



Great Falls Public Schools
Ten “MOORE” things you need to know
January 19, 2022

Dear Community Member:

We hope that your New Year is off to a great start!

Here are some the things going on Great Falls Public Schools that you need to know about.

- 1. Healthy Schools UPDATE:** Great Falls Schools are open this week after a week-long closure due to high infection rates and illness among our staff. During the school buildings being closed, learning continued in the remote environment at home for all students. Teachers, students and parents need to be commended for their adaptability and perseverance during this time. Hopefully, the situation will not warrant a district-wide school closure in the future. However, there may be situations at individual schools where temporary school closure is a reality due to infection levels and staffing demands. The wearing of masks (strongly recommended) and practicing good sanitation, coupled with monitoring your personal health daily, will be critical to keeping schools open in the future:
[.https://covid19.mt.gov/](https://covid19.mt.gov/)
- 2. Winter Sports Updates:** Winter sports schedules were interrupted last week due to school closures. The majority of scheduled events have or will be rescheduled over the next two weeks. For listing of this week’s athletic events in Wrestling, Swimming and Basketball check the Athletic Department website at: <https://www.gfps.k12.mt.us/Domain/85>
- 3. Congratulations-Purple Star Award Winners:** Congratulations to Joe Ferda, Counselor at Great Falls High School, Kim Ray, Principal at Morningside Elementary School, Holy Spirit Catholic School and Great Falls Central Catholic High School for receiving this year’s Purple Star Awards for their work with accommodating military children and their families in Great Falls! For more info in Purple Star Awards check out: <https://opi.mt.gov/Leadership/Management-Operations/Office-of-the-Superintendent/Military-Programs-Family-Support> Great Falls Public Schools will honor important community members: individuals and their families who are serving in the military. During these times of global uncertainty, several of our military community members have been, will be or are deployed. Great Falls Public Schools have made a commitment to supporting our military-connected children and their families in several ways, to include inviting them to events free of charge. We would like to take this opportunity to honor and celebrate our military families. For a listing of Military Appreciation events <https://www.gfps.k12.mt.us/>
- 4. Help Wanted:** Pass it on...GFPS is looking to hire teacher aides, food service workers, Para educators, substitutes and more. On January 28, 2022, from 1:00-3:00 PM at the District Office Building, there will be a Job Fair where we will be hiring people on the spot...Current openings are always found here: <https://www.gfps.k12.mt.us/Page/1668>.
- 5. Community Partnerships:** February is Career and Technical Education Month. We will kick off CTE Month at the City Commission Meeting on February 1st as Mayor Kelly reads the Proclamation to declare February as GFPS Career & Technical Education Month. Great Falls Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a Great Falls Community Development Day on February 2, 2022, at Great Falls College-MSU beginning at 11:00 AM.

6. **GFPS Foundation:** The GFPS Foundation Grant applications are due next Friday, January 28, 2022. Up to \$160,000 is available for materials, equipment, and field trips that foster new learning experiences for students. Apply for Discovery grants (\$500 to \$3,000) or Innovation grants (up to \$10,000) at <https://gfpsfoundation.org/gfps-grants/> Call 268-6021 if you have any questions.
7. **GFPS ART & DRAMA:** We are excited to showcase select Art work from Paris Gibson Education, C.M. Russell, and Great Falls High students at the Dark Horse located in the basement of the Celtic Cowboy. Please join us for a reception on February 10, 2022, from 4:00-5:30 PM. Food will be provided and the event is free. GFHS Drama is presenting **Charlotte's Web** starting February 17 and running through February 26, 2022. <https://www.gfps.k12.mt.us/Page/665>
8. **High Voltage Weekend- February 11-13, 2022:** We are ready to welcome college students to the Great Falls community to begin their careers. We will be connecting, interviewing and giving opportunities to college seniors and student teachers from around the state of Montana (February 11-13) for their next step in their education career. Our guests include college seniors from the entire state. Guests will be learning about our community, housing options, recreational opportunities, and engage in round table discussions with principals and interviewing with our administration. We are excited to hire new teachers and encourage them to live/stay in the Big Sky State. There is still time to register. Contact Becky Nelson for more information.
9. **GFPS Citizens Academy Registration:** Would you like to be a part of Great Falls Public Schools' first Citizens Academy? The academy will meet six times starting February 3, 2022, at different locations and will offer participants an in-depth look at the District and its programs. The Citizens Academy will be limited to not more than 35 participants. **Participants must be able to commit to the entire meeting schedule** (Feb. 3, Feb. 17, March 3, March 17, March 31 and April 12, 2022, 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.) To apply, please submit the [electronic application](#) or stop by the GFPS District Office Building, 1100 4th Street South, for a hard copy application. The application deadline is Thursday, January 20, 2022.
10. **Board Meetings:** The GFPS Board of Trustees meetings are typically held the 2nd and 4th Mondays of most months. These are public meetings. Agendas and supporting information are always posted the Thursday afternoon prior to the Board meetings. The next Board meeting is on January 24, 2022, with the agenda posted on January 20, 2022. There are four Trustee positions up for election on May 3rd. Three seats that represent both elementary and secondary districts on the board for three years, until May, 2025. Anyone interested in these positions must live within the Great Falls Public School District boundary. The positions are currently held by Mark Finnicum, Jeff Gray, and Gordon Johnson. One seat, a one-year position will fill out the remainder of Jan Cahill's term. Nathan Reiff was appointed by the Board to fill Jan Cahill's open position until the next regular election. Important Board information can be found here: <https://www.gfps.k12.mt.us/domain/130>

I hope "Moore" information was helpful to you! The next release is scheduled for February 3, 2022. 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). Please check-in often.

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