NEWS LETTER

EVERYONE WORKING TOGETHER FOR A SUPERIOR EDUCATION

FOUR FRENCH TEENAGERS, TWO WEEKS, MANY MEMORIES

-Teal Post

"I think it's been a super fun experience just because we get to have people coming from outside of our community, coming to stay with us and coming to [join in] with our school culture and so I think that's pretty cool." Gannon Quinlan was one of the four hosts to house a French student from the region Rhône-Alpes. For a little over two weeks, SHS students shared their halls and classrooms with the students who were here to improve their English and learn about American culture.

A whirlwind of a visit, they experienced our rural school, small town life and the great state of Montana. Various host families showed off our state with trips to Missoula, Bozeman, Helena, or Quinn's Hot Springs. They were even here in time to experience the unofficial national holiday of American football culture, the Superbowl.

First impressions? "I thought it would be more like France culturally," observed Mathieu.

-Continued on page 07

The students were placed with local families and are seated below with their host sibling:
Gannon Quinlan hosted Leo (15), Nicholas Cooper hosted Mathieu (16), Sidney Kuhl hosted Leonore (15) and Miekolani Ruthford hosted Louna (17).

MARCH

3
EF Tours Travelers Meeting

6
NO SCHOOL

8
Daylight Saving Time

8-10
State BPA in Billings

11
School Board Meeting
Booster Club Meeting

12
Superior Drama Club Production

13
NO SCHOOL

14
Prom

17
End of 3rd Quarter

19-30
EF Tours-Scotland/UK/Ireland

20
NO SCHOOL

23-27
NO SCHOOL Spring Break

31
Blood Drive

Save the Date
SUNDAY, MAY 31
Senior Graduation

https://www.ssd3.us/
For calendar and sports schedule:
https://www.ssd3.us/events

Superior School District #3

@superiorbobcats

superior bobcats

Principal: Angie Gray
Superintendent: Logan Labbe
Newsletter: Teal Post

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

March has a way of sneaking up on us. Winter starts to loosen its grip, spring activities begin ramping up, and we find ourselves reflecting on the kind of school community we are building together.

At Superior JH/HS, one word continues to rise to the surface: belonging.

We talk often about academic achievement, growth, attendance, and graduation. Those are critically important. But underneath every measure of success is a more foundational question:

Do our students feel like they belong here?

Do our parents feel like they are part of the Bobcat family?

Belonging doesn't happen by accident. It is created intentionally- through small moments, daily interactions, and courageous conversations.

This year, I have been especially inspired by the work of our CORE Day student leaders. During CORE Days, our students engage in meaningful conversations about leadership, sense of self, and connection. What has stood out to me most are the reflections they have shared afterward.

Many students said they were surprised by how many similarities they discovered when they openly shared their insecurities. In a world where social media often magnifies differences, our students realized something powerful: **We are far more alike than we are different.**

They also shared a simple but profound takeaway - the littlest things can make someone's day. A smile in the hallway. An invitation to sit at a table. A kind word before a test. A teacher noticing effort. A parent showing up.

Those "little" things? They are not little at all.

Our CORE leaders have expressed a willingness to take on the important work of helping foster belonging within our building. They understand that leadership is not about titles-it's about action. It's about being the student who steps forward to include someone. It's about choosing empathy over assumption. It;s about creating a culture where everyone feels seen.

Belonging is not a one-time initiative. It is a growth journey.

Just like literacy growth, athletic development, or academic achievement, cultivating a strong school family takes time, reflection, and shared commitment. It requires students, staff, and parents working together. It requires us to listen to one another. It requires us to extend grace. And sometimes, it requires us to be brave enough to say, "I understand - I've felt that way too."

To our parents: you are a vital part of this Bobcat family. When you attend events, communicate with teachers, support learning at home, and partner with us — you strengthen the fabric of our school community. We are grateful for you.

To our students: you matter more than you know. Your presence in our building makes a difference. Your kindness makes a difference. Your willingness to lead makes a difference.

At Superior JH/HS, we are not just preparing students for graduation. We are building a community where young people learn what it means to belong — and how to create that same sense of belonging wherever they go next.

That is Bobcat Pride. That is family. And that is work worth doing.

GEAR UP Superior Students Are Earning College Credits—FOR FREE!

-Mrs. Jasper, GEAR UP Liaison

We are excited to share that Superior students continue to take advantage of incredible opportunities to earn college credit while still in high school. During the first semester, 22 students were enrolled in classes through Flathead Valley Community College—and every single student successfully passed and earned college credit!

This semester, 19 students are continuing their college journey, taking courses such as Welding, American History, Business Marketing, Psychology, Sociology, and Creative Writing. These experiences help students build confidence, explore career interests, and get a head start on their future.

The impact is already impressive. 84% of our juniors and 62% of our seniors have earned college credit, giving them a valuable advantage before graduation.

Through the Montana University System's One-Two-Free Program, eligible students can take two dual enrollment courses (up to six credits) at no cost. Research shows that students who participate in dual enrollment are more likely to attend college, stay enrolled, graduate faster, and even save money—averaging $570 less in student loans per credit earned.

Superior is committed to making these opportunities accessible to all students. Once students use the One-Two-Free Program, GEAR UP steps in to cover tuition and materials for additional classes, removing financial barriers and opening even more doors.

We are proud of our students for challenging themselves and taking meaningful steps toward their college and career goals!

A WORD FROM YOUR SCHOOL NURSE (don't be gross)

-Mrs. Jasper, School Nurse

2 Stop Touching Your Face
- Keep your hands away from your eyes, mouth, and nose.

3 Avoid Close Contact
- Stay away from people who are sick.

4 Stay Home When Sick
- Return when fever-free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication, and no throw up or diarrhea for 24 hours.

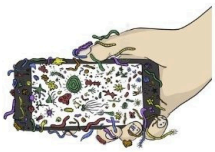
"Are you sick of being sick??"

Habits to Help Fight Illness

1 Wash Your Hands
- Before you eat, after the bathroom, when you get home, before and after practice, and just because!

5 Don't Share
- No sharing food, drinks, or utensils.

6 Disinfect Daily
- Clean objects you touch - cellphone, locker, remote control, streeing wheel, etc.



7 Boost Your Immunity
- Prioritize sleep, exercise, healthy eating, and drink water.

JANUARY

TEACHERS OF THE MONTH

MRS. WILLHITE

- She helps make math less confusing.
- My favorite teacher in the entire world. She has done so much for me in the past 4 years i cannot thank her enough. She always lights up the room and makes everyone laugh. She never fails to make any day a great day. She deserves teacher of the month big time.
- I choose this not because she is a cool teacher but for something that means more then that to me. This year she was also one of my volleyball coaches. And let me tell you I had a bad attude some days. But she worked with me and kept me going. Their were times that i was too stubern to say that i needed someone there for me but that didnt stop her from careing. she notced when i was having a bad day and didnt second guess weather to help or not. She was there no questions asked and i dont think that i can thank her enough. Even though volleyball has come to an end she will still have to deal with me for math. And i will continue being so very greatfull for her. Thank you isnt enough to say how greatfull i am for her but its the best that i got. I hope that every one has someone their for them the way you are here for me!!!
- I like saying good morning to her and seeing her every morning i find her class enjoyable and i think she is a wonderful teacher to have first period with
- I struggle in math a WHOLE lot but this year she has made it seam that I am able to solve anything. And she is an overall kind person
- Because she is so nice
- She helps with anything you need help with
- The reason I picked Mrs.Willhite is because, I feel like she puts so much effort into helping us understand what we are learning. And she doesn't rush you and understands if you are struggling.
- I chose her because she is always checking in with students and asking how she can help.
- Mrs. Willhite has been making math really fun lately. She is just a great teacher overall. Also, she said she will bring our class donuts for doing so well on MASS testing.

MRS. FIRESTONE

- For letting us do fun assignments.
- She's really nice
- Mrs.Firestone is a good teacher because she always puts her students first, and she is always doing such fun science experiments with us.
- She's been working hard all week and has made my classes more interesting.
- Because she is always doing stuff and on the go especially with coaching basketball
- Mrs. Firestone is deserving of Teacher of the Month because she is passionate about all her science classes and provides students with creative assignments, exploratory learning, and opportunities. (Bringing in lots of cool presenters and doing memorable field trips)

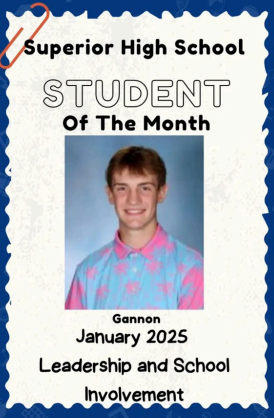
MRS. KUHL

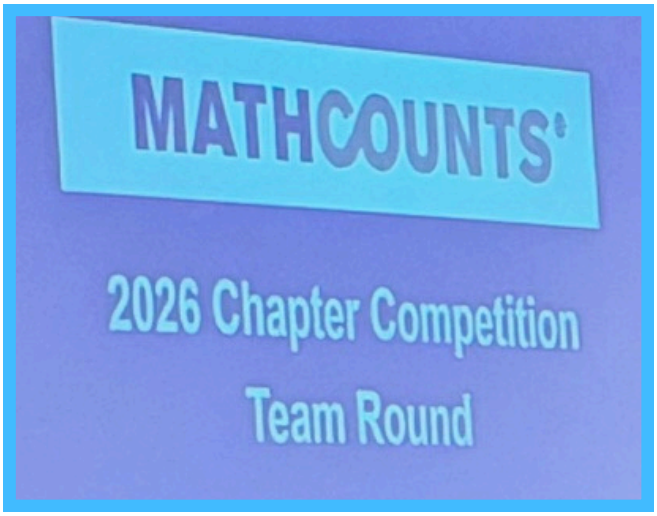
- She is a great person and is always happy.
- She is so cool
- Running around like a chicken with her head cut off!
- Making all things possible for us seniors and working with Mrs Jasper to ensure our academic and future success
- She always takes the time to make you feel important, and even if you are having a bad day she will find a way to help you feel better
- She helps every student in the high school and elementary and she deserves all the recognition she can get. She a wonderful counselor and a person to look up too.
- She always listens and has a nice heart and understands you I thank her so much for being there to listen
- She's really good at turning things the other way if I'm upset at anything
- Mrs. Kuhl is very supportive, especially for seniors!
- I think Mrs. Kuhl should be the teacher of the month because she does so much for the school. She also deserves it so much!
- Mrs Kuhl does so much for our school, she organizes the ski bus, she works really hard, and she gives the best hugs

TEACHER
MRS. NYTES

- Works very hard for her students, especially history club.
- Because she is really kind and encouraging and always makes me smile
- Shes really kind and fun to talk to when you pass her in the hallways.
- I choose Ms. Nytes because she has been working super hard to make sure that our NHD projects are the best they can be.
- Getting the community involved and great projects
- She has a lot of involvement in our school and always checks in on students.
- Bring the french to america is wild and crazy and cool

STUDENT OF THE MONTH JANUARY





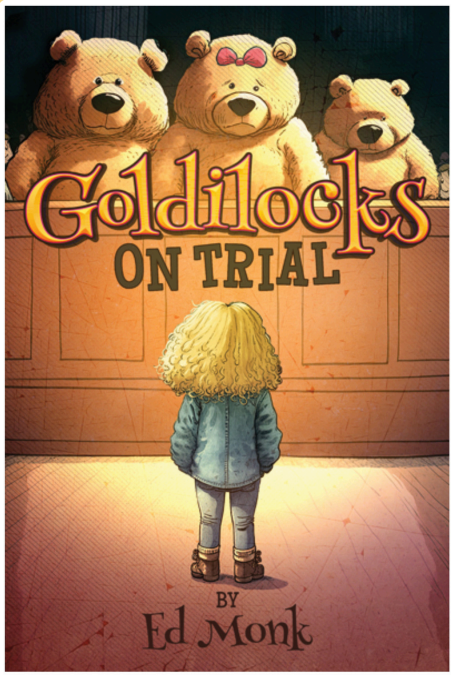
Superior JH was represented by 8th graders Liliana Rudolph, Chloe Carroll, Graham Boyes, and Olivia White and 7th graders Aiden Mellen, Loren Mellen, and Shaley Rich. Students took three paper tests:

- Sprint Round - 30 question individual test with a 40 minute time limit
- Target Round - 4 pairs of questions, individual test, with time limit of 6 minutes per pair of question
- Team Round - 10 questions in 20 minutes (the team representing Superior was made up of our 8th graders)

Graham Boyes was selected to participate in the Countdown Round as Superior's top scorer. He competed against three other students from different schools during a speed buzzer round. Students had 45 seconds to answer questions and buzz in!

Our top scorers for Superior were Graham Boyes, Loren Mellen, and Aiden Mellen!
All of our students did a great job, worked hard, and competed against 7 other schools!

-Mrs. Willhite



MARCH 12, 2026
6:00 PM

PRESENTED BY:
THE SUPERIOR DRAMA CLUB

Entry Fee:
by DONATION
Come one, come all, all are welcome!

Available for purchase:
Cotton candy & popcorn

MONTANA TRADERS COFFEE ROASTERY FIELD TRIP IN WHITEFISH

MAMA MIA!

The Dance

Saturday, March 14 2026

$15 Per Person
$25 Per Couple

Multi-Purpose room

8:30 - 11:00 P.M. Dance
9:00 P.M. - Grand March

Prom dresses

– The Bobcat Boutique –

Huge donation of prom dresses are available for

FREE

Limited slacks and suits, seeking donations

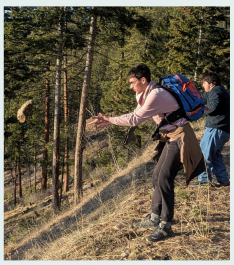
-Continued from page 01

Leonore and Sheila

Museum of The Rockies

Coopers conquer Costco

Welcome to Montana!



Leo and Mathieu throw rocks

Leo and Leonore in Ms. Nagy's class

"I get home. I play video games. Okay. That's it. They don't do that here.*" "I was thinking that there would be snow," Leonore added. "Yeah, a bit of snow and more colder," agreed Leo. Leonore, Leo and Louna are all skiers and our winter weather in Mineral County did not deliver for them on this trip, but two of them were able to join the ski bus for a trip up to Lookout Ski Resort with the Rec Club for a day.

"I was also surprised that in the schools that every students have their own laptop. It's was really new to me, because in France we all learn *writing* everything, we don't have any laptop," said Leonore. Around 2010, school curriculum in the United States began phasing out the requirement for learning cursive writing, according to a quick google search. In France they're still taught cursive writing in school. When musing their learning methods are 'old fashioned' they laughed and said, "No in France it's not old fashioned, just *here!*"

Nick took Leo and Mathieu up to the mountains where they saw elk for the first time. Hiking has been a highlight for Leo. "Yesterday I go to Vista Trail with Nicholas, very pretty place." When asked if Mathieu was on the Vista Trail hiking trip as well, he replied, "When they were hiking, I was helping Mr. Cooper with valentine fundraising." So he was put to work… "Yes, they went hiking, to not work!" "That's not true," Leo shot back, "I go hiking just because I want hiking!"

Work might not be the right term, but they were certainly helpful while here; helping with lessons, giving presentations and yes, offering a little good old fashioned manual labor. All four of them assisted Mrs. Kuhl in the Elementary. "They helped me teach my Recycling Unit. France does a great job with recycling, so they had [a lot of] expertise to share with our Elementary classes." Louna gave a presentation in Mr. Bishop's class on her city and school in France and Mathieu assisted Mr. Cooper for BPA.

Miekolani says that Louna really liked the change of scenery. "She just loves taking pictures of the sunrise over the mountains and sending them to her family. And her family is in wow!" Leonore and Leo want us to know that France is not just Paris, there are a lot of beautiful places in France. Landscapes. "We have good mountains, too." They're just different.

In the short time they've been here, they've been given a full experience. Leonore practiced riding horses with the Kuhls and decided she really liked it and hopes to continue when she returns. Louna and Mathieu feel their casual English has improved immensely. Leo has enjoyed the cooking.

"I felt bad because the first week my mom was gone," said Gannon. "So he was living with me and my dad. I was making dinner most nights, and I was like, I'm sorry, Leo! He's learning a lot from my mom. My mom's a very good cook, so he's taking some recipes away from her." And Leo agrees. "I think yes. I'm a bad cook, but it would basically for improve me." What recipe? "Burritos. I think some recipes, as much as I can!"

Gannon hopes they'll see how connected we are as a tiny community and how much we really care about each other. "There's a lot of stuff going on right now, but I just want them to know that we've really enjoyed them and we love having them and seeing them and learning new things about them."

"I have tremendous gratitude to Ms. Nytes for coordinating this experience, as it has been incredible for our family and students," said Mrs. Kuhl. "We need a lot more time," continues Sidney. "We have so much that we want to do and it's just not gonna happen."

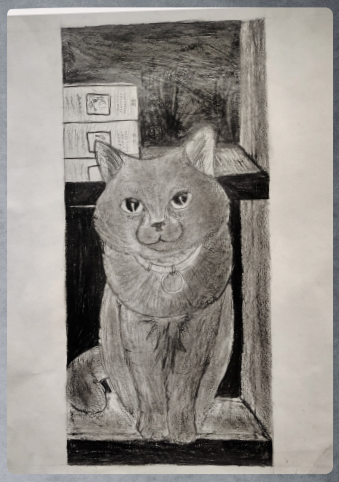
**This article was written in direct quotes from the conversation with the students. The quotes are best read with a French accent!*

ART

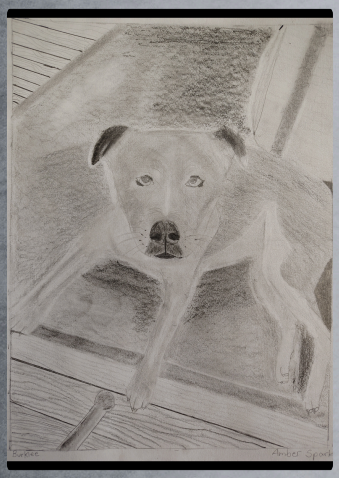
GRAPHITE DRAWING 1

The Art 1 class started a drawing unit exploring how graphite can be used with value scales and building texture to create meaningful works of art. They are working on developing variety in mark making and creating layers by adding and removing layers of graphite in order to achieve more sophisticated looks. These are their first drawings and they will do one more. *-Mrs. Forsythe*

MADYSON NEU



KALUB LEWIS



AMBER S=SPARKS

JIMMIE KELLY

HOPE CONSTANT

MIA SPARKS

LEYNA VIGUE

CLAIRE RUIZ

WOODS AND WELDS

UGH!

sorry not sorry

WHAT IS ONE THINGY YOU'LL NEVER DO AGAIN?

MRS. MERRILL **Music**
Move.

MRS. GRAY **Principal**
Give birth!

MR. QUINLIVAN **HS Science**
Eat oysters, ugh, sea loogie!

MRS. DIGIANDO **JH/HS Secretary**
I'll never eat octopus.

MR. DOUGHTY **Small Engines**
No idea.

MRS. JASPER **Gear Up Liaison**
Walk? Haha. No honestly, hitchhike.

MRS. KUHL **EK -12 Counselor**
Scarywood Rollercoasters (Use my daughter as my human shield during a ride- Sorry, kid!)

MR. MILLS **Math**
Complete a zip line park course.

MRS. FIRESTONE **JH/HS Science**
I'm going to try and steer clear of poison ivy for the rest of my life!

MR. CRABB **P.E.**
Touch a hot stove.

MR. DUROVEY **K-12 Librarian**
HS English Language Arts
Being born. Other than that... never say never.

MR. BISHOP **History**
Never is a strong word....
Get younger.

MR. SCHULTZ **Shop**
Paint a house.

MRS. NYTES **History**
Ski/snowboard

MRS. WILLHITE **Math**
Wake up in my 20s.

MRS. KEYSER **English**
Ride a horse.

HA HA

Good Morning VICENARIAN!

ick.