



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



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



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

MONTHLY CALENDAR & COMMUNITY KEY DATES

Academic Deadlines	Athletics & Extracurriculars*	Parent & Community Engagement	Trustee Actions
Monday, September 7, 2026 - Labor Day, no school Tuesday, September 8, 2026 - MT Teacher Registered Apprenticeship Mentor Professional Learning Session at 3:30 am Thursday, September 10, 2026 - MT Reads Monthly Check-in at 11:00 am Friday, September 18, 2026 - Teacher PIR Day (Infinite Campus Training)	Thursday, September 3, 2026 - PDB Titan Cross Country Manhattan Invite 9:00 AM HS Friday, September 4-5, 2026 - Power-Dutton/Brady Titan Volleyball 9/4-5/26 Fri-Sat Cascade Tournament Cascade JV/V TBD Power-Dutton/Brady Titan Volleyball 9/4-5/26 Fri-Sat Simms Tournament Simms JH TBD Saturday, September 5, 2026 - PDB Titans Football 9/5 Sat. D-G-S-G Stanford JH/V 10:00/1:00 Tuesday, September 8, 2026 - PDB Titans Football 9/8 Tues. D-G-S-G Power JV 4:00 Power-Dutton/Brady Titan Volleyball 9/8/26 Tuesday Sunburst (NC) Sunburst JH B / V 5:00/+20 Thursday, September 10, 2026 - Power-Dutton/Brady Titan Volleyball 9/10/26 Thursday Heart Butte (PHC) (NC) Power JH/V 6:00/+20 Friday, September 11, 2026 - Simms (NC) Simms JH/JH/JV/V 12:00/1:00/2:00/+20 Saturday, September 12,	Tuesday, September 2, 2026 - Dutton-Brady Education Foundation Meeting in the school library at 6:00 pm Thursday, September 3 - 1:00 – 3:00 pm - Dougie Hall Inspiration Guest Speaker Tuesday, September 8, 2026 - Teton County CARES Meeting at 9:00 am at the Teton County Annex September 21-26, 2026 - Dutton/Brady Homecoming Week!	September 21, 2026 - Dutton/Brady School Board Meeting in DBPS auditorium (6:30 pm) Week of September 28, 2026 - Trustee training, time and date TBD

	<p>2026 - PDB Titans Football 9/12 Sat. Heart Butte (PHC) Power JH/V 10:00/2:00</p> <p>Monday, September 14, 2026 - Cascade (NC) Cascade JH/JH/JV/V 4:00/5:00/+15/+20</p> <p>Thursday, September 17, 2026 - CJI (C) Chester JH/JH/JV/V 4:00/5:00/+15/+20</p> <p>Friday, September 18, 2026 - Augusta (NC) Augusta JH/JH/V 5:00/+15/+20</p> <p>Saturday, September 19, 2026 - HS Cross Country Meet-Mountain West Classic (Missoula) at 9:00 am</p> <p>Monday, September 21, 2026 - PDB Titans Football 9/21 Mon. C-J-I Dutton JV 4:00</p> <p>Thursday, September 24, 2026 - Power-Dutton/Brady Titan Volleyball 9/24/26 Thursday CJI (DBHC) (NC) Dutton JH/JH/JV/V 4:00/5:00/+15/+20 (Homecoming Game!)</p> <p>Friday, September 25, 2026 - HS Cross Country Meet-Fergus Eagle Invitational (Lewistown) PDB Titans Football 9/25 Fri. Highwood (DBHC) (SD) Dutton JH/V 1:30/4:00 (Homecoming Game!)</p>		
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***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 the first full month of school focused on instructional improvements and learning! Dr. Mischel and Mrs. Hofer, our instructional coaches, are meeting with every teacher regularly to target specific areas of teaching to improve learning. Over the next few months, our team will be working to improve feedback to students in real time and increase opportunities to respond in the classroom. In addition, our team will look to enhance our instructional planning and transitions to keep students engaged and motivated to learn. Our team knows that mastery today starts with constant instructional fine-tuning, so success can begin with students learning the key components of successful leaders for tomorrow.

A well-rounded education permeates each day at Dutton/Brady as students engage in aviation, life skills, participate in apprenticeships, work skills, job exploration, and dual credit options. Small schools do great things for students, families, and the community as they become the Hub of activity and support. As Little Diamondbacks Daycare moves into its fourth year, we're excited to celebrate the achievements and be nationally recognized as the 2026 Best Place for Working Parents and National Association for the Education of Young Children. Furthermore, our school is the only sponsor in the entire state of Montana for the Montana Department of Labor and Industry Facility Director Program. Our team doesn't stop making progress, as we are also a part of the Teacher Apprenticeship Grant Program that provides staff vertical progression to become a certified teacher at no cost to them.

Continuing to build our school and programs is essential to providing a quality educational

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	September 7-21, 2026
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 & Pathways:

- **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.

experience for students and families. Over the last five years, we have done this by seeking other funding that lessens the burden on local taxpayers. Our team has raised over \$1.8 million in the last five years to improve programs and educational resources. This year is even more historic, as we have lowered district mills to their lowest level in over a decade, saving local taxpayers approximately \$880,060.24 in cumulative savings over the last five years.

Moving into this school year, we are prepared to move the needle in student learning and programming. Dutton/Brady staff are continuing their professional development in the science of reading and curriculum planning, while improving teaching strategies in mathematics.

Our school is poised to become the quintessential model of a high-quality rural education, serving as a beacon for other schools across the state.

Our team is excited for this school year and proud to serve the students and families in both the Dutton and Brady communities.

Have a great school year!

Go Diamondbacks! Go Titan

LITERACY AND INSTRUCTION: A PRINCIPAL'S TASK

The school year is off to a fantastic start! A sincere thank you to all our parents—your support and partnership have been instrumental in making these opening weeks a success. Our students have quickly settled into their routines and embraced their daily schedules.

Grades K–2 have completed their Acadience benchmark assessments, and Grades 3–12 will take their MAP assessments later this month. These evaluations provide crucial insights that aid in the

STUDENT & PARENT SUPPORT HUB

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

Support Pathway	Actionable Contact Method
Infinite Campus Portal	Request grades, logins, or demographic updates via the Registrar at 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 .

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.

tailoring of instruction and measure each student's growth. The National Honor Society, Pep Club, and FCCLA have met to elect new officers and map out activities for an exciting year ahead! We are looking forward to a year full of learning, growth, and community service.

Please contact jmischel@dbps.us for more information or to schedule a meeting to address any questions you may have about our academic programming.

CLASS SHOUT-OUTS OF THE MONTH

Grade / Class	New Classes Offered!
2nd/3rd Grade Classroom	Congratulations to Mrs. Tackitt's students on their hard work the first week of school! The second and third grade class demonstrated their skills in writing each day by quietly practicing every morning. We're incredibly proud of them for the focus they set in achieving high academic standards. Great job, class! We're excited to see your accomplishments this school year!
8th Grade JMG and Technology	We're excited for our eighth-grade students as they explore new opportunities and technology with Ms. Sims. This year, they are starting to explore Scratch coding and game design in our Jobs for Montana Graduates and Technology class. We can't wait to see what they create!

LIBRARIAN'S SQUARE

Our Diamondback students are fitting into our daily routines and schedules nicely. Now that the first day of school excitement has settled, the learning can begin. Each week, students in grades PK-5th come to the library for various literacy lessons and activities. I have enjoyed sharing our new titles with students during these class times. When students bring their previously checked-out books back to the library during their class time, they are able to check out another book. The library special schedule is listed below.

Monday- 4/5th- 1:00-1:45

Wednesday- PreK-10:00-10:30

K/1- 1:00-1:30

2/3- 2:20-3:00

Book of the Month: Long Walk to Water
By: Linda Sue Park



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

We are off to an exciting start! During our first week, the students will have the opportunity to get to know one another through fun, engaging activities and games. We will also spend time learning about our counseling expectations, setting the stage for positive and meaningful experiences throughout the

Junior High Math (7th grade)	The seventh-grade students are off to a great start learning in the math classroom this month! Students shared how happy they were to be able to understand difficult math concepts and grateful to have such a great teacher! Great job to Mrs. Schuler's seventh-grade students!.
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year. I can't wait to get to know every student; it's going to be a wonderful year!

Please don't hesitate to reach out, leave a note in the drop box at my office door if it's closed, call the school and ask to be transferred, or email me directly at jtoner@dbps.us.

LITTLE DIAMONDBACKS DAYCARE

The Little Diamondbacks Daycare is back in the swing of things! Our teachers, Ms. Korbey, Ms. Seattle, Ms. Molly, Ms. Aryana, and Ms. KJ are doing so many fun projects with the younger kiddos. New sand was put into the sandbox in the courtyard. The boys are loving all the trucks for scooping and dumping sand. They are "hard at work" in the sandbox.

In addition to the outside activities, Ms. Aryana always comes up with new and creative art projects. This week Ms. Molly read The Very Hungry Caterpillar. There will be an art project coming home soon that reflects this beloved story.

Homecoming 2026: Passport to Spirit

Homecoming is right around the corner on Thursday, September 25th! Our theme this year is Passport to Spirit, and we have an exciting week lined up.

Spirit Dress-Up Days

Monday: Safari (Dress for a wild adventure)

Tuesday: Tacky Tourist

Wednesday: Country vs. Country Club (Nashville vs. New York)

Thursday:

Elementary and JH: School Spirit Best

Freshmen: Babies

Sophomores: Toddlers

Juniors: Soccer Moms

Seniors: Senior Citizens

Mini-Floats: We are bringing back mini-floats (decorating wagons, carts, etc.)!

Elementary classes are warmly invited to join in the parade again.

Gym Signs: Each JH and HS class will create one Class Sign and one Sports Pep Sign to hang in the gym.

Elementary Teachers: If you have time and would like to create a pep sign with your students, we would love to feature it in the gym!

Thursday, Sept 25

- **Full-Day Events (JH & HS):** Spirit activities, mini-float showcase, and a school-wide Token Run.
- **Pep Assembly:** PowerSchool will be joining us near the end of the day for a pep assembly, tentatively scheduled for 2:15 PM or 2:30 PM.
- **Home Volleyball Game:** Action starts at 4:00 PM.
- **Bonfire:** Thursday night following the game

Friday, Sept 26

- **Homecoming Football Game:** Friday Game in Dutton
- **Homecoming Dance:** Saturday evening

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 Booster Club Supports Our Students and Community During Homecoming Week

The Dutton-Brady Booster Club is proud to support our student-athletes, coaches, school programs, and

community traditions throughout the year. Our club works to encourage school spirit, help meet student and activity needs, and bring people together in support of the young people representing Dutton-Brady.

Through fundraising, sponsorship, volunteer efforts, and community involvement, the Booster Club helps provide support for activities, athletics, events, and special projects that benefit our students. Every contribution of time, help, and encouragement makes a difference, and we are grateful for the continued support from families, businesses, and community members.

As part of this year's homecoming week, the Dutton-Brady Booster Club is excited to provide meals for both volleyball and football teams. This includes junior high, junior varsity, and varsity athletes, as well as both home and away teams. We know homecoming is a busy and meaningful week, and we are glad to help make sure the students and teams are taken care of as they compete and celebrate together.

The Booster Club would like to thank everyone who helps make these efforts possible. Whether you donate, volunteer, attend games, cheer from the stands, or simply encourage our students, your support strengthens our school and our community.

We look forward to a fun, spirited, and successful homecoming week. Go Titans!

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

Dutton/Brady Kitchen News!

No Dirt on Your Hands!

OR

Hydroponics Makes Waves in Montana Schools

OR

Making Waves in the Classroom

Among this year's MFU Foundation grant recipients, three schools are learning outside the classroom and growing along the way

There's something about growing your own food - it simply tastes better. More importantly, hands-on, experiential learning helps students connect the dots between local agriculture, community, and the food on our tables. With that in mind, schools in north-central Montana are exploring hydroponics as an alternative method of food production.

The three recipients of the Montana Farmers Union Foundation grant this year - the Cut Bank School District (\$5,000), Belt Valley FFA (\$1,000), and Dutton/Brady Public Schools (\$3,000) - are using the funds to integrate hydroponic grow towers, purchase portable greenhouses and seed pods for a hydroponic system, and procure a hydroponic unit for fresh produce at school, respectively.

As part of its commitment to create new opportunities and contribute to the growth and enhancement of Montana agriculture and rural communities, MFU Foundation announced nearly \$84,000 in Community Grants this year. Since launching the grant program in 2022, the MFU Foundation has now leveraged and awarded nearly \$225,000 to community projects that advance agriculture across the state.

Angela Whitley, Food Program Director of Cut Bank Schools said, "I have no windows in my dining area, so I am hoping that our program will help teach students that healthy food can grow anywhere, even in water. In a world of mass production, rising food prices, and contaminated food sources it is important to teach the next

generation how to grow and harvest one's own food."

With the grant, the Cut Bank School District will be able to integrate hydroponic grow towers into the school district lunchroom, giving students practical farm-to-school learning while providing fresh produce for school meals. The towers will also support science-based classroom lessons, including farm-to-school projects and Harvest of the Month education.

Whitley explains that the school's food service department and elementary classes are already working with MSU Extension on food nutrition and local agriculture education. The hydroponic grow towers will extend that programming by incorporating them into lesson plans.

Cultivating curiosity

Lauren Simons, the Agricultural Education Teacher at Belt Public School, believes students learn better through hands-on activities. Feeling different types of soil and observing different leaf shapes, she said, will help students build knowledge throughout the year.

Belt Valley FFA's agricultural education program has multiple shop-based courses and two classroom-based courses. The high school classroom courses rotate yearly between animal science, food science, and plant science. For the 2026-2027 school year, Simons will be teaching plant science.

"I would like to purchase portable greenhouses to allow students to grow a variety of plants throughout the year," she said. Referring to the kinds of plants the school will focus on, Simons said, "We will link the plants to the units that we are covering and their key objectives—for example, mostly flowers in the fall and crops during the spring semester."

The project also supports MFU's goal of strengthening communities by encouraging students to engage beyond the classroom. Simons notes that students may grow plants for local food banks, community gardens, or school-based enterprises, fostering a sense of service and connection to local agricultural needs. This builds awareness of food systems and reinforces the importance of supporting local agriculture.

Putting that community-minded approach into practice in its lunchroom, Dutton/Brady Public Schools has already purchased a hydroponic unit to grow fresh fruits, vegetables, and herbs for its lunchroom program. Students will take part in planting and harvesting, as well as prepping the harvest for breakfast and lunch.

District Chef Gloria Mullennax will teach students about different types of plants, their uses, and their role in a balanced, nutritional meal. The grant will also help purchase plants for the hydroponic unit. "We'll use some of the plants in the kitchen, and I'll encourage students to take seedlings home so they can grow their own," she said. They can then share their progress through pictures, creating an opportunity to extend the learning beyond the classroom.

Deep roots

Together, these projects are set to become a springboard for learning. Simons hopes that providing students with immersive learning experiences will help promote agriculture, stewardship, and rural vitality. She emphasizes that integrating plant science concepts with real-world applications, such as crop production, soil health, greenhouse management, and sustainable practices gives students practical skills that can prepare them for careers in agriculture and related industries.

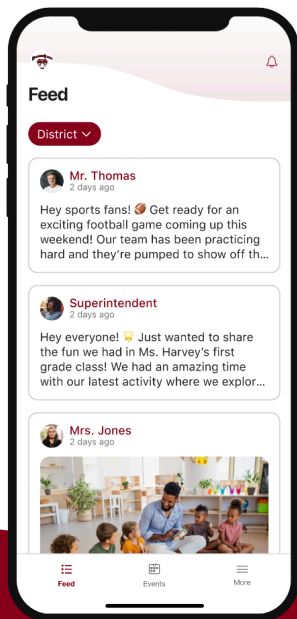
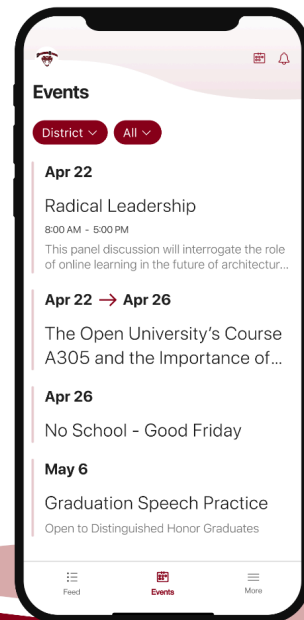
Mullennax hopes the project instills in students a love for growing their own fruits or vegetables, along with the confidence and knowledge to grow and care for plants on their own.

Whitley, meanwhile, is confident that teaching children how to grow food and connecting them with local farmers will spark an interest in Montana agriculture and encourage the next generation of growers, helping strengthen Montana's farming and ranching communities.

To learn more about MFU Foundation Community Grants, visit www.montanafarmersunion.com.

Great job, Gloria!

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 out veterans, children, and the 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 by bringing ideas to us. We appreciate your help! New members and new ideas are always welcome!

DUCTION

Farmer's Market

Local ♥ Fresh ♥ Community

A portion of the vendor fee will go to our

NEW LEGION LANDSCAPING FUND



Nearly

20

VENDORS!



AUG 7TH



5-8 P.M.

📍 **Dutton American Legion**

Booths on the lawn plus several will be in the air-conditioned indoors.
Markets will happen **rain or shine.**



Bouncy Water Slide

FREE FOR KIDS!



**"Kindness Stone"
Rock Painting Booth**



**Lawn Games:
Hatchet Game,
Corn Hole & more!**

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

Fresh produce, baked goods, handmade crafts, wild rags, jewelry, soaps, lotions, leather goods, quilts, canned items, flowers, photographs, brats, hamburgers, mac & cheese, and many more!

FREE ENTERTAINMENT!



*Music by
Donnie & Sherry*

TREATS & DRINKS!

Ice cream, lemonade stand, Italian soda booth & Legion bar for refreshments.

Burgers, hotdogs and brats!

The purpose of this event is not only an opportunity for locals to showcase and market their wares, but a chance for neighbors to gather, enjoy each other and our beautiful facility.

For more information please contact: **Verna 406-788-6668**

Please contact Jeremy Locke, at jlocke@dbps.us, for any information or events you want added to the school's monthly newsletter.

Have a great school year!