



*Great Falls Public Schools*  
**Ten “MOORE” things you need to know ....**  
January 20, 2021

Dear Community Member:

As the first semester of classes comes to an end and we reach the halfway mark in this school year here is what is happening across the school district;

1. **COVID-19 Protocols Still in Place** - Thankfully, over the last month we have seen a reduction in the number of employees and students who are quarantined or isolated as a result of a Coronavirus infection. This past week the number of individuals who tested positive in the school system remained steady at around 18 versus 104 on November 11, 2020. The District will continue to require safety and health protocols to remain in place to prevent and slow the spread COVID-19 in our schools. For more information: <https://www.gfps.k12.mt.us/>
2. **Winter Sports Are in Full Swing** - This week our girls' basketball teams will be playing in Bozeman and the boys' teams will be playing the Bozeman teams here at home. Our wrestlers will be at home this weekend wrestling against Billings. The Great Falls swim teams will be holding virtual meets against Havre and Bozeman. For more information: <https://www.gfps.k12.mt.us/site/Default.aspx?PageID=345>
3. **Business Professionals of America Student Winter Conference Held at CMR** - Over 200 students from 14 high schools competed in the Business Professional of America Regional Competition on Monday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, at CMR. Competitions included: Finance; Business Administration; Management Information Systems; Digital Communication & Design; Management, Marketing & Communication and Health Administration. Twelve (12) CMR students and twenty-two (22) GFH students competed and all of them qualified for the state competition! Thanks to many community business professionals who volunteered to judge the business students. For more information; <https://www.facebook.com/GreatFallsPublicSchools>
4. **Local Donors Building Student Desks for Remote Learners** - Almost \$6000 has been given to "A Desk of Their Own" project. Thanks to the Rotary Club and many friends of GFPS for sponsoring a \$35 desk that Gaines McFadden, Dan Oakland and Gordon Johnson are assembling and delivering to our remote student learners. Anyone is welcome to sponsor a desk for our elementary students as they learn from home. For more information contact: Becky Nelson at 268-6024
5. **Our Resilient Students and Parents** - The majority of students and their parents in Great Falls Public Schools have shown tremendous courage, tenacity and perseverance through this historic and epic crisis. You have continued to adapt to the disappointments and changing environments in what was familiar, consistent and predictable for you regarding routines, activities, events, ceremonies, traditions and celebrations. We encourage our seniors to finish this year strong!! We are proud of you and thank you!
6. **Local Businesses Thank Our Staff** - Over 1400 lunches will be delivered to GFPS Staff! Thanks to the Great Falls Clinic, Big Mouth BBQ and Pepsi for sponsoring lunches for all employees in every school. All crossing guards, aides, secretaries, engineers, food service, teachers, principals and more will

be given a lunch for their dedication to our 10,000+ students.

7. **Vaccines Are Coming** – Phase 1b will begin next week with persons age 70 and older receiving vaccinations first. The majority of school staff are considered Frontline Essential Workers and will receive vaccines in Phase 1c. Hopefully, this will occur within the next month or two. Those individual who are more vulnerable will receive the vaccine sooner than others. For more information; <https://www.cascadecountymt.gov/462/COVID-19-Vaccination>
8. **We Need Your Help! GFPS Positions Open** - This spring GFPS is looking to hire teachers in several areas, teacher aides, food service workers, para educators, substitutes and more. Current openings are always found here: [www.gfps.k12.mt.us/employment](http://www.gfps.k12.mt.us/employment). Big Sky Bus Lines is in need of bus drivers as well. You can contact them at 454-1283 for more information.
9. **Legislative Session in Full Swing** - Several bills are being presented and heard before the State Legislature this week and next that effect school funding. For daily information on this Legislative Session visit: <https://leg.mt.gov/session/>
10. **Changing Weather Conditions** - It look as if we might see a return to winter weather in the next week or two! Great Falls Public Schools are concerned with student safety as they travel to and from school. Be sure to adhere to school zone speed limits, attend to buses with red flashing lights and watch for children at all times. Please reference some guidance on inclement weather procedures on our website <https://mt50000605.schoolwires.net/cms/lib/MT50000605/Centricity/Domain/108/REFRIGERATOR-NOTE-2020.pdf>

**Valuable Link-** I have subscribed to a network of community leaders and educators who are trying to turn the tide of support for public education. The Network is entitled *Schools Cannot Do It Alone* by Jamie Vollmer . I will be attaching video clips to the “10 MOORE THINGS” from time to time. Here is the most recent link; <https://player.vimeo.com/video/499298576>

I hope “Moore” information was helpful to you! The next release is scheduled for February 3, 2021. You are receiving this email as part of the District’s ongoing community communication efforts. If you do not wish to receive these emails, there is a place to unsubscribe at the very bottom.

Thanks for reading and thank you for supporting our staff and students!

Sincerely,

Tom Moore

Superintendent

**More GFPS news:**

We post a lot of GFPS news on the district’s Facebook page

(<https://www.facebook.com/GreatFallsPublicSchools>), and on our webpage ([www.gfps.k12.mt.us](http://www.gfps.k12.mt.us)). Please check-in often.

**Tell your friends about this:**

You can pass on the invitation to your friends to subscribe to this service. If they open this page, there is a sign-up spot under my signature: [www.gfps.k12.mt.us/superintendent](http://www.gfps.k12.mt.us/superintendent).