September 2026

NEWSLETTER

News, celebrations, and important information from Arlee Schools

SUPERINTENDENT'S LETTER

Dear Arlee Parents, Guardians, and Community Members,

What a great start to the school year!

Now that students are back and I have had the opportunity to spend more time throughout our buildings, I want to share something that has really stood out to me as someone who is new to Arlee Schools: I am incredibly impressed with this district.

There is so much that happens during a school day that most people never see. Hundreds of students arrive in the morning, buses come and go, meals are prepared and served, recesses happen, phones ring, classrooms transition, buildings are cleaned and maintained, activities begin after school, and somehow everyone gets where they are supposed to be!

When all of that works well, it is easy to take it for granted. But good schools don't run smoothly by accident.

Our principals have strong systems and routines in place, and we have incredible people carrying them out every day. Our secretaries keep an unbelievable number of moving pieces organized. Our food service staff make sure our students are fed and cared for. Our custodial, maintenance, and transportation staff keep our buildings and daily operations running. Our teachers, paraprofessionals, coaches, advisors, and support staff show up every day for our kids, and I continually see people stepping in to help one another.

As Superintendent, I have settled into a routine that gets me out of my office and into our schools as much as possible. I am getting into classrooms, spending time with students, visiting with staff, and seeing teaching and learning happen throughout the district. The more I see, the more appreciative I am of the people who make Arlee Schools what they are.

There will always be things we can improve. That's part of our job, and we will continue working together to make Arlee Schools better for our students.

But I also believe it is important to stop occasionally and recognize what is already going right.

There is a lot going right at Arlee Schools.

To our staff: I see you, I appreciate you, and thank you for everything you do for our students.

To our students and families: thank you for a wonderful beginning to the 2026–2027 school year.

I am incredibly honored to be part of this school and community, and I can't wait to see what this year brings.

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.

Celebrating Our Staff: As we settle into the new school year, I want to take a moment to recognize and celebrate our incredible K-12 staff. The new staffing changes created some challenges for the beginning of the school year - but our staff embraced the start of the year with enthusiasm, flexibility and a renewed sense of commitment to our students. We have navigated staff assignment changes, resignations, new hires, schedule adjustments and other transitions. While change can sometimes be challenging, K-8 staff have done a remarkable job of stepping up for one another, supporting our students, and working together for the good of our district. Arlee is incredibly fortunate to have educators who continue to show up each day ready to learn, grow, collaborate and do what is best for our kids.

Continued Emphasis ON Reading: As a district, we are continuing to place a strong emphasis on reading instruction, literacy and improving reading outcomes. While teachers are working on strengthening their reading instruction at school, one of the most powerful things families can do is to read with their child at home. If you take **15-20 minutes a day to read together**, you will build your child's vocabulary, stimulate your child's brain and improve your child's literacy development. Plus! Reading Together Strengthens Relationships!

Here's to a great year ahead!

HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

JACOB BOSLEY

PRINCIPAL/ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

We have some amazing things happening to start off the year. We've added some new courses for our students. Mr. Guest is teaching Fire Ecology, focusing on various aspects of fire behavior, including its effects on landscapes and ecosystem biology. Mr. Koetter is offering Welding 180, with a focus on vertical uphill welding, which will significantly help our students prepare for industry certification exams. High school students will attend the Workforce Career Expo in Polson, hosted by CSKT, at the 400 Horses Casino, on September 21st. Ms. Jilot will be taking students to Blue Bay for the Lake Honoring on Thursday, September 24th. Mr. Cordier will be taking students to the College Career Fair at the University of Montana on September 29th as part of the Gear Up program. After several walkthroughs across various classrooms, our high school staff is getting students engaged in focused, content-driven, and entertaining lessons. Students and staff are excited to be back at school and are doing a great job getting the school year off to a good start. Juniors Bo Brockway and Dominick Haynes are taking an independent study course focused on media in which they will create a weekly podcast featuring athletic highlights and achievements of our student-

athletes. They will also include other fun and engaging activities that occur throughout the year. The videos will be uploaded to the school's social media pages. Please check out our first video and follow us on Instagram at “arleehighschool”. The Scarlets volleyball team has 18 students participating. They picked up their first win of the season against Eureka, winning 3 sets to 1. Our cross country team has 14 students participating. They opened their season at Plains with a strong showing, with several students meeting the state qualifying mark. The Warrior football team has 21 students competing and opened its season last weekend with a tough matchup against the number-one-ranked Bobcats. Homecoming will be October 5th through the 10th. Our cross-country team will host the Hatchery Run on Tuesday, the 6th; our volleyball team will take on Loyola at home on Thursday, October 8th; and our football team will host St. Regis on Friday, October 9th. We would like to invite back all Arlee Alumni and welcome our community to come show your support for our Warriors and Scarlets!

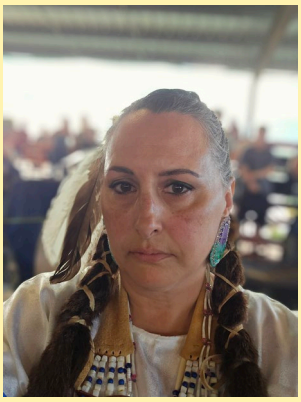
Arlee Activities 9/8-9/19

Day	Group	Date	Home/Away	Event/Opponent	Driver	Release/Load	Departure Time	Event Time
Tuesday	HS Volleyball	September 8	Away	Loyola	Cindy	3:00 PM	3:15 PM	4:30/5:30
Thursday	JH Volleyball	September 10	Away	Superior	Cindy	2:15 PM	2:30 PM	4:00/5:30
Friday	HS Football	September 11	Away	Mission	Shawn	4:15 PM	4:30 PM	7:00 PM
Saturday	Cross Country	September 12	Away	Corvallis Invitational	Penny	5:45 AM	6:00 AM	9:00 AM
Saturday	JH Volleyball	September 12	Away	Plains Jamboree	Cindy	7:00 AM	7:15 AM	9:00 AM
Saturday	**HS Volleyball**	**September 12**	**Home**	**Florence**				**1:00/2:30**
Monday	**JV Football**	**September 14**	**Home**	**Mission JV**		**3:35 PM**		**4:30 PM**
Tuesday	JH Volleyball	September 15	Away	Mission	Kelsi	2:45 PM	3:00 PM	4:00/5:00
Tuesday	**HS Volleyball**	**September 15**	**Home**	**Mission**				**4:30/6:00**
Tuesday	JH Football	September 15	Away	Charlo	Travis	4:45 PM	5:00 PM	6:30 PM
Thursday	**HS Volleyball**	**September 17**	**Home**	**Darby**				**4:30/6:00**
Friday	**HS Football**	**September 18**	**Home**	**Troy JV**				**7:00 PM**
Saturday	**HS Volleyball**	**September 19**	**Home**	**Valley Christian**				**1:00/2:30**
Saturday	Cross Country	September 19	Away	Mountain West Missoula	Penny	6:45 AM	7:00 AM	9:00 AM
Saturday	JH Volleyball	September 19	Away	Charlo Jamboree	Cindy		7:45 AM	9:00 AM

STUDENTS AND STAFF

IEFA COORDINATOR

MS. JILOT



The Arlee school district has established a new half time position this year; the Indian Education for All (IEFA) Coordinator for kindergarten through twelfth grade . Ms. Jennifer Jilot has agreed to fill the position. As the IEFA Coordinator, Ms. Jilot strives to develop authentic learning materials, lessons, and units that represent indigenous people accurately. She will evaluate current curricula throughout the district to ensure that indigenous voices are not only included, but used to transform what students learn and lead to positive change in our community. While partnering with the CSKT education department, SKC, and the Montana Office of Public Instruction, Jilot will continue to bring local elders and knowledge keepers to the district to share their cultural knowledge with staff and students across the district. One major goal Ms. Jilot has for the district this school year is to find the funds to give the district buildings a facelift, one where the stories of Salish people from time immemorial to the present day will be told through murals. The murals will be used to create curriculum to ensure that all students know and understand the history of our people and the land we live on, as well as empower our students to be leaders that pass these same stories to future generations. Please feel free to contact Ms. Jilot with any questions you have or ideas that could help improve how the district implements Indian Education for All across all grade levels. The district is excited to have this position as we strive to be the best that we can be for our students and our community.

THIRD GRADE

Welcome to 3rd Grade! I am so happy to have your kiddos in my classroom this year. I am looking forward to a wonderful year filled with learning, growth, laughter, and lots of exciting experiences!

At this time, our classroom is fully stocked with Clorox wipes and Kleenex, so if you have not purchased these items yet, please pause for now. We will likely need to restock after Christmas break, and I will let you know when we do.

If you would like to send in classroom snacks, you are welcome to do so! 25 lovely little humans in our room.

We have officially kicked off multiplication! Please encourage your student to practice their multiplication flashcards at least once a day. Even just a few minutes of practice can make a big difference in building fluency and confidence.

A great tip is to keep the flashcards in the car so your child can practice while riding to and from activities.

Each morning, we begin our day with meditation, yoga, and writing in our agendas. These routines help us start the day calmly, get focused, and prepare our brains for learning.

Please remember to initial your child's agenda at the bottom each night. This small routine helps us stay connected and ensures that important information makes it between school and home.

Attendance is one of the most important factors in your child's success at school. Being present each day allows students to stay connected to instruction, classroom routines, friendships, and the learning taking place in our classroom.

I am excited to partner with you throughout the year and look forward to watching your children grow both academically and emotionally.

Ms. Pier
3rd Grade



AISA

Arlee Indigenous Student Association

(AISA)



Who: All High School Students Welcome to Participate!
When: Wednesdays During Lunch in Jenn's Room
What: Cultural Activities & Conferences

- Medicine Tree Visits
- Fundraisers
- Tribal Education Consultation
- Salish Conference
- Other Student Led Conferences
- Bitterroot Dig
- Graduation Celebration Powwow
- Student Choice Activities

Why:
Let's make a difference in our school and community by learning and practicing tribal cultures. Students fundraise to do amazing things such as help lead and attend youth conferences across the state and in Washington.

Questions: Contact Jenn Jilot, jjilot@arleeschools.org

DRUM GROUP



NHS

We would like to introduce ourselves as this school year's National Honor Society Leadership team, VP Naomi, President Karma, Representative Trevor, Secretary Anola, and Treasurer Sharon. Throughout the year, members of our chapter serve as role models for other students. In addition to the strong academic records that established our eligibility for membership, our chapter members are leaders in many student organizations and we serve our school and community through many activities including the Backpack Program, Shriner's Hospital Christmas Tree Drive, Toys for Arlee Tots, Holiday Meal Baskets, Teacher Appreciation Week, and the Arlee NHS Blood Drive every year. We are proud to serve our community! If you have any other projects in town you would like us to complete, please reach out to our advisor Mrs. White at 406-274-5067 or bwhite@arleeschools.org.



EAGLES Club

We would like to introduce ourselves as this school year's EAGLES Club Leadership team; President Gracie, VP Xander, Secretary Nate, Treasurer Jackson, Representative Ezra, and Public Relations Amilia. Throughout the year, members of our club serve as role models for other students by keeping our school and community's environment healthy through many activities including the Campus Air Quality Monitoring, Recycling, Litter Clean Ups, and Gardening every year. We are proud to serve our community and want to thank those who are using our recycling trailer throughout the summer, please continue to do so! If you have any other projects in town that you would like us to complete, please reach out to our advisor Mrs. White at 406-274-5067 or bwhite@arleeschools.org.



ANNOUNCEMENTS & REQUIRED NOTICES

ASBESTOS HAZARD EMERGENCY RESPONSE ACT NOTICE

Dear Parents, Teachers, Building Occupants, and Employee Organizations:

In the past, asbestos was used extensively in building materials because of its insulating, sound absorbing, and fire retarding capabilities. Virtually any building constructed before the late 1970s contained some asbestos. Intact and undisturbed asbestos materials generally do not pose a health risk. Asbestos materials, however, can become hazardous when, due to damage or deterioration over time, they release fibers. If the fibers are inhaled, they can lead to health problems, since as cancer and asbestosis.

In 1986, Congress passed the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) which requires schools to be inspected to identify any asbestos containing building materials. Suspected asbestos-containing building materials were located, sampled (or assumed) and rated according to condition and potential hazard. Every three years, Arlee Elementary 3-6 and Arlee High School has conducted a reinspection to determine whether the condition of the known or assumed asbestos containing building materials (ACBM) has changed and to make recommendations on managing or removing the ACBM. At the last reinspection conducted in the spring 2024, all materials listed in the Management Plan as asbestos containing (or assumed to be asbestos-containing) were inspected and found to be in good condition.

The law further requires an asbestos management plan to be in place by July 1989. Arlee Elementary and Arlee High School developed a plan, as required, which has been continually updated. The plan has several ongoing requirements: publish a notification on management plan availability and the status of asbestos activities; educate and train its employees about asbestos and how to deal with it; notify short-term or temporary workers on the locations of the asbestos containing building materials; post warning labels in routine maintenance areas where asbestos was previously identified or assumed; follow set plans and procedures designed to minimize the disturbance of asbestos containing building materials; and survey the condition of these materials every six months to assure that they remain in good condition.

The following buildings contain no asbestos-containing building materials; therefore, no operations and maintenance programs or future inspections are required: Arlee K-2, Junior High, Gym/Multipurpose, and Shop. In 2022, asbestos containing building materials have been removed, encapsulated, or enclosed in the high school building. All asbestos containing buildings will be inspected again by June 2027.

It is the intention of Arlee School District to comply with all federal and state regulations controlling asbestos and to take whatever steps are necessary to ensure students and employees a healthy and safe environment in which to learn and work. You are welcome to review a copy of the asbestos management plan in the school district administrative office or administrative office of the school during regular business hours. Mike Rogers is our designed asbestos program coordinator, and all inquiries regarding the asbestos plan and asbestos-related issues should be directed to him at 406-396-0696.

HOMELESS STUDENTS

If you or your family lives in any of the following situations:



- In a homeless shelter
- In a hotel or motel
- In a campground, RV, or building that is not a home
- Doubled up with friends or relatives because you cannot find or afford housing

Then you and your family may have certain rights or protections under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act.



Students, you have the right to:

- **Go to school,** no matter where you live or how long you have lived there. You have the right to attend classes even if you don't have immunization records or a birth certificate. You must be given access to the same public education provided to other children.
- **Enroll in a school without giving a permanent address.** Schools cannot require proof of residency that might prevent or delay school enrollment.
- **Enroll in school even if you are not living with a parent or guardian.** Schools cannot require you to have a parent or guardian to sign paperwork if you are not living with them.
- **Continue in the school you attended before you became homeless** or the school you last attended.
- **Receive transportation to and from school** if you or a guardian request transportation.
- **Participate in the same special programs and services** as provided to all other students, including athletics and other extra-curricular activities.
- **You have the right to file a dispute** if you disagree with any decision about your education.

For help with school, do the following:

- **Contact the district's liaison** (see phone number below) for help enrolling in a new school or continuing at the school you are now attending. The liaison can also make referrals.
- **Contact the local homeless shelter and social services office** for help with housing, medical care, food, and other support.
- **Contact the school** and provide any information you think will assist in helping the student to adjust to difficult circumstances. Needs, such as transportation, free school meals, supplies, and counseling services, should be addressed.

School Name

Arlee Schools

District Liaison Name

Donna Coffman

Phone Number of Liaison

406-726-3216

Montana Office of Public Instruction
PO Box 202501, Helena, MT 59620-2501
406-444-2036
justine.guthrie@mt.gov

September 2022

FREE BREAKFAST & LUNCH

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Arlee Joint School District #8 is participating in a Universal Lunch and School Breakfast Program for the 2026-2027 school year. If your children attend Arlee Public Schools, breakfast and lunch will be available to them at no charge. All students enrolled at this school may participate in the breakfast and lunch program at no charge to them.

The school breakfasts and lunches that we serve follow U.S. Department of Agriculture guidelines for healthy school meals. The School Breakfast and Lunch Programs cannot succeed without your support; please encourage your children to participate in the school meal programs.

Meals will be served to all students at no charge regardless of the eligibility status. If you have any questions about the program, please feel free to contact us at (406) 726-3216, ext. 2217.

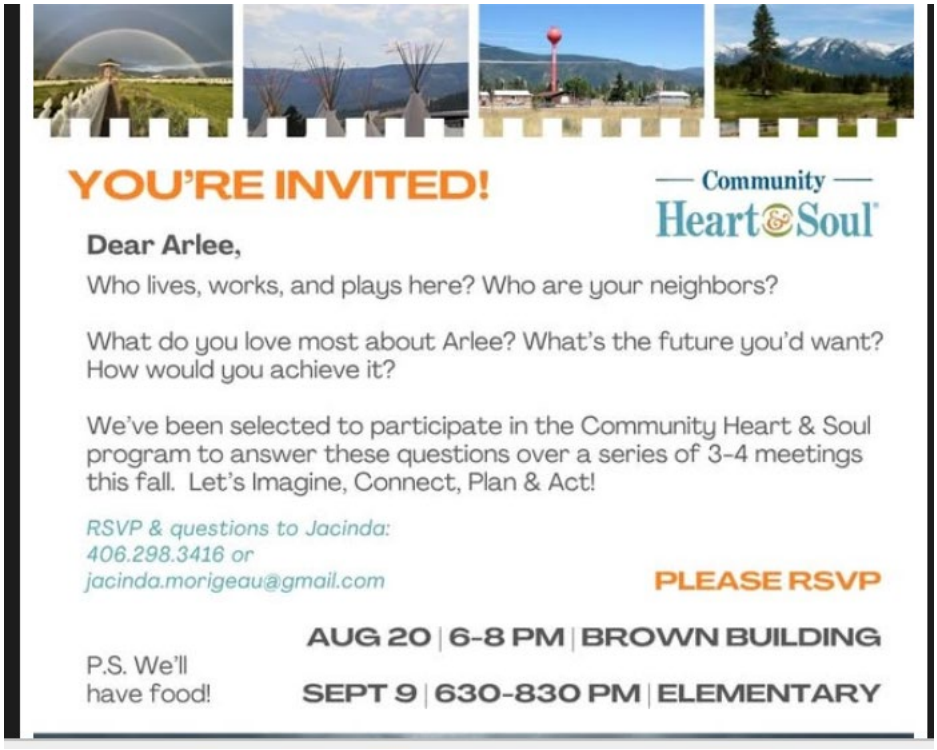
Sincerely,
Trisha Topp, Food Service Supervisor

AROUND THE COMMUNITY

MENTORS NEEDED



HEART AND SOUL COMMUNITY MEETING



DANCIN' DOUGIE HALL



NICK MOORE & ISAAC FISHER

