

Counseling and FRC Update Sept. 2018

Hello Hellgate Parents,

Happy September! The beginning of the school year is filled with many events and a ton of information. We know you receive a lot of communication from Hellgate and we don't want to overload you, but we do want to keep you informed.

The Counselor Update is a monthly newsletter with reminders and information along with upcoming events a few months out. We hope that you'll read about the topics that are important to you and that it will spark a conversation with your student. Please make sure to see the update from our FRC near the end!!

We also utilize the [HHS Counseling Event Calendar](#), Remind and the Daily Bulletin to keep students and parents informed.

We have worked hard to make the [Counseling Website](#) a comprehensive source of information and if there is something you would like to see there, please let us know.

We hope the beginning of the school year is going smoothly for you and your student and we look forward to visiting with you throughout the school year.

HHS School Counselors

Class of 2019 & 2021

Katie Boynton

Last Names A-K

keboynton@mcps.k12.mt.us

Christine Kolczak

Last Names L-Z

ckolczak@mcps.k12.mt.us

Class of 2020 & 2022

Ben Martin

Last Names A-K

bdmartin@mcps.k12.mt.us

Jessica Buboltz

Last Names L-Z

jlbuboltz@mcps.k12.mt.us

Last day for drop/add

September 6th is the last day for students to submit Drop/Add forms at 2 pm. Drop/Add forms can be found in the new front office. Juniors and Seniors have until September 13th to drop for a study hall.

MTDA Deadline: September 7th 1PM

If your student is interested in taking a Montana Digital Academy Original Credit class, they need to turn in completed paperwork by 1PM on Friday, September 7th. Students can pick up the paperwork in the Counseling department.

Cap & Gown Presentation & Senior Assembly Wednesday September 12th

Josten's will present for about 20-25 minutes during Office Hours on Wednesday, September 12th to hand out information packets. Students will receive information regarding graduation cap and gowns for commencement as well as other graduation products for purchase. Be sure to ask your senior to see their packet!

Mr. Miller, Ms. Boynton and Ms. Kolczak will also speak with Seniors during this time about their Senior year, College and Career Fair, college prep and scholarships. **This will be a mandatory assembly for Seniors to attend.** Assembly location will be announced at a later time.

Junior Assembly Wednesday September 12th

Juniors will attend a brief Assembly on Wednesday, September 12th during Office Hours. Mr. Martin and Ms. Buboltz will discuss the College and Career Fair field trip and provide other important information relevant to Junior year.

College Fair Tuesday September 25th Juniors and Seniors

On Tuesday, September 25th, HHS Juniors and Seniors will attend the University of Montana College and Career Fair. Students who have completed an Annual Field Trip Permission Form(Available at Registration) or a College Fair Permission slip may attend. Juniors will attend from 8:30-9:30, expected to be back by 3rd period. Seniors attend 3rd period from 10:15-lunch. Seniors will be released from College Fair.

Seniors can register before the fair to be eligible to win a **\$1000 Scholarship!** Register at: www.MPSEOClogin.com or www.MontanaColleges.com Students are only eligible for the scholarship if they register before the fair. Registration provides students a barcode (please print) with their contact information that each college representative can quickly scan and send additional college information directly to students.

This year students have the opportunity to see who is coming to the fair and research the program profile ahead of time online. To see photos, videos, contact information, admission

details, tuition rates, student/teacher ratios, scholarship information, housing information, academic programs, etc., visit www.montanacolleges.com/colleges

Please remind your student to bring their emergency medications, inhalers, EpiPens, Benadryl with them for this off-campus field trip.

Montana College Application Week October 1st-5th

Montana's College Application Week provides high school seniors the opportunity to learn about Montana colleges and universities and complete a college application during the school day, thereby opening the door for many students who might not otherwise take this important step toward college. Participating high school seniors not only have an opportunity to apply to a college, but many 2-year and 4-year colleges in Montana have offered to defer or waive the application fee depending on income eligibility during College Application Week. Last year, more than 3,800 students filled out an application during College Application Week.

Hellgate seniors can stop into the Counseling Center during Monday through Wednesday and Friday from 7:30-3:30 and Thursday between 7:30-2 to receive help completing a montana college application. We highly recommend that students stop in during Senior Study Hall, Study Hall, lunch or Office Hours.

FAFSA Information and Help Sessions

HHS Counselors are teaming with Reach Higher Montana to help provide Missoula students and parents with information about Financial Aid and life after high school. We have two upcoming events that we hope you will join!

College Prep and Financial Aid Night Monday, October 1st 6PM-7:30PM

If you missed our presentation last Spring, this will be a good one to attend. Senior Counselors, Ms. Kolczak and Ms. Boynton will briefly present about preparing for college in the Senior year and Steven Coop from Reach Higher Montana will discuss financial aid and the FAFSA. This presentation will be geared towards Seniors, but others are welcome to attend.

FAFSA Help Session**Monday, October 15th****6PM-8PM**

Steven Coop will be running a FAFSA help session and will be available to help students and parents complete the FAFSA.

PSAT**Wednesday, October 10th**

The PSAT will be administered on **Wednesday October 10, 2018**. Registration will begin shortly. There are a limited number of tests available, so to ensure a spot, sign up immediately. The test will cost \$16. Juniors on free and reduced lunch are eligible for a scholarship; please see Jeanie for this information.

Scholarships

The Scholarship website is currently under construction. Once redesigned, we will send updates of the new online location. Please use it regularly. Thank you for your patience.

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](#)

Letters Of Recommendation

College Applications have already begun! If the college you are applying to requires a Letter of Recommendation, please give the teacher/counselor you are asking at least 2 weeks notice and a current Resume. More information about Requesting Letters of Recommendation can be found at: <http://www.mcpsmt.org/Page/6192>

College Applications

Many colleges and universities are utilizing Common Application or SendEdu for their application process. This is convenient for students and recommenders because everything can

be done on-line. Counselors will receive a request for a recommendation through email. Students need to make sure that they use the accurate MCPS email and should check with their Counselor to ensure they received the request. Your student also needs to provide their Counselor with a current Resume at least 2 weeks prior so that we can write a comprehensive letter of recommendation.

Transcript Requests

Official Transcripts can be ordered through the HHS Registrar, Lori Willumsen. Students and parents can either complete a Transcript Request Form or submit a request to Lori through e-mail at lwillumsen@mcps.k12.mt.us. Transcript Request Forms can be picked up at Lori's desk. If making a request through e-mail, please be sure to provide your student's name as well as the name and address of the institution it will be sent to. Please provide your request at least 48 hours before you need your transcript. Unofficial transcripts can be viewed on student and parent Q.

College and Military Visits

Juniors and Seniors are invited to attend College, Military and Career Visits at Hellgate High School. Students are asked to complete a Post-Secondary Visit Form (Blue Form found on the bulletin board across from the Counseling office). Please speak with your teacher and get their signature ahead of time, attend the visit, turn in your Post-Secondary Visit form to your Counselor and we will School Relate your absence for the class period. Check out the [Counseling Events Calendar](#) for Upcoming Visits. If you have any questions about College and Military visits, contact Ben Martin at bdmartin@mcps.k12.mt.us

SAT/ACT Test Dates

Seniors who are interested in taking or retaking the SAT or ACT are encouraged to take the exam in early Fall. Students should check registration deadlines and register at www.act.org or www.collegeboard.org.

Students in the Class of 2020 will take the ACT for Free next Spring. This date will be different than the National Test Dates below.

<u>SAT Test Dates 2018/19</u>	<u>ACT Test Dates 2018/19</u>
October 6	September 8
November 3	October 27
December 1	December 8
March 9, 2019	February 9, 2019

May 4	April 13
June 1	June 8
	July 13

The Family Resource Center - NEW LOCATION - Room 164D

Welcome to Hellgate High School! My name is Tracy Ledyard and I am the School Social Worker/FRC Coordinator. The FRC is open to all students and families at HHS! I also work closely with families/students who are in transition in regards to their living/housing situation as well as unaccompanied youth. Please feel free to stop in or call if there is a need for school supplies, extra clothes, toiletries, and/or food at home. I can help connect you to other resources in the community as well.

I am now conveniently located on the first floor in 164D next to our bookkeeper and activities secretary. I continue to maintain the previous room and keep them stocked with larger clothing, toiletries, and food needs.

If you are interested in helping shop for the FRC, please contact me! Last year I was lucky enough to have a parent who shopped every week to keep us stocked with snacks and toiletry needs. We provide the funds (based on donations) so you are not expected to personally buy what is needed.

Please remember to fill out the Free and Reduced Meal application! These need to be filled out every year and allow your student to eat 2 meals a day for free or at a reduced price if you qualify. Online applications here [online application](#). In addition, there are testing fee waivers available if eligible as well. Allocation of Title I funds is based solely on the number of eligible application turned in. This year, Hellgate is without any Title I funds for the first time in many years and have lost some effective programs and staff as a result. Contact me if you have any questions in regards to the application. I am happy to help. They make a difference!

Below is some information on an event called Parent Employment Connect on September 28th. It is an incredible opportunity for adults who are looking for help with employment.

I wish you a smooth beginning to the school year. You can contact me at:

taledyard@mcps.k12.mt.us

728-2400 x 6062

Tracy Ledyard

The At-Risk Housing Coalition Presents



Project Employment Connect

Employment Services and Job Fair

Free & Open to the General Public

Services Offered

- Resume Assistance
- Interview Skills Training
- Haircuts
- Interview Clothing
- Veteran's Services
- Youth Employment
- I.D. & Birth Certificates
- Housing Resources

Friday, Sept. 28th

10 am to 3 pm

The Learning Center

310 South Curtis Street
Missoula, MT

Near Coca Cola Distribution Center

Bus Route

Route 2 or 9
(S. Johnson St. & S. 4th St. W.)

Including Support For those who

Lack a High School
Diploma

Are Under-Employed,

Are Returning from
Incarceration,

Or Seeking Job Training
Resources.

Employers

Missoula Development Services Corp. (MDSC), Community Medical Center, LC Staffing,
Building Materials & Construction Solutions (BMC), Missoula Works, Lowe's, Opportunity Resources,
Alcom LLC, Montana Air National Guard

**Look for updates on employers at
Project Community Connect's Facebook Page
@Missoula PCC**

For More Information, Contact Rebecca Stancil at rstancil@missoulahousing.org or Theresa Williams at williamst@ci.missoula.mt.us

Important Dates to Remember

September 12th Senior Assembly (Jostens Cap & Gown Presentation +important Senior info)

September 12th Junior Assembly

September 17th HHS Open House (all families welcome!)

September 17-21- Homecoming Week

September 25th College Fair for Jr and Sr at UM

September 28th - Parent Employment Connect 10-3 Lifelong Learning Center

October 1-5- Montana College Application Week for Seniors

October 1 College Prep and Financial Aid Night 6-7:30

October 10- PSAT

October 15- FAFSA Help Session

Oct 18-19 No School

November 6th-7th- Parent Teacher Conferences (both drop-in and appts)

November 9th- No School

November 21-23- Thanksgiving Break

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