NEWSLETTER

Arlee Schools

December 2025

SUPERINTENDENT'S LETTER

December's Employee of the Month is **Bonnie White**! Be sure to check out the Employee of the Month portion of the newsletter to see all the wonderful things she's doing for our district. You can submit your own nominations anytime through the app or the website. Just fill out the quick form and share the great things you see, it's a simple way to help us celebrate our incredible staff!

Have you connected with your child's teacher through the Arlee Schools App? It's easy! Download the app and create an account using the information you provided to the school. Your children should load automatically. If they don't, please reach out to your child's school secretary so we can make sure your information is up to date. You also might be missing out on important school notifications. Updated information is especially important so we can reach you quickly in an emergency.

The final graphics package for the new building is still in progress. Once it's complete, we'll host a celebration ceremony to showcase the amazing facility our district was able to build. We'll announce the date as soon as it is set.

We are actively working to improve the school website and appreciate everyone who has reached out with feedback. In the coming month, we hope to roll out updates to the athletics pages as well.

Lastly, please come out and support your students in their winter sports activities. There is nothing greater than cheering on your very own Arlee Warriors and Scarlets.

Thanks for all you do! Go Warriors and Go Scarlets!

Mr. Beckham

Arlee Board of Trustees: The window to file for Trustee on the Arlee School board runs from December 11, 2025 through February 9, 2026. Candidates may file the Declaration of Intent and Oath of Candidacy with Lonnie Morin, District Clerk, at the Arlee Administration office Monday through Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., or with the Lake County Elections office during their normal business hours. If you have any questions, please contact Lonnie Morin at 406-726-3216 ext 2101.

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH:

BONNIE WHITE, HS MATH & SCIENCE

This month, we proudly recognize Bonnie White, a dedicated high school Math and Science teacher whose commitment to the Arlee School District reaches far beyond the boundaries of her classroom. Although her formal assignments lie in secondary education, she continually seeks out professional learning in reading, early literacy skills, theories, and instructional practices to better support her high school students. Her passion for understanding how students learn—at every stage of development—drives her to expand her expertise and bring new strategies into her teaching.

Her dedication to Arlee students is matched only by her devotion to her fellow educators. She consistently supports and encourages teachers across **all grade levels, K–12**, modeling what it means to be a lifelong learner in the art of education and written language. Whether the training is designed for kindergarten teachers or high school specialists, she attends with enthusiasm, always seeking new insights that will benefit her students and strengthen instructional practices across the district.

Bonnie is also leading efforts to protect our students—and those to come—through initiatives that improve air quality across the district and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. She was at the forefront of radon mitigation in our high school locker room and is currently developing solutions to address welding class gases. Most impressively, she took the initiative to apply for a national grant and performed so well that Arlee was selected as one of just 10 districts in the nation to receive funding to support these projects.

Her unwavering commitment to education—and to the students and staff of Arlee—is truly admirable. We are grateful for her leadership, her curiosity, and her heartfelt investment in helping every student and every teacher grow. Congratulations to Bonnie White, our Employee of the Month.



Nominate a Staff Member!

Do you know an outstanding Arlee Schools staff member? Visit our website to submit your nomination for Employee of the Month! Let's celebrate the exceptional individuals who make a difference in our students' lives.

K-8 NEWS

Anne Tanner, K-8 Principal & K-12 Special Education Director

MAST Testing: On December 4, students concluded the first Benchmark MAST Test (State Requirement).

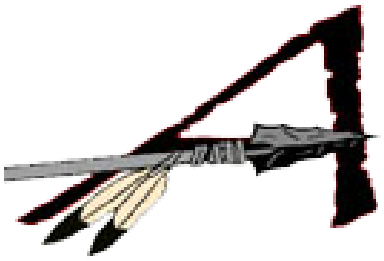
Flexible Reading Groups: On December 1, we launched our flexible reading groups for grades 5–8. This initiative allows teachers to tailor instruction more closely to students' individual reading needs, helping us strengthen skills, boost confidence, and increase overall reading proficiency. We appreciate your support as we implement this student-centered approach.

12 Days of Kindness: Our school counselor, Ms. T, has fired up her annual 12 Days of Kindness initiative. Each day leading up to winter break, students are encouraged to participate in simple, meaningful acts of kindness that build empathy and strengthen our school community. We hope this tradition inspires students to carry kindness with them throughout the year.

Read, Read, Read: As we head into winter break, I encourage you to take a few moments each day to read with your child. Sharing books together strengthens vocabulary, builds comprehension, and fosters a love of learning. Even 10–15 minutes of daily reading can make a remarkable difference in your child's growth.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support. I wish all of our families a joyful, restful, and safe winter break!

Morning Schedule	Important Dates to Remember
Bus Arrives @ 7:35 **K-2 Students:** Play on the playground until 7:50. **3-6 Students:** Go Directly to breakfast **7:50 AM** **K-2 Students:** Go to breakfast. The teacher joins the students in the cafeteria and once everyone is finished they walk to class together (around 8:15). **3-6 Students:** Go to class	**Dec. 22-Jan. 1:** Winter Break **Office Hours:** 7:30 AM - 4:30 PM K-6 Phone Extension: **2201** Junior High Phone Extension: **2404** **Trimester 1 is FINISHED! Watch for your child's report card in your mailbox!**



HIGH SCHOOL & ATHLETIC NEWS

We've had a busy last month here at Arlee High School. Mr. Cordier took students on a campus tour of Montana Tech in Butte on November 10th. At Montana Tech, students were introduced to Engineering, OSHA, and Nursing programs offered on campus. Montana Tech is one of the leading Petroleum, Mining, and Engineering schools in the US. They rank 7th among the nation's engineering programs in average graduate salaries. On November 18th, Mr. Koetter and Mr. Cordier took students on a tour of the Trapper Creek Job Corps in Darby. At Darby, they were able to tour the whole campus, the dorms, and the cafeteria. They were provided with information about many different programs in the construction sector. Trapper Creek expressed a strong interest in enrolling our graduates.

High school winter sports are underway, with practices having started on November 20th. Please review the *Arlee Spectator Guidelines & Expectations* located at the end of the newsletter. The boys' and girls' basketball teams will kick off their season at the Native American Classic Tip-Off Tournament at CMR (Great Falls). Our boys and girls wrestling teams will start their season at the Owen Invitational hosted by Polson High School at Linderman Gym. Upcoming sporting events at home in December include basketball games against Charlo on December 12th and Two Eagle on December 13th. On December 20th, we will also host our 2nd annual Arlee Christmas Classic wrestling tournament. Teams attending include Darby, Florence, Superior, Plains, Thompson Falls, Eureka, Big Sky JV, Sentinel JV, Flathead JV, and Deer Lodge. The JH Girls Basketball team will wrap up their season at the league tournament in Thompson Falls on December 12th and 13th.

Our high school students have done a fantastic job improving their attendance over the past month. Please help them continue their success through the month of December!

Thanks,

Jacob Bosley
Principal/Athletic Director
Arlee High School



ARLEE HIGH SCHOOL YEARBOOKS

Hello Arlee Community!

We're hard at work on the 2025–26 HS Yearbook and would love your support! Here are some ways you can join us in making it amazing:

1. We welcome your photos! If you have any great photos of AHS student activities, please consider sharing a few with us for possible use in our Yearbook. You can upload them here and use the code Arlee26.
2. The 2025–2026 Arlee Yearbook is officially on sale! Yearbooks are just $35 until February 17! Prices go up to $45 after that. Save some money and order yours early! Place your order here.
3. We are grateful to every business that helps us make our yearbook possible each year! Our yearbook student staff will be making phone calls, stopping by, and/or sending out letters over the next month. We look forward to talking with you!

Thank you for your support,

The AHS Yearbook Staff

COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY PROVISION NOTICE

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Arlee Joint School District #8 is participating in a Universal Lunch and School Breakfast Program for the 2025-2026 school year. If your children attend Arlee Public Schools, breakfast and lunch will be available to them at no charge.

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

THANKFUL FOR BISON

Thank you to Buck Morigeau for coming and sharing so much knowledge about ancestors and Native ways. Our reading, math, and STEAM unit on "Thankful for Bison," was greatly enhanced because of our time learning from him.

lémlmtsˇ

Ms. Pier & Ms. Brister





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.

ARLEE HIGH SCHOOL NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY HELPS RAISE MONEY FOR THE SHRINERS' HOSPITAL

The time of giving is here again and the National Honor Society partnered with a Wyoming Christmas Tree lot to help raise money for the Shriners' Hospital. NHS students helped load Christmas trees into a semi bound for Jackson, Wyoming to be sold at a tree lot where all proceeds will go to the Shriners' Hospital. Last year, the tree lot raised over $40,000 for the Hospital, and this year with the help of the Arlee NHS students it will hopefully be more. The Wyoming Christmas Tree lot donated funds to the Arlee NHS club to help cover the costs of buying gifts for the children in need in the Arlee Community and Holiday food baskets.



2025 ARLEE HIGH SCHOOL NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY & FCCLA TURKEY DAY FOOD BASKETS

This year, the National Honor Society and FCCLA did their first annual Turkey Day Food Baskets for 15 Arlee families in need. Arlee staff and community members donated over 15 turkeys, pies, vegetables, rolls, stuffing, and a whole lot more to make these food baskets possible. NHS and FCCLA students collected the items and organized them into food baskets for each of the families. We are grateful for all the donations!



2025 ARLEE HIGH SCHOOL NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY GIVING TREE AND NHS & FCCLA HOLIDAY FOOD BASKETS

The time of giving is here again and the National Honor Society is hosting an Arlee Giving Tree so no family or child in the community will be without this holiday season. Please stop into Arlee High School and review the available wishes on the giving tree in Mrs. White's room. You may also donate to the National Honor Society and we will use that money to buy gifts for the children. Thank you very much to Ms. Colleen Baldwin and Mr. Prentis Wofford who have already donated!

Last year the National Honor Society members used their yearly fundraising budget to shop and wrap 30 presents that went to 14 different Arlee families for Christmas. The NHS students also have partnered with the FCCLA club to make food baskets for each of the families to have wonderful holiday meals. If you would like help please stop by Arlee High School or contact the NHS Advisor Bonnie White at (406) 274-5067.





ARLEE CDC

On December 22 the Arlee Community Development Corporation is kicking off Christmas break with a kids' party. All kids ages 5-13 are welcome to join us for hot cocoa and snacks, pizza for lunch, crafting, games and Christmas music. The event will run from 10am-1:00pm. To ensure we have enough supplies, please call 406-726-5550 or email info@arleecdc.org to sign up. Please sign up on or before the 15th.

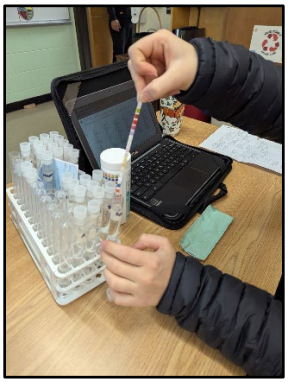
On December 15, the Arlee CDC will be assembling meal kits for Honor Society students to hand out on the 19th. If you can help, call 406-726-5550 or email info@arleecdc.org

Arlee Community Development Corporation
92555 US Hwy 93 • PO Box 452 • Arlee, MT 59821
406-726-5550 • Cell: 406-270-0615

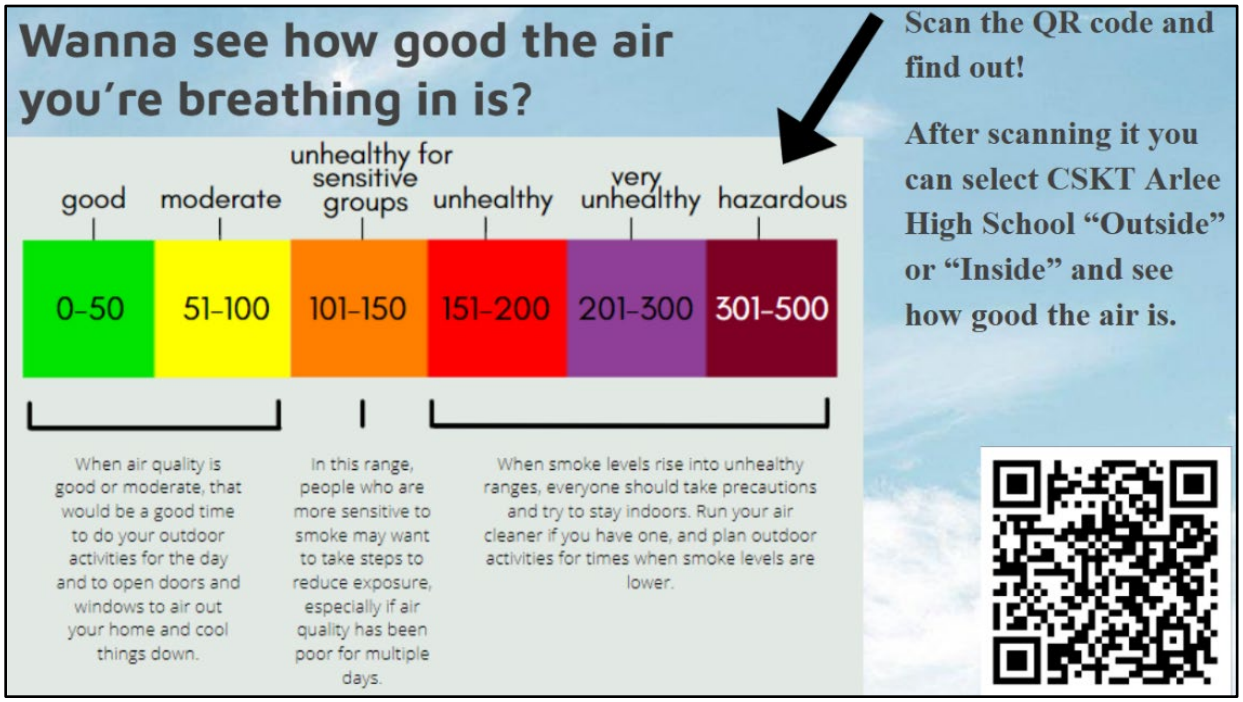
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND EAGLES PROJECTS

Environmental science students have been working hard to keep our community safe and healthy this year through Indoor Air Quality data collection, Water Quality data collection, expanding the Recycling opportunities to the Arlee community, volunteering at the Arlee Food Bank, and doing multiple litter clean ups around Arlee. If you would like to know more about these projects or have your home's water quality tested by lead researcher Lillybelle Buffalo, please contact Bonnie White at Arlee H.S.









BOOK DRIVE



Hey all Friends of Arlee Schools, near and far!

In the halls of Arlee Schools sits a very special machine… a Book Vending Machine that doesn't sell snacks, but *serves stories.* When our students show kindness, effort, and awesome behavior, they earn golden tokens that unlock free books.

We're calling upon our Arlee Schools supporters—friends, family, grandparents, neighbors, alumni, and book-loving heroes everywhere—to help us on a special holiday mission:

THE GREAT ARLEE BOOK TREE BUILD! Yes, you heard right. We're building a Christmas tree made entirely out of books—stacked and glowing with the magic of reading. If you have a favorite childhood book (school-appropriate, of course!) that made you laugh, dream, or turn pages way past your bedtime… we'd love for you to donate a copy for our Book Tree *and* for our vending machine. Any level, any genre! From Pre-K picture books to high-school page-turners, we're collecting stories for readers of every age.

Our goal: A beautiful, book-filled Christmas tree by Christmas—and a fully stocked machine of reading adventures to keep literacy growing strong for all Arlee students.

Help us plant the seeds—donate a book and become part of our Book Tree Magic!

Books can be dropped off at or mailed to:
Arlee Elementary School
72220 Fyant Street
Arlee, MT 59821



MCKINNEY-VENTO ACT RIGHTS

IF YOUR FAMILY LIVES IN ANY OF THE FOLLOWING SITUATIONS:

In a shelter

❖

In a motel or campground due to the lack of an alternative adequate accommodation

❖

In a car, park, abandoned building, or bus or train station

❖

Doubled up with other people due to loss of housing or economic hardship

Your school-age children may qualify for certain rights and protections under the federal McKinney-Vento Act.

Your eligible children have the right to:

- Receive a free, appropriate public education.
- Enroll in school immediately, even if lacking documents normally required for enrollment.
- Enroll in school and attend classes while the school gathers needed documents.
- Enroll in the local school; or continue attending their school of origin (the school they attended when permanently housed or the school in which they were last enrolled), if that is your preference and is feasible.
    - * If the school district believes that the school you select is not in the best interest of your children, then the district must provide you with a written explanation of its position and inform you of your right to appeal its decision.
- Receive transportation to and from the school of origin, if you request this.
- Receive educational services comparable to those provided to other students, according to your children's needs.

If you believe your children may be eligible, contact the local liaison to find out what services and supports may be available. There also may be supports available for your preschool-age children.

Local Liaison	State Coordinator
Donna Coffman dcoffman@arleeschools.org 406-726-3216	

If you need further assistance with your children's educational needs, contact the National Center for Homeless Education:

1-800-308-2145 * homeless@serve.org * https://nche.ed.gov/

ARLEE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Spectator Expectations & Sportsmanship Guidelines

The Arlee School District is proud of our student-athletes and grateful for the strong support of our families and community. To ensure a safe, respectful, and positive environment for everyone, we ask all spectators to review and follow the expectations outlined below.

District Policy 4315 — Conduct on School Property

While attending any school-sponsored activity, **all spectators must follow District Policy 4315**, which prohibits:

- Interfering with or disrupting school programs or activities
- Using vulgar, obscene, or abusive language or gestures
- Ignoring directives from school officials or security personnel
- Entering school facilities or grounds without a lawful or authorized purpose
- Violating any other District rules or expectations

These rules apply **year-round** and **at all extra- and co-curricular events**.
Violations may result in disciplinary action, up to and including a recommendation to the Board of Trustees to deny an individual access to school property.

Montana High School Association (MHSA) Requirements

The MHSA Handbook requires all spectators to demonstrate **sportsmanship and respectful behavior** at interscholastic competitions. If a spectator is removed from a contest by agreement of the school administration and the game official:

- **A minimum 3-event suspension** is imposed for all MHSA events (regular season and postseason).
- If fewer than three events remain in the season, the suspension carries over to the next season.
- A **second removal in the same school** year results in a **minimum one-year ban** from attending MHSA events.

Arlee Schools will fully enforce MHSA policies.

Our Goal

We want Arlee events to be places where:

- Students feel supported
- Officials and coaches are respected
- Opponents are treated with dignity
- Families and community members can enjoy a positive atmosphere

Your conduct directly impacts our athletes, our reputation, and the overall experience at our events.

Thank You

Thank you for partnering with us to uphold these expectations and for supporting our athletes the right way. Your commitment helps make the Arlee School District a safe and positive environment for all.

School Board Meetings

School board meetings are usually held the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm in the high school library.

Confirm meeting dates and time on the school website. Agendas and minutes are also posted the website.

www.arleeschools.org



Arlee Joint School District No. 8

72220 Fyant St. – Arlee, Montana 59821 (406)726-3216 Fax (406)726-3940

Accessible **R**esponsive **L**earning **E**nvironment for **E**xcellence