

October 4, 2024

# Bengal Happenings

## [Bell Schedules](#)

Follow us – Facebook (Helena High School) and Instagram (helenahighschoolbengals)  
Attendance – [hhsattendance@helenaschools.org](mailto:hhsattendance@helenaschools.org) - (406) 324-2211

### **Taking a Breath**

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  - 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  
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#### **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.

October 11, 2024



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**No School – October 17 and 18 – Teacher Convention Days**

Versión en español ([Word](#)) ([PDF](#)) Swahili Version ([Neno](#)) ([PDF](#))

## What is being covered this month?

As we work our way into the month of October, it is evident that classes, clubs, and activities are in full swing at HHS. As we pop in and out of classes, it is great to listen to the conversations happening about the recent books that were read, drafts of papers being written and revised with the help of instructors, and excitement in the air as we make our way to the post season in fall sports. This week, we will hear more from our English, Math, Science, Social Studies, and PE Departments on what is on the agenda for the next four weeks! Go Bengals!

[English](#)

[Math](#)

[Science](#)

[Social Studies](#)

[Physical Education and Health](#)

## Bengal Buddies – Mentoring

For the past couple of years, Mrs. Preshinger's Gothic Lit classes have partnered with Bryant Elementary to visit their classroom roughly once a month to build relationships and provide support in building needed skills for those students. The students who participate in this event are able to build a strong foundation of empathy, perseverance, and help establish a quality legacy for years to come. Below are a few pictures from their visit this past week.





(Caption – HHS students work alongside Bryant students, reading, writing, and working on skills. Photos courtesy of Mrs. Preshinger)

### **Earthquake Awareness**

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[Seven Steps to Earthquake Safety](#)  
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October 25, 2024

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324-2200

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## **A Note on Halloween Costumes**

As we make our way to Halloween this week, we encourage students and staff to engage in having fun and dressing up. With that, though, we do expect the following to be adhered to:

- Costumes must be school appropriate and follow dress code expectations
- No weapons or weapon facsimiles are allowed (no fake knives, guns, reaper staffs, etc.)
- No full-face masks are allowed – we need to be able to identify a student’s face
- No drug, alcohol, or sexual references are allowed

If a costume does not meet the expectations or there is a question as to the appropriateness of a costume, an administrator will work with the student to remedy the issue.

## **End of the Quarter**

As we find ourselves closing out the first quarter this coming week, there have been some amazing learning opportunities for students so far this year. Teachers will be finalizing grades through next week. Once grades are stored, our amazing registrar, Mrs. Neary, will be finalizing the storing of grades on her end and preparing report cards to be sent out. Report Cards will be emailed home to parents on Monday, November 11.

If you have questions on your child’s grades, please talk about the grade with your child first, then reach out to their teacher to help with any clarification needed. We look forward to continuing to build these partnerships, while helping your students grow at the same time.

## **What’s Happening in Class?**

This week we check in on the following classes:

[Fine Arts](#)

[Special Services](#)

[CTE \(Career and Technical Education\)](#)

[World Languages](#)

## **Mental Health Resources Available**

Through great partnerships within the Helena Community, we are fortunate to have quality School Based Outpatient Therapists (SBOT) in our school. Our SBOTs, Marty Verrill and Sam Martin, who just recently joined our staff, are able to provide quality services for our students and school. If you are interested in hearing more about the therapy opportunities



available, please contact your child's counselor or administrator, or reach out to Marty at [mverrill@hia-mt.org](mailto:mverrill@hia-mt.org)

### **Picture Retakes – November 1**

If you missed our original picture day in September, you have a second chance at capturing those 2024-2025 school year memories! On Friday, November 1, Jostens will be here again to do retakes for those who would like them, or to take original school photos for those that missed the original day. We will use the following time schedule for students to go down and get their pictures:

- 8:30-8:50 – Freshmen
- 8:50-9:10 – Sophomores
- 9:20-9:40 – Juniors
- 9:40-10:00 – Seniors
- 10:20-10:30 – Any final students who need a picture

### **Spirit Week October 28-November 1**

Our Student Council has put together a fun week for us! We highly encourage everyone to participate and have some fun with the last week of the quarter!

Monday – Spooky/Crazy Socks

Tuesday – Tired Tuesday – Wear School Appropriate Pajamas

Wednesday – Class Colors

Thursday – Halloween

Friday – Freaky Flip Flop Friday – Dress like a friend or teacher, or wear socks and flip flops!

### **Counseling Center News**

11/01 - Reach Higher Sticker Scholarship Opens.

11/13 - FSA ID Night- Library 5:30-7PM- Pizza is provided.

11/18 - Montana State University College Visit – 1:15-1:45- Counseling office

12/01 - MUS Honors Scholarship Opens

Carroll College is offering a Pell Promise scholarship for Montana residents who will be first-time, in-state freshmen enrolling for Fall 2025. To qualify, students must complete the FAFSA and be eligible for a federal Pell Grant. Additionally, they are required to accept the maximum subsidized Stafford Loan as part of their financial aid package. Recipients must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher and enroll in at least 12 credits per semester. The scholarship covers tuition, with funding provided through a combination of federal aid, Carroll College merit aid, and need-based gift aid. External scholarships can also be applied toward room and board expenses. For more details, please contact Carroll College's Financial Aid Office.

### **Upcoming Bengal Activities**

10/26 - Cross Country @ State – Missoula; Girl's Soccer @ Gallatin – Soccer Quarterfinals; VB @ Sentinel; Frosh FB vs Big Sky – 12 pm

10/28 - Orchestra Concert – 6 pm – HHS Little Theatre

10/29 - VB vs Butte – 4/5:30/7 pm

10/31 - VB @ Big Sky



11/1 - Football First Round vs CMR – 7 pm

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14 – Indian Education for All Immersion Day – Assessment Schedule

15 – Rock Your Mocks Day – Assembly Schedule, Pow Wow Demonstration

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