Dutton/Brady PSD

Mastery today... success tomorrow.

FROM THE DEN: THE DIAMONDBACK BULLETIN FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 23, 2026

"A well-rounded education for students to confidently navigate their world"

THE WEEK AHEAD: SCHOOL & COMMUNITY CALENDAR

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY*
10/23 **Breakfast:** Breakfast pizza **Lunch:** Pulled pork and beans	**10/24** **Breakfast:** Cold cereal and fruit **Lunch:** Roasted turkey, mashed potatoes, and rolls	**10/25** ***Thanksgiving break–no school**	**10/26** ***Thanksgiving break–no school**	**10/27** ***Thanksgiving break–no school**

* Note: Our hybrid four-day schedule will change on Fridays throughout the school year. We will notify you of any changes on when we operate school and when we will be closed on Fridays.

ATHLETICS & EXTRACURRICULARS*

HOME GAMES

No games scheduled

AWAY GAMES

No games scheduled



A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

As the holiday season is upon us, now is an excellent time to reflect on how lucky we are as a school district. We have seen growth in our state MAST testing, with some of the highest scores in the entire state! Our staff has done an incredible job working toward student proficiency in reading and math. In addition, we started a full expansion of our CTE programs for welding, small engines, aviation, metalworking, and construction. These programs are the start of the continued partnership with local industry partners, so students receive certifications before they graduate.

As we continue to expand services and opportunities for student job readiness and preparation, we are thankful for all the donations and grants that have made this all possible. Thank you to our donors and grant partners for supporting this expansion into student readiness. When students leave Dutton/Brady school, they leave with a diploma and credentials that enhance their job perspectives and lifetime earnings. Thank you for your support!

Have a great Thanksgiving week!

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

National Honor Society partnered with Student Council to host a community service cleanup day. Dutton/Brady students brought rakes from home and worked as a team to clean up leaves across the community. Their hard work was celebrated with a special ice cream treat. National Honor Society also held their first Big Diamondback, Little Diamondback program of the year. During this event, the students made cards and wrote letters to veterans. The cards and letters were given out at the Dutton/Brady Veterans Day concert and the Veterans Day service dinner at the Dutton American Legion Hall.

Parent-Teacher Conferences were held on November 12. The fall conferences offered a wonderful opportunity to connect with families and celebrate student success. Instructional coaches continue to collaborate with teaching staff to leverage district assessment data. Coaches have met with teachers to align on individual professional goals and map out clear, targeted action plans for student achievement.

Benchmark 2 is right around the corner. Please help your child prepare for these assessments with a full night's rest and a hearty breakfast.

If you have any questions or concerns about your child or their learning, please feel free to contact me at jmischel@dbps.us.


PEP CLUB




Thank You
For Your
Service

ASSESSMENT & LEARNING SUPPORT

Optional Assessment for College Placement:
Accuplacer testing will be available throughout the school year for students enrolled in dual-credit English, Math, and writing classes. Please contact jlocke@dbps.us to schedule an Accuplacer test for your student.

M-Hit Intervention Tutoring Available for Grades 1-3:
Progress monitoring and intervention tutoring have begun for students who require extra academic assistance in grades 1-3. More information was sent out on this program last week.

Please reach out to jlocke@dbps.us for more information.

Level All Access for Post-Graduation Planning:

Jobs for Montana (JMG) class this year will have access to a unique, free resource! Level All is **100% free for all Montana schools, educators, and students statewide**, providing every learner with personalized guidance, practical skill-building, and accessible resources for life after high school. **For more information, please check out the video at** https://www.levelall.com/montana-opi

PARENT & STUDENT SUPPORT HUB

Need Help With?	Resource / Contact Action
Infinite Campus	Request grades, logins, or demographic updates via the Registrar at the Infinite Campus Portal.
Enrollment or Registration	Please contact Melissa Gemar at mgemar@dbps.us for questions about enrollment

	or registration.
School Meals & Menu	Access menus, track balance thresholds, and complete free/reduced applications on the District website or phone application, under dining.
Wellness Check-ins	Connect directly with our mental health and student welfare liaison for any concerns at jtoner@dbps.us.

COUNSELORS CORNER

A huge shout-out to Eli Castaneda and Mr. Habel for demonstrating responsibility in a skit for our students! Our students loved every minute and are hoping for an encore. We're continuing to practice responsibility, and this month we're adding a new focus: gratitude. As we begin, we'll keep a quote in mind: "The more grateful I am, the more beautiful the world becomes." Over the coming weeks, I'll be sending paper leaves home with students so families can write what they're grateful for. Keep an eye out for our community, family, and school-wide gratitude tree, which we'll build throughout November and display at the office. As always, feel free to reach out at jtoner@dbps.us, or leave a note in my Dropbox.

LIBRARIAN'S SQUARE BOOK OF THE WEEK!

Andy from the Montana Dinosaur Center was here to speak to students in grades kindergarten through 5th about Montana-specific dinosaurs. Students were so excited to have a paleontologist! He presented an engaging, hands-on session for our Kindergarten through 5th-grade students, diving deep into the fascinating world of paleontology. Andy had the attention of the students engaged by discussing specific local discoveries right here in Montana alongside iconic dinosaur species from around the world. Bringing in real dinosaur bones allowed the children to see and touch history firsthand while learning about where these specimens were located, the rigorous science behind unearthing them, and the systematic ways paleontologists classify and curate items in research collections. The students had fantastic questions about prehistoric life, and Andy did a wonderful job

answering them with patience, enthusiasm, and age-appropriate detail. They thoroughly enjoyed this immersive scientific visit.

LITTLE DIAMONDBACKS DAYCARE

The Little Diamondbacks Daycare is bustling with energy as children dive into snow gear, bike rides, and creative art projects. Students are hard at work crafting holiday and seasonal artwork, while making the most of the winter weather by playing outside in the snow whenever possible. On days when outdoor play isn't an option, they stay active with games of basketball down in the gym. We deeply appreciate the wonderful care and dedication their teachers provide every single day.

Technology Levy: A Small Annual Investment in Student Learning

The Dutton/Brady Board of Trustees approved placing a technology levy on the ballot in the November 2027 election. The proposal requests $55,000 annually for 10 years, subject to voter approval.

Why the Levy Is Needed

The district manages its budget carefully, but Montana school-finance laws designate funds for specific purposes. Technology expenses cannot simply be paid from any available account. Montana Code Annotated § 20-9-533(6) allows trustees to ask voters to approve an additional levy for eligible technology costs and states that a technology levy approved after July 1, 2013, may not exceed 10 years. The 10-year limit is a maximum term established by state law; the proposed levy would run for the 10 years specified in the proposal.

District technology costs are projected to exceed $225,000 annually and to continue increasing. We can manage some of the costs, but additional funding is still required. The proposed $55,000 levy would help pay a portion of the cost of equipment, network access, software, cloud services, security, data systems, and other eligible technology needs. These tools help students build skills they will need for college, careers, and an increasingly technology-driven workplace.

Estimated Annual Property-Tax Impact

Using the district’s previously provided FY25 mill value of $8,200 and the supplied residential

tax-rate assumptions, a

$55,000$ *levy would require approximately* 6.71 *mills* (55,000 ÷ $8,200). The following are estimates, not final tax quotes; current certified values, tax rates, and the final mill calculation may change the amounts. The official ballot materials should be used for final figures.

Home Market Value	Estimated Extra Tax / Year	Approx. Per Month
$100,000	$5.74	$0.48
$300,000	$18.50	$1.54
$600,000	$38.95	$3.25

Calculation method: Estimated annual tax = market value × applicable residential tax rate × (mills ÷ 1,000). The figures above are scaled from the supplied estimates for a $100,000 levy.

Putting the Cost in Perspective

For context, the preliminary estimate for a $300,000 home is about $1.54 per month—roughly the cost of a small everyday purchase. For a $600,000 home, the estimate is about $3.25 per month, comparable to one modest coffee each month. Actual costs vary by property and final tax calculations.

This is a targeted request, not a substitute for responsible budgeting. The district will continue to review purchases, maintain equipment when practical, and direct resources toward student learning while working to provide technology opportunities comparable to those available in larger schools.

Questions?

Community members are welcome to contact the district office to discuss school finance, the budget, and the proposed technology levy. Additional election information and final tax estimates will be shared as they are confirmed.

Our team is planning a time before the election to answer questions and provide further details to the community about this proposed levy.

KIDS IN OUR COMMUNITY DESERVE THE BEST! DONATE TODAY!

Investing in Our Students: Montana's Innovative Educational Program Tax Credit

Community support is opening doors to new opportunities for Dutton/Brady students!

Did you know Montana taxpayers can support local public schools through the **Innovative Educational Program (IEP) Tax Credit**? This program has raised over $50,000 in the last two years to enhance student learning pathways and programs. Eligible individuals and businesses donate directly to a Montana public school district and receive a dollar-for-dollar credit against their Montana state income taxes, subject to state approval and program limits.

For example, an approved $1,000 donation can provide $1,000 in additional funding for Dutton/Brady while generating a $1,000 Montana income tax credit for the donor. This is a tax credit—not a separate dollar-for-dollar match from the state. Credits are limited statewide, so early planning is important.

What Has Community Support Made Possible?

Over the past two years, donations from community members have helped Dutton/Brady expand hands-on learning, career exploration, and opportunities for students to earn college credits and industry-recognized certifications.

Examples of educational investments supported through community donations include:

- **Aviation and aerospace:** Hands-on aviation kits and projects that introduce students to aircraft, flight, and aviation-related careers.
- **Small engines and mechanical skills:** Small-engine motors, equipment, and training materials that build practical mechanical knowledge.
- **Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) opportunities:** Certification programs that introduce students to healthcare careers and provide pathways toward employment.
- **Apprenticeships and skilled trades:** Montana Department of Labor and Industry apprenticeship programs that connect students with workforce training and career opportunities.
- **Dual-credit courses:** College tuition costs and coursework materials that help eligible high school students earn college credit before graduation.
- **Business and entrepreneurship:** Instructional materials that develop financial literacy, business knowledge, innovation, and entrepreneurial skills.
- **Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS):** Training and instructional materials that prepare

students for college, careers, and independent living.

- **Junior high shop expansion:** Equipment, materials, and learning opportunities that introduce younger students to shop skills, problem-solving, and technical careers.
- **Student certifications and safety training:** Opportunities such as First Aid and CPR training that build practical, workplace-ready skills.

These investments help students connect classroom learning to real-world applications. They provide opportunities to explore careers, develop technical skills, earn credentials, and pursue individual interests and goals.

How Can You Help?

Montana's IEP Tax Credit allows eligible taxpayers to invest directly in innovative educational opportunities in their local communities. At Dutton/Brady, **donations go directly toward student certifications, career training, hands-on learning experiences, and educational opportunities that enhance student learning and support individual pathways to success.**

If you are interested in donating to Dutton/Brady Public Schools, **please contact the school's front office by January 15, 2027,** to discuss the donation process and the next steps for participating in the IEP Tax Credit program.

Because statewide tax credits are limited and donations require advance approval through the Montana Department of Revenue, contacting the district early is important. Please do not submit a donation expecting a tax credit until the required approval has been confirmed.

For more information, contact the Dutton/Brady front office at **406-476-3424**.

Thank you to the community members who invest in our students. Your generosity helps us create meaningful learning experiences, expand career and college readiness, and prepare every Diamondback to pursue a future that fits their strengths and aspirations.

GEAR UP FOR THE WINTER!

Please be sure to send students to school with appropriate winter gear. With it getting colder, we want to make sure students are comfortable at recess. All students should have a coat, hat, gloves, boots, and snow pants.

ADVERTISE AT DUTTON/BRADY PSD!

Whether it's during games or special events, you can be sure your business will be seen at Dutton/Brady PSD!

Banners are **$300.00** for the entire school year. Funds go directly to our PK-5 elementary classrooms for supplies, field trips, or special projects.

WANT SCHOOL SWAG?

You can now purchase Diamondback and Titan gear at the front office! We have apparel, hats, coffee mugs, and pens. Please stop by and see our inventory. We will be adding some additional Titan swag in the next few weeks. See Melissa Gemar at the front office for details.

2025-26 SCHOOL YEARBOOKS FOR SALE!

The 2025-26 Yearbook is available for purchase at the front office. Last year's yearbook theme was our favorite music playlist. Yearbooks can be purchased at the front office for **$45.00**.

CLASSROOM OF THE WEEK SHOUTOUT!

Thank you to Ms. Brown for an incredible Veterans Day concert. We appreciate the excellent work Ms. Brown is doing with our students and their support in honoring our veterans in the community. Great job!

ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES

Yoga

Adult Ed Chair Yoga classes will begin Friday, September 11, 2026. As we have in the past, the class will meet in the Dutton Senior Center from 10:30 am to 11:30 am. This class is suitable for all levels and abilities as we work toward greater mobility, strength, stamina, and peace of mind. And it's fun!

If you have your own blocks, strap, and stretch band, please bring them. I have a limited supply of each to share with students who need them. For more information, please call Wendy at 406-788-6465. Hope to see you there! Namaste. Wendy Whitehorn

It's everything Dutton / Brady Schools, **in your pocket.**

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Download the **Dutton / Brady Schools** app from the iOS App Store or Android Play Store and enable Notifications.

LOCAL COMMUNITY EVENTS AND INFORMATION

THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

The American Legion Auxiliary meets the first Tuesday at 4:00 pm at the Dutton Legion Hall. We serve our veterans, children, and youth. We collect gifts for the Christmas gift shop at Fort Harrison. We sponsor the Red Cross blood drawing during the year. Our members are involved in all the community projects. We also provide items for baby showers at Fort Harrison for our lady veterans. If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact Betty Burtness.

DUTTON CIVIC CLUB

Begin the 2026-27 school year by checking out the Dutton Civic Club! The first fall meeting will be Monday, September 14 at 6:45 PM at the Dutton Senior Center. We support Dutton/Brady School by offering a scholarship to a promising senior graduate each spring. We support the town pool and your children by cooking and serving breakfast (donating all proceeds) on Fun Day. We support the county via an annual donation to the Teton County Food Pantry. And so much more! Thank you to everyone who has supported the Civic Club by becoming a member, attending our fundraising events, or bringing ideas to us. We appreciate your help! New members and new ideas are always welcome!

COMMUNITY QUILTING IS BACK!

Each Tuesday, at 10:00 am, at Bethany Lutheran Church, everyone is welcome. No experience needed for this great fellowship opportunity!

POPPY POSTER WINNERS!

Students made incredible posters for our Veterans Day Program. The winners are below:

Class III

1st place: Kreedence Wakkinen

2nd place: Bromley Heagy

Class IV

1st place: Rhemi Gemar

2nd place: Emma Feldmann

3rd place: Cody Roberts

Class V

1st place: Kilee Greyn

2nd place: Savanna Salas

Kreedence Wakkinen took 2nd place in the State of Montana

Kilee Greyn took 1st place in the State, and her poster went on to Nationals.

Congratulations to our winners!

DUTTON
Winter Craft Fair

A Candy Cane Cowboy Christmas

FRIDAY
NOV. 27TH, 2026
3:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.

SATURDAY
NOV. 28TH, 2026
10:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

DUTTON/BRADY PUBLIC SCHOOL
101 2nd St NE • Dutton, MT

OVER 35 VENDORS
Literally Something for Everyone!

GREAT GIFT IDEAS
Unique • Handmade
Local Art • And More!

MEXICAN MEAL
FRI. EVENING

COFFEES & ROLLS
SAT. MORNING

SOUPS & ROLLS
SAT. FOR LUNCH

MOVIES PLAYING
in Supervised Kids Area

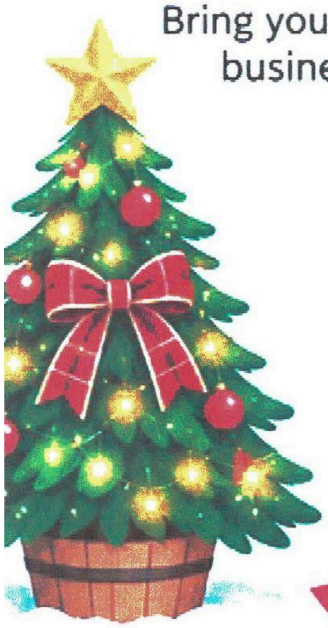
SANTA
WILL BE HERE SATURDAY!

Huge assortment of
Raffle Baskets Available to Win!
Proceeds go to the Julia Timmerman Memorial Fund

Shop ♥ Eat ♥ Enjoy
SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY

Dutton-Teton
Public Library

Community Christmas Tree Decorating Competition



Bring your creativity and join the fun! Open to families, businesses, schools, and community groups in Power, Dutton, Brady, and beyond!

Friday, December 4th, 2026

Live Decorating: 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Community Party: 4:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Enjoy a Chili, Cocoa, & Cookie Bar!

Wear your ugly sweater or festive pajamas!

How to Win

The tree that gathers the most money wins the *People's Choice Award!*

Visitors vote by dropping cash and spare change into your team's bucket.

Trophies Also Awarded For:

- Most Hilariously Tacky
- Most Creative
- Best Crafted Masterpiece

and more!

Sign Up Today!

Registration is open through **Monday, November 23rd** (spaces are limited).

Call the Library: 406-476-3382 | Text Cheri: 406-788-3394

Annual Christmas Tree Decoration Competition

Official Registration Form

Thank you for choosing to participate! Please fill out this form to reserve your tree spot.
- **Setup Window:** Wednesday, Nov 25th (11:00 AM) – Wednesday, Dec 2nd (6:00 PM)
- **Voting Begins:** Friday, Dec 4th, 2026 at the Open House (4:30 PM - 7:30 PM)
- **Voting Ends:** Wednesday, Dec 23rd at 6:00 PM (Winners announced immediately after)
- **Prizes:** 1st Place: $300 | 2nd Place: $200 | Honorable Mention: $100
- **Guidelines:** Participants must provide their own tree and all necessary decorations.

1. Participant Information

Group/Family/Business Name: _____

Primary Contact Person: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Tree Title / Theme Concept: _____

2. Acknowledgements & Guidelines

[ ] **Tree Provision:** I understand that our group must provide our own Christmas tree and all decorating supplies.

[ ] **Setup Deadline:** I agree to have our tree completely set up between Nov 25th at 11 AM and Dec 2nd at 6 PM.

[ ] **Library Support:** I understand that 1 free vote is issued per person, additional votes are $2, and 100% of these proceeds go directly to support the library.

Applicant Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

OFFICE USE ONLY

Date Received: _____ | Assigned Tree Spot #: _____ | Staff Initial: _____

Please contact Jeremy Locke at jlocke@dbps.us with any information or events you would like added to the school's monthly newsletter.

Have a great week!