HUNTLEY PROJECT SCHOOLS
Boxholder News- January 2025
"Home of the Red Devils"

DREAM-BELIEVE-ACHIEVE

School Resumes – January 5, 2026
THERE IS SCHOOL FOR ALL on January 23rd!

HS STUDENT COUNCIL FANTASY "FIGHTING" SUPPORT OTHERS



the HS Student Council's Annual Fantasy Fighting it shows the efforts by our students and staff, with the excellent support by the community, we can truly see kind and worthwhile gestures in support of others.

The HPSTUCO Christmas Bright's Fantasy Fighting Challenge resulted in $4171.15 being donated this year. With all that is going on, this large donation will help to support local students and families in need. The 26 years of HPSTUCO Fantasy Fighting Challenge have resulted in **$96,863.12** in contributions.

These efforts by the students and staff are outstanding. We know that the support the Huntley Project Community gives others at this time of the year certainly represents our community and the efforts of many in the state. Thank you to all who support our students, staff, and community.

JUDGES NEEDED FOR SPEECH AND DRAMA MEET HOSTED @ HUNTLEY PROJECT



The Huntley Project School District will host an outstanding Speech and Drama meet on January 17- To help support this great event, we need volunteer judges. Please consider spending your day with these talented students.

If you have judged before, you know how great of an event it is, and if you have not, the training is minimal. A judges' training clinic will be offered if you have any concerns.

If you would like to volunteer or if you have any questions, please get in touch with Becky Nay at 406-967-2540 at extension 263 or by email at rnay@huntley.k12.mt.us

WINTER SENIOR/PARENT NIGHTS

To celebrate our Class of 2026 seniors and their families, we will host senior nights in their honor. Thank you, Class, of 2026 seniors and your families, for the time, effort, Red Devils' Support, and commitment to each other!

* Wrestling - January 22
* Girls & Boys Basketball- February 7
* Speech & Drama – Awards Banquet (TBD)

ANNUAL SCHOOL ELECTION



The **annual School Election** will be held on **Tuesday, May 5, 2026**, and will be conducted **by mail ballot**. Ballots will be mailed from and returned to the **Yellowstone County Election Department**.

Individuals interested in running for a **trustee position** on the Huntley Project School Board may pick up the required **Oath of Candidacy** and **Declaration of Intent** forms from the **District Clerk's Office** in the Central Office Building beginning **December 11, 2025**. All completed paperwork must be submitted to the Clerk's Office **no later than 5:00 p.m. on March 26, 2026**.

This year, there are **two open School Board positions**, each with a **3-year term**.

Education Donation Portal Opens January 21, 2026

The **Education Donation Portal** will open on **January 21, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.** to accept preapprovals for the **Innovative Educational Program Credit** and **SSO Credit**.

Key reminders:

- Only **2026 donations** to a PSD or SSO are eligible.
- Credits are **first-come, first-served**—enter donations as soon as the portal opens.
- Donations must be **received** (cash or cash equivalent) before entry; pledges are not eligible.
- Each organization may have **up to five registered users** entering donations at once.
- Accounts and users can be managed **now** before the portal opens.

Portal: https://svc.mt.gov/dor/educationdonation2/

HP KID CONNECTION WINTER 2026 SESSION

Kindergarten–6th Grade students are invited to join our **Winter 2025-2026 Kid Connection Session**, held from **January 12th to February 26th,** Monday–**Thursday from 3:35–5:30 PM**.

Kid Connection participants will receive a snack, homework support, and take part in engaging and fun learning activities each afternoon.

Session Calendar: The full Winter Session calendar is included below for your convenience.

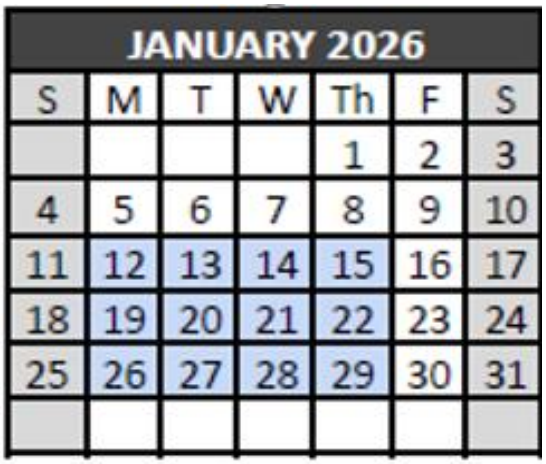
Registration: If you have not registered yet this year, forms are available on our district website. You may also request a form by emailing:

- Monica Ley: mley@huntley.k12.mt.us
- Kelly Higareda: khigareda@huntley.k12.mt.us

Student Pickup: All students must be picked up by 5:30 PM at the south doors of the Elementary School.

We are looking forward to a **fantastic Winter Session** with your students!

— Mrs. Higareda & Mrs. Ley



JANUARY 2026						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



FEBRUARY 2026						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

TRANSPORTATION COMMUNICATION SUPPORT

If you need support with transportation issues, please call 967-2540 ext. 501 or immediately press 8. That will connect you to our transportation director, Candi Buck, unless she is helping to drive routes. In the event there is not an answer, please leave a message. The District is utilizing Stopfinder to help communicate bus/transportation information to support parents.

Stopfinder can be downloaded for free from the App Store or Google Play. Stopfinder will require an invite and registration through the District before accessing your student's transportation schedule. Please get in touch with Candi Buck if you have any questions.

DRIVER'S EDUCATION- SPRING 2026

Driver's Education will start on March 2nd and end on April 30th. Eligible students must be in grades 9-12 and be 14 1/2 by March 2nd, 2026.

Registration begins on January 26th and ends on February 20th. The cost of the program is $200.00. Please submit the fee and application to Payton in the Central Office no later than February 20th.

The application can be found by going to the school website and clicking on the high school icon. The Driver's Education icon will be in the upper right corner. I will also be passing out applications on January 26th.

I will be accepting 20 students for the Spring session. If you have any questions, please let me know. I can be reached at kkoenig@huntley.k12.mt.us or 406-699-0004.

COMMUNITY WALKING TRACK, OPEN GYM, AND FITNESS OPPORTUNITIES

The walking track in the gymnasium is available from 6:15 a.m. to 7:45 a.m. each morning, Monday through Friday, for the community when school is in session.

Due to high school practices, the walking track is unavailable at night. An option is to alternate routes inside the school hallways, accompanied by a staff member.

In the evening, Monday through Thursday, the weight room is open from 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. There are exercise bikes, free weights, and treadmills to help our community work out.

Wednesday evening and Sunday evening from 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. is designated as adult education open gym for activities for adult community access. No students are allowed. There are no fees for these activities.

Huntley Project School District – Weather & School Closure Information

It's no surprise to those of us in Montana that extreme cold and winter weather can affect our region. To help our community understand how school cancellations are determined and communicated, here's an overview of the process.

How Decisions Are Made:

- In the early morning hours (around 4:30–5:00 AM), several staff members drive routes to assess road conditions. Because everyone has different comfort levels, we rely heavily on our professional bus drivers for feedback.
- Bus drivers report any concerns to the transportation manager, and the superintendent consults with transportation staff before 6:10 AM.
- Safety is our top priority. If most buses cannot safely run, school is canceled. While snow is the most common factor, we also consider freezing rain, blizzards, and extreme cold. Schools typically do not operate buses when temperatures reach -25°F due to fuel gelling, a standard we follow.

Collaboration:

- We communicate with neighboring districts (Shepherd, Lockwood, and Custer) to compare conditions and gather additional insights.





Communication:

- If school is canceled or start times are adjusted, information is shared by **6:30 AM**. While this can feel late, our goal is to hold school whenever it's safe.
- Staff are notified first via text messages. Families and the community are informed through:
  - **Infinite Campus** (please ensure your contact information is up to date)
  - **HP Website- Huntley.k12.mt.us**
  - **HP Facebook Page**
  - **Instagram (hpreddevils)**
  - **Twitter (@HPREDDEVILS)**
  - Local radio and television outlets

Other Considerations:

- Our district covers a large area with varied weather and road conditions. We consult community members for local insights.
- Parents who feel unsafe sending their child to school—either via bus or private transportation—should communicate with the school office. Attendance will be adjusted accordingly.

Final Authority:

- While staff and transportation provide input, the **superintendent, Mark Wandle**, has the final decision on school closures. For questions or concerns, contact him at **mwandle@huntley.k12.mt.us** or **406-967-2540, ext. 601**.

We appreciate your understanding as we prioritize the safety of students, staff, and our community during Montana's winter weather.



Superintendent's Update: January 2026

Happy New Year! As we begin January 2026, I am continuously reminded of the incredible spirit that defines our district through both charitable giving and the support of our students' many achievements. I am thrilled to announce the results of this year's HPSTUCO Christmas Bright's Fantasy Fighting Challenge, which resulted in an impressive $4,171.15 being donated. With all that is going on, this large donation will go a long way in supporting local students and families in need. This student-led initiative has a proud history, and after 26 years, the HPSTUCO Fantasy Fighting Challenge has now resulted in a staggering $96,863.12 in total historical contributions.

In addition to celebrating our students' generosity, I would like to take a moment to recognize the leadership behind our schools. I have been inspired by colleagues like Drea O'Donnell, the Superintendent at Shepherd, who has done an exceptional job as the president of our SC MASS. Following her lead in showing gratitude, I feel it is vital to publicly recognize our own Board of Trustees: Chair Clint Johannes, Vice Chair Corinne Hammond, Tim Ley, Bill Cook, and Zeth Ban. We owe a debt of gratitude to these individuals for the personal time they sacrifice, the thoughtful insights they share from our community, and their tireless efforts to ensure our district thrives. Their contact information remains available on our school website under the Board of Education tab for any community members wishing to reach out.

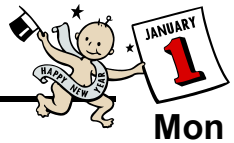
Looking ahead to our academic competitions, the Huntley Project School District is proud to host an outstanding Speech and Drama meet on January 17. To help support this great event, we are looking for volunteer judges to spend the day with these talented students. If you have judged before, you know how rewarding of an event it is, and if you have not, the training is minimal. We will offer a judges' training clinic to address any concerns and ensure you feel prepared to participate. If you would like to volunteer or if you have any questions, please get in touch with Becky Nay at 406-967-2540 at extension 263 or by email at rnay@huntley.k12.mt.us.

We are also looking forward to honoring our Class of 2026 seniors and their families during our upcoming Winter Senior/Parent Nights. These evenings serve as a special opportunity to pause and express our deepest gratitude to our seniors and their parents for the immense time, effort, and heartfelt commitment they have shown to our schools and to one another over the years. Their leadership and Red Devil spirit have left a lasting mark on our programs. Please join us in celebrating these outstanding individuals during the Wrestling meet on January 22 and the Girls and Boys Basketball games on February 7. Our Speech and Drama seniors will also be recognized during their Awards Banquet at a date to be determined. We look forward to seeing the community in the stands to help us give these seniors the recognition they truly deserve.

Finally, as we navigate the heart of winter, please look for an article in the upcoming Boxholder that outlines our cold weather policy and the extensive efforts put in to ensure a safe transportation setup for our students and community. I want to extend a sincere thank you to our dedicated bus drivers; they work tirelessly to safely transport our students over 925 miles each day, regardless of the Montana winter conditions. Their commitment to safety is the backbone of our daily operations.

Thank you for your continued Red Devil support and for making our community an outstanding place for our students to grow.

Mark Wandle- Huntley Project School District Superintendent



January 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29 **NO SCHOOL**	30 **NO SCHOOL**	31 **NO SCHOOL**	1 Happy New Year! **NO SCHOOL**	2 **NO SCHOOL** HSWR @ Bozeman HS GBB & BBB vs Lodge Grass	3 HSWR @ Bozeman
4	5 JH Boys Basketball Begins HP PTA Meeting 7:00 PM FFA Meeting @ 6:30 PM	6 **HS WR @ Laurel/Cody/Powell**	**7** **Blood Drive—** **Riley Knickerbocker Memorial**	8 End 2nd QTR/1st Sem. Tournament Team Pictures and JHBB	**9 PLC Day STAFF** HS GBB & BBB @Joliet HSWR @ Cut Bank	10 **SP & D @ Laurel** HSWR @ Cut Bank
11	12 **1st day of Winter** **Kid Connection** FFA @ Fusion Conference **@ Billings Jan 11-13**	13	14 **Booster Club Meeting 6:30 PM** AAU VB Signups 9th-12th 6-6:30 PM 4th-8th 6:30 PM	15	**16 NO SCHOOL** HS GBB & BBB vs St. Labre HSWR @ Miles City (Cowboy)	17 **SP & D hosts** **Huntley Project Invitational** HSWR @ Miles City (Cowboy) HS GBB & BBB @ Baker JHBBB @ Red Lodge/Columbus
18 MHSA Annual Meetings – Helena	19 MHSA Annual Meetings– Helena **Regular Board Meeting—6:30 PM**	20 JHBBB –7th vs St. Francis at HP JHBB– 8th @ St. Francis	21	22 **HSWR hosts Home Duals—** **Senior/Parent Night**	23 **SCHOOL IN SESSSION!** HSGBB & BBB vs Lame Deer HSWR @ Townsend (B/C Duals) FFA @ Fergus Mechanics	24 SP & D @ Divisionals Hosted by Shepherd HSWR @ Townsend (B/C Duals) HS GBB & BBB vs Colstrip FFA @ Fergus Mechanics
25 AAU Wrestling Tourney	26	27 JHBBB @Lewistown	28	29 K-6 Class and Individual Spring Pictures **HS GBB & BBB vs Red Lodge- BLACK OUT SHIRT NIGHT!**	30 **NO SCHOOL** HSWR @ Red Lodge HS GBB & BBB @ Lodge Grass	31 JHBBB vs Shepherd/Red Lodge

State Speech and Drama @ Townsend Jan 30-31

January Greetings from HP PTA

Happy New Year!!

Thank-you to all our parents, grandparents & community members for supporting our Teacher Giving Tree. The teachers all asked for supplies and snacks to use in the classroom.

Thank-you for supporting the BookFair at Parent/Teacher Conferences. We were able to use our earnings to get new books in many classrooms and added to books in the Elementary Book Vending Machine. It feels good to get books in kids' hands.

Thank-you to our parents, community members, and school staff supporters for all the help and assistance with the HP North Pole. We could not do this without volunteers! Kids were excited to shop for loved ones. Gifts were picked with thought and love. Take a moment to ask the kids why they selected the gift for you.

WE WILL BE HOSTING THE ANNUAL RILEY REMEMBRANCE BLOOD DRIVE ON JAN. 7TH IN THE CENTRAL OFFICE BOARDROOM FROM 9:30AM TO 12:30PM. THE BLOOD BANKS ARE INCREDIBLY LOW. WE ENCOURAGE COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE. CALL JESSICA AT 406-698-2259 TO SCHEDULE YOUR APPOINTMENT.



Save the day for our Annual Family Bingo Night Feb 5th 5:30 - 8 pm in the Commons area. Serving Walking Tacos and bingo packets at family prices. More details to come soon.

The 5th Annual Science Fair is going to be hosted on March 12. Excited to see the science demonstrations brought forward by our 3rd-6th Grade students this year.



The Mini Merc still has a few of our community calendars available for purchase. They are $10 each

Please follow us on.....

Facebook @ H.P.PTA **Instagram @ huntley_project_pta**

Huntley Project Schools

January 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			1 NO SCHOOL	2 NO SCHOOL
5 Tornados Corn Dog	6 Breakfast Pizza Chicken Wing Bar	7 Scones & Yogurt Beef Stew & Biscuit	8 Hashbrowns & Gravy Pizza Sticks	9 NO SCHOOL
12 Oatmeal & Hot Fruit Sub Sandwich	13 Waffles & Sausage Links Hamburger Gravy over Mashed Potatoes	14 Egg Scramble Chicken Alfredo & Broccoli	15 Bagel & Cream Cheese Hamburgers	16 NO SCHOOL
19 Yogurt & Muffin Sloppy Joe	20 Cinni Twist (NEW) Chicken Strips & Mashed Potatoes	21 Cereal Pizza	22 French Toast Hot Dog or Chedderwurst	23 Breakfast Sandwich Walking Taco
26 Pancake Corndog & French Fries	27 Breakfast Burrito Italian Pasta Bake	28 Yogurt & Donut Chicken Pot Pie (New)	29 Potato Pocket Cheeseburger Hotdish	30 NO SCHOOL

Kale is this month's Harvest of the Month. Did you know…

- Kale is in the vegetable food group.
- Kale is packed full of nutrients. One cup of raw kale contains 684% of the recommended daily value of vitamin K, an essential nutrient that helps blood clotting. Kale is also an excellent source for vitamins A and C and provides calcium and iron.
- Kale has been grown for more than 6000 years and is in the brassica family along with bok choy, collards, and broccoli.

To learn more about Montana Harvest of the Month visit:
https://mtharvestofthemonth.org/



Tim Kaczmarek
CLASS B Athletic Director of the Year!

We are proud to announce that Tim Kaczmarek has been selected as the **Class B Athletic Director of the Year!** From managing schedules to supporting our student-athletes and coaches every single day, Tim's hard work and dedication keep the Red Devil spirit alive and well. His efforts behind make a world of difference for our school and community, and this recognition is so well-deserved. Thank you, Tim, for everything you do for Huntley Project!