas - totaling 6,480 pounds of food moved through the Bison Food Pantry during the holidays.
- Donated hours to the Cameron Family Shelter to help set up events
- 16 dedicated Key Club students compiled over 900 service hours, raised approximately \$1,000 for various charities, and 10 students attended various service leadership conferences, conventions and/or camps
- Key Clubbers also were recognized for the Ladder Points (1<sup>st</sup> place State), Service Hours per Member (1<sup>st</sup> place State), Scrapbook Contest (1<sup>st</sup> place State), Best Caucus (1<sup>st</sup> place State) and Annual Achievement (1<sup>st</sup> place State)
- Art Club decorated windows at Park Place Manor
- Donated paintings to the Cameron Family Center
- Student/Faculty Basketball Game for charity
- BPA Winter Walk-a-Thon for Special Olympics

#### **Our Future**

#### **Facilities**

- Window Installment on stairwell landings
- Continuation of CPTED Safety Landscaping
- Passing of the bond is resulting in current work on the stadium and future work on GFHS
- Installment of donated chemistry hood and equipment

#### **Health and Wellness**

- Continued low crime case rates; 65 calls with 11 of those assigned for off campus incidents
- Youth Diversion Program
- Staff participating in district healthy living initiatives

## PARIS GIBSON EDUCATION CENTER

- Staff awarded over 2400 half credits for the year, which is a 23% increase over last year.
- Seven students received their CNA certification.
- One hundred fourteen graduates with three more expected by the end of summer school
- Eight Secondary Life Skills graduates.
- Average enrollment at Paris was up by 10%, 264 student numbers were our highest since losing 4 FTE six years ago.
- Over 50 classes taken by Paris students at GFC-MSU.
- Average Dailey Attendance went up again this year, 74.5%, up from 54% eight years ago.
- Approximately 15,000 rides provided to students to work, school, home, doctor appointments, housing, turning in job applications or to whatever the student needed. This is up from almost 12,000 last year.
- Over 2200 hours of community service provided by Paris students.
- One JMG national scholarship winner, only twelve are awarded nationally, a Paris student has been six times in the past six years with this honor.
- Almost 600 non-Paris events happened in the building this year.
- Paris hosted three very successful blood draws this year. The goal was met or surpassed each time.
- Staff participated in Self-Care workshops monthly throughout the year. They also developed a Self-Care plan as part of their goals for the year. Most staff included students in their physical activities. Several staff members were used to provide multiple statewide training on Trauma.
- During the winter break Paris was open for students to eat, play ball, watch movies or just socialize, it was well attended again.
- Over 70% of our students work more than 18 hours per week, 30% work more than 40 hours in order to survive.
- At least 20% of our seniors lived on their own, no parent or family member.
- Paris conducted a three day Care Workshop for just Paris students. The workshop focused on trauma and ways to develop resilience and perseverance. This was attended by 35% of the student body. Staff did most of the presentation in coordination with the Care office.
- Multiple field experiences including; Slippery Ann, Sculpture museum in Lincoln, drama performance by UM students in Missoula, River Walk, Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center, and many others.
- The creation of the Immersion School at Paris. This brought in 31 Native American students who had dropped out, kicked out, disengaged, or failing students at the traditional school. We ended the year with 26 students earning credit, being at school and taking charge of their education. One graduate from the Immersion School this year!
- JMG attended two state competitions and once again cleaned house! We won a majority of the awards and every student placed in the events they were entered in.
- Staff participated in a pilot project on how to more effectively transition students to or from residential facilities. Our staff was used multiple times to provide training to others on this topic.

***This list of accomplishments is not all inclusive. This is a sampling only.***