

ALBERTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

A Year of Growth

Highlights Report from Your School Board

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PREPARED BY

Alberton School Board of Trustees

SCHOOL YEAR

2025–2026

As your school board, one of our greatest privileges is getting to witness the growth happening at Alberton School every single day. This report is our way of sharing that progress with you. From our classrooms to our community, there is real momentum here, and we are excited to shine a light on it. We are also pleased to announce that moving forward, we will be sharing Quarterly Highlight reports to keep you informed and connected to all the positive things happening in and around our school.

Growing Enrollment

Alberton School is growing, and that growth reflects something real: families are choosing us.

129 Students 2024-25	155 Students 2025-26	144+ Projected 2026-27
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- In the 2024-2025 school year, we served 129 students.
- This year, our enrollment climbed to 155 students, an increase of 26 students.
- Our current projection for 2026-2027 is 144 students, not yet accounting for incoming ELP students or newly enrolling families. We already have two families with six children who have declared their intent to enroll.

This upward trajectory signals growing trust in our school and our community, and emphasizes the power of small schools.

A Strong, Stable Team

Behind every thriving school is a dedicated team of educators and staff, and Alberton is no exception. We are proud to report that our team is not only growing, it is staying.

- Every teacher who was offered a contract for the 2025-2026 school year returned. Every teacher is returning again for the 2026-2027 school year.
- We currently have **12 tenured teachers** and 9 non-tenured teachers serving our students.
- This year we added a dedicated 6th grade teacher, and for 2026-2027 we are adding two interventionists and an instructional coach, bringing even more individualized support to our students.

Our support staff has also seen remarkable growth. We began last year with 2 paraprofessionals. Today, we have **7 paras** dedicated to supporting our Tier 2 and Tier 3 students. Across all roles, Alberton School employs **43 staff members**, including a new partnership with a two-person technology firm (one of whom is an Alberton alumni from the class of 1998).

We have also grown our substitute teacher pool from 2 at the start of the year to 6 today. Each new substitute receives training on classroom routines so they can walk in prepared and confident, minimizing disruption for students. This training was introduced this school year and has already proven to be positively impactful.

And beyond the school day, our extracurricular programs are led by **20 coaches** across robotics, football, volleyball, basketball, track and field, and tennis. These coaches show up for our students in ways that extend far beyond the scoreboard.

Every one of these positions represents a job in our community, and we do not take that lightly.

Music is Coming Back

We are thrilled to announce that Alberton School's music program is returning, sooner than anticipated. We are currently interviewing two candidates to fill this role for the 2026-2027 school year.

Nathan Zalvaney's Friday Music & Guitar Program

Currently serving **29 students**, this program has been a wonderful bridge, helping young people discover a love of music while our full program returns. We are grateful for the joy and experience it has brought our students.

Students are Growing

Our investment in instruction is showing up where it matters most: in our students.

*149 out of 155 students showed growth in math and/or reading on the winter MAP assessment. That is **96% of our student body moving forward.***

This kind of result does not happen by accident. It is the outcome of intentional work by our teachers, our interventionists, and every adult in this building who believes in our kids. It is also a testament to the hard work and determination of our students.

Academic Advantage: Dual Credit & Early College Access

Alberton High School is deeply committed to providing students with meaningful college and career opportunities long before graduation, offering robust dual credit opportunities that allow students to earn college credits while still in high school.

Our commitment to early college access has been strong for many years, well before the statewide One-Two-Free program launched in 2018. Alberton students were already taking advantage of dual enrollment options, building a culture of academic challenge and college readiness.

An Extra Advantage for Alberton Students

While the One-Two-Free program gives Montana high schoolers two free dual credit courses (up to six credits), Alberton offers something more. Because our district qualifies for free lunch, every Alberton High School 10th-12th grade student receives an additional scholarship that covers **all dual credit courses**, not just the first two.

Free Breakfast & Lunch Program Continues

Alberton School is proud to provide free breakfast and lunch for all of our students. This year alone, we have served approximately **30,000 meals** to our Panthers. We understand that good nutrition supports increased productivity in the classroom as well as happier, healthier students.

Expanding Opportunities Beyond the Classroom

One of the most exciting stories at Alberton School is what is happening outside of core instruction. Our students have more opportunities than ever to explore their interests, compete, and connect with the world beyond our walls.

STUDENT CLUBS

- > Alberton Panthers Robotics
- > Alberton LegoLeague (Elementary)
- > Journalism Club
- > Student Council
- > SkillsUSA
- > Science Club
- > Friday Music Program

ACADEMIC COMPETITIONS & CERTIFICATIONS

- > Battle of the Books
- > MathCounts
- > Professional Welding Certifications (in progress)

Athletics: Our varsity program fields teams in football, volleyball, boys and girls basketball, track and field, and tennis. We are proud to have student-athletes earning All-Conference and All-Star recognition, and some receiving college recruitment interest. During our fall and winter sports seasons, **23 student-athletes earned Academic All-State Honors** with a 3.5 GPA or better. These kids are rock stars in the classroom and on the court or field.

Our middle school athletes also have a full slate of opportunities, including flag football, volleyball, boys and girls basketball, and track and field. All of our sports teams showed incredible growth, sportsmanship, and Panther Pride this school year.

Field Trips and Out-of-School Learning: We believe learning happens everywhere, and our students are getting out to prove it.

K-6 EXPERIENCES	7-12 EXPERIENCES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › UM Planetarium & Athletic Facilities (I Love to Read) › Butterfly House › Crescent Ridge Farms (Alberton) › Turner Farms › Brovold Apple Orchard - Fall K-6 (Alberton) › Missoula Public Library & SpectrUM Discovery Area › Montana Valley Book Store (Alberton) › Big Pine › Free Cycles › Kohrs Ranch (6th grade) › Lewis & Clark Caverns (6th & 7th grade) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Manufacturing Day › UM College & Career Fair › MathCounts › Science Fair at UM › Currents (MAP Growth recognition) › Yellowstone Summer Academy (2 students attending)

Coming this spring, we are planning library trips for all classes to get library cards and register for summer reading activities, connecting our students to lifelong learning resources right in our own community.

Grants & Funding: Investing in Our Future

Our team has been busy securing resources that directly benefit students and teachers. Here is a look at what we have received and what we are pursuing.

Grants Received:



MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Supports)



Gifted & Talented Grant

■
MT Reads Grant

■
Advanced Opportunity Grant

■
Perkins Grant

■
Amazon AI Grant

Literacy Grant Spotlight

One of our most impactful funded initiatives, this grant has allowed us to hire five staff members and consultants to deliver professional development for our teachers and paras. This work focuses on strengthening core instruction and building strategies that improve student engagement and active participation in every classroom.

Amazon AI Grant Spotlight

Through this grant, Alberton School is receiving **200 laptops** and infrastructure support to update our building's wiring. Staff received paid professional development in AI tools, and this grant also provided **\$5,000** to purchase necessary items for students and teachers. This is a significant investment in our technology future, and we are grateful for it.

Grants Applied For:

■
Montana Historic Preservation Grant

■
Artist in Residence Grant

A Community Effort: Montana Historic Preservation Grant

On February 28, 2026, Alberton School submitted a **\$350,000 Montana Historic Preservation Grant** to fund updates to our elementary school building. This application came together through the hard work of a dedicated, volunteer grant writing team and the generous support of community members, local organizations, and elected officials who believe in the future of our school. We are grateful for every voice that stood behind this effort.

The progress we have made is not the ceiling. It is the foundation. With a growing student body, a stable and expanding staff, a returning music program, robust extracurriculars, and real academic gains, Alberton School is on an upward trajectory, and we are just getting started.

Thank you for your continued support, your trust, and your investment in this community. We are proud to share these incredible growth points and highlights, and we are honored to serve this school.

Alberton School Board of Trustees · March 2026