

October 2026

NEWSLETTER

News, celebrations, and important information from Arlee Schools



A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Arlee Parents, Guardians, and Community Members,

It is hard to believe we are already into October! The first several weeks of school have gone quickly, and one of the things I have enjoyed most about my first year at Arlee is getting to see the many different pieces of our district come together.

Homecoming Week was a great example of that. I loved seeing Homecoming become more than just a high school celebration. Our elementary and junior high students joined in with their own dress-up days, our high school students decorated hallways and hay bales, our student-athletes competed throughout the week, and our community came out to support our Warriors and Scarlets.

One of my favorite things from the week was probably one of the most simple: our high school students chose “Dress Like Mr. Jeff Day” as one of their Homecoming dress-up days.

I think that says a lot about the culture of our school. Our students know Jeff, they enjoy him, and most importantly, they respect him. The fact that students chose to dedicate an entire Homecoming dress-up day to someone who is part of their everyday lives says something pretty special about the place he holds in our school community.

Every person who works in our district contributes to the lives of our students. Seeing our kids recognize that, and show that kind of respect, is something worth celebrating.

There are plenty of bigger things happening behind the scenes as well. Our Board recently spent an evening beginning the process of setting annual and long-term goals for the district. We are continuing our school improvement work, reviewing and strengthening our safety procedures, and looking at ways to better prepare our students for what comes after graduation: whether that means college, a trade, the workforce, military service, or another path that is right for them.

As important as plans, goals, data, and budgets are, the first several weeks of this school year have reinforced something I believe strongly: **Schools are about people.**

Our students need adults who know them. Our staff need to know their work matters. Our families need to feel welcome in our schools. And our community should know that these are their schools, too.

Thank you to our staff, families, Board members, community partners, and everyone who continues to show up for Arlee students. There is a lot of work ahead of us, but there is also a lot to be proud of.

I am grateful to be part of Arlee Schools and excited about where we are headed together.

Go Warriors & Scarlets! ❤️ ❤️

Kendal Baldwin | Superintendent

SCHOOL NEWS

K–8 NEWS

ANNE TANNER, K-8 PRINCIPAL and K-12 SPECIAL EDUCATION DIRECTOR

After-School Plans:

For the safety of all students, all after-school plans must be phoned into the office by 2:00 p.m. Please do not rely on notes sent with students or last-minute changes. Thank you for helping us keep dismissal running smoothly.

Hi All,

October has arrived, which means the leaves are changing, the mornings are getting colder, and we are officially at the point in the school year where everyone has remembered where their classroom is (most of the time)!

Arlee students are settling into routines, Arlee teachers have gotten to know their students a little better, and we are seeing lots of learning and growth.

As we move into the heart of the school year, I want to remind families that student success truly is a team effort. Reading with your child, asking about their day, encouraging them to do their best, and reminding them to be **respectful and responsible** can make a tremendous difference. Please help your child set a consistent bedtime routine. Getting enough sleep is so helpful for your child's success.

As a staff, we are very proud of the progress our students are making. I am incredibly grateful for the dedication of our Arlee staff and the support of our Arlee families.

Mrs. Tanner

HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

JACOB BOSLEY

PRINCIPAL/ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

Our staff is doing a great job generating outstanding lessons that students have engaged with very well during the first month of school.

Last week, Fire Ecology learned about fire movement through various experiments. Utilizing boards and matches to investigate the impact of density, wind, and slope on fires. The final project was to build a matchstick forest to prevent a popsicle stick house from burning. Anola Naugle and Finn Espinoza had the most successful setup. This week, they made trees with newspaper "leaves" and "groundcover" and had to design a tree with the least fire damage. Xander Zahir made the tree that resisted the most burning.

Environmental Science is conducting multiple student-led projects right now, including: Indoor Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Energy Audits, Water Quality studies in the Jocko Valley, Gardening/Campus Beautification and Plant Inventory of Arlee Schools, and Recycling and Clean Up improvement crews. They have started on the front of the HS for the fall.

NHS is raising money for Toys for Arlee Tots and Holiday baskets this year through bake sales and Monster Cookie Grams in October to spread holiday cheer!

Our fall sports seasons are going well, with Homecoming festivities taking place this week. Our students have shown great school spirit with dress-up days and class competitions. We welcome all alumni to attend our homecoming volleyball game on October 8th and our homecoming football game on October 10th. I'd like to thank our community and staff members who helped make our annual Hatchery Challenge and Guppy Run a huge success. We hope to keep showcasing the great things our students and staff are doing, and we welcome the community to show their continued support at our athletic and community events.

Arlee Activities 10/5-10/10					
This Week					
Tuesday	HS Volleyball	October 6	Away	Florence	4:30/6:00
Tuesday	JH Football	October 6	Away	St. Regis	4:30 PM
Tuesday	Alberty Class	October 6	Home	Painting A	
Tuesday	Cross Country	October 6	Home	Hatchery Run (Homecoming)	11:30 AM
Wednesday	Salish/AISA	October 7	Away	Hunting Camp (Vanderburg)	10:15-3:15 PM
Thursday	HS Volleyball	October 8	Home	Loyola (Homecoming)	4:30/6:00
Thursday	JH Football	October 8	Home	Bonner	4:30 PM
Friday	HS Football	October 9	Home	St. Regis (Homecoming/Senior Night)	7:00 PM
Saturday	Cross Country	October 10	Away	Shadow Duels (Pablo)	9:00 AM

STUDENTS AND STAFF

THIRD GRADE

Ms. Pier's 3rd grade class from Arlee Elementary recently enjoyed an exciting field trip to Yellow Bay Biological Station on Flathead Lake. Students had the opportunity to step outside the classroom and experience hands-on learning while exploring the natural environment around them.

Throughout the trip, students learned about the plants, animals, water, and ecosystems that make Montana unique. The experience allowed students to connect what they have been learning in the classroom to the world around them while asking questions, making observations, and working together.

For the students, the trip was a fun opportunity to learn, explore, and build memories with their classmates. Ms. Pier's 3rd grade class is grateful for the opportunity to learn from the wonderful educators and environment at Yellow Bay!



Arlee Elementary Book Fair!

When: Monday 10/26-Thursday 10/29

Time: 3:35-4:00

During students' scheduled Library classes.

Parent Teacher Conferences Tuesday & Wednesday 10/27-28. 3:35-7:00.

Where: Elementary Library

All proceeds go to the Elementary Library!

Visit Arlee's Scholastic Book Fair Homepage

<https://www.scholastic.com/bf/arleeelementaryschool>



E-Wallet

***Use the E-Wallet to add funds directly to your child! They can shop at the fair anytime!

<https://account.scholastic.com/my-scholastic/profile/ewallet.html?fairID=6221741&sUCN=600070539>



Want to Shop Online?

***Use this link to shop online anytime!

<https://shop.scholastic.com/parent-ecommerce/parent-store-2.html?fairId=6221741>



SCHOLASTIC
Book Clubs

FAFSA IS NOW OPEN

🎓 FAFSA is now OPEN for the 2027–28 school year! Seniors and families, it's time to take the next step toward college, career, and other postsecondary plans.

We will be hosting a FAFSA Night on Wednesday, October 21, 2026, from 4:15–6:30 PM in the Arlee High School Library.

This will be a great opportunity for seniors and their guardians to come in, ask questions, and get the FAFSA completed with support. We want to make this process as easy as possible for our families!

Want to get started early? You can complete the FAFSA here: <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>

Important: Both the student and guardian will need their own FSA ID before completing the FAFSA. You can create an FSA ID here: <https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch>

I will also be in the seniors' Government class on October 12 to help students with the college application process and get their FSA ID set up before FAFSA Night.

We are looking forward to helping our seniors and families get this important step checked off the list! If you have any questions, please reach out to me.

Damon Cordier

FCCLA

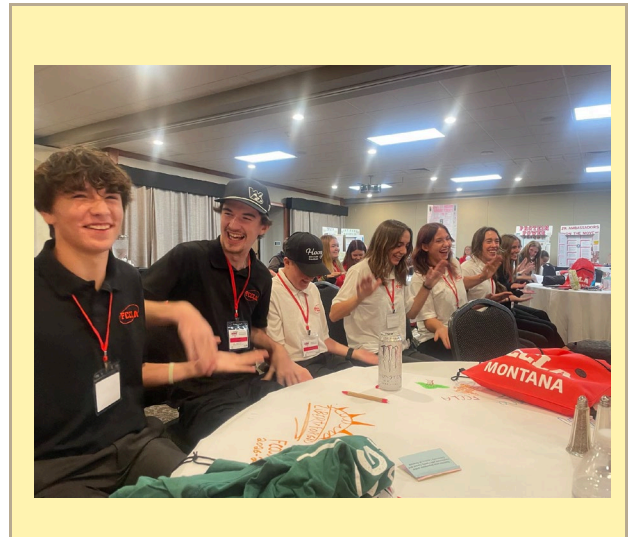
Arlee High School FCCLA members Trevor V., Tyler C., Walker J., Karma T., Anola N., and Ella K. traveled to Billings September 27–28 to attend the 2026 Montana FCCLA Fall Leadership Rally.

The rally brought together more than 200 FCCLA members, advisers, and supporters from across Montana for two days of leadership development, career exploration, networking, and team-building. Arlee students participated in leadership sessions designed to strengthen communication, collaboration, confidence, and leadership skills while learning more about the many opportunities available through FCCLA.

A major focus of this year's rally was Career Connection, Montana FCCLA's 2026–27 State Outreach Project. Students learned strategies for exploring careers and ways they can bring career-readiness activities and projects back to their schools and communities.

The Arlee FCCLA chapter is excited to bring the ideas and energy from the Fall Leadership Rally home as members begin a new year of leadership, service, competition, and community involvement.

Soon our chapter members will be coming around to sell our annual Thanksgiving pies!



NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY



Halloween Spooky Grams!

\$4 per Spooky Gram with cookie, treats, and personalized message

Personalize your message and pay at any school building office.

Delivered on Oct. 29th!

Send a personalized Spooky Gram to Your Spooky Ghoul!
Orders must be placed by Oct. 22nd!



Help NHS raise money for families in need this Holiday Season!

EAGLES CLUB

The Environmental Science and EAGLES Club members give the front of the High School a little fall festive facelift. Please congratulate all their hard work and fundraising to make it all happen!



CHILD FIND

CHILD FIND

Thursday
October 29th
12:30-3:00 p.m.

A community wide child-find screening to learn about

- Vision and Hearing
- Motor Control or Coordination
- Behavior or Social Skills
- Speech or Communication Skills
- Cognitive or Academic Skills

For Children Age 0-5

Held at Arlee School

Appointments are preferred but walk-ins are welcome.

To schedule an appointment, call
406-726-3216

ANNOUNCEMENTS & REQUIRED NOTICES

STATE TESTING CALENDAR

Montana Office of Public Instruction
Published Test Windows for All Required Statewide Assessments
2026–2027 School Year



Anticipated SY2026-27 Test Windows		Required Subjects	Student Group	Grades Tested	Window Period
Montana Aligned to Standards Through-Year (MAST)	<u>Window 1</u> October 19-December 11	Math and ELA	General	Grades 3–8	3 windows: 8 weeks each
	<u>Window 2</u> January 11-March 5				
	<u>Window 3</u> March 29-May 21				
Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) Alternate ELA and Math	<u>Fall Window</u> September 14- December 18	Math and ELA	SwSCDs	Grades 3-8, 11	2 windows: 15 weeks each
	<u>Spring Window</u> February 1- May 21				
WIDA ACCESS Alt ACCESS	January 4-March 5	English Language Proficiency	English Learners	Grades K–12	9 weeks
Montana Science Assessment (MSA)	March 1-May 21	Science	General	Grades 5, 8	8 weeks
Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) Alternate Science	February 1- May 21	Science	SwSCDs	Grades 5, 8, 11	15 weeks
ACT with Writing	<u>Window 1</u> March 23-April 2	Math, ELA, and Science	General	Grade 11	3 windows: 2 weeks each
	<u>Window 2</u> April 6-16				
	<u>Window 3</u> April 20-30				
Updated by the Office of Public Instruction on May 5, 2026.			Note: Dates and information listed in this schedule are subject to change at any time or without notice.		

MAST Assessment

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Arlee Schools is preparing for the *Montana Aligned to Standards Through-Year (MAST)* assessment through the Montana Office of Public Instruction. Students in Grades 3-8 will take Math and English Language Arts (ELA) assessments in 3 administration windows as indicated in below chart:

	Window 1	Window 2	Window 3	
	October 19 – December 11 (8 weeks)	January 11 – March 5 (8 weeks)	March 29 – May 21 (8 weeks)	
Math	3-5 Testlets	3-5 Testlets	3-5 Testlets	1 Math Anchor Test
ELA	2 BOY Testlets	2 MOY Testlet 1 Performance Task Testlet	2 EOY Testlets	<i>*The actual number of math testlets will be contingent on your district's local curriculum.</i>

What is the purpose of the MAST assessment?

The Montana OPI in partnership with New Meridian has developed an improved assessment system that will accurately reflect the needs of our students, teachers, and administrators while providing useful flexibility in terms of test administration. The MAST Assessment implements through-year assessments across the state that satisfy federal testing requirements and better aligns assessment with instruction.

The ultimate goal with the through-year model is to support teaching and learning needs. Rather than a single end-of-year assessment, the MAST assessment is broken up into smaller testlets over the course of the academic year. The through-year assessment design more closely aligns assessment with instruction while providing actionable data throughout the school year.

This through-year assessment provides critical information about student learning, but no single assessment should ever be the sole factor in making an educational decision. It is important to remember that assessments provide only one measure of student learning, but when combined with grades, classroom activities, unit quizzes and tests, and district-level assessments, the results of statewide assessments can help provide a complete picture of your child's abilities over the course of the school year and path toward academic success on Montana's content standards.

Details about the 2026-2027 administration:

- **Participants:** 3-8 Grades Math and ELA
- **Administrations:** 3 administration windows throughout the year
- **Total Estimated Testing Time:** 15-30 minutes per testlet
- **Technology:** Computer-based test delivery via secure site
- **Reports:** Student testlet and summative reports are available for educators and school leaders after administration. Individual student testlet reports will provide results from each testlet and [will be] made available to parents/guardians as soon as possible.

Individual through-year (summative) reports will provide the final determination of student achievement based on all testlets completed throughout the school year and [will be] made available to parents/guardians .

Here are some things to note about the MAST test:

- Your child's privacy will be protected. State and federal laws, such as the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), ensure these data remain confidential.
- Students with Individual Educational Plans (IEPs), Section 504 plans, or English Learner plans will be assessed based on individual student needs, consistent with all state and federal laws and regulations.

Here are some things you can do to help:

- Encourage your child to do their very best on everything they do in school, including the MAST assessment.
- Make sure he or she gets plenty of sleep the night before each test and has a healthy breakfast.
- Support your child by explaining the purpose of the tests and helping with homework and test reviews.

Learn More:

To learn more about this initiative navigate to the [Montana OPI MAST webpage](#). New Meridian is a non-profit organization that creates high-quality, innovative assessment solutions that focus on the skills that matter most for success in school and in life. You can learn more about New Meridian [here](#). Parent MAST resources can be found on the [MAST Portal](#) under *Parent & Family Resources*.

We appreciate your partnership in helping Arlee Schools fulfill the state and federal requirements for statewide assessments and supporting your child to do his/her best.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have about MAST.

Sincerely,

Anne Tanner, K-8 Principal