



East Helena Public Schools
“Back to School 2017” Messages

East Helena School Doors Opened on August 30th

The East Helena Schools will have its traditional Wednesday start to the school year at all three district schools on August 30. Staff are anxiously awaiting the arrival of the students and are planning for an amazingly successful year for all. The district continues to improve an already academically strong program as evidenced by rising test scores that surpass State averages. That increasing performance only occurs under the caring and skilled direction of a staff of professionals that values every child as an individual in a nurturing environment.

Eastgate Elementary School will start on Aug. 30th at 8:20 a.m. for students in first grade and on August 31st for students in Kindergarten. Additional information about the first day schedule is also available on the school website at www.ehps.k12.mt.us or by calling 227-7770. Dismissal for Eastgate students is 3:10 p.m. each day including the first day of school.

Robert H. Radley Elementary School will start at 8:10 a.m. for all students and the day end will be at 3:15 p.m. for fourth and fifth graders while the second and third graders will exit the building ahead of the bigger kids at 3:10 p.m. every day. Additional information about Radley School is available on the school website at www.ehps.k12.mt.us or by calling 227-7710. An open house is planned for 4:30-6:00 pm on Monday, August 28th.

East Valley Middle School will start at 8:05 a.m. for the entire population of sixth, seventh and eighth grade students on August 30th and the dismissal time is 3:10 p.m. Middle school students can see their teacher assignments and schedules on the school district website at www.ehps.k12.mt.us by logging in using their school issued passwords. Additional information about East Valley Middle School is also available on the school website at www.ehps.k12.mt.us or by calling 227-7740. An open house is planned for 5:30-7:00 pm on Monday, August 28th.

Parents of students still needing to enroll in school should take the name and address of their last school of attendance, a copy of the immunization record and a copy of their student's birth certificate to the proper school at the time of enrolling.

A special note to all parents of seventh grade students: A copy of the certificate of immunization record of the incoming seventh graders must be updated to show that the student has received two measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) shots and one tetanus and diphtheria (Td) shot before they will be allowed to attend classes. Parents with questions regarding immunizations or medications at school are encouraged to call the school nurse, Stephanie Bauch for further information.

Extra help, tutoring is available

The East Helena School District offers a before and after-school tutoring program in addition to the After School Academic Program for students whose families want to have their children receive additional assistance at school. Using federal Title I grant money, the district is providing this service at Eastgate, Radley and East Valley Middle Schools again this school year. Information concerning this opportunity is available from individual building offices during the first few days of the new school year. This program provides support and enrichment to children for 20 to 60 minutes every day.

East Helena After-School Academic Program

Registration for East Helena After-School program is now open. Parents that are interested in having their students attend the program need to pick up an application at the school or fill out the form that is available on line at the www.ehps.k12.mt.us website. The East Helena Afterschool program will begin on September 18th and run Mondays through Fridays at each school but has limited enrollment due to the need to provide adequate staffing. Please note that due to staff training issues the program will NOT run on the 8 early release days scheduled this year. The program is open to students grades K-8 and involves Science/Technology/Engineering/Math (STEM) extension activities, Fine Arts activities and Health Enhancement activities to go along with homework assistance and tutoring. This academic program supports student learning objectives and academic growth for students.

Lunch Prices Legislated to Rise

Breakfast and lunch will be served in each of the schools on the first day of school. Breakfast will be available at 7:45 a.m. the first morning in all three buildings for \$1.35. Lunch will be served in each building for \$2.80 this year as a result of a federal mandate. The school district is pleased to continue to offer a healthy choice salad bar as an option on the daily lunch menu. Eastgate and Radley Schools are also eligible for and participates in the fresh fruits and vegetable snack program each day. Parents are encouraged to apply for the Free and Reduced Lunch assistance program through the school office as early as possible. This program assists families during these tough economic times with specially priced breakfast and lunch servings as well as making the school district eligible for additional services for children.

Bus schedules remain similar to Last Year

Bus schedules are posted on the EHPS website or they can also be viewed at the front entrance of all of the district's three school buildings. Bus service and pickup times will be similar to last year, but some changes have been made. Students should be at their bus stop 8 to 10 minutes before the scheduled pickup time as routes are based on approximate times, not actual.

The school district does provide shuttle service between schools in the mornings and the evenings for those middle school and elementary aged students who desire shuttle service between the three schools in the district. All bus students should expect a short wait at each of the buildings for bus services.

Active kids and parents have greater success in school

School participation is one critical key to success. Research shows that students who have good attendance and whose parents are involved in promoting the education of their child at home, or by volunteering at school, have a much greater rate of success. School officials encourage taking the time to get involved in your students education, encouraging good student attendance and by participating in our Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) and the East Helena Quality Education Foundation (EHQEF).

Technology creates student and parent opportunities

School District No. 9 has been a leader in the use of technology in the classroom. In fact, again this year, every student will have access to one device for each student, called a 1:1 technology initiative. Students learn basic and advanced skills and they gain knowledge on a daily basis using this district technology as an assistive tool to the classroom instruction. The use of technology promotes processing and problem solving skills that rely less on memorization of dates and facts that are easily accessible.

Parents too can stay connected to the schools by accessing student attendance, lunch balances and in many cases student grades and homework on the website through the use of the district student information software and a password. Parents can routinely find current information about their child in the district if they have an up to date email address shared with the school and have established a unique password. Keep watching for updates as we continually work to increase access for parents to important educational information about their children and district activities. Consider taking the time to look at some of the programs on the school website at www.ehps.k12.mt.us. The three East Helena Schools can also be contacted by calling 227-7710 for Radley School, 227-7740 for East Valley Middle School, 227-7770 for Eastgate School and the central administration office at 227-7700.