

East Helena Professional Development - 2025



Monday, June 9: 8:30-3:30 with Lunch 11:30-12:30 *June 9 and 10 may be taken for PIR or Pay, not both.

K-8 Math with Dr. Eliza Sorte-Thomas at EHHS in the Commons.

6-12 HMH Into Literature, Getting Started Session at EHHS in Jon Moore's room. *ELA Teachers

6-12 Fostering Positive Relationships: Overcoming Mindsets, De-escalation Strategies, and Building Therapeutic Rapport with Students with Ray Sebestyen at EHHS in the 227 Academy Room.

Tuesday, June 10: 8:30-3:30 with Lunch 11:30-12:30

K-12 Writing Rope with Genevieve Thomas at EHHS in the Commons.

Wednesday, June 11: 9:00-Noon PreK-12 Home Visit Training with Kim Metzger & Camy Dusenberry in the EHHS Library

Wednesday, June 11: 8:30-3:30 PreK World of Wonders with Shana Dachs in EG Library

	Monday, August 18	Tuesday, August 19	Wednesday, August 20	Thursday, August 21
8:30-11:30	<p>PreK-5 Character Strong with Shana Dachs in the EHHS 227 Academy Room.</p> <p>6-12 Empowering Educators with EdTech with Marne Bender, K.D. Jones,, and Whitney McLaughlin in the EHHS Library</p>	<p>PreK-5 Empowering Educators with EdTech with Marne Bender, K.D. Jones, and Whitney McLaughlin in the EHHS Library</p> <p>6-12 Reading, Writing, Socratic Seminars: Ideas for Engagement with Bret Charlton, Jana Nygaard, Jodi Wigen in EHHS 224</p>	<p>PreK-12 EdcampMT-West (FULL DAY)</p>	<p>PreK-12 New Teacher Day Part-1</p> <p>(FULL DAY for Non-tenured Teachers)</p>
	<p>PreK-5 Visual Phonics with Alissa Kline (*Limited to 25 Participants) in EHHS 223</p> <p>K-8 Strength-based Strategies for Neurodiverse Students with Katherine Senecal and Heather Countryman in EHHS Library</p> <p>4-12 Can Infinite Campus Replace Your Google Classroom? with Erik Pritchard in EHHS 224</p>	<p>3-8 "They Just Don't Get It!" A Cognitive Science Approach to Learning and Agency with Katherine Senecal in EHHS Library</p> <p>6- 12 Engaging Students in Reading and Writing using HMH Curriculum with Bret Charlton, Jana Nygaard, Jodi Wigen *ELA Teachers in EHHS 224</p>		<p>PreK-12 New Teacher Day Part-2</p> <p>PreK-12 *Calling all Mentors for the Afternoon of New Teacher Day</p>

Monday, August 24: TBD

Tuesday, August 25: Grades 3-8: Tier 1 and Tier 2 Behavior Management with Joe Moriarty 8:30 - 12:30

Workshop Descriptions

Monday, June 9: 8:30-3:30 with Lunch 11:30-12:30

K-8 Math with Dr. Eliza Sorte-Thomas at PPE: Join Eliza for a day of gearing up and gearing down to differentiate for your mathematical learners. In any given classroom, on any given day there are objectives that need to be met by learners with different needs and skills. Learn a "mindset" while doing activities and playing games to meet a variety of learners' needs by using the grade level's standards and your students' skills to adjust, adapt, and support achievement.

Participants will:

Work on building gearing up and gearing down steps to meet mathematical standards.

Play games and adjust them to meet the content and needs of their learners.

Reflect on structures, strategies, and activities so they are implementable in their educational setting.

6-12 HMH Into Literature, Getting Started Session at EHHS *ELA Teachers: In this session, participants will explore the essential components of Into Literature and its instructional model, walk through a lesson, and practice accessing key resources. They will engage with the colleagues on how to implement their new curriculum successfully and plan out pacing.

6-12 Fostering Positive Relationships: Overcoming Mindsets, De-escalation Strategies, and Building Therapeutic Rapport with Students with Ray Sebestyen at EHHS in the 227 Academy Room: This course is designed for educators, counselors, and other professionals working with students in diverse environments. The focus is on understanding and overcoming negative mindsets, implementing de-escalation techniques, and cultivating therapeutic rapport to create supportive, effective, and nurturing learning environments. Through interactive discussions, role-playing scenarios, and evidence-based practices, participants will gain the skills and knowledge needed to build strong, trusting relationships with students and address the unique challenges many face in school settings.

Tuesday, June 10: 8:30-3:30 with Lunch 11:30-12:30

K-12 Writing Rope with Genevieve Thomas at EHHS: This interactive workshop explores the importance of writing instruction and the research-based practices that support the development of students as writers across grade levels. Participants will deepen their understanding of The Writing Rope, a comprehensive framework for the essential components of effective writing instruction. Through engaging activities and collaborative learning, educators will examine best practices including teaching the writing process through a model-practice-reflect cycle, using mentor texts to highlight strong writing, and explicitly teaching sentence-level syntax. By the end of the session, participants will synthesize their learning and create a practical plan to integrate these strategies into their own instruction.

**June 9 and 10 may be taken for PIR or Pay, not both. Current staff registration for August 19-22 will be open until May 17.*

Wednesday, June 11:

9:00-Noon PreK-12 Home Visit Training with Kim Metzger & Camy Dusenberry in the EHHS Library: The workshop will address the benefits of home visits. We will discuss the positive purpose for home visits, the background of the program, how a home visit is conducted and what comes after the home visits. Want to learn more about the project but not sure if home visits are for you? No worries! Feel free to come and learn. By attending the training, you are not committing to participate in the program! However, home visits cannot be conducted without this training.

8:30-3:30 PreK World of Wonders with Shana Dachs in EG Library: Spend time learning about the new PreK program. We will explore its components, make connections to the Montana Early Learning Standards, and plan instruction.

Monday, August 18: 8:30am-11:30am

PreK-5 Character Strong with Shana Dachs in the EHHS 227 Academy Room: Do you want your students to grow in respect, responsibility, empathy, honesty and more? Character Strong is an evidence-based multi-tiered solution to support whole child success. We will explore how this can complement current practices including Conscious Discipline. Together, let's plan to increase social emotional learning for all students.

6-12 Empowering Educators with EdTech with Marne Bender, K.D. Jones, and Whitney McLaughlin in the EHHS Library: Explore innovative educational technology tools, the pros and cons of artificial intelligence in the classroom, engaging digital choice boards, and hands-on STEAM activities to enhance student learning and personalize instruction.

Monday, August 18: 12:30-3:30pm

PreK-5 Visual Phonics with Alissa Kline (*Limited to 25 Participants) in EHHS 223: Visual Phonics is a multi-sensory approach to teaching reading and writing. Hand gestures and symbols are used to represent the sounds of English. This approach can be used with beginning readers, struggling readers, Deaf/Hard-of-Hearing readers, and English Language Learners to support decoding and spelling skills which lead to increased reading comprehension and written communication.

K-8 Strength-based Strategies for Neurodiverse Students with Katherine Senecal and Heather Countryman in EHHS Library: In this session, participants will learn practical strength based strategies for neurodiverse students in the classroom. During this session, teachers will have a chance to find ways they can embed these strategies into everyday instruction, meet the needs of all learners and create an environment where they can thrive.

4-12 Can Infinite Campus Replace your Google Classroom? with Erik Pritchard in EHHS 224: To Infinite Campus, and Beyond! Improve your workflow by replacing Google Classroom with the Campus Learning feature in Infinite Campus. Despite a few warts, it may be a frog you're willing to kiss.

Tuesday, August 19: 8:30-11:30am

PreK-5 Empowering Educators with EdTech with Marne Bender, K.D. Jones, and Whitney McLaughlin in the EHHS Library: Explore innovative educational technology tools, the pros and cons of artificial intelligence in the classroom, engaging digital choice boards, and hands-on STEAM

activities to enhance student learning and personalize instruction.

6-12 Reading, Writing, Socratic Seminars: Ideas for Engagement with Bret Charlton, Jana Nygaard, Jodi Wigen in EHHS 224: Engaging students is a priority in education. What ideas can be used to encourage your students to read, write and speak effectively? This session will include various engagement strategies that all teachers can use regardless of their curriculum area. Topics that will be discussed and experienced include the Writing Marathon and Socratic Seminars. Join Bret, Jana and Jodi as they share strategies they learned while attending the National Council of Teachers of English this last fall.

Tuesday, August 19: 12:30-3:30pm

3-8 "They Just Don't Get It!" A Cognitive Science Approach to Learning and Agency with Katherine Senecal in EHHS Library: Join me for an engaging session that will explore the fascinating cognitive science behind learning and the powerful teaching strategies that can elevate understanding and empower student agency. When students take control of their own learning, it can lead to remarkable improvements in their achievement. We will uncover dynamic strategies designed to actively engage students and allow them to truly internalize new concepts. Get ready to discover transformative methods that can make a profound difference in student learning and success!

6-12 Engaging Students in Reading and Writing using HMH Curriculum with Bret Charlton, Jana Nygaard, Jodi Wigen *ELA Teachers in EHHS 224: During this session we will support ELA teachers in their use of HMH. We will create a common language when teaching writing and reading strategies and ensure we are in alignment from 6th grade to 12th grade. Other topics that will be covered will be planning for accommodating students with IEPs or 504 plans, pacing, and other resources.

Wednesday, August 20: 8:30am-3:30pm

K-12 EdcampMT-West: Edcamp-MT West, also known as the "unconference", is a free, open, participant-driven conference. The content and schedule will be proposed and provided by the participants and is determined on the day of the event. Edcamp is comprised of flexible, discussion-based topics which rely heavily on the passions and interests of the participants. Edcamp is intended to cover all curricular areas and age-groups. Edcamp will put "learning" at center stage and look at the "Why" "What" "How" of pedagogy. Technology, apps, and tools will be a thread discussed by providing ways in which we, as instructors, incorporate technology into learning and pedagogy.

Thursday, August 21: 8:30am-3:30pm

K-12 New Teacher Day! *Full Day for non-tenured teachers.

Thursday, August 21: 12:30-3:30pm

K-12 Calling all Mentors for the Afternoon of New Teacher Day: Mentoring partnerships have many benefits for both mentees and mentors. We will spend time getting to know each other, setting goals, and collaborating about how to make mentoring a powerful professional learning experience. Also spend time as a mentor/mentee team preparing for a great start to the school year. This is designed for teachers 2 years and under in-district and their mentor teachers.

*Additional one hour sessions for mentees and mentors will be scheduled after school throughout the school year. Topics may be building specific and adjusted with mentor and mentee feedback. This time will be worth an additional 3 hours of PIR for mentees and mentors. Sessions will be scheduled October, February, and April.

Examples of topics may include, but are not limited to:

October- Conscious Discipline quick look (K-5); using data and formative assessments to drive instruction; behavior management strategies

February - Celebrate successes and identify areas of growth opportunity; Parent teacher conference preparation and tips; midyear data review

April- End of year data; Finishing the year strong; setting goals for next year.