Great Falls Public Schools Foundation



ANNUAL REPORT 2026

Great Falls Public Schools
FOUNDATION

Your Partner for Enhancing Education

The Great Falls Public Schools Foundation is proud to support our community's tradition of strong, public education. The Foundation exists to enhance education through providing teacher grants, scholarships, building enhancements, and recognizing the great work of students and educators.

If you would like more information about our programming or how to donate, call 406-268-7401 or visit our website at www.gfpsfoundation.org .



Katelyn Marsik
Executive Director



Christina Horton
Chief Operations Officer



Ross Remsen
Development Director



Michelle Noriega
Administrative Assistant



Joan Dailey
Scholarship Coordinator

2025-2026
GFPS Foundation Impact Report
By School Metrics

	Mini-Grants			Annual Grants			Other	
	Classroom Enrichment	Field Trip / Expert-Led Learning	Professional Enhancement	Community Collaboration	Learning Enhancement	Immersive Professional Learning	Gold Star Awards	Heisey Teacher Scholarships
Early Learning Family Center (ELF)	4				1			1
Chief Joseph Elementary	1						3	2
Giant Springs Elementary				1	2		10	
Lewis & Clark Elementary	3	2	1				7	1
Lincoln Elementary	3				1		29	
Longfellow Elementary	7	1	1	1				1
Loy Elementary	4	1						1
Meadow Lark Elementary	2	1	1		1		29	1
Morningside Elementary	43	1			1		15	
Mountain View Elementary							5	
Riverview Elementary	3							
Sacajawea Elementary					2		53	
Sunnyside Elementary	2				1		2	
Valley View Elementary	2	1		1			7	1
West Elementary	6						4	3
Whittier Elementary	4	1			1		3	1
East Middle School	1		4				9	1
North Middle School	2			1	1		11	1
CM Russell High School	3	3	4	2	6	1	31	
Great Falls High School	6	2	4		1		19	5
Paris Gibson Education Center	2		2		1			
Career and College Readiness Center								1
Juvenile Detention Center								
Multiple School - Music					1	1		
Multiple Schools - Art								
Multiple Schools - PE	2		1					
Multiple Schools - Counseling	1							
Multiple School - SpEd								
Total	101	13	18	6	20	2	237	20



Jamie Marshall
Board Chair

Dear Friends and Supporters,

On behalf of the Great Falls Public Schools Foundation Board of Directors, we express our sincere thanks for your continued generosity, partnership, and belief in our mission. Because of your support, we are strengthening educational opportunities for the students, teachers, staff, and families of Great Falls Public Schools. Together, we are investing in a brighter future for our schools and our community. And this is a remarkable time for Great Falls!

This past year has been one of meaningful growth and shared success. One of our most significant milestones was welcoming our new Executive Director, Katelyn Marsik. Her transition into leadership has been seamless, and her passion for education, relationship-building, and community engagement is evident in all she does. We are excited about the vision and opportunities that lie ahead under her leadership.

Our community's commitment to education is inspiring. Thanks to the generosity and foresight of many community members, the number and variety of scholarships available to students continues to grow, opening doors to higher education, career pathways, and lifelong success. As the needs of students and our workforce evolve, the Foundation remains committed to investing in opportunities that prepare learners to thrive in an ever-changing 21st century world.

This year also marked the exciting launch of the Fund for the Arts. This permanently funded endeavor is generously supported through a $1 million anonymous gift. A fund of this nature is unique among K-12 education foundations across the country. We are honored to be a part of unveiling this incredible commitment to the future of arts education in our schools and community into perpetuity.

Teacher grants are a core component of our work, and we have been inspired by the learning opportunities, student experiences, and expanded classroom enhancements seen over the past year as the expanded grant program continues to thrive. The rare opportunities available through the Immersive Professional Learning grants that our teachers are engaging in are truly remarkable. And they are bringing their learning and experiences from literally around the globe to share right back here at home.

As we look to the year ahead, we remain committed to growing our impact through our four core areas of focus: Scholarships, Grants, Building Enhancements, and Teacher & Student Recognition. The Board is continuing to focus on sharing the stories brought about by the Foundation's partnership with community members. These stories demonstrate how education is being strengthened for our current and future learners and educators. There are many amazing stories to be shared, and even more to be written!

Thank you for your trust and support of the Great Falls Public Schools Foundation. We know that our shared commitment to the mission of enhancing high-quality teaching and life-long learning does make a lasting impact for our students, schools and community.

With gratitude,

Jamie Marshall
Board Chair

Mission Statement

The mission of the GFPS Foundation is to enhance high-quality teaching and life-long learning for students in Great Falls Public Schools by funding innovative educational programs and scholarships.

Great Falls Public Schools Foundation
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Cover Photo

Rurik Arizmendi, student at the Core School at Morningside Elementary learned about the cycle of chicks. Kodey Hansen's class was able to watch chicks hatch and care for them through a Learning Enhancement Grant.

Publication made possible by support from D.A. Davidson Companies.



Immersive Professional Learning Grants

Deb Porcarelli has a life-long passion for education and supporting students and educators. In 2023, she graciously helped to establish the Immersive Professional Learning Grants through the Great Falls Public Schools Foundation. Immersive Professional Learning Grants provide grants to teachers to support deeply engaging, high-impact learning opportunities.

As a former elementary science teacher herself, Deb spent her career creating opportunities for both students and educators to dream bigger. Her journey began in 1985 as a fifth-grade teacher in Belfry, Montana, where she was always looking for ways to better meet the needs of her students, especially those who required greater academic challenges. Her passion led her to participate in a hands-on science learning workshop in Billings, presented by the AIMS Education Foundation which is based in Fresno, CA. That experience opened the door to applying for and attending a transformative professional learning experience at the AIMS Education Foundation on the campus of Fresno Pacific University. For three summers, Deb spent a month immersed in hands-on learning experiences with 50 other teachers from all over the U. S. This experience reshaped the way she approached science education.

Deb said that new approach extended far beyond her own classroom. She developed a two-year science curriculum that was adopted across her district and later shared her work with educators both locally and nationally. She also facilitated week-long workshops all over the US and continued to lead science and math professional development workshops for 26 years. When the director of the Professional Learning Division at AIMS unexpectedly passed away in 2012, she stepped into a leadership role, guiding a staff of 100 educators/facilitators for seven years and helping them share innovative teaching practices aligned to curriculum standards for educators across the US.

Those experiences inspired her vision for Immersive Professional Learning Grants in Great Falls. Deb believes educators should have access to transformational learning opportunities without financial barriers and with the full support of their district. Just as importantly, participants should return with a concrete plan for sharing what they've learned with their colleagues in order to multiply the impact throughout their schools, across the state, and even nationally if the opportunity presents itself.

For Deb, success isn't measured simply by the number of grants awarded. It's reflected in teachers talking to one another, sharing their excitement, and feeling inspired to remain in the profession. She believes educators should have the freedom to imagine what is possible. As she states, "The opportunity to dream is essential."

Her passion for Great Falls Public Schools is rooted in the belief that the district already does extraordinary work supporting students, especially those who have faced significant challenges. She sees immersive professional learning as another way to create generational change, not only by giving educators transformative experiences, but by helping them inspire students to think beyond what they believed was possible. She wants teachers to ask themselves, "What if I could do this?" and then bring that sense of possibility back to their classrooms.

When asked to describe her own immersive professional learning experience in just three words, she said, "Impactful, fulfilling, and exciting." Looking ahead, her greatest hope is to see the program continue for years to come. She hopes its success will encourage donors to invest in the long-term future of educators, sparking even more opportunities for teachers to grow, inspire one another, and ultimately help students dream bigger than they ever imagined.

GFPS FOUNDATION

EDUCATOR GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIPS

Learn more and apply online at www.gfpsfoundation.org/gfps-grants.
For questions, email michelle_noriega@gfps.k12.mt.us or call (406) 268-7401.

Great Falls Public Schools
FOUNDATION

MINI GRANTS Varied application periods

Classroom Enrichment

UP TO $500
Apply year-round

Items that enrich the classroom environment to make it more aesthetically pleasing, engaging, functional, and comfortable.

Field Trips and Expert-Led Learning

UP TO $1,500
Apply year-round

Support for off-site field trips and/or expert-led learning in the classroom that offer engaging experiences for deeper learning.

Professional Enhancement

UP TO $1,500
Apply Sept or Apr

Support for professional growth opportunities for teachers, staff, and administrators.

May cover registration and travel expenses for professional conferences or training.

ANNUAL GRANTS Apply Dec 1 - Jan 31

Learning Enhancement

UP TO $5,000

Supplies, resources, equipment, programs, and/or books that **enhance learning beyond traditional curriculum and resources.** Must fall into one of five categories: Arts, Music & Culture, Literacy, Math & Science, Student Health & Wellness or Career Pathways.

Community Collaboration

UP TO $10,000

Outside-the-box ideas that leverage collaboration and community resources in creative ways. Must demonstrate collaboration with colleagues across classrooms, grade levels, schools and/or discipline areas. Some level of community engagement outside of the school is encouraged.

Immersive Professional Learning

UP TO $15,000

To support deeply engaging, high impact learning opportunities for educators. Recipients of these grants will be expected to implement new concepts in the classroom and to formally share learning with colleagues to extend the impact of newly acquired knowledge and skills.

SCHOLARSHIPS Apply Jan 1 - Feb 15

Heisey Scholarships

Twenty $1,000 awards

For teachers seeking to enhance their education by working on an advanced degree, specialized certification or endorsement, or academic work supporting the goals of Great Falls Public Schools.

Grants Impact Learning Across the District During the 2025-2026 School Year

Thanks to the motivation and ingenuity of teachers throughout the District, students in 21 schools benefited from grant-funded projects that deepened their learning experiences. In total, over $134,000 was directed toward 28 annual grants and 132 mini grants implemented during the 2025-2026 school year. The following is a snapshot of these impactful grants. Since the inception of the grant program, the Foundation has distributed over $1.3 million for grants in the District. Grants are primarily funded by the proceeds of the annual truck raffle, which is made possible by City Motor Company and the Oakland family.

Mini Grants

Classroom Enrichment; Field Trips & Expert-Led Learning, and Professional Enhancement

Mini grants come in many forms, each designed to meet a different need in our schools.

Classroom Enrichment Grants provide up to $500 for items that enrich the classroom environment and make the space more comfortable, functional, and engaging. These grants cover items that fall outside a student's typical classroom supply list or district-issued materials — things like wall décor, alternative seating options, STEM-related items, and learning games that help transform a classroom into a space where students want to learn.

Field Trip & Expert-Led Learning Grants offer up to $1,500 to give students engaging, hands-on experiences that deepen classroom learning. Field trips to places like First Peoples Buffalo Jump, the Gates of the Mountains, and the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center allow students to connect with local history in ways a textbook simply cannot provide.

Professional Enhancement Grants, also up to $1,500, support teachers, staff, and administrators in their own growth by covering registration and travel expenses for professional conferences — helping our educators bring new skills and fresh ideas back to their classrooms.

Learning Enhancement Grant

Birding – Alyssa Birkett – C.M. Russell High School

Science Teacher Alyssa Birkett received a Learning Enhancement Grant for birding binoculars to immerse her students in recreational observation and the study of wild birds to help foster deeper learning and engagement.

Alyssa also applied for a mini grant to allow the students to take a field trip to Benton Lake Wildlife Refuge and Wadsworth Park where the students were able to identify birds such as bald eagles and great blue herons

Birding is a great way to boost cognitive skills such as observation, memory, and focus. Birding also encourages physical activity, helps lower stress levels, and helps bring environmental awareness by connecting students with nature.

Community Collaboration Grant

GRIZone – Ann Fraser Beyl – North Middle School

Librarian Ann Fraser Beyl received a community collaboration grant to reimagine a former computer lab into a vibrant space within the library to foster innovation, collaboration, and social-emotional learning. The space offers



Callie Ross attended Disney World as an Immersive Professional Learning Grant experience.

a flexible learning environment that offers students face-to-face activities such as games, puzzles, and STEM projects.

The space includes flexible, adjustable furniture which allows for varied group configurations. Creating a modern, inviting space that is tailored to student interests provides a great opportunity to build social skills, foster independence, and prepare for academic and social success.

This year alone over 2,100 students have had the chance to visit and utilize this space.

Immersive Professional Learning Grant

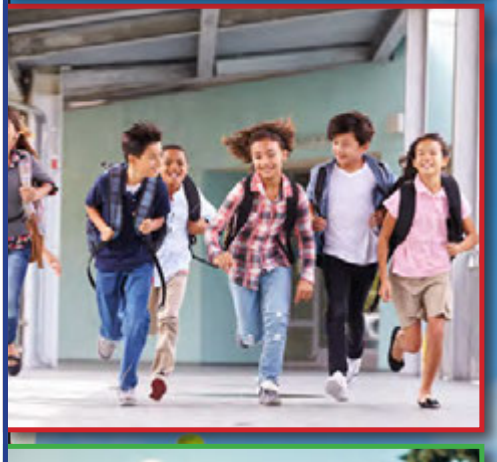
Unlocking Creativity: An Immersive Educational Experience for Teachers at Disney World – Callie Ross – Giant Springs Elementary

Giant Springs Elementary Student Support Specialist Callie Ross attended Disney World as an immersive educational experience to help unlock creativity. The transformative journey is put on by Bookbag Tours where fellow "Edventurers" join in an unparalleled professional development experience designed to empower educators, foster growth, and ignite lifelong learning while exploring the different parks at Disney World.

The training offers hands-on opportunities to adopt the "Imagineer Mindset." The participants engage in dynamic learning activities that spark creativity, innovative thinking, and collaborative problem-solving, all while exploring how to bring the imaginative approaches back to the classroom and other classrooms in Great Falls Public Schools.

"This trip wasn't just about Disney. It was about discovering what exceptional leadership, intentional culture, and unforgettable learning look like — and bringing those ideas home. Thank you to the Great Falls Public Schools Education Foundation for believing that investing in educators creates endless possibilities for students." – Callie Ross







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2025 Truck Raffle Celebration at City Motor Company

Great Falls Public Schools **Foundation Truck Raffle Raises** $158,350 for Education

What a year for the Win This Truck Raffle! Once again, our community showed up in a big way — hundreds of students and teachers laced up their shoes and hit the streets, with ticket books in hand, while ten local business outlets opened their doors to help spread the word. Together, they sold an incredible $158,350 worth of tickets, making this the second highest-selling raffle in the event's history.

Here is how it works: when you buy a ticket at one of our outlet partners, every dollar goes toward grants that bring classroom experiences, field trips, and equipment to Great Falls Public Schools. But when a student group sells you that ticket, $6 of your $10 goes straight back to their school groups to use however they need, with the remaining $4 still supporting grants. However you look at it, it is a win for everyone involved.

This year, that meant $81,000 flowed directly back into school groups' hands, while $77,350 went toward grants benefiting schools across the district. Over the years so many people – students, teachers, families, and neighbors – have pitched in to sell tickets that this has grown into one of Great Falls' most beloved fundraising traditions.We're deeply grateful to every school group and business outlet who helped make it happen.

None of it would be possible without one family's remarkable, longstanding generosity. Since 2013, the Oakland family and City Motor Company have contributed nearly $400,000 to cover the cost of a brand-new Toyota Tacoma. Because of their steady commitment, this fundraiser has now raised about $1.73 million for students and teachers over its thirteen-year history.

This year's truck went home with Paul O'Brien. Congratulations, Paul! And while a new truck always steals the spotlight, two other winners also had plenty to celebrate. Carlene Turner left with a $1,000 North 40 gift card, and Justin Hallenburg took home a $1,000 Scheels gift card, both generously donated by these local businesses.

The winning truck ticket was purchased from Great Falls Public Schools Baseball who sold $15,390 worth of tickets to help raise money to go toward starting high school baseball in Great Falls. The North 40 gift card ticket was purchased from Great Falls High Cheer, and the Scheels gift card was purchased from the Great Falls Public Schools Foundation Office.

As always, every single dollar raised through the Win This Truck Raffle stays right here in Great Falls, supporting our students and teachers. Thank you to everyone who played a part. This community makes it happen, together.

Building Enhancements



Permanent Fund for the Arts

Established through a generous $1 million gift, the Fund for the Arts was created to foster creativity, encourage innovation, and enhance quality fine arts experiences for students into perpetuity. By providing dedicated financial support for artistic initiatives, the fund allows educators to dream big and develop programs that strengthen student engagement and enrich learning through the visual and performing arts.

Dusty Molyneaux, Great Falls Public Schools (GFPS) Fine Arts Supervisor, stated, “While various permanent funds exist to support the arts nationally and regionally, this type of funding is not typically made available solely for the use of a public school system. Based on initial research, it appears that this Fund for the Arts in the public-school arena is the first of its kind in the state and the surrounding region.” Dusty and the GFPS District have already been busy at work establishing new, innovative ideas to enhance education within fine arts in the Great Falls Public Schools. To ensure the fund has a lasting and meaningful impact, $50,000 will be disbursed annually from this fund, beginning this fall 2026.

The GFPS Foundation supports building enhancement projects that enrich learning environments and create lasting opportunities for students throughout the District. Through the generosity of donors and partnerships with third-party fundraising efforts, these projects continue to make meaningful impacts on our schools.

One exciting example is the new playground at West Elementary School. The Great Falls Public Schools received a generous memorial gift of $217,614, ensuring that nearly 350 West Elementary students will return to school this fall to enjoy a brand-new playground. This is just one of many examples of third-party fundraisers that the Foundation supports and administers. The West Elementary playground is dedicated in honor of Shirley Duncan, creating a lasting tribute that will benefit generations of students to come.

Roger Duncan's wife, Pam, said, "Roger's sister passed away in January 2025, and he wanted to honor her memory by making a meaningful contribution to the youth in our community. The three Duncan children attended West Junior High, so it was a perfect fit when West Elementary was recommended to be the recipient. Shirley's memory will live on in every smile, every adventure, and every child's laughter on this playground."

Another significant project underway is the renovation of the Bill Williamson Hall at C.M. Russell High School.



Thanks to the generosity of numerous donors who contributed $500,000, renovations began in May 2026 and are expected to be completed in November 2026, just in time for holiday programs. Improvements include new sheetrock, fresh paint, upgraded lighting, and the expansion of the sound room to enhancing the auditorium space for students and school activities for years to come.

These projects reflect the Foundation's commitment to investing in educational spaces that support student success while honoring the generosity and legacy of community members who make these improvements possible.

Heather Hoyer, Superintendent for GFPS stated, "Here in Great Falls Public Schools, arts inspire creativity, ignite imagination, and enrich the educational experience in ways that extend far beyond the classroom. Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of our Fund for the Arts donor, we are able to provide unique artistic opportunities that open new doors for every learner, inviting students to discover their talents, express their voices, and experience learning beyond the ordinary."

While the function may vary from year to year, the Fund for the Arts will be used to launch new ideas and enhance existing curricula that would be unobtainable without the support of a generous donor. Opportunities such as a Great Falls Symphony Ambassador Program, Western Art Week classes, Thespian Festivals, crosstown marching band, and an invitational music festival to name a few.

"The generosity of our donors is so heartwarming to see and something that has truly moved me during my short time so far as the Executive Director. It is exciting to see individuals supporting our future generations and providing transformative opportunities for students and teachers in our own back yard," said Marsik.

Excellence in Education

The Great Falls Public Schools Foundation takes pride in recognizing students with exceptional dedication to academics, while giving them the opportunity to honor the teachers who inspired, supported, and guided them along the way.

This year, the Foundation was proud to recognize 34 distinguished scholars and the 68 outstanding educators who encouraged, challenged, and mentored them throughout their educational journeys.

In May 2026, students, teachers, and families gathered at C.M. Russell High School to celebrate these meaningful connections during a special recognition ceremony featuring keynote speaker, Dr. Tiffany Hensley McBain.



Above: Distinguished Scholar, Brooke Nelson

Below: Distinguished Scholar, Ava Katherine Bloomgren shares her impact with Distinguished Educator, Lindy Ramsey



Scan here to read why each scholar chose his or her honored educators.

Great Falls High School

Student	*K-8 Educator*	*High School Educator*
Lucciana Stella Baarson	Edward McNamee	Bob Stingley
Conner Bassett	Steve Sangwin	Dawn Reitz
Carson James Bautista	Kerry Keating-Albrecht	Suzanne Sturges
Ava Katherine Bloomgren	Lindy Ramsey	Brian Sullivan
Hiram Joshua Campbell	Nick Herd	Dave Kilian
Brooklin Rae Duff	Chelsa Buehner	Mike Hodges
Benjamin Finn Ewald	Therese McDonald	Amber Lloyd
Matthew Thomas Halko	Stephanie Halko	Anne Schmidt
Lex Leatham	Sandy Brown	Beth Wiles
Kinslee Renee Reeves	Marilyn Carlson	Neil Kynett
Rillie Robinson	Tara Murillo	Darcie Aakre
Trey Thomas St. John	Lainie Warneke	Elizabeth Quinby
Calissa Autumn Ward	Stacy Petrini	Kelly Wiles
Caitlin Wetterau	Leslie Kynett	Kyle Winkler
Alexis Joy White	Sandy Harrington	Mary Dea

C.M. Russell High School

Student	*K-8 Educator*	*High School Educator*
Ian Arthur	Kylie Brost	Steve Olson
Kara Baugh	Erin Houtz	Jordan Lee
Caimbrie Brost	Ryan Faulk	Christi Virts
Elijah Crist	Stacie Skawinski	Jessica Goosen
Finley Durocher	Holly Molyneaux	Kerry Bjornstad
Emerson Hamma	Christopher Cory	Nathan Gregier
Jonah Hunt	Ben Jaques	Cramer Caouette
John David Lofgren	Joel Corda	Jacie Schoenan
Hudson Lucas	Dave Dunlop	Erin Awtry
Vienna Meiners	Patrick Jewell	Burke Allen
Brooke Nelson	Jeremy Smith	Andrew Nagengast
Landry Rukavina	Lauree Wenger	Jeremy Comstock
Conner Sherman	Jill Van Heel	Brian Halverson
Kaelyn Wedekind	Theresa Busch	Ryan Anderson
Kye Wise	Brian Dues	Holly Ingeman

Paris Gibson Education Center

Student	***K-8 Educator***	***High School Educator***
Addelyn English	Stacey Krahe	Timothy Medved
Preslee Hill	Anna Horton	Amilee Vick
Chloe Prince	Abby Schleve	Kathryn Heryla-Beckner
Selena Velasco	Stacy Barnes	Janice Sagen

TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to the Distinguished Educators.

BNSF Railway knows that investing in education is important. The future of the economy and the state depends on creating a skilled work force, and BNSF Railway is committed to supporting schools and communities across Montana in this effort.

As in years past, the BNSF Railway sponsors a grant for continuing education, equipment, or materials for each teacher of the year. In addition to these $2,000 grants, each nominating student also received a $500 scholarship for future plans.

2026 BNSF Railway Teachers of the Year were Tara Murillo, Librarian at Chief Joseph Elementary School, and Neil Kynett, Math Teacher at Great Falls High School.



Tara Murillo

Chief Joseph Elementary School

Tara Murillo has worked for the Great Falls Public Schools for 27 years, all of which have been at Chief Joseph Elementary School. She was described as bringing a light and zeal to colleagues, students, and families, highlighting the importance of literacy and dedication: “She intentionally creates an inclusive environment that honors diversity and is very understanding and open-minded. It is common to see students collaborating, discussing ideas, and taking ownership of their learning because she has created a culture where curiosity and effort are celebrated.” Tara is also a staunch advocate for military-affiliated students, families, and groups and is often Chief Joseph’s contact when facilitating outside learning opportunities related to the military. Tara also received the Purple Star Champion Award in 2024 for maintaining a military family webpage, implementing staff training to assist with student transitions, and for making a positive impact on military-connected students. She has shown flexibility in her philosophy and classroom practices by understanding current technological advancements and mental health challenges to better prepare students for our rapidly changing world.



Neil Kynett

Great Falls High School

Neil Kynett worked for the Great Falls Public Schools for 27 years before retiring in May 2026 after 37 years in education. He understands that even if students do not fall in love with math, they can at least have fun while they learn it. Neil was not afraid to be silly, by injecting humor into his lessons and daily routines, and making up funny songs. Geff Habel, GFH Principal said, “Neil has been a parental figure for many students over the course of his career. He has taught all levels of math and is skilled in meeting students where they are and adapting to their individual needs. Neil intentionally builds relationships with students that last long after graduation.” He is also known as a gentle old soul of a teacher who just wants to help every single student and is considered a mentor among mentors to many teachers and students. Happy retirement, Neil!

Gold Star Recognition Awards

Names of teachers and school staff who were honored by community members for their work during the 2025-2026 school year.

Patricia Achenbach
Jamie Agiotis
Kerry Albrecht
Ben Algeo
Burke Allen
Brenda Altenberg-Lasher
Karly Ames
Ryan Anderson
Kelly Arnold
Molly Arps
Tara Bahmiller
Brad Barringer
Karolina Biller
Shannon Boyer
Mackenzie Buchanan
Erin Bucher
Nick Budeski
Bethany Burke
Theresa Busch
Jessica Cape
Joel Carlson
Andrea Carroll
Sheri Carter
Bethany Chabot
Jill Christensen
John Cislo
Charity Clark
Jennifer Cloutier
Jordan Clutter
Jeremy Comstock
Jessica Conley
Becca Cooper
Sheri Courtney
Hannah Crawford
Brian Crosby
Paul Culbertson
Shianne Currey
Phillip Davis
Brittney De La Garza
Doug Deffe
Kristin DeHaan
Kirsten Dige
Darby DiJohn
Isabelle Dobrow
Tandee Doran

Ashley Doty
Brian Dues
Dannelle Dyke
Lori Edwards
CMR Engineer Team
Chris Evans
Erin Evenhus
Ryan Faulk
Tami Faulkner
Amanda Ferderer
Erica Ferradas
Ellen Forslund
Dana Freshly
Terra Gardipee
Emilio “Skip” Garza
Helen Gocksch
Dakota Gorges
Geoffry Habel
Scott Hagel
Brian Halverson
Abigail Hansen
Kassandra Harmon
Anthony Harris

DebbieHartman
Kathryn Haynes
Eryn Hayworth
Marsi Helgeson
Amanda Hendrickson
Angie Henneberg
Genevieve Hepworth
Nick Herd
Patricia Herring
Caressa Hewitt
Chris Hibbert
Christine Hinkle
Amy Hollenback
Ron Holloway
Kayla Holzheimer
Anna Horton
Katharine Houston
Erin Houtz
Kelly Hueth
Jill Hunt
Heather Huston
Tess Jacobs
Ben Jaques

Amelia Jarvis
Patrick Jewell
Toree Johnson
Tina Jolly
Heather Kakalecik
Suzie Kearns
Mary KayKeller
Sharon Kelley
Hailey Kemp
Matt Kempff
Kay Kiefer
Dave Kilian
Andrew Kilpatrick
Megan King
Colleen Kivi
Chris Kloker
Brooke Knowles
April Kottke
Amy Kuntz
Leslie Kynett
Rae Langton
Kim Lemaster
Lori Lind

Valley View Elementary School Teacher, Jody Davis.





East Middle School Retired Principal, Brad Barringer and Retired Educator, Amy Kuntz receive Gold Star recognition

Katelyn Lindland
Leia Lins
Carol Little
Pam Mackiel
Deidre Martinko
Jennifer Martyn
Scott Mayer
Nurse Mady Mayson Skawinski
Kristin McDermott
Megan Meadows
Tim Medved
James Mepham
Haley Milton
Dave Moltzan
Ty Moore
Janet Morano
Alicia Morss
Chandra Murphy
Hailey Nadeau
Rennie Naperila
Deborah Nelson
Deborah Oakes
Alexis Oatman
Lindsey O'Brien
Jennifer O'Connell
Mike O'Rourke
Rachel Packer
Amanda Perry
Stacy Petrini
Denise Pidcock
Kelly Pisano
Amber Rausch
Jeff Rieger
Heather Robinson
Danna Sanders
Taylor Scally
Betsy Schaffer
Angela Schei
Cathy Schoenthal
Lexie Service
Annie Simkins
Jake Smith
Mary Somerfeld
Staci Spearing
Elizabeth Spragg
Anne Stevenson
Kandace Stimac
Heidi Stubbs
Lyndsey Stulc
Suzanne Sturges
Tami Suden
Brian Sullivan
Leann Svir
Kirstin Swartz
Shannon Taylor
Carly Teter
Maureen Thompson
Troy Thorton
Shelbe Tinsley
Emily Townsend
Amanda Tramill
Severina Turner
Pam Underwood
Stacy Van Tighem
Rachel Visser
Ashley Wagar
Logan Warren
Shannon Watson
Ashley Whitaker
Lindsey Wick O'Brien
Beth Wiles
Leann Williams
Amber Williamson
Shayla Wilson
Lisa Winters
Jessica Witherite
Sheleen Wlodarski
Mandie Zumbush

Katelyn Marsik and Ross Remsen recognize James Mepham, GFH Band Teacher



GFPS Foundation Scholarships

The GFPS Foundation awarded 192 scholarship awards totaling over $527,800 to 108 graduating seniors from Great Falls High School, C.M. Russell High School, and Paris Gibson Education Center. Fourteen new scholarships were added this year, including multiple offerings for students pursuing the trades.

At the Annual Scholarship Celebration, which was held on May 6, 2026, scholarship donors had the joyful opportunity to meet and interact with the recipients of their scholarships. Students' families also enjoyed the chance to connect and celebrate.

If you or your business is interested in establishing a scholarship, the GFPS Foundation would be honored to partner with you. Please contact Scholarship Coordinator, Joan Dailey at (406) 268-7849.

The list below includes scholarships that were awarded to students in 2026. An asterisk denotes scholarships that offer multiple awards.

Andrew David Ariegwe Memorial Scholarship

Andrew Nunez Memorial Basketball Scholarship

Bertha Feaster Scholarship*

Bison Boosters Big Blue Scholarship*

Bison Family Scholarship*

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Bob and Debbie Kuntz Family Scholarship

Braget Family Scholarship for Healthcare

Braget Family Scholarship for Social Work*

Bud Robertson Memorial Scholarship*

Carnahan Towing Softball Scholarship*

Cascade County Bar Association Scholarship

CMR Class of 1974 Scholarship

CMR Quarterback Club Scholarship*

Cory Reeves Family Scholarship

D. M. Garrity MD Scholarship*

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Derek Dowson Memorial Scholarship

Deserving Scholar Award*

Dolores Frisbee Memorial Scholarship

Dustin Parker Memorial Scholarship

Earl W. and Maudene R. Stice Scholarship

Ed Warren Education Scholarship*

Eidel Family Scholarship

Elizabeth Wick Memorial Scholarship*

Frances Kirwin Scholarship for Girls*

Frank and Arlene Osborne Scholarship

Fred and Vasilia Grasseschi Scholarship*

George and Kathleen Tracy Scholarship

GFH Class of 1958 Legacy Scholarship

GFH Class of 1984 Scholarship

GFH Class of 1987 True Blue Scholarship

GFH Class of 1989 Bison Spirit Scholarship

GFH Softball Alumni Scholarship

GFPS Foundation Art Scholarship

Great Falls Farmers Market Scholarship*



Ed & Sue Warren at the Scholarship Celebration with their scholarship recipient Aza Trombley.

Great Falls Leadership Scholarship*

Great Falls Moose Lodge Scholarship*

Great Falls S. Village Scholarship

Great Falls Theatre Company Scholarship

Gus Bannon Cross Country Scholarship

Hoppock Memorial Scholarship*

Jack and Rosann Johnson Scholarship

Jacqueline J. Wright Other Ways to Win Scholarship*

Jacqueline J. Wright Out of State Scholarship*

Jacqueline J. Wright Success Stories Scholarship*

Jake Arntson Teammate of the Year Scholarship*

James and Miriam Weitz Memorial Scholarship

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Jaraczeski Family Scholarship

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Jason V. Christofferson Memorial Scholarship*

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Jennifer Joy Astrin Memorial Scholarship*

Joe and Nettie Ogrin Scholarship

Josy McLean Memorial Scholarship

Karl Tucker II Memorial Scholarship*

Kathryn Hill Memorial Scholarship

GFPS Foundation Scholarships (Continued)

Kelly Johnson Memorial Scholarship*

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Kenneth Amo Memorial Trades Scholarship*

Kent Seaton Memorial Scholarship for Engineering

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Legacy of '58 Scholarship*

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Lowell Hults Scholarship

Lowry Family Scholarship*

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Modesto "Jr." Rosales Memorial Music Scholarship

Native American Art Scholarship

Neil Curry Memorial Scholarship

Never Give Up Scholarship

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Oakland Family Scholarship for the Trades*

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Paris Gibson Education Center (PGEC) School Counselor Brittany Light with PGEC students, Mackinsey Harris, Addelyn English, Isabelle Gasvoda, and Annabelle Rogers.

Teacher Scholarships

Heisey Foundation Teacher Scholarships are awarded annually to up to 20 teachers seeking to enhance their education. Thanks to funding from the Heisey Foundation, these educators are able to utilize $1,000 to work toward their goals.

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Sarah Holtzmann, Lewis and Clark Elementary

Lucas Poe-Kiser, Valley View Elementary

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Emily Schauer, Great Falls High School

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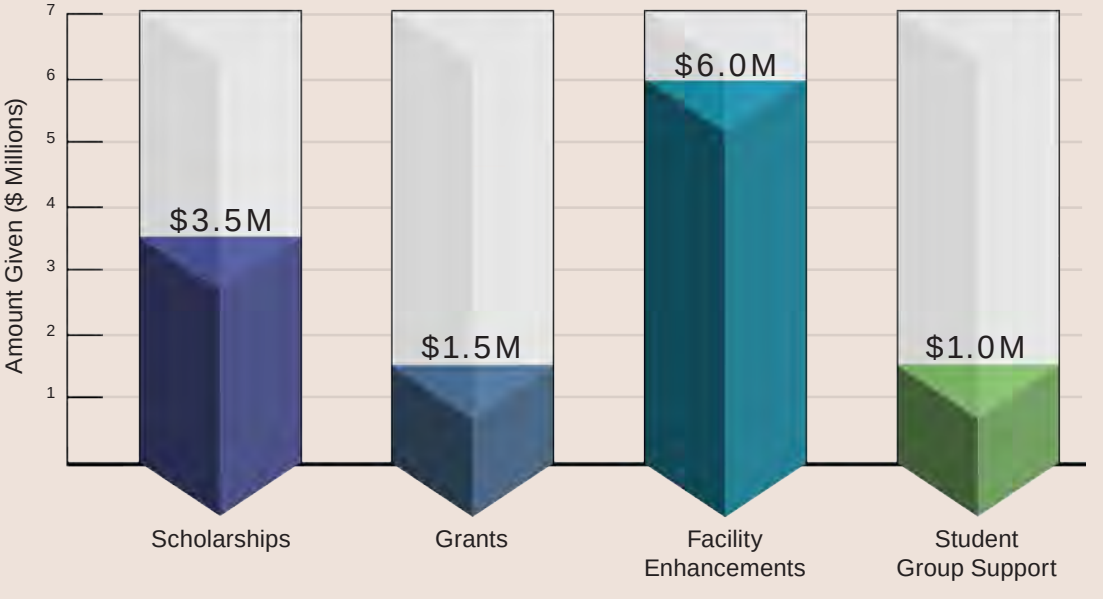
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