



Dear Big Sky Students & Families-

The start of the 2025-2026 school year is almost here! I am looking forward to starting my 13th year as an Eagle, and hope that you enjoy the last few weeks of summer before we return. Starting Sunday 8/24 I will begin my weekly [Sunday updates](#). They will be emailed to you at 12pm and available on the Big Sky website under Principal Updates. Be sure to check our website regularly for the updated calendar and announcements.

*****Please note there are 3 documents that need to be filled out and returned in the self-addressed stamped envelope before school starts. (1 blue, 1 purple and 1 pink)**

An email from the district regarding the [MCPS Annual Forms](#) will be sent out after school starts, so please watch for that email.

This letter is on the [BSHS website](#) and includes any links referenced.

9th Grade Only Day: Wednesday 8/27 is our 9th grade only day. We will have a filled day of welcome activities for freshmen. Your student will be assigned two to three student EAGLE Crew leaders to guide them through the day. They will engage in ice breaker activities, learn about the Eagle Code, become familiar with the school/campus, will go through their 8-period schedule and much more. When 9th graders arrive, they will receive a packet of information along with an updated schedule. We will begin the day with a welcome assembly in the main gym. You can either pack your lunch or hot lunch will be available-**campus will be closed for lunch on the first day, which means 9th graders cannot leave.**

Breakfast & Lunch: The cost of meals is \$2.25 for breakfast and \$3.25 for lunch. All meals will be served out of the kitchen (located near the Student Commons/gyms). We are asking that all families fill out the Free & Reduced form, whether you qualify or not. These forms determine our funding which helps pay for many of our staff and lots of resources in the classroom.

Please complete the last page of the enclosed PINK document and return in the self-addressed envelope.(1)

Activity Participation: The enclosed document provides permission for your child to participate in activities. You must indicate by either writing in or circling on the back of the form, which activities you allow your child to participate in.

Please complete the enclosed BLUE document and return in the self-addressed envelope. (2)

Standing Order Form for School Nurse: Our nurse can administer medications listed on the enclosed standing order.

Please complete the enclosed PURPLE document and return in the self-addressed envelope. (3)

[Bell Schedule](#) & [School Year Calendar](#) are enclosed. Please note the start/end times for each day, remember Thursday is an Early Out.

Missing Work Deadlines: There will be a missing work deadline each month of the school year (9 deadlines). Students are expected to submit missing work by these dates (**included on the Bell Schedule**) to receive credit for those assignments. Teachers will not accept work after these dates. Grades will then be updated and posted on the Tuesday following the missing work deadline.

Student Schedules: Counselors will be available on the following days:

August 20th, 21st and 22nd

Walk-ins for schedule changes will be 2:00pm-3:30pm

Due to the demand for schedule changes, walk-in appointments will be kept to 5-10 minutes. If you need additional time with your counselor, please schedule an appointment at a later date.

Schedules will only be changed for the following reasons:

- Sequence of courses is out of order (Example courses requiring a prerequisite: Ceramics 1 semester 1/ Introduction to Art semester 2)
- Incomplete schedule.
- Failure of a course that must be repeated.
- A required course to graduate or for your program was not scheduled.

Counseling Schedule Change Protocol

- There will be no schedule changes the first day of school, In the first 5 days (until Sept 5th, 2025) you can change your schedule with an add/drop form for the following reasons:
 - Sequence of courses is out of order (Example courses requiring a prerequisite: Ceramics 1 semester 1/ Introduction to Art semester 2)
 - Incomplete schedule.
 - You failed a course that must be repeated.
 - A required course to graduate or for your program was not scheduled.
- After the first 5 days, for one school week (Sept 8th-12th), you can drop a course with an add/drop form, without penalty and you will be placed in another class.
- After the first 10 school days (Sept 15th) you can only drop a course. You will need the add/drop form. And you will receive an F on your transcript.
- Students with IEPs need to discuss their desired schedule changes with their Case Manager before meeting with their counselor.
- Schedules will not be changed for teacher or for friend requests.
- To request a schedule change, students need to complete their counselor's referral form. This can be found on the [Counseling Department Website](#).

Athletics & Activities

The fall sports opening day is right around the corner. Register Here: [SNAP Manage Online Registration](#) On-line registration is required before tryouts begin on August 14th & 15th. Physicals can be uploaded to SNAP Manage or dropped off in person to Rebecca Peterson at the front office. When uploading the physical make sure you include all 3 pages and submit as one pdf.

- Do not allow your athlete to register themselves or you will miss important updates from the athletic office.
- [MHSA Physical Form](#)

The mandatory fall sports parent meeting will be held on Monday, August 11th at 6pm in the theater at Big Sky. The doors will open at 5 PM for parents who need to complete online registration and pay fees. Each student athlete is required to pay a \$75.00 participation fee, \$30.00 activity fee and a white fee that is determined by the head coach. See below all the details about each fall sport. If you have any questions, please contact Jack Young jyoung@mcpsmt.org

Cheer- Head coach Amy Schott aschott@mcpsmt.org

Cross Country- Head coach Jo Ruby jruby@mcpsmt.org

Dance- Head coach Alma Stephens astephens@mcpsmt.org

Golf- Head coach Shealyn Hafer shafer@mcpsmt.org

Football- Head coach Matt Johnson mhjohnson@mcpsmt.org

Flag Football- Head coach Michela Anderson mranderson@mcpsmt.org

Boys Soccer- Head coach Louis Johnston ljohnston@mcpsmt.org

Girls Soccer- Head coach Mihir Kumar mkumar@mcpsmt.org

Volleyball- Head coach Tian Harrington tsarrington@mcpsmt.org

We invite you to explore the brand new [Big Sky Athletic Website](#), where you will be able to find schedules and all the latest information. Plus, get ready for our upcoming APP launch this fall- It's going to be amazing! Don't miss out!

Be sure to check social media for daily updated information regarding sports or other activities.



<https://www.facebook.com/bigskyhighschool>



<https://www.instagram.com/bigsky eaglesmissoula/>

Busing: If you need information on bus pickup/time, please use [Infofinder](#). Also, please note that Thursday is an early out and buses will drop off 40 minutes earlier than the time indicated on Infofinder.

School Supplies: Included is the Big Sky list of supplies needed for the year. If you need any support getting supplies, please contact Shanna Nickerson, Community Liaison @ snickerson@mcpsmt.org Please note there are a few classes that do require a lab fee.

Picture Days: See below for the various dates you can have your school picture taken. All students (including 12th graders), please remember that these are the pictures that will go on your transcript or other legal documents. These are professional pictures, and any silly or goofy photos will not be allowed. All students are required to have a school ID card which you will receive after your picture is taken.

*****48 hours after your student's photos are taken, you will be able to view and order online at [Legacy Photography](#). The order CODE will be the student's ID number.**
Paper packets will be available on picture day to order with cash or check.

8/18 Monday *ALL STUDENTS

- 10AM - 6PM (Commons Area)

8/27 Wednesday *ALL STUDENTS

- 8AM - 5PM (Commons Area)

9/5 Friday *FINAL PICTURE DAY - ALL STUDENTS

- 7:30AM - 12:30PM (Commons Area)

TBD Retake *All Students

- Beginning at 8AM

Yearbooks: Please see the enclosed information regarding Early Bird ordering, senior photos and baby photo dedication options.

Big Sky Booster Club: Their purpose is to: To support, promote and maintain parent, student, and public interest in a well-rounded program, to give equal recognition to both male and female sports and activities, and to provide financial assistance to MHSA sanctioned sports and activities through various fundraising projects. For more information on how to join Booster, please go to their website-<https://www.bigskyboosterclub.org/>. Members, volunteers, officers, parent reps, those who ask questions and provide feedback, and more are always needed!

Open House: This will take place on Monday September 29th starting at 6 pm. This is an excellent opportunity to meet your child's teachers, get a tour of the building, connect with Big Sky Booster and get some Big Sky gear! This is also Homecoming week so stay tuned for many exciting opportunities to get involved.

Cell Phone Policy: All cell phones are expected to be in the caddy located in each classroom or stowed away in your backpack. If in violation of the MCPS Board Policy, students may lose privileges to be able to have their phone at school.

Emergencies:

For emergencies, please call the following numbers:

(406) 728-0787 or bigskyattendance@mcpsmt.org (Attendance Office) or

(406) 728-2401 or dturner@mcpsmt.org (Central Office).

***Be sure to leave a message.**

Voicemails are checked often throughout each hour.

Student Parking Passes: Community safety is our top priority at Big Sky. As a result, **ALL** students who drive a vehicle to Big Sky are required to obtain and display a Big Sky Student Parking Pass in their vehicle.

Students may only park in the Student Lot or along the street where NO signs are posted and NOT in areas marked in yellow. Students are also allowed to park at the Fort Missoula parking lot across South Ave.

New passes were required beginning last year. Passes from previous years are no longer valid.

Returning drivers will continue to use their passes from last year. It must be visible on the rear-view mirror of your vehicle. New students & new drivers will have until 9/15 to obtain a parking pass. Passes are available in the main office before and after school, during lunch or between classes as time permits- no passes will be available during instructional time.

Parking tickets have increased to \$20 per incident. If you are issued a ticket, the student and parent will receive an email notice only and the fee will be added to your student account.

Information needed to obtain a pass: Student name, grade, cell phone number, vehicle make/model/license plate number. Students who do not currently have a license to operate a vehicle will not be eligible. It costs \$10 to replace a lost pass.

Students parked in student-designated parking areas without a parking pass will be issued warnings beginning the first day of school through September 15th. **Students are NOT allowed to park in the Main or South Staff/Visitor Parking Lot.**

Student vehicles found parked in areas that are not designated for students will be issued a \$20 ticket per incident. Students who continue to park at Big Sky without a parking pass or in areas that are not designated for students will risk being towed. Students who park illegally will be referred to the SRO for investigation and possible citation.

Chromebook Check-Out: Students are expected to bring a Chromebook or laptop to school every day, charged and ready to use. To check out a device from school, **please fill out the Acceptable Use Form** available through the [Parent Portal](#) on Infinite Campus after it

becomes available in the next few weeks. You can also get a paper copy from the Main Office or Library. Additionally, there is a \$35 device protection fee that is optional. If the fee is paid, there will be no charge if the Chromebook is lost, stolen or damaged. If the fee is not paid, the cost of the Chromebook is passed on to the student.

The Library will be checking out Chromebooks for students who have the 25-26' permission form on file on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, the first week of school from 8:05-8:35 a.m. and after school on Thursday (during early out).

Important information regarding the Infinite Campus Parent Portal:

Families will receive an email from the MCPS District Office within the next few weeks before school starts. The email will have important information and instructions on how to complete the **Annual Forms** online via the Parent Portal in Infinite Campus. This will include the Acceptable Use of Technology Agreement and the Annual Field Trip Consent Form along with other required documents to be completed. At that time, we will also have paper packets available to pick up in the main office.

For parents that have not set up their parent portal and need their access code, email dturner@mcpsmt.org or mcheyney@mcpsmt.org. If your student is coming in from out of the MCPS school district this year, make sure to change the district setting for your parent portal to Missoula Co Public Schls.

For parents that have set up their parent portal and require a password reset, please email dturner@mcpsmt.org.

Please become familiar with the [Big Sky High School Website](#). We keep this updated on a daily basis. Most everything you need to be aware of is on this site including the [BSHS Activity Calendar](#). This calendar will have activities listed including athletic events, music concerts, drama productions, etc. This letter is currently on the homepage which includes the referenced links.

Thank you again for supporting your child so that they have a successful start to their school year! We are a proud Big Sky community and look forward to having a great school year together! Again, don't hesitate to reach out if you have **ANY** questions.

Jennifer Courtney
Principal, jccourtney@mcpsmt.org