



*Great Falls Public Schools*  
**Ten “MOORE” things you need to know ....**  
May 12, 2021

Dear Community Members:

We are well into the second week of May, or as we call it “Mayhem” also known as the “90 days of May”, here is what is happening across the School District;

1. **COVID-19 Update:** As of April 1<sup>st</sup>, all who need and want the COVID-19 vaccines should be able to access them. For more information: <https://www.cascadecountymt.gov/462/COVID-19-Vaccination>  
**GFPS** has experienced a tremendous decline in the number of COVID-19 infections and people in quarantine this past month! GFPS is maintaining the current Health and Safety standards. We are thankful for that good news.
2. **Sports Updates:** Our Spring sports teams are in the later part of their seasons. This week the Bison and Rustler Tennis teams clash in the Crosstown Match on Thursday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at the CMR courts beginning at 4:00 PM. Both Girls’ Softball teams will be in Bozeman to play Gallatin High School on Saturday, May 15<sup>th</sup> beginning at 12:00 noon. Beginning at 2:00 PM on Friday, May 21<sup>st</sup> and at 10:00 AM Saturday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> our track teams will be competing in the AA Divisional meet at Memorial Stadium here in Great Falls. Good luck to all of our student athletes as they round out their 2021 athletic seasons!!! For more info; <https://www.gfps.k12.mt.us/site/Default.aspx?PageID=345>
3. **Music and Art:** Our renowned Summer Music Program will be back this year! It will be held June 7-18 at East and North Middle Schools. See your instrumental teachers for registration or call the Music and Art office at 268-6079 for more info. The All-City GFPS Art Exhibition is currently on display at the Paris Gibson Square Museum thru May 20. Check out the fantastic artwork representing all of our GFPS buildings and grade levels. Free admission! **For more information:** <https://www.gfps.k12.mt.us/Page/164>
4. **Nurse Appreciation Day:** Wednesday, May 12, 2021 is National School Nurse Day! We are so thankful for the hard work and dedication of our GFPS school Nurses. We honor more than 95,000 school nurses in the United States who make a difference in the lives of children every day. In Great Falls Public Schools, we are blessed to have a team of 21 school nurses who have served our students and faculty throughout this past year with expertise and compassion! We are thankful to you all for the great work you daily in our schools! For more information: <https://www.nasn.org/advocacy/school-nurse-day#:~:text=School%20Nurse%20Day%20is%20May%2012%2C%202021>.
5. **Great Falls Public Schools Foundation Supports Teachers!**  
The GFPS Foundation delivered over 150 Gold Stars to teachers and staff throughout the school district during Teacher Appreciation Week. Thanks to all the parents, students, and community members who supported this effort! These Gold Star Awards help GFPS employees know they are appreciated, and they also fund Discovery and Innovation grants that are awarded each Spring for classroom and field trip experiences. In addition to teacher recognition, the GFPS Foundation recently awarded twenty GFPS teachers with a \$1,000 scholarship to further their education. Thanks to funding from the Heisey

Foundation, these ambitious educators will be able to pursue board certification, advanced degrees, endorsements, and other academic work that supports GFPS goals and initiatives.

6. **We Want YOU to Work for Great Falls Public Schools!!** If you want to make a difference in the lives of children AND get all the perks of a “school year” schedule, we are the employer for you. We are looking for teachers, teacher aides, food service workers, para educators, substitutes and more. If you would like to come to work for a great organization, call us at 268- 6010 or check out our current openings here: <https://www.applitrack.com/greatfalls/onlineapp/default.aspx?all=1>. Big Sky Bus Lines is also in need of bus drivers. You can contact them at 454-1283 for more information.
7. **GFPS Board of Trustee Election:** Congratulations to Marlee Sunchild on her successful election as the newest member of the GFPS Board of Trustees. Marlee will be officially sworn in on Monday, May 24, 2021 at the next regular meeting of the Board in the Aspen Room at Great Falls Public Schools District Office Building. For more information on the trustee election ; <https://theelectricgf.com/2021/05/04/school-board-election-results/> or <https://www.greatfalls Tribune.com/story/news/education/2021/04/23/great-falls-school-board-candidate-2021-marlee-sunchild/7311158002/>
8. **High School Graduations:** Great Falls Public Schools Graduations will be held this year in the Four Seasons Arena at the Fair Grounds over the Memorial Day weekend. Paris Gibson Education Center’s Graduation will be begin at 2:00 PM on Sunday, May 30. Great Falls High Graduation will take place beginning at 5:00 PM on Sunday, May 30<sup>th</sup>. C.M. Russell’s Graduation will begin at 2:00 PM on Monday, May 31, 2021. All graduates will be given 15 family and friends passes. Health and safety protocols for all guests will be in place at all ceremonies and communicated to the Graduates and their families well in advance of the events. Congratulations to all of our area High School Graduates, their families and their teachers for all of your dedication and hard work. We are looking forward to celebrating this event you all!
9. **High School House Ribbon Cutting:** Please join us as we celebrate the accomplishments of the GFPS construction students from Great Falls High School and C.M. Russell High School in completing the 43rd High School House in Great Falls! The Open House and Ribbon Cutting for the completed house will be Wednesday, May 26th, 4:00 - 5:00 PM. at 1509 3rd Avenue NW. Thank you NeighborWorks of Great Falls for their partnership with Great Falls Public School to make this project possible for families in our community.
10. **Montana Office of Public Instruction Releases New Round of COVID Relief Funds for Schools:** Like all other public schools in the United States, Great Falls is slated to receive addition federal aid to address the adverse effects of COVID-19 in our School District. The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSA), was signed into law on December 27, 2020 and provides an additional \$54.3 billion for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER II Fund) at the Federal level. The State of Montana received approximately \$170 Million in ESSER II funds and Great Falls Public schools should receive about \$9.5 Million. These funds must be accounted for and expended by September 30, 2024.  
On Monday, May 10, 2021, the GFPS Trustees approved the 2021/2022 District Strategic Plan, which details the areas for expending ESSER II funds in the upcoming school year:  
<https://www.gfps.k12.mt.us/site/handlers/filedownload.ashx?moduleinstanceid=1408&dataid=28572&FileName=Strategic%20Plan%20combined.pdf>  
For more information on ESSER: <http://opi.mt.gov/COVID-19-Information/ESSER>

I hope “Moore” information was helpful to you! The next release is scheduled for May 26, 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).