



Dutton/Brady PSD
Mastery today... success tomorrow.



**FROM THE DEN: THE DIAMONDBACK NOVEMBER MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER**



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

MONTHLY CALENDAR & COMMUNITY KEY DATES

Academic Deadlines	Parent & Community Engagement	Trustee Actions
<p>Great Falls College- MSU Advising Monday, November 2 · 9:00 – 11:00 am</p> <p>MSU Admissions Advisor Visit 11th and 12th Grade Tuesday, November 3 · 8:00 – 9:00 am</p> <p>Health Science Career Exploration Wednesday, November 4 · 8:00 am – 1:30 pm</p> <p>University of Montana Visit Thursday, November 5 · 9:00 – 9:45 am</p>	<p>MT Child Care Business Liability Stakeholder Workgroup Meeting 3 Wednesday, November 4 · 9:00 – 11:00 am</p> <p>National Honor Society and Student Council Community Cleanup November 3, 2026–1:45-3:00 pm</p> <p>Final MT Child Care Business Liability Stakeholder Workgroup Meeting Tuesday, November 10 · 9:00 – 10:00 am</p> <p>Picture Retakes Thursday, November 12</p> <p>Veterans Day Program (lunch provided for attendees) Wednesday, November 11 · 10:00 – 11:30 am</p> <p>Parent/Teacher Conference Thursday, November 12 · 4:00 – 7:00 pm</p> <p>Thanksgiving Break - No School Wednesday, November 25 - November 27, 2026</p>	<p>Special Board Meeting (Trustee Vacancy) Monday, November 9 · 6:30 – 7:30 pm</p> <p>Regular Board Meeting of the Trustees (school auditorium) Monday, November 16 · 6:30 – 7:30 pm</p>

ATHLETICS & EXTRACURRICULARS*

HOME GAMES

JH BB vs Heart Butte @ Dutton, AG/AB, 5:00/6:30 pm, Tuesday, November 3

JH BB vs Sunburst @ Dutton, AG/AB, 5:00/6:15 pm, Tuesday, November 10

JH BB vs Valier @ Power, BG/AG/AB, 4:15, 5:30/ 6:45 pm, Tuesday, November 17

AWAY GAMES

JH BB @ Augusta, BG/BB/AG/AB, 3:00/4:15/5:30/6:45, Friday, November 6

10C District Tourney, Time TBD, November 30 – December 5, 2026

JH BB @ Valier, BG/AG/AB, 4:15/5:30/6:45, Friday, November 13

JH BB @ Heart Butte, AG/AB, 5:00/6:30 pm, Friday, November 20

***Please be aware that DBPS will update any changes at the earliest possible time and share those through our website and social media. Please check the Teamreach application for updates on practice schedule changes.**



A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

We're excited to start November and meet with our families during parent/teacher conferences, where we can highlight the incredible accomplishments of every student. During parent/teacher conferences, you will see your student's growth scores and receive an academic profile. Scheduling will begin the first week of November. Please contact our office for details.

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.

Our team is incredibly excited to be awarded an additional \$131,250 in literacy grant funding for this school year. This funding will provide additional training opportunities for staff, more literacy supplies for our classrooms, and literacy kits for students and families. This grant is part of our overall district learning focus on the science of reading and career readiness. We are offering more flexible options and pathways than ever before, providing a well-rounded education that helps students confidently navigate their world.

November is also an important month as we celebrate our Veterans at our annual program. We welcome everyone to attend this special day and join us in the cafeteria for a special lunch.

Have a great month of November, and a Happy Thanksgiving!

MONTHLY ASSESSMENT WINDOWS

Please note specific test cycles active this month. Timely morning attendance, solid rest, and reliable nutrition make a monumental impact on outcome values.

Assessment	Target Groups	Active Window
MAP Growth Evaluations (Math and Reading)	Grades 9-12	Completed
State Benchmark Progress (Math and English Language Arts)	Grades 3-8	October 19-December 11, 2026
District Benchmark Progress (Math and Reading)	Grades PK-2	Completed

STRATEGIC LEARNING SUPPORT SYSTEMS

Available Academic Interventions & Career Pathway Development:

- **Academic Interventions:** Additional assistance is available for students who need extra instruction to support their academic development. Please contact jmischel@dbps.us for additional details.
- **Character Strong:** Our new counseling curriculum provides a unique experience that helps students develop key character traits to boost positive social development. Please contact jtoner@dbps.us for any questions.
- **AOPA Volunteer Pilot Program:** Dutton/Brady PSD is incredibly honored to partner with the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association for their volunteer program. This program brings local aviation and aerospace experts directly to our school to showcase careers and advances in the field of flight. These opportunities give students unique insight into possible future careers by exploring various areas of science, technology, engineering, and math.

STUDENT & PARENT SUPPORT HUB

Bookmark these recurring core functional pipelines for reference throughout the academic year:

Infinite Campus Portal

Request grades, logins, or demographic updates via the Registrar at the [Infinite Campus Portal](#).

Finances and Budget Information

Monthly budget information can be found on our website. The 2026-27 preliminary budget is available for review at the [District's website](#).

Nutrition & Meal Plans

Access menus, track balance thresholds, and complete free/reduced applications at 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.

PRINCIPAL UPDATES

Dutton/Brady School would like to cordially invite you to attend our Veterans' Day Concert on Wednesday, November 11th at 10:00 am in the School Auditorium. Following the concert, you are welcome to enjoy a spectacular lunch with the students and faculty, consisting of chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes, country gravy, and rolls.

National Honor Society is working on school and community projects. NHS will host a Big D, Little D event on Monday, November 9th, where they will create cards for veterans. These cards will be handed out at the Veterans' Day celebration. In addition, NHS is partnering with Student Council for a November Community Service project; stay tuned for more details.

Picture retakes are scheduled for Thursday, November 12th. Please stop by the front office and pick up a picture order form if you would like to order retakes. Also, with the weather getting colder, please make sure your child is prepared with gloves, a hat, and a coat for those chilly recesses.

The instructional coaches are hard at work setting individualized goals with the staff, driving the growth of instruction and curriculum development. The data-informed discussion and reflection processes increase support for the teachers and improve their teaching practices. With each teacher focusing on an area of improvement, they are demonstrating the practice of becoming lifelong learners to the students.

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

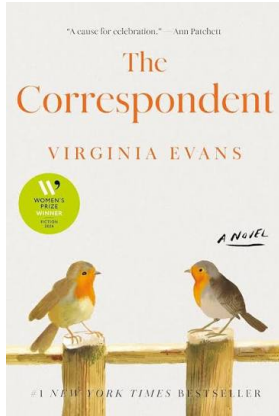
LIBRARIAN'S SQUARE

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.





Book of the Month: The Correspondent by Virginia Evans



If there are any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to lhofer@dbps.us.

As always, thank you for your continued support of our Dutton/Brady staff and students

COUNSELOR 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.



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.

DIAMONDBACK SHOUT-OUTS OF THE MONTH

Big shoutout to Mrs. Hofer for bringing local science speakers to her library classes. We're excited to partner with local experts to share their expertise with our students!

Big shoutout to Mrs. Goodell, who created a fun osmosis lab with carrots that was super engaging for the seventh grade.

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**.

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.

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* ($55,000 \div \$8,200$). 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 $\times$ applicable residential tax rate $\times$ (mills $\div$ 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.

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 4, 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.

DUTTON/BRADY BOOSTER CLUB NEWS

The Dutton/Brady Booster Club is an organization created to stimulate and support all extra-curricular activities in the Dutton/Brady school system. The club normally meets the second Monday during the months of August, November, March, and May. We encourage family, friends, and alumni of Dutton/Brady School to participate.

We would like to thank you for supporting the students of our community! Some of the activities we supported last year include:

- Funding for the junior class Prom DJ
- Scholarship awarded to a graduating senior
- Support for Titan athletics, including new uniforms and season-end award banquets
- Pep Club goodie bags for end-of-season tournaments
- FCCLA trip to Nationals

The next meeting is scheduled for November 9, 2026, at 6:00 p.m at Dutton/Brady School. We would love to have you join us.

Officers:

- President: Sarah Feldmann (duttonbradyboosterclub@gmail.com)
- Vice President: Nicole Schuler
- Secretary: Esther Clark (eclark@dbps.us)
- Treasurer: Linda Michel (dbboostertreas@gmail.com)
- PR: Kate Johnson (kathrynjohnson99207@yahoo.com)

DUTTON-BRADY EDUCATION FOUNDATION

The Dutton-Brady Education Foundation works hand-in-hand with district staff and leadership to fund projects and programs that go beyond the standard district budget. **Please contact Barb Coffman at bcoffman@3rivers.net for more information.**

1. Classroom & Teacher Grants

Teachers are the heart of our schools. Our grant program directly empowers educators to bring creative, innovative ideas to life in their classrooms.

- **Innovative Learning Tools:** Funding for hands-on STEM/STEAM equipment, interactive technology, specialized art and music supplies, and flexible learning furniture.
- **Classroom Resources:** Grants for updated classroom libraries, specialized literacy materials, and adaptive learning tools.
- **Professional Growth:** Supporting teachers with specialized training and resources that elevate classroom instruction.

2. Student Opportunities & Experiences

We believe that learning happens both inside and outside the classroom. The Foundation provides funding for experiences that broaden students' horizons and foster a lifelong love of learning:

- **Experiential Field Trips:** Off-campus learning excursions to historical sites, scientific facilities, museums, and arts performances.
- **Guest Speakers & Residency Programs:** Bringing visiting authors, artists, scientists, and career experts directly to our students.
- **Co-Curricular Enrichment:** Supporting academic competitions, leadership workshops, and student initiatives that build character and real-world skills.
- **Student Recognition & Scholarships:** Assisting graduating seniors as they transition into higher education, trade schools, or career pathways.

ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES

Yoga

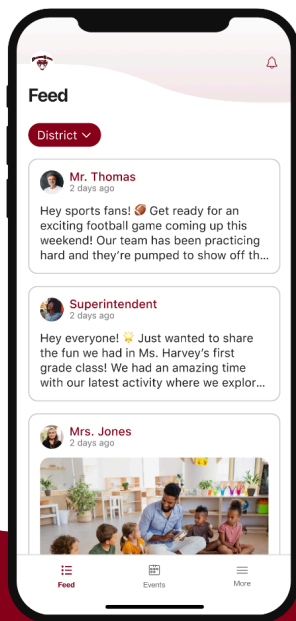
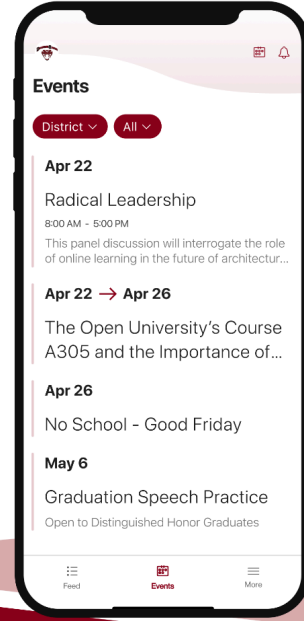
Adult Ed Chair Yoga classes will begin Friday, September 11, 2026. As we have in the past, the class will meet in the Dutton Senior Center from 10:30 am to 11:30 am. This class is suitable for all levels and abilities as we work toward greater mobility, strength, stamina, and peace of mind. And it's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

Please contact us at the school's front office if you're interested in teaching an adult education class for the community.

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



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! 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!

DUTTON SENIOR CENTER NOVEMBER MENU

Happy Autumn, everyone. I am thoroughly enjoying the cooler weather. Hope everyone is staying healthy and enjoying the fruits of their summer labors.

We have some great fall items returning to our menu this month, so get ready for hearty soups, stews, and desserts. Thanks to all the local gardeners who have provided our center with surplus produce in the last few months. All the diners have enjoyed the veggies provided, which add variety to our menus here in Dutton. As always, remember to tab down to the November page of the worksheet to find the updated menu.

Thanks,

Lisa Michel, Head Cook

2026		November					Dutton Senior Center	
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY		
01	02 Beef Stew and Blueberry Pie	03 Liverwurst or Ham Sandwich, Chips, Veggie Salad and Fruit	04 Beef & Broccoli, Rice, Egg Rolls and Fruit	05 Baked Tilapia, Orzo, Zucchini Fritters, Lemon	06 Pulled Pork Sand. Baked Beans, Coleslaw and Cookie	07		
08	09 Stuffed Shells Dinner with Chocolate Cake	10 Chicken Divan on Biscuits, Salad and Fruit Salad	11 Chili, Cornbread, Fruit and Cookies	12 Pork Tenderloin, Squash, Green Beans and Cake	13 Egg Foo Young, Rice, Fruit & Jello	14		
15	16 Ham Dinner with Pineapple Upsidedown Cake	17 Sausage Pasta Bake, Salad, Bread and Fruit	18 Bangers & Mash, Peas, Cookies	19 Fish & Chips, Coleslaw, Pudding	20 Ham Salad Sandwich, Chips, Veggie Salad & Fruit	21		
22	23 Thanksgiving Dinner with Pumpkin pie	24 Goulash, Salad, Fruit & Rolls	25 Jamaican Curry Beans, Rice, Veggie Salad, & Pudding	26 Meatballs in Gravy, Potatoes, Broccoli, Cookie	27 Ham & Split Pea Soup, Rolls, Salad & Cake	28		
29	30 Chicken Enchiladas and Flan	01 Creole Sausage Stew, Rice, Salad & Fruit	02 Beef Veg Soup, Salad Rolls and cake	03 CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING	04 CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING	05		
06	07	Notes: We serve dinner Monday evening @ 6:00 p.m. and lunch Tuesday-Friday and 12:00 p.m. Please call 406-476-3291 for reservations. There is a suggested donation of \$5.00 for clients over 60 years of age and under 60 is \$6.00.						

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!

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 November!