



Tammy's Top Ten on Tuesday October 9, 2018

- 1. Elections Matter.** Come meet local candidates at an Open House tonight at the Civic Center. From 5:30-7:00 in the Gibson Room you can visit with the candidates that are vying to represent you in the 66th Legislature of Montana in 2019. There will be refreshments and since it is an open house format, you can come and go as it fits your schedule. See you there!
- 2. National Homeless Day.** Did you know that there were 370 students who were considered homeless during last school year? So far, 170 have already been identified. "Homeless" means not having a fixed, adequate nighttime residence. GFPS provides support to these students and families as we can, but we rely on others to help out too. The GFPS Foundation and the GF Area Realtors (GFAR) are hosting a STAND UP FOR STUDENTS event this Wednesday. To participate, wear purple, eat at supporting restaurants, or donate money and items. See more here: www.gfps.k12.mt.us.
- 3. Fall Concerts.** The first middle and high school band, orchestra and choir concerts of the year kick off on the October 15. Check out the schedule: https://gfps.k12.mt.us/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/2018-Fall-Middle_High-School-Concerts..pdf. They run through November 5 so there is plenty of time to see our amazing youth talent.
- 4. 58 GFPS Students in MHSA All-State Music Festival.** Speaking of talent, 58 CMR and GFHS students have been selected to represent GFPS at the Festival in Missoula, October 17-19. Our students will make up 16% of all the students participating from across the state. This is the largest number of GFPS musicians to ever be selected. They have been practicing since auditioning last spring. The students will be under the tutelage of renowned guest conductors for two days of intense rehearsals before presenting a concert on Friday evening at the University of Montana Dennison Theater. Thanks to the elementary, middle school and high school music teachers, to private lesson teachers, to parents and to the community for the support of our music programs.
- 5. Crosstown Happenings.** After the Legislative Open House, come on over to the CMR Fieldhouse for the crosstown volleyball game at 7 pm. They are packing the place in pink, having a silent auction and passing a bucket for donations. Proceeds from those and concessions will go to the Pack the Place in Pink Foundation. There is also crosstown cross country on Wednesday at the Anaconda Hills golf course at 4 pm. The Truck Raffle will take place at the crosstown football game on October 26. Find out more about that here: <http://www.gfpsfoundation.org/support-us/truck-raffle/>.
- 6. Slow Down, Please!** Just a reminder about the school zone speed limits: Most of GFPS buildings are in residential zones which have 25 mph speed limits ALL THE TIME. Exceptions to this are in front of Meadow Lark, and on 26th and 25th Streets near Roosevelt and Lincoln. These have a 30 mph limit outside of school hours. During the school day/posted hours, the speed limit drops to 25 mph and the fines are doubled. Outside of the posted hours, the speed limits return to 30 mph in these examples. I ask that whatever the speed limit, please drive slowly and carefully around our schools!
- 7. National School Lunch Week.** Did you know that GFPS serves 2000-2500 breakfasts and 5000-6000 lunches per day of school? We know that a nourished child is a better learner, more likely to be on-time and at school, better behaved and more attentive in class. A hungry child has lower math scores, is more likely to be suspended from school, and is less likely to get along with other students. Our lunches provide fresh fruits and vegetables daily. The meals we serve are sometimes the only meals some students get. You can view my remarks to the GFPS Food Service staff here: <https://gfps.k12.mt.us/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Food-Service-18.pdf>. Join me in thanking our food service workers for the important role they play in student achievement.

- 8. No School.** Thursday and Friday, October 18-19, are days without school in Montana and Great Falls. These days have been set aside for teacher professional development. Some teachers will attend conferences those two days and other teachers will attend evening workshops during the fall to fulfill the professional development requirements. Prioritizing professional development is what makes our teachers some of the best trained in the nation.
- 9. GFPS Fall Giving Campaign.** In conjunction with United Way and Montana Shares, GFPS employees will give back to the community that has given them so much. GFPS hopes to pledge \$60,000 during the annual giving campaign. Last year, GFPS employees gave \$54,779 so we are confident we will reach our goal and help so many in our community! Check out the latest United Way video: www.youtube.com/watch?v=0EKv9I3NLM. I get emotional watching the movie because I believe in their work so much and I hope you do too!
- 10. Board Meetings:** There is only one Board meeting in October and it is next Monday, October 15 at 5:30 at the District Office Building, 1100 4th St. S. The agenda and supporting information will be posted on this Thursday at this link: <http://www.gfps.k12.mt.us/content/school-board>.

I hope you enjoyed my Top Ten on Tuesday! The next release is scheduled for October 23, 2018.

Take care. Be well. Stay safe.
Tammy L. Lacey
Superintendent

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