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# COUNSELING NEWSLETTER



WINTER 2023 - 2024

Hello Herders,

I hope everyone had a wonderful fall.

The end of the first semester is on January 12th, 2024. Local scholarships will begin to become available towards the middle of February so be sure to keep an eye on the scholarship page on our school website!

SGCHS will be facilitating the ACT test for all juniors on March 27th.

As always, feel free to visit the counseling office with any questions!

-Ms. Tavin Stewart



## IMPORTANT DATES:

12/21: EARLY RELEASE

12/22-1/2: NO SCHOOL  
(CHRISTMAS BREAK)

1/12: QUARTER 2 ENDS

1/15: NO SCHOOL

**12/31: FAFSA OPENS!**

2/19: NO SCHOOL

3/15: QUARTER 3 ENDS

3/28: EARLY RELEASE

3/29-4/1: NO SCHOOL

4/19-4/22: NO SCHOOL

5/19: GRADUATION

5/24: LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

Testing Dates: 3/27 - ACT for all  
Juniors







## Attendance Matters!



Attendance is a priority for student success. Chronic absenteeism, excused or unexcused, negatively impacts students in reaching their potential and can affect their chances of graduating.



**Scheduling for 2024-2025:**  
The next couple of months are busy in the counseling office. 2024-2025 registration will begin at the end of February. Meetings will be set up with each student to discuss future plans and next year's class schedules. Registration forms will be sent home with your student's class selections. Please remember to update registration forms and return them as soon as possible.



ALL JUNIORS WILL TAKE THE ACT ON MARCH 27TH. THE TEST WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE HIGH SCHOOL AND WILL BE ONLINE AGAIN THIS YEAR.

THE ACT IS COMPOSED OF 5 TESTS: ENGLISH, MATHEMATICS, READING, SCIENCE, AND WRITING.

VISIT ACT PREP FOR ONLINE LEARNING TOOLS AND TESTS TO HELP YOU GET THE BEST SCORE POSSIBLE ON THE ACT TEST.



FAFSA Launch Date - Dec. 31

Federal Student Aid (FSA) announces the 2024-25 will go live by December 31 and institutions will receive ISIRs by the end of January 2024.

## PowerSchool Mobile App

Download PowerSchool mobile from the iTunes or Google Play Store.

- Parents must first create a parent account prior to this setup.
- The first time you launch the PowerSchool Mobile App you will need to associate your account with a specific server using a District Code: RPWJ
- You will have access to your student's grades, assignments, attendance, and more.





# High School "To Do" Lists

## CLASS OF 2024

- CONTINUE TO WORK HARD, SEMESTER GRADES CAN AFFECT SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY.
- BROWSE COLLEGE MAJORS AND CAREERS THAT INTEREST YOU.
- ASK FOR LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION FROM TEACHERS, SCHOOL COUNSELORS, OR EMPLOYERS. REMEMBER TO GIVE THEM A PERSONAL DATA SHEET OR RESUME THAT INCLUDES THE ACTIVITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS YOU ARE INVOLVED IN AND LET THEM KNOW WHEN IT NEEDS TO BE DONE.
- VISIT COLLEGES OR UNIVERSITIES AND MEET WITH ADMISSIONS AND FINANCIAL AID REPRESENTATIVES.
- FINISH AND SUBMIT YOUR FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID (FAFSA)
- COMPLETE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS AND KEEP LOOKING FOR MORE TO APPLY FOR. REVIEW THE BULLETIN BOARD IN THE SGHS HALLWAY AND THE SCHOOL WEBSITE FOR ADDITIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS.
- COMPLETE A HOUSING APPLICATION AND SEND IN A DEPOSIT TO THE COLLEGE YOU HAVE DECIDED ON.
- INFORM EVERY COLLEGE OF YOUR ACCEPTANCE OR REJECTION OF THE OFFER OF ADMISSION/FINANCIAL AID
- ASK YOUR HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR TO SEND A FINAL TRANSCRIPT TO YOUR COLLEGE
- REVIEW YOUR FINANCIAL AID AWARDS; IT'S IMPORTANT TO CHOOSE THE AID PACKAGE THAT IS BEST FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY.
- SCHEDULE YOUR ORIENTATION DATES AT THE COLLEGE YOU WILL BE ATTENDING IN THE FALL.

## CLASS OF 2025

- JUNIORS** SHOULD BE LOOKING INTO CAREER/COLLEGE OPTIONS.
- START THINKING ABOUT FUTURE PLANS; COLLEGE, TECHNICAL SCHOOL, MILITARY, OR WORK FORCE.
  - THINK ABOUT A POSSIBLE MAJOR CONSISTENT WITH YOUR CAREER GOALS, STRENGTHS, AND INTERESTS.
  - ALL JUNIORS WILL TAKE THE ACT ON MARCH 27TH. FIND A PROGRAM TO HELP YOU STUDY.
  - SPEAK WITH COLLEGE REPRESENTATIVES ABOUT WHAT THEIR SCHOOL CAN OFFER, SCHEDULE A COLLEGE VISIT.
  - ONCE YOU RECEIVE YOUR ACT SCORE CONSIDER TAKING IT AGAIN. PREFERABLE THIS SUMMER OR EARLY NEXT YEAR.

## CLASS OF 2026

- SOPHOMORES** NEED TO MAINTAIN PASSING GRADES TO PROGRESS TOWARDS GRADUATION.
- BEGIN RESEARCHING COLLEGES/CAREERS THAT INTEREST YOU.
  - GET INVOLVED IN SCHOOL SPONSORED ACTIVITIES AND VOLUNTEER.
  - MAKE A GOAL TO TAKE PRACTICE TESTS OF BOTH THE ACT AND SAT IN ORDER TO DETERMINE WHICH TEST IS THE BEST FIT FOR YOU.
  - START PLANNING FOR A CHALLENGING JUNIOR YEAR COURSE LOAD; MAKE A LIST OF THE CLASSES YOU NEED TO TAKE NEXT YEAR.

## CLASS OF 2027

- FRESHMAN** YEAR TENDS TO BE A MAJOR TRANSITION FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS ALIKE!
- BE SURE TO ACCESS POWERSCHOOL WHICH CONTAINS ATTENDANCE INFORMATION, GRADES, AND ASSIGNMENTS.
  - ENROLL IN THE APPROPRIATE COLLEGE-PREP OR TECH-PREP CLASSES.
  - CONSIDER A COLLEGE SAVINGS PLAN. CHECK OUT [ACHIEVEMONTANA.COM](http://ACHIEVEMONTANA.COM)
  - MEET WITH YOUR COUNSELOR TO DISCUSS YOUR SKILLS AND INTERESTS AND START THINKING ABOUT THE CLASSES YOU WANT TO TAKE NEXT YEAR.



# SCHOLARSHIPS

LOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS WILL BE AVAILABLE MID-FEBRUARY; CHECK OUT THE SCHOOL WEBSITE FOR UPDATES

| DUE DATE: | SCHOLARSHIP:   | CRITERIA:  | APPLICATION:  |
|-----------|--|--|---|
| 1/31/24   | YELLOWSTONE VALLEY CHAPTER OF PHEASANTS FOREVER                  | AVAILABLE TO GRADUATING SENIORS IN SWEET GRASS COUNTY WITH A 3.0 MINIMUM GPA. STUDENTS MUST BE PURSUING A CAREER IN CONSERVATION, NATURAL RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION, CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT, BIOLOGY, OR RELATED FIELD IN THE STATE OF MONTANA. STUDENTS MUST SUBMIT A AUTOBIOGRAPHY, ESSAY, AND TWO LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION. AWARD AMOUNTS VARY. | Please see Ms. Stewart for an application   |
| 3/15/2024 | MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM HONORS SCHOLARSHIP                     | MONTANA STUDENTS WHO COMPLETE RIGOROUS CORE REQUIREMENTS, HAVE AT LEAST A 3.4 CUMULATIVE GPA, AND TAKE THE ACT OR SAT BY DEC. 31ST ARE ELIGIBLE.   | <a href="http://www.awardmontana.mus.edu">www.awardmontana.mus.edu</a>  |
| 3/15/2024 | MONTANA'S STEM & HEALTHCARE SCHOLARSHIP                          | MONTANA STUDENTS WHO COMPLETE 4 YEARS OF MATH AND 3 YEARS OF SCIENCE WHILE IN HIGH SCHOOL, HAVE AT LEAST A 3.25 GPA, AND ARE PURSUING A STEM OR HEALTHCARE DEGREE FROM A MONTANA COLLEGE ARE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY. AWARDS HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR RENEWAL.  | <a href="http://www.awardmontana.mus.edu">www.awardmontana.mus.edu</a>  |
| 3/15/2024 | HORATIO ALGER DENNIS & PHYLLIS WASHINGTON FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP | MONTANA RESIDENTS WHO PLAN TO PURSUE A BACHELOR'S DEGREE AT A MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM COLLEGE AND DEMONSTRATE FINANCIAL NEED ARE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY. MUST HAVE AT LEAST A 2.0 GPA AND BE INVOLVED IN CO-CURRICULAR AND COMMUNITY SERVICE ACTIVITIES. AWARD AMOUNT: \$15,000   | <a href="https://scholars.horatioalger.org/about-our-scholarship-programs/state-scholarships/">https://scholars.horatioalger.org/about-our-scholarship-programs/state-scholarships/</a> |

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| 3/31/2024 | MONTANA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION        | SCHOLARSHIPS FOR MONTANA STUDENTS. SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS GENERALLY RANGE BETWEEN \$500 AND \$5,000, SOME OF WHICH ARE RENEWABLE FOR MULTIPLE YEARS.   | <a href="http://www.mtcf.org/scholarships">www.mtcf.org/scholarships</a>  |
| 4/1/24    | TRIANGLE COMMUNICATIONS SCHOLARSHIP | TRIANGLE COMMUNICATIONS IS PROUD TO SUPPORT OUR AREA YOUTH BY PROVIDING UP TO 37 HIGH SCHOOL AND 3 COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES. TO BE ELIGIBLE, APPLICANT MUST BE A SUBSCRIBER OR A DEPENDENT OF A SUBSCRIBER WHO RECEIVES LANDLINE TELEPHONE, BROADBAND OR MOBILE TELEPHONE SERVICE FROM US. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS MUST BE PURSUING THEIR FIRST DEGREE OR CERTIFICATE AND MUST NOT HAVE BEEN A RECIPIENT OF A TRIANGLE SCHOLARSHIP IN THE PAST. AMOUNT: \$2,000 | <a href="https://www.itstriangle.com/education-support/scholarships">https://www.itstriangle.com/education-support/scholarships</a> |
| 4/15/2024 | BLACK MOUNTAIN SOFTWARE             | AVAILABLE TO ALL MONTANA HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS PLANNING TO ATTEND AN ACCREDITED INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION, REGARDLESS OF THEIR FIELD OF STUDY. AMOUNT: \$1,000   | <a href="https://support.blackmountainsoftware.com/scholarship.html">https://support.blackmountainsoftware.com/scholarship.html</a> |
| 1/19/2024 | MONTANA JAYCEE FOUNDATION           | AVAILABLE TO ANY HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR WHO IS A U.S. CITIZEN. APPLICANTS MUST SUBMIT APPLICATION MATERIALS INCLUDING A PERSONAL STATEMENT AND THREE LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION. AMOUNT: \$1,000. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT JANET PRESCOTT AT FEDUPRED@HOTMAIL.COM  | <a href="http://www.usjcisenate.org">www.usjcisenate.org</a>  |
|           | REACH HIGHER MONTANA                | A LIST OF STATE AND LOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS FOR MONTANA STUDENTS. YOU CAN SIGN UP TO HAVE SCHOLARSHIPS DELIVERED TO YOUR INBOX  | <a href="http://reachhighermontana.org">reachhighermontana.org</a>  |