

# Bengal Happenings

## [Bell Schedules](#)

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Attendance – [hhsattendance@helenaschools.org](mailto:hhsattendance@helenaschools.org) - (406) 324-2211

### **Taking a Breath**

As we round the corner to the second half of the first quarter, our hope is that there is time to take a collective breath after the hustle and bustle that comes along with the first month or so of the school year. We are not including much in this week's Happenings in hopes that we can all find some time to catch up on previous information shared, think through what the next few weeks look like, and gear up for the push to get us through the rest of the semester.

We did have some great things happening this week, though:

- Thanks to those who participated in the College Application Week festivities. Whether it was dressing for success, utilizing the access to free in-state collegiate applications, or having deeper discussions on what your next steps are. Thank you to Ms. Navarrete and our counseling department for their work this week!
- The College Board released our designation as an AP Honor Roll School! We met the criteria this year to earn a bronze designation. A few facts for the 2023-2024 testing year:
  - 241 students took 397 AP exams last school year
  - Of the 397 tests, students earned a 3 or better on 246 tests
  - This equates to 62% of our students who took the tests earning the passing grade

We look forward to the next few weeks! A reminder that there is no school on October 17 and 18.

Go Bengals!

### **Subs, Custodians, Paraeducators Needed**

If you are looking for a way to engage in the public schools, we are in continued need of substitutes for all positions. Additionally, we have custodial openings across the district, and open para positions as well. If you are interested, please visit our Human Resources website: <https://www.applitrack.com/helena/onlineapp/default.aspx>

**Upcoming Dates – [Complete Year at a Glance](#) (This document will be updated as dates are changed)**

October 2024

Sept 30-Oct 4 – College Application Week

1 – First Day Speech, Debate, and Drama  
8-11 – RBHI Screening in 2<sup>nd</sup> period class this week  
15 – RBHI Screening Make-up date  
16 – Countywide Earthquake Drill  
17-18 – No School, MEA Conferences

#### November 2024

1 – Picture Retakes, End of 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter  
13 – FAFSA Night – 5:15-7 pm, Black Lab in the Library  
15 – Rock Your Mocks Day  
21 – First Day Basketball, Cheer, Dance, Swimming, Wrestling  
22 – Shakespeare in the School – AM Performance  
27-29 – No School, Thanksgiving Break

#### ***From Last Week***

#### **All State Music Participants**

Each year, we are fortunate enough to have amazingly talented students work hard to grow their abilities musically. It takes an incredible amount of time, effort, and practice to work on the techniques outlined by our teaching staff to be able to earn an opportunity to participate in and perform at the All State Musical Festival. This year, the following students have achieved that goal and will participate in the All State Musical Festival in Billings over the MEA Convention Days:

For Choir:

- Nadja Bolotsky
- Brady Lay
- Ella Nasset
- Lily Pierson
- Leila Zentz

For Band:

- Carson Payne

For Orchestra:

- Elliot Cleary
- Isabel Ward
- Nailah Freeman
- Freya Elias
- Emeline Jefferies

#### **Native American Heritage Day**

In Montana, the last Friday in September marks Native American Heritage Day. We were lucky to have multiple activities organized by our teaching staff to help immerse all our students in the Native American culture. If you are able this weekend, please consider making your way to the Last Chance Pow Wow held at the Lewis and Clark County Fairgrounds.

A few highlights from today:

- Our Native American students were able to be present and volunteer throughout the entire event for the weekend.



- In our Biology classes, students heard from Jennifer Stadum about the use of herbs and other native plants in the area.
- Juniors, and a few others, took time to attend the Pow Wow Demonstration Day at the Fairgrounds where they participated in Traditional Games and watched or participated in the demonstration Pow Wow.



- Freshmen, and a few others, were able to view part of the film, *Bring Them Back*, and engage in a Q&A around the methods being used to rebuild Bison herds in the

state and the importance of the Bison in Native culture. Thank you, Mike Jetty, for your time!



- Additionally, our Culinary students helped with preparing the food that will be consumed throughout the weekend.



### **RBHI Screening Reminders**

As a reminder, we will once again be conducting our mental health screenings with the assistance of the Rural Health Behavioral Initiative during the week of October 7. Students will be screened in their 2<sup>nd</sup> period classes based on where their 2<sup>nd</sup> period teachers' name falls on the schedule. If you would like to opt your child out of completing the screening, please complete the opt out form linked below and return to [bkessler1@helenaschools.org](mailto:bkessler1@helenaschools.org) or have them drop off a signed hard copy to the main office. We ask that you have these turned in at least one day prior to their screening date so we can inform teachers of who will not be screened.

[Form](#)

Schedule:

- Tuesday, October 8 – 2<sup>nd</sup> period teachers with last name Artis – Galbavy
- Wednesday, October 9 – 2<sup>nd</sup> period teachers with last name Garza – Mercier
- Thursday, October 10 – 2<sup>nd</sup> period teachers with last name O’Malley - Svingen
- Friday, October 11 – 2<sup>nd</sup> period teachers with last name Sykes - Wigen

### **Open House Feedback**

Thank you to those of you who were able to make our Open House night this year. We are hopeful that it gave you time to connect with your child’s teachers and learn more about what we offer at the school. As we do our own reflections on how to continue to improve the product moving forward, we are interested in your feedback as well. If you were able to attend, please complete [this survey](#) to share your thoughts.

### **Bengal Boosters Update**

We continue to appreciate the support our Booster Club gives our students. Please see the information below on a few upcoming events:

- 50/50 Ticket Sale proceeds from the Crosstown Football Game will go to the Zeke Copeland Family
- Buffalo Wild Wings will be donating a portion of Monday, September 30’s sales to the Booster Club. Present the [linked ticket](#) for dine in or carry out that night.
- Dueling Pianos event on October 12 – help us beat Capital off the field/courts as well in this fundraising battle (you do not have to attend to support, donations are welcome!)
- If you have questions or comments, or are interested in helping – contact the Booster Club at [hhsbengalboosterclub@gamil.com](mailto:hhsbengalboosterclub@gamil.com)

### **Counseling Center Info from Last Week**

**College Application Week!** Seniors can join in the fun by showing up periods 6 or 7 in the library the week of September 30 – October 4<sup>th</sup>. We will use the [Apply Montana](#) application to submit one application to multiple Montana 2-year and 4-year colleges.

**Angel Fund Application:** Students who qualify for free/reduced lunch and demonstrate satisfactory attendance can apply for Angel Fund assistance to receive \$200 for basic school clothing. Applications are available starting October 1<sup>st</sup> in the counseling office. Your student may stop by during school hours to pick up an application. If you have not yet applied for free & reduced lunch, you may do so at: <https://helenaschools.org/departments/food-services/>. Questions? Please contact Ellaina Staldine at 324-2224 or [estaldine@helenaschools.org](mailto:estaldine@helenaschools.org)

**AP Testing.** Students who plan to sit for an Advanced Placement exam in May of 2025 must pay for each exam by November 15<sup>th</sup>. [Click here to access RevTrak.](#)

**HHS Food Pantry:** Our HHS Food Pantry is up and running. We help to provide snacks throughout the day to hungry kids, plus we provide weekend food bags to those in need. Thank you for helping us take care of our Bengal Family! [Click here to contribute](#) a donation to our HHS Food Pantry.

**FSA ID Night:** Save the date! November 13<sup>th</sup> in the HHS library 5:30-7pm.

**MSU Visit at HHS:** 1pm- November 18<sup>th</sup> in counseling office.