



**GREAT FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GREAT FALLS, MONTANA
DRIVER EDUCATION PROGRAM
SPRING (January - March) 2020**

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 July 21, 2005 for the January 21, 2020 class** and born on or **before September 9, 2005 for the March 9, 2020 class** to be eligible. The date of birth will be verified by the school.

The first class will begin on Monday, **January 21, 2020 (3:30-5:00 P.M, Monday through Friday)** and will generally conclude the week of **April 30, 2020** and the second class will begin on Monday, **March 9, 2020 (3:30-5:00 PM, Monday through Friday)** and generally conclude the week of **May 22, 2020**. Coordinators will answer questions on registration nights. In addition to the classroom portion of our Driver Education Program, each student will be scheduled for twelve (12) ninety (90) minute driving sessions between 7:00 AM and 9:00 PM, Monday through Saturday.

REGISTRATION for the driver education class session (listed above) will be held **ONE TIME ONLY on Tuesday, January 7, 2020 6:30 P.M in the Commons for CMR students and Thursday, January 9, 2020 at 6:30 P.M. in the Hub for GFH students.**

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. The registration form must be completed and handed in with your \$150.00 fee at the registration meeting.

***Parents must attend a MANDATORY INFORMATIVE** meeting for the driver education class session that will be scheduled by the class instructor.

MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS "WILL NOT BE ALLOWED" TO REGISTER UNTIL THE SUMMER SESSIONS.

This advance information about our Spring 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 under the Graduated Driver License Program (GDL) in Montana. They should obtain a TELL permit in class by passing the written test, if they meet the requirements, or from the DMV. If they do not obtain a TELL permit by the end of Driver Education class the 6 month GDL first phase of the license clock starts over. Not having a Tell permit does not mean you automatically fail Driver Education.

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 only 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 and observation 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.** The student will be **dropped** if more absences occur. **Also be aware if, at the end of the training sessions, a student is missing driving times and/or observation times and the instructor is out of time slots, the program will not be extended and the student will fail the course. THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THESE ATTENDANCE AND COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS.**

NOTE: A STUDENT MUST HAVE TWENTY-FIVE (25) DIFFERENT DAYS OF ACTUAL CONTACT WITH THEIR INSTRUCTOR TO MEET STATE REQUIREMENTS. ABSENCES DO NOT COUNT IN THE TWENTY-FIVE (25) TOTAL, EVEN WITH MAKE UP WORK COMPLETE.

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 written State of Montana Test for the TELL permit will be given by the classroom instructor soon after the first week of class. If a student does not pass the test (82% or better), the test can be retaken at the Department of Motor Vehicles when records of class participation is submitted as indicated by the instructor. The State Driver's License fee includes the opportunity to retake the test. Our Driver Education Program also includes the State of Montana Behind the Wheel Driving Test during the final weeks of our program (usually if the written test was passed). NOTE: On the State portion of the driving test the student may make up to eight (8) simple mistakes and pass. If the student does not pass this driving test, the test must be retaken at the Department of Motor Vehicles, but not before all of the requirements for the first phase of the GDL are complete (6 months and 50 hours of supervised practice).

Please note: Ten (10%) percent of the students who are recommended for a driver's license are randomly retested by the State of Montana.

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.