



**Great Falls Public Schools**  
**Ten “MOORE” things you need to know ....**  
**November 23, 2022**

Dear Community Member:

Happy Thanksgiving to you all! Lots of events and activities are happening in and around the community that our students and staff are involved with. The primary focus of our work this year is to provide some continuity in the schedule of activities, focus on learning and a reduction in the interruptions to our school day. So far, we have been largely successful with that endeavor!

1. **Thanksgiving Holiday Break:** Wednesday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022 through Monday, November 28, 2022 all schools will be closed in Great Falls.
2. **Winter Sports:** Congratulations to all the Fall Sports participants, coaches, administrators, bus drivers and supporters of our student athletes for great start to our school year! Winter Sports; Basketball, Swimming and Wrestling will begin practice on November 28 and competition will begin the next weekend. For more sports information: <https://www.gfps.k12.mt.us/Page/345>
3. **Congratulations to Outstanding Educators:** Jessica Goosen, Business teacher at CMR High School, Tess Jacobs, Art Teacher at CMR High and Eric Chaon, History teacher at GFHS have all been named as Montana State Teachers of the Year in their respective disciplines. In addition, the School Administrators of Montana, SAM, has named Tamera Faulkner as the Montana Associate Principal of the Year for 2022. We are so proud to have these award-winning educators on our team here in Great Falls Public Schools!
4. **GFPS Whittier Elementary Teacher Shanell Lavallie** was recently chosen to attend the White House Tribal Youth Forum in Washington DC. She moderated a celebrity panel while in attendance. The panel consisted of D'Pharaoh Woon-A-Tai, Quannah Potts (Indigenous Model and Land Protector), Tashina Red Hawk (Miss Indian World) and Amber Midthunder (Lead Star in the Hit Film - Prey). All tribal leaders and youth in attendance were invited into the White House where they were addressed by the First Lady herself, Dr. Jill Biden. Congratulations and Thank You to Shanell! <https://www.facebook.com/GreatFallsPublicSchools>
5. **Help Wanted:** Pass it on...GFPS is looking to hire teacher aides, food service workers, Para educators, substitutes and more. Current openings are always found here: <https://www.gfps.k12.mt.us/Page/1668> Big Sky Bus Lines needs bus drivers as well. You can contact them at 454-1283 for more information.
6. **CMR Drama Presents *The Beauty and The Beast*:** Tickets go on sale beginning November 28<sup>th</sup> and the production runs from December 1<sup>st</sup> – December 10<sup>th</sup> in the Williamson Auditorium at CMR High School for more information: <https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=10229617334359963&set=a.1960493654303>
7. **GFPS Students Participate in Christmas Stroll:** On Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> GFPS students will sell their products from Career Pathway classes in a Holiday POP-UP- SHOP located in the **Celtic Cowboy** and **Hometana** on 1<sup>st</sup> Ave South in downtown Great Falls on the night of the *Christmas Stroll*. Please stop in as you stroll the streets on Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> and check out our students and their products! For more info: <https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=555975249867524&set=a.265767145555004>

8. **Great Falls High Video Productions Class:** Under the direction of teacher, Kelly Wiles, the students have produced another outstanding video for our community / Great Falls Public Library Foundation. We recently held a Red-Carpet event for the students in the DA Davidson Auditorium to show the commercial on the big screen which is being played on KRTV & KFBB.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LN0dDd6SZq8>
9. **Community Partners are Very Generous to Our Students!** Thank you to Fishers of Men for assembling 40 Thanksgiving Food Boxes for families in need at Whittier Elementary. The boxes were complete with homemade pies, turkeys, rolls, stuffing mix, and so much more to complete a Thanksgiving meal. **AND** a huge thank you to Living Grace church for supporting our families in need this year for Thanksgiving! Please extend our gratitude to the church members! We appreciate you all so much! Turkeys along with baskets to go home with 38 families! We are blessed with a caring community... thank you, thank you!!
10. **Board Meetings:** The GFPS Board of Trustees meetings are typically held the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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 November 28, 2022, with the agenda posted on November 25, 2022. Important Board information can be found here:  
<https://www.gfps.k12.mt.us/domain/130>

### **On a final note:**

In 2010, United Way and Great Falls Public Schools began partnering on a community-wide education initiative aimed at improving the on-time graduation rates. The Graduation Matters Initiative became a statewide effort that saw amazing local success -- cutting the number of dropouts in half.

In the years since, the initiative has evolved to include dozens of stakeholders and employs a cradle-to-career strategy. Now we're embarking on a renewed effort to focus on student success and improving education outcomes for students of all ages, culminating in improved graduation numbers.

The amazing team at Wendt Advertising has joined the effort to shape the future of the education initiative. Any community initiative needs to include the community's voice. So now we need to hear from you (and your neighbors and your children.)

Please spend a few minutes taking this quick survey and share your thoughts on the new name for Great Falls' education initiative. We are excited to move forward with this great and important work.

Please click this link to share your thoughts: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/B9HHPW6>

I hope "Moore" information was helpful to you! The next release is scheduled for December 21, 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.

Happy Thanksgiving to you and your families from the GFPS Staff and Administration!

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:**

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