MISSION STATEMENT: To educate and prepare our students to meet the challenges of safely operating a vehicle; teach best-practices in the skills of maneuvering any vehicle; and educate our youth about the proper use of seat belts, and the dangers of distracted driving, including the use of hand-held devices, driving under the influence, and drowsy driving.

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The following is information regarding our upcoming driver education classes for students who have not already taken driver education and wish to do so, and qualify for the age requirements (see below*):

*Please note: a student must have been born on or before November 20, 2004 for the May 20, 2019 class and born on or before January 8, 2005 for the July 8, 2019 class to be eligible. The date of birth will be verified by the school.

The first class will begin on May 20, 2019 (3:30-5:00 P.M. until the school year is over). After the regular school year ends, class times and dates will then be determined by the individual teacher. Classes will generally conclude the week of June 28th. THIS IS AN APPROXIMATE DATE; THE ACTUAL DATE WILL BE ANNOUNCED BY THE INDIVIDUAL INSTRUCTOR. Please be reminded that although the class room portion of the class will be completed, each student is responsible for twelve driving lessons. The second class will start on July 8, 2019 8:00 A.M. The end of the session will be determined by the individual instructor and will generally conclude the week of, August 10th.

REGISTRATION for the driver education class session (listed above) will be held ONE TIME ONLY on April 29, 2019, 6:30 pm in the Foyer for CMR students and April 30, 2019, 6:30 pm in the Auditorium for GFH students. Sign-ups for both the May/July classes will be at this time. A parent or guardian MUST attend if they wish to register their student. The fee is $150.00, payable to Great Falls Public Schools (GFPS) at time of registration. Enrollment is limited and preference will be given according to grade level, starting with seniors, and will be on a first-come, first-serve basis. The registration form must be completed and handed in with your $150.00 fee at the registration meeting. MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS are only allowed to register for THE SUMMER SESSIONS. (8th Grade Students only)

This advance information about our Summer Driver Education Program is being provided for your information to help you plan your student’s activities. Activities such as: all sports camps, music, or other activities should be taken into consideration before registering for driver education. You will need to check with the coaches or instructors of these activities, as to whether there will be conflicts with the driver education schedule.
Students are now part of the Graduated Driver License Program (GDL) in Montana. They will obtain a TELL permit in class by passing a written test from the State of Montana. Please note: If the student does not obtain a TELL permit by the conclusion of class, the 6 month GDL first phase of the license clock starts over.

The requirements for the Driver Education Course, as approved by the State of Montana, must include a minimum of sixty (60) hours of learning experience. Our course is structured as follows:

- 42 hours of classroom (approx. 6-7 consecutive weeks, 28 days)
- 6 hours of driving (scheduled by the teacher or student sign-up)
- 12 hours of observation (scheduled in conjunction with the driving)
- 60 hours of instruction

Our program provides the minimum required hours. Therefore, it is vital that students meet all classroom, driving and observation requirements. Make up work must be completed for ALL classroom, driving absences. Please notify the instructor at least 24 hours in advance if a scheduled driving time cannot be met. In keeping with the high school attendance rules, a maximum of 4.5 hours of classroom absences are allowed to be made up. A maximum of two (2) scheduled driving absences are allowed to be made up. Please note that if a student is not in class the day of their drive, they will not be allowed to drive. The student will be dropped if more absences occur. THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THESE ATTENDANCE AND COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS.

As a reminder to all potential Driver Education students, please be aware that in order for a student to legally drive on a public roadway without a trained and certified instructor, the student must have a Traffic Education Learners License (TELL) in their possession and must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian occupying the front passenger seat at all times.

If the student receives any moving violations or vehicle related citations from any law enforcement agency while enrolled in the GFPS driver’s education program, he/she will be immediately suspended from drivers training. The student and parent may petition the school district for reinstatement in driver’s education during the next regularly scheduled session.

A list of students who have satisfactorily completed the Driver Education Class will be submitted to the Driver Examination Office approximately ONE (1) WEEK after ALL STUDENTS have completed the class. Students should have a TELL permit by then or the 6-month time clock for the first phase of the GDL will have to start over when they obtain the permit.

No one may proceed with the licensing procedure until 6 months and 50 hours are completed for the GDL by the student and parent. THEREFORE, NO ONE SHOULD GO TO THE LICENSING STATION BEFORE 6 MONTHS PAST THE STARTING DATE OF YOUR DRIVER EDUCATION CLASS, AT THE EARLIEST, UNLESS THEY DO NOT HAVE A TELL PERMIT OR HAVE NOT COMPLETED THE APPLICATION IN CLASS!

You will be given the registration form at sign up.

The School District and our Driving Instructors would like to take this opportunity to commend you for enrolling your student in our Driver Education Program. Education and proper instruction by the parents and their instructor provide for maximum learner outcomes.