

December Counseling and FRC Update

Hello Hellgate Parents,

Happy December! This is typically a busy month filled with holiday parties, concerts and gatherings. It is also the start of our last marking period for semester 1. This is a great time of year to keep an eye on your student's Q account. Students who are behind in their courses are encouraged to work with their teachers to make a plan for missing assignments. Students can see teachers before school and on Wed. office hours. We hope you can join us on December 21st for our Annual Holiday Assembly. Have a happy, healthy, restful break and we look forward to seeing everyone again in January.

HHS Counselors- Christine Kolczak, Katie Boynton, Ben Martin, and Jessica Buboltz

Hellgate Holiday Giving

It is a tradition at Hellgate to share some holiday joy with as many students as we can. All staff and teachers become elves and nominate students who could use a little extra holiday cheer. Last year, with the help of you and our amazing community, we were able to provide gift cards for 150 students. If you would like to help us meet this goal again this year, **you can make a tax deductible donation to Hellgate Cares and give it to Jeanie Hughes in the main office.** We will then purchase the needed gift cards and distribute them (Wal-mart cards are the most requested gift cards). Tax exempt donation forms are available! Thank you for making the holidays bright!

Tracy Ledyard, on behalf of all the Elves here at Hellgate High School

December 1 was the FAFSA Priority Deadline for Montana Colleges.

Montana colleges have set December 1st as the FAFSA priority deadline. Students should complete their FAFSA to maximize aid eligibility. Montana colleges will start sending Financial Aid award letters.

MUS Honors Scholarships

The MUS Honors Scholarship application opens on December 1st. The application must be postmarked by March 15th. Senior Counselors will be visiting Senior classes before the break to pass out pertinent information. Official transcripts with the 7th semester grades will not be available until the beginning of February. MUS Scholarship information and requirements, including Rigorous Core criteria, can be found here:

http://mus.edu/Prepare/Pay/Scholarships/MUS_Honor_Scholarship.asp.

Upward Bound Applications

TRIO-Upward Bound is accepting Applications for the 2018-19 School year. View Information & Eligibility Requirements [here](#). If you are interested in applying, please see your HHS Counselor.

Missing Work Deadline**December 5th**

Any missing work from November must be turned in by December 5th.

Scholarships

Please be sure to check out all other scholarships on our [Scholarship Page](#).

Reach Higher Montana HHS Hours**Weds. Afternoons & Thurs.****Mornings**

Steven Coop works for Reach Higher Montana providing students and families with free guidance through the world of financial aid, scholarships, and college prep. Starting in December, Steven will be at HHS on Wednesday from 11:30-3 and Thursday from 8-11:30. He will be available to schedule meetings to discuss scholarships, financial aid and post-secondary planning, but can be found for drop-in questions in the Commons area.

Reach Higher Montana (RHM) also awards scholarships to Montana high school and college students. RHM has purchased access for all Montana students to use the scholarship search engine Scholly. Learn more about how to get it for free at [ReachHigherMontana.org](https://reachhighermontana.org).

To schedule an appointment, email Steven at scoop@ReachHigherMontana.org or call his cell is (406) 880-1145. You can make an appointment with him by clicking this link:

<https://reachhighermontana--missoula.youcanbook.me/index.jsp>

2nd Semester Schedules

If your student is not scheduled for a class period during 2nd semester, December is a great time to make a plan. Students are encouraged to stop into Counseling during lunch (students can tell yellow-line attendants that they need to make a 2nd semester schedule change) or 10 minute break to add classes. If a longer conversation is necessary, students can complete a Counselor Appointment Request form found in the hallway outside the Counseling Center.

2nd Semester MTDA Original Credit Classes

Enrollment is open for MTDA Original Credit classes. If your student is interested in taking an on-line class, please view the course list and descriptions at: <http://montanadigitalacademy.org/resources/course-catalog/> Students can stop by Counseling to pick up the paperwork before school, after school or during lunch (students can tell yellow-line attendants that they need MTDA paperwork).

College Application Deadlines/Common Application Questions?

The Common Application (CommonApp) requires your school counselor to submit the School Report Form and often a recommendation. You must submit your school counselor's email correctly into the Common App form. After submission, it is your responsibility to make sure your counselor has received the request. In addition to the School Report, your counselor can write you a comprehensive recommendation letter if you provide a **resume** immediately after the LOR request (Counselor Report). This should happen as early as possible, but no less than *two*

weeks before the due date of your first college deadline. Be mindful of deadlines over the holiday break. Hellgate staff are not available over the break to help with, or complete applications. Winter break runs December 22-January 6.

Office Hours 12:39-1:23 Every Wednesday

Office Hours is a great opportunity for students to engage in self-directed educational time during the school week. For first semester, Freshmen are assigned to a class. Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors are encouraged to utilize this time to catch up on missed classes, make-up tests, work on group projects and much more. Please encourage your student to utilize Office Hours to enhance their educational experience here at HHS.

PSAT Scores December 12th-online

PSAT scores will be available to Montana students on December 12th online. Your student will receive an email with instructions for creating a College Board account and to view the online score report if they entered an email at registration time. **Please encourage them to save this information for later (senior college applications).** Counselors will pass out the hard-copy score reports after we receive them, which will be after this date. We will send out a Remind with a date and time students can pick them up.

Remind

Remind is an easy way for the Counselors to send text, email or app accessible messages to our students and parents. We are using this Remind account to send out important information and to remind students and parents of upcoming events and deadlines. Remind is easy to use. Please sign up today and encourage your student to do the same!

[Remind Class of 2019 Sign-Up](#)

[Remind Class of 2020 Sign-Up](#)

[Remind Class of 2021 Sign-Up](#)

[Remind Class of 2022 Sign-Up](#)

Feeling Stressed?

There are only 26 days left of school before finals start. Finals are Jan. 23 Periods 3,4,5, Jan. 24 Periods 6 & 7 and Jan. 25 Periods 1 & 2. For a full list of schedules and times please see the Hellgate High School Calendar on the main page.

Deficiencies

Students who are failing a class at the marking period will receive a deficiency notice in the mail. Please read carefully as we provide some helpful information.

Hellgate Tutoring

Tutors will be available through the Hellgate Flagship program until December 12th, meeting on Tues and Wed after school. Tutoring will resume on Tuesdays starting on January 15th.

Looking Forward, Planning Ahead

At the beginning of February our Course Request process for the 2018-2019 School Year will begin. An evening parent meeting will be held by Principal Miller, followed by a large group grade level presentation for students. They will then choose their courses the following week.

We encourage you to have conversations with your students now about how classes are currently going and what courses may be beneficial for your student moving forward to help them achieve their goals for the future.

Junior Timeline

During the month of December, Junior Counselors, Ben Martin and Jessica Buboltz, will pass out the HHS Junior Timeline in 11th grade Social Studies classes. This timeline will help students to prepare for Senior year and life after high school. When we pass out this information, it will also include a link to the Life After High School Planning Guide. The second half of Junior year is a great time to review this guide and start preparing for Senior year.

Life After High School Planning Guide

All Grade Levels

[The Life After High School Planning Guide](#) is a great tool to utilize to start to prepare for Post-Secondary opportunities. We encourage you to take some time to review this guide with your student.

Semester 1 Finals Schedule

SEMESTER ONE: There will be no school on **Monday, January 21** in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day and **Monday, January 28** for staff records day.

Wednesday, Jan 23	Thursday, Jan 24	Friday, Jan 25
Per 3 7:50am - 9:50am	Per 6 7:50am – 9:50am	Per 1 7:50am – 9:50am
BREAK 9:50am - 10:00am	BREAK 9:50am - 10:00am	BREAK 9:50am - 10:00am
Per 4 10:05am - 12:05pm	Per 7 10:05am - 12:05pm	Per 2 10:05am - 12:05pm

LUNCH 12:05pm - 12:55pm
Per 5 1:00pm - 3:00pm

Upcoming Dates to Remember

December 5th- Missing Work Deadline

December 7th Fall Recognition Assembly

December 21st- 9:27 AM Holiday Assembly at HHS

December 22nd-January 6th- Holiday Break

Jan. 21st- No School

Jan 23rd-25th- Semester Finals

Jan. 28th- No School for Students

Jan. 29th- Semester 2 start

Counseling Website: <http://www.mcpsmt.org//Domain/334>

If you are aware of someone who may be thinking about suicide, please share the following resources:



1-800-273-8255 **PRESS 1**

Text to
838255

CRISIS TEXT LINE |

TM

Text MT to 741-741

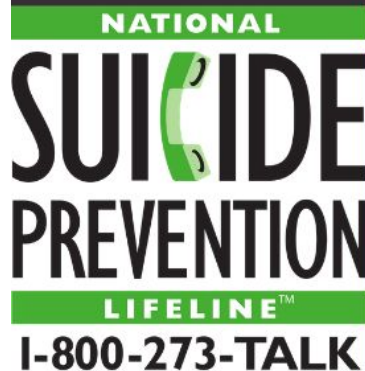
A free, 24/7 text line

LOOKING FOR MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES?

CALL, TEXT OR CHAT

24 HOURS A DAY: 7 DAYS A WEEK: 365 DAYS A YEAR:

FREE: CONFIDENTIAL



Are you a young person of color?

**Feeling down,
stressed or
overwhelmed?**

**Text STEVE to
741741**



NEWS FROM THE FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

As the holiday season begins to get into full swing, I find myself overwhelmed with gratitude for our Hellgate community of students, staff, and community members. People really come together and look at how they can help others. I am fortunate to have a job where I witness the true joy of giving as well as the gratitude of receiving every single day!

The FRC is only able to take donations of winter coats, winter boots, and sweat pants right now. Having the split spaces has proven to be a little difficult to keep the donations orderly. Thanks for your understanding.

Gratitude shout outs:

- Garden City Church for providing 15 of our families everything they needed to make an amazing Thanksgiving meal!

- Student Government for organizing and shopping for Thanksgiving meals for 2 of our families!
- Holy Spirit Church for taking Hellgate on as part of their charitable giving!
- MOR for kids for providing funds to purchase needed items for students.
- Town Pump Charitable Foundation for granting us money to provide snacks in the classroom.
- Students from the Human Rights Club for delivering snacks.
- The many donors who have gifted food, supplies, clothes, gift cards, and funds to the FRC and Hellgate Cares.
- My trusty shoppers and organizers who help keep the 2 rooms stocked and organized (you know who are!).

Please don't hesitate to call or stop by! Wishing you a peaceful holiday season!

Tracy Ledyard

taledyard@mcps.k12.mt.us

728-2400 ext. 6062