

# A CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE HELENA EDUCATION FOUNDATION



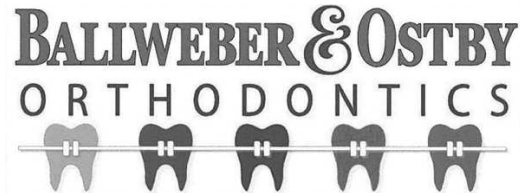
HONORING **DISTINGUISHED SCHOLARS** AND **ACHIEVERS**  
AND THE **DISTINGUISHED EDUCATORS** WHO INSPIRED THEM



# A CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE HELENA EDUCATION FOUNDATION

## THANK YOU TO OUR EVENT SPONSORS:



**Timothy C. Ballweber, D.D.S., M.S.**



## THANK YOU TO THE 2017 CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE TABLE SPONSORS:

Anderson ZurMuehlen & Co. PC  
Ed and Mary Barrett  
Merwin and Sandra Barrows  
John and Jennifer Bloomquist  
Loren and Susan Blossom  
Jim and Laura Brown  
Browning, Kaleczyc, Berry and Hoven, P.C.  
Jack and Penny Copps  
Crowley Fleck, PLLP  
Corey and Darci Crum

Mark and Lynn Etchart  
"The Family"  
Jeff and Libby Goldes  
Helena Education Association  
Helena Exchange Club  
Kelly and Colin Irvine  
Rick Johnson  
Jason and Sarah Loble  
Todd and Libbi Lovshin  
McDonald's

Tim and Dana Meldrum  
Montana Eyecare  
Montana Federation of Public Employees  
Montana's Credit Unions  
Mountain West Bank Endowment  
Robert Peccia and Associates  
Bill and Barb Ridgway  
Rotary Club of Helena  
Bob Rowe and Melanie Reynolds  
St. Peter's Health

Sarah Scott  
Shodair Children's Hospital  
Harnek Singh and Ishinder Kaur  
Spieker Sprinklers  
Sullivan Financial Group  
Tempest Technologies  
Dale Tig Vernon (Uncle Dale)  
Ron Waterman  
Robert and Kimberly Worthy  
Xylem Dewatering Inc.

**HELENA  
EDUCATION  
FOUNDATION  
STAFF**

Lisa Cordingley  
*Executive Director*

Teresa Geremia-  
Chart  
*Development Director*

Alexandra Ohman  
*Program Coordinator*

**HELENA  
EDUCATION  
FOUNDATION  
BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS**

Jenny Bloomquist  
*President*

Corey Crum  
*President-Elect*

Jason Loble  
*Secretary*

Kyle Spencer  
*Treasurer*

Audrey Barber  
*HHS board representative*

Merwin Barrows

Susan Blossom

Jack Copps  
*Superintendent of Schools  
-ex officio*

Helen Christensen

Lynn Etchart

Kelly Irvine

Kendra Lenhardt

Tim Lynch

Tim Meldrum

Tasha Peterson  
*CHS board representative*

**HELENA  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF  
TRUSTEES  
2018-2019**

Sarah Sullivan  
*Chair*

Terry Beaver  
*Vice Chair*

Tyler Emmert

Libby Goldes

Karen Goldsberry

Jeff Hindoien

Luke Muszkiewicz

Sanjay Talwani

Jordan Straub  
*HHS Student Representative*

Francie Tupper  
*CHS Student Representative*

Jennifer Walsh

**HELENA  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
ADMINISTRATION**

Jack Copps  
*Superintendent of Schools*

Wynn Randall  
*Principal, Project for  
Alternative Learning*

Steve Thennis  
*Principal,  
Helena High School*

Brett Zanto  
*Principal,  
Capital High School*



**HELENA  
EDUCATION FOUNDATION**

**CONNECTIONS**

The Helena Education Foundation (HEF) serves as an important link between community and public education. HEF provides support for teachers, and programs that enrich academic opportunities for the over 8,000 K-12th grade students in Helena's schools. Central to HEF's impact and success is the understanding that excellent public schools forge healthy communities—places where we all want to live, work and play.

**PROGRAMS**

HEF's programs benefit students, teachers, parents, administrators and the community. No doubt, you or someone you know, has been impacted by our work.

■ **Carnival Classic** kicks off each school year with a community-wide event.

■ **Fabulous Firsts** gives to every incoming first grader (over 600), an award-winning, hard cover book of his or her own.

■ **Great Conversations** provides a night of thought-provoking conversation about relevant topics to promote lifelong learning.

■ **Great Ideas Grants** awards more than \$40,000 annually to teachers for innovative classroom projects.

■ **Celebration of Excellence** honors distinguished graduating scholars, achievers and their teachers—celebrating excellence, drive and leadership.

■ **Vigilante Academy** provides community volunteer opportunities to high school students.

■ **Trading Places** fosters understanding and collaboration by linking community and school leaders.

■ **Let's Talk About Great Teachers** acknowledges, at the Great Conversations event, those special teachers who make a difference in the lives of our children every day.

■ **Issues Institutes** provide a forum for Helena public school teachers, students and community members to learn from leading professionals around the country. Recently, HEF aired *Chasing the Dragon* and hosted a panel of experts to discuss opioid addiction with high school students as well as the community.

■ **Harrison Writing Awards** focus on the importance of writing skills and recognize outstanding young writers with cash awards.

■ **Pen & Ink magazine** features the creative work of student writers and artists.

**STRUCTURE**

The Helena Education Foundation:

▶ Is a 501(c)3 tax exempt charity and philanthropic organization of local citizens independent of the Helena Public School District but one that is complementary and collaborative with it.

▶ Works to increase private support for public education above and beyond that which is constitutionally mandated and provided.

▶ Serves as a catalyst and funding source for new and innovative ideas, programs and education methods.

▶ Relies on donations to fund ongoing work and to provide new programs to meet the emerging needs of our students and community.

▶ Strives for excellence in organizational practices through a community representative board of directors, and systems that adhere to governance best practices and procedures for thoughtful, responsible and efficient stewardship of the generous contributions we receive from our community.

▶ Is recognized as a leader and mentor among education foundations throughout the state of Montana.

# 2017-2018 FUND DRIVE PARTNERS

We are deeply grateful for these generous businesses and donors who support the Helena Education Foundation and public education in our community.

*This list reflects gifts received from May 1, 2017 through May 8, 2018*

The greatest care was taken to ensure the accuracy of this donor roll; if an error has occurred, please contact us at 406.443.2545 so we may correct it.

\* Denotes a Helena Public School District employee   ★   \*\* Denotes a current HEF Board member   ★   \*\*\* Denotes both

## DIAMOND PARTNER

Dr. Timothy C. Ballweber, D.D.S. MS  
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Montana  
Cordillera Communications  
Tom and Lisa Cordingley  
Montana Radio Company  
Reach Higher Montana  
Verizon  
Ron Waterman

Carroll College  
Christensen & Prezeau, PLLP  
Crowley Fleck, PLLP  
Corey\*\* and Darci Crum  
D.A. Davidson  
Dowl, LLC  
Enterprise Holdings  
Mark and Lynn\*\* Etchart  
Keith and Susan Foster  
McDonald's,  
Terry and Somer Gauthier  
Jeff and Libby Goldes, M.D.  
Rick and Jane Hays  
Helena Kiwanis Foundation  
Colin and Kelly\*\* Irvine  
Dianne Kuehn  
Jason\*\* and Sarah Loble  
Todd and Libbi Lovshin  
Jeff and Perri May  
Tim\*\* and Dana\* Meldrum  
Keith and Katie Meyer  
Montana Book & Toy Company

Brian Morris and Cherche Prezeau  
Morrison-Maierle, Inc.  
Mosaic Architecture, PC  
Northrop Grumman  
NorthWestern Energy  
Shawn and Lisa Peterson  
Mary Louise Rankin  
Barb\* and Bill Ridgway  
Robert Peccia & Associates  
Abigail St. Lawrence  
Tim Speyer  
Valley Bank  
Duane and Sue Wright

## SAPPHIRE PARTNER

Merwin\*\* and Sandra Barrows  
The Base Camp  
Loren and Susan\*\* Blossom  
Browning, Kaleczyc, Berry & Hoven, Inc.  
Bullock Construction Services  
Donna Burgess  
John Chart\* and Teresa Geremia-Chart  
Jack\*\*\* and Penny Copps  
Mary Jane Davidson  
"The Family"  
Ellen and Eric Feaver

Helena Education Association  
Helena Exchange Club  
Hindoien for School Board  
Marilyn Hudson  
Rick E. Johnson  
Luxan & Murfitt, PLLP  
Sherry J. Meador  
Mike and Kathy Sampson, Montana Broom and Brush  
Montana's Credit Unions  
Montana Eyecare  
Montana Federation of Public Employees  
Jeff and Jeannie Morrison  
Mountain West Bank Endowment  
Susan Nimick  
Opportunity Bank  
Pepsi Cola of Helena  
Steven and Christi Pilcher  
Joan and Charles Rolling  
Rotary Club of Helena  
Bob Rowe and Melanie Reynolds  
St. Peter's Health  
Jerry and Sandra Sept  
Shodair Children's Hospital  
Harnek Singh and Ishinder Kaur  
Smitty's Fireplace Shop  
Spieker Sprinklers  
Peter Sullivan and Barbara Harris  
Tom and Scottie Trebon  
Uncle Dale Tig Vernon  
Robert and Kimberly Worthly  
Xylem Dewatering Inc.  
Yes! for Helena's Schools

## AMETHYST PARTNER

Art and Kareen Bangert  
Terry and Patty Beaver  
Lona Carter  
Chapter AO PEO  
K. Mitchell Cooper, DDS  
Mike and Pat Cotter  
Craig Crawford\*  
Loren Davis,  
Davis Business Machines  
Ken and Liz Eden  
Tom Kerr, Edward Jones  
Ray Flaherty and Lisa Larsen  
Karen and Garry Hicks  
Laura Holmes  
Brooke Hunter

Chuck Johnson and Patricia Hunt  
Blair and Gretchen Krumm  
Rob and Melanie LaClair  
Jesse and Jill Laslovich  
Ronald Lee  
Tom and Janet Lipp  
John and Katherine Lynch  
Mike and Renee McMahon  
Toni and Bob Person  
Alicia Pichette  
Dave Pillatzke  
Andrea and Mark Scherting  
Grant and Margaret Stiffler  
Jack Stults and Daphne Crosbie  
Mark and Susan\* Sweeney  
Vanessa Sybert  
Dana Toole  
Sarah Urban\*  
Margaret Woo  
Steve and Beth Yeakel

## BRONZE PARTNER

Andy and Marika Adamek  
Pam\* and Jeff Aldrich  
Gene and Bev Allen  
American Chemet  
John and Nina Baucus  
Dianne L. Beaman  
Sara Berg  
Jock and Tere Bovington  
Charles Bozdog  
Jan Brown  
Erik and Shannon Brown  
Carol Bruderer  
Shawn and Lynn\* Bubb  
Norma and Gary Buchanan  
Todd and Brooke Buchanan  
Pam Bucy  
Steve and Lisa Bullock  
Burke Family  
Clay\* and Alesa Burkett  
Art and Amie Butler  
Allen and Kathy Chambers  
Carolyn Clemens  
Carol Clifford and Edward Thomson  
Kahlee Marina Dalton\*  
Joslyn Davidson\*  
Bruce and Catherine Day  
Nikki and Denny DesRosier

Energy Laboratories  
Susan Epstein and Spencer Shropshire  
Dr. Mike and Diane Carlson Evans  
Robert and Erin Farris-Olsen  
Fred and Judy Flanders  
Moffie Funk  
Loretta Lynde and Bob Fusie  
John Galt and Kelly Minehan Galt  
Ghost Art Gallery  
Beverly Gibson  
Heidi Goettel and Bob Cochran  
Michael Green and Kiely Keane  
Loren and Cynthia Gustafson  
Phil and Karry Hauck  
Elizabeth Heiser\*  
Scott and Gretchen Hibbard  
Ralph and Billie Higgins  
Philip Hohenlohe and Andrea Rankin  
Mary Ellen Holverson and Matthew Cohn

Andy Hunthausen and Pam Ponich  
Dr. Deb Jacobsen\*  
Ed and Bobbi Jasmin  
Deb Johnson  
Mary I. Johnson  
Stan and Holly Kaleczyc  
Marjorie Keilman  
Kenneth Larson and Linda Adams  
Bill and Babs Leaphart  
Amos R. Little, III  
Bonnie Lorang  
Tim\*\* and Piper Lynch  
Arnold and Donna Sue Lyon  
John J. and Linda McCluskey  
Padraic McCracken and Nisan Burbridge  
Jane McDonald\*  
John McEwen and Mary Musil  
Carol McKerrow and Don Harriott  
Rebecca McLaughlin  
Dan and Marcy McLean  
Eugene and Margaret McMahon  
Mary Ann Marshall  
Jeannie and Doug Matthies  
Marcia Maynard  
Patty Mazurek

Judy and Bruce Meadows  
Chris and Marcia Miller  
Julie\* and Doug Mitchell  
Paul and Orpha Montgomery  
Louise Moore and Hal Aasen  
Claudia and Ron Morley  
Ken and Sherry Morrison  
John Mott and Elaine Spino  
Jonathan and Dana Nehring  
Dale and Dawn Newell  
Sue O'Connell and Mike Dennison  
Sandra Olsen  
Tom Pedersen and Rebecca Fletcher  
Lawrence K. Pettit  
Chris Phelps and Peggy Hollow-Phelps  
Mick Plovanic  
Poo Putsch  
Rick Pyfer, Doubek Pyfer & Fox Law Firm  
Nick Radley\*  
Marie Rauch\*  
Realty 406, LLC  
Jim Reynolds and Niki Whearty  
Jim and Sherry Rickman  
William C. Roberts  
Kay and Joe Robertson  
Judy and Darrell Rud  
Karl Rude, Health Management Services  
Kay Satre and Tim Meloy  
Berma Saxton  
Doug and Cathy Shenkle  
Dr. Robert M. and Ms. Billie Shepard  
A.L. and Kimmy Skiftun  
Luanne and John Smith  
Ellen and Dominick Speranza  
Bill and Danette Sprinkle  
Students of Four Georgians Elementary  
C.E. Vicki Smith  
Telecom Pioneers  
Steve\* and Anna\* Thennis  
Ryan and Emily Thiessen  
Norma Tirrell  
Glenda Truesdell  
Gary and Donna Turcott  
Valley Sand and Gravel  
Patrick and Joni Walton  
Patty White

## RUBY PARTNER

Allegiance Benefit Plan Management, Inc.  
Allegra Marketing, Print, Mail, Kyle\*\* and Jonette Spencer  
Chris and Helen\*\* Christensen  
Mike and Chelsey Frank  
Health Care Services Corporation  
Helena Independent Record  
Mark and Sheri Johnston  
Alan and Nancy Nicholson  
Sodexo, Inc.  
William and Judy Walter

## EMERALD PARTNER

John and Jennifer\*\* Bloomquist  
Luke Duran, Element L Design  
First Interstate Bank  
Jerry Foley  
PayneWest Insurance  
Don Pogreba\*  
Sarah Scott  
Sullivan Financial Group, Inc  
Tempest Technologies  
Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation

## SILVER PARTNER

Ginger and Michael Agee  
Anderson ZurMuehlen and Employee Benefit Resources  
Anonymous  
Anonymous  
Helen and Bill Ballinger  
Edward and Mary Barrett  
Ron and Connie Bergum  
Best Western Premier  
Helena Great Northern Hotel  
Jim and Laura Brown

Bruce Whittenberg  
Cory Wood  
Kendra Younker  
Hugh and Karen Zackheim  
Brett Zanto\*

### FRIENDS OF THE FOUNDATION

Julie Abrahamsen and Bruce Haswell  
Bob and Carolyn Adams  
Charlie and Marianne Adams  
Bonnie Adee and Frank Crowley  
Justine Alberts\*  
Amazon Smile  
Chuck and Lana Anderson  
Vicki Anfinson  
Mr. and Mrs. Angove  
Mary A. Arnold  
Deb Bakke  
Ashley Basten  
Diane and Mike Bayuk  
Jane Benson  
Big Sky Cyclery  
Kristin Bishop  
David Boggs  
Bonnie Bowler  
Stan and Glenda Bradshaw  
Marie Brazier  
Ann Brodsky  
Amber Paige Byrd\*  
Candace Cain  
Jim and Nancy Campbell  
Ed Beall  
Maggi and Tom Corbett  
Christopher Cordingley  
Kaetlyn Cordingley  
George Cornelius  
John and Melinda Cummings  
Carol Ann Dagenais  
David and Julie Curd  
Ken and Joanne\* Didriksen  
Curt and Colleen Drake  
Leo and Luci Dutton  
Gretchen Edelen  
Kelley Edwards\* and Errol Rice

Jane L. Ehlang  
Mary Jo Engle  
Ralph Esposito  
Carol Ferguson  
Robert Funk and Julie Boehm  
Joe and Anna Furshong  
Chad\* and Cindy\* Galbavy  
John\* and Mary Ann George  
Duane H. Harp and Elizabeth L. Poletti  
C.W. and Lynda Hatveldt  
Helena Baseball Club  
Patricia Hennessey  
Annie and David Hull  
John Ilgenfritz and Sheena Wilson  
Kathy and Don Judge  
Daniel Kaberline and Sharon Heigh  
Dorothy Kendall  
Lance and Kathy\* Kidder  
Randall LeCocq and Sheri Sprigg  
Becca Leaphart\* and Ben Brouwer  
Bob Levitan and Nola Freestone  
John and Lisa\* Lowney  
Marie McAlear  
Ruth McArdle  
Dennis and Janel McCall  
Gerald McCarthy  
Marjorie McGinley  
Steve Maly and Alice Stanley  
Steve and Sunny Ray Mandeville  
Mark Meloy  
John and Lori Michelotti  
Montana Shares  
Sally Mueller and Richard Opper  
Jim Mullins and Lynn Hinch  
John and Gwynn Munding  
Dianne Nickman  
Margie Opitz  
Bruce and Lisa Parker  
Pierce and Associates Builders, LLC  
Kally and Phil Porrini  
Gene and Kathy Prendergast

Edwin Pryor  
Madalyn Quinlan  
Dennis Quinn and Joseph Sanchez  
Margaret Regan  
Julie and Hal Robbins  
Emelia Satre  
Will Sebern  
William and Mary Jo Seel  
Gayle Gibbons Shanahan  
Tedra and Don Skaar  
Connie Skiftun  
Donald Skillman  
Susan Steffens  
Ward Stiles  
Patrick Sullivan and Mary Gilchrist  
Robert Swartout  
Rudy and Teresa Tomich  
United Way of Lewis & Clark Area  
M. Carla Wambach  
Wells Fargo Fuller Team  
Gregg and Wendy Wheeler  
Jennifer Wintersteen  
Rich Wirak  
Chad and Teri Wright

### MONTANA STATE AND FEDERAL EMPLOYEES GIVING CAMPAIGN

HEF would also like to recognize and thank the following state and federal employees who gave through the State and Federal Employees Giving Campaign, as well as employees who contributed through SFEFGC, but elected not to be acknowledged by name.

Carol Bearden  
Jessica Heller  
Julie Johnson  
Brenda Koch  
Thomas Livers  
Bobbi Sue Mickelson  
Brenda Nordlund  
Karen Amy Pfeifer  
Mark Stiffer  
Elizabeth Lodman Stine

### .PAYING IT FORWARD: HELENA HIGH CLASS OF 1962

HEF is grateful to the members of the Helena High Class of 1962 who, in celebration of their 50th class reunion, contributed funds to HEF for *Great Ideas Grants* for the benefit of their younger Helena High classmates for years to come. The following contributed this year:

Kenneth Larson and Linda Adams  
Mary Ann Marshall  
William and Judy Walter

### HONORING OTHERS

*In honor of Jim and Laura Brown*  
David and Julie Curd  
*In honor of Lynn Bubb*  
William and Mary Jo Seel  
*In honor of Kathi Cates*  
Sarah Scott  
*In honor of Helen and Chris Christensen*  
Donna Sue and Arnold Matthies  
Mick Plovanic  
*In honor of John and Cheri Dahl, 50th Wedding Anniversary*  
Jan Brown  
*In honor of Robert Peccia*  
Valley Bank  
*In honor of Sarah Sullivan*  
Norma Tirrell  
*In honor of Katy Wright*  
Laura Holmes

### MEMORIALS

*In Memory of Jeannie Bloomquist*  
Art and Kareen Bangert  
*In memory of Helen Christensen*  
Chris and Susan Ames  
Micki and Bob Bennett  
John and Jennifer Bloomquist  
Jan Brown  
John Chart and Teresa Geremia-Chart  
Paulette Cochenour  
Edward and Sandra Collett  
Larry and Kathy Curran  
Mike Dalton  
Erin Drynan  
Stuart and Carol Ellison  
Fred and Judy Flanders  
Aggie Frankino  
Doug and Vicki Friez  
Mary Driscoll Giblin and Bernice Driscoll  
Mike Green and Kiely Keane  
Brendan and Joan Murphy  
Bruce Nelson and Nancy Kaiser Nelson  
Chris Phelps and Peggy Hollow-Phelps  
Gary and Denise Smigaj  
Grant and Margaret Stiffler  
Herbert and Ladean Walberg  
*In Memory of Barb Miller Cooper*  
Marjorie McGinley  
Steve and Sunny Ray Mandeville  
Keith and Katie Meyer  
*In memory of Gary Davis*  
Luxan & Murfitt, PLLP  
*In memory of Sarah Etchart*  
Rick and Jane Hays  
Bill and Babs Leapheart  
*In memory of Kay Forsman*  
Keith and Katie Meyer  
*In memory of Judy Harding*  
Keith and Katie Meyer  
*In memory of Bob Jewell*  
Keith and Katie Meyer  
*In memory of Llo Kailey*  
Art and Kareen Bangert  
*In memory of Gladys Kauffman*  
Keith and Katie Meyer  
*In memory of John MacKinnon*  
Julie Abrahamsen and Bruce Haswell  
*In memory of Carol Martin*  
Allen and Kathy Chambers  
Keith and Katie Meyer  
*In memory of Hans Martin*  
Keith and Katie Meyer  
*In memory of Deener and Don Mennenga*  
Dr. Deb Jacobsen  
*In memory of Helen Mueller*  
Art and Kareen Bangert  
*In memory of Nancy Oliveria*  
Crowley Fleck, PLLP  
Sherry J. Meador  
Karl Rude, Health Management Services  
*In memory of Mary Immacolata Pine*  
Art and Kareen Bangert  
*In memory of Michael Rieley*  
Art and Kareen Bangert  
*In memory of Dolly K. Tracy*  
Art and Kareen Bangert  
*In memory of Michelle Cotter Tuchscherer*  
Bill and Barb Ridgway  
*In memory of Lisa Verzani*  
Art and Kareen Bangert  
*In memory of Mignon Waterman*  
John and Jennifer Bloomquist  
Jeff and Jeannie Morrison  
Toni and Bob Person

### TO MAKE A DONATION:

HEF, governed by a community representative Board of Directors, is a thoughtful, responsible and efficient steward of donations received, and values transparency and trust. The Foundation is a legally incorporated, non-profit charitable and educational corporation in the State of Montana. Its status as a 501(c)(3) foundation allows it to receive and distribute funds, property and gifts of any kind for the benefit of public schools located in Helena. It also maintains a qualified endowment. Planned gifts are eligible for the Montana State Tax Credit. For more information about making a donation, contact Lisa Cordingley, Executive Director, at **406.443.2545** or at **hef@mt.net**, or donations can be made online at **www.hefmt.org**.





**Great schools** are everyone's business

## **WELCOME TO A CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE!**

A Celebration of Excellence provides public recognition of extraordinary public school students and outstanding educators. By honoring achievements of these individuals, the Foundation:

- Demonstrates community appreciation for the efforts of public school students, educators and parents;
- Acknowledges the critical partnership among schools, home, business and the community;
- Provides a positive reinforcement for younger students and a goal for which they can strive; and;
- Involves the community and business in building awareness and confidence in our public schools.

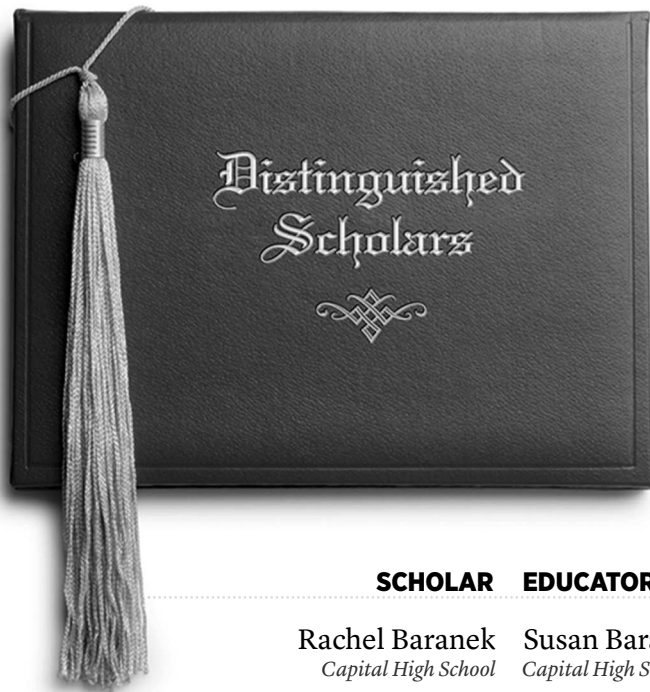
---

### **STUDENTS**

*A Celebration of Excellence* recognizes exceptional students who have demonstrated their efforts in the classroom, school and in the community day after day, year after year. Distinguished Scholars were selected on the basis of criteria developed by high school students, teachers and administrators, including grade point average; number of honors, advanced placement and other higher level courses; total credit hours; activities; and community service. High school teachers nominated Distinguished Achievers based on excellence in a specific curricular area, leadership, service or overcoming obstacles to achievement.

### **EDUCATORS**

*A Celebration of Excellence* honors the Distinguished Educators. Each student identified an educator to recognize who has had a significant, positive impact on his or her life and wrote a short message about why that educator was selected. The Helena Education Foundation salutes these fine educators and thanks them for sharing their talents, knowledge, creativity and love of learning with our youth. They make a difference in our schools and community, one student and one class at a time.



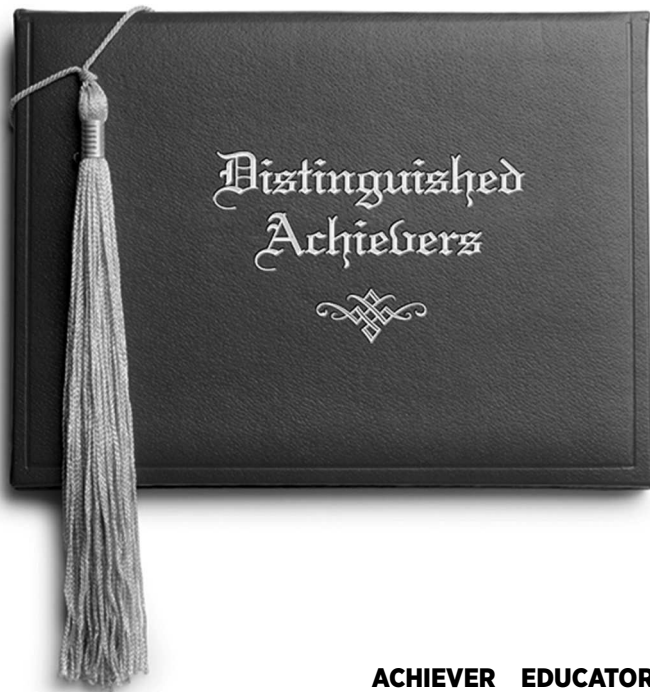
**Distinguished Scholars** were selected on the basis of criteria developed by high school students, teachers and administrators, including grade point average; number of honors, advanced placement and other higher level courses; total credit hours; activities and community service.

**SCHOLAR EDUCATOR**

Rachel Baranek <i>Capital High School</i>	Susan Baranek <i>Capital High School</i>
Audrey Barber <i>Helena High School</i>	Emily Petrik <i>Helena High School</i>
Christopher Bokovoy <i>Helena High School</i>	Rob Loveridge <i>Helena High School</i>
Hunter Boles <i>Capital High School</i>	Kent Haab <i>Capital High School</i>
Jacob Bubb <i>Capital High School</i>	Ed Darfler <i>Capital High School, retired</i>
Emily Burke <i>Capital High School</i>	Jay Partridge <i>Capital High School</i>
Marie Curtis <i>Capital High School</i>	Kevin Cleary <i>CR Anderson Middle School</i>
Hanna Dartman <i>Helena High School</i>	Susan Bartels <i>Helena High School</i>
Konnor Donaldson <i>Helena High School</i>	John George <i>Helena High School</i>
Kyer Frederick <i>Capital High School</i>	Sandy Jones <i>Four Georgians Elementary</i>
Grace Ludlow <i>Capital High School</i>	Kathryn Haddock <i>CR Anderson Middle School</i>
Leanna Markovics <i>Helena High School</i>	Ryan Schulte <i>Helena High School</i>
Jessica Maynard <i>Capital High School</i>	Dennis Peterson <i>Capital High School</i>
Jacob Michaletz <i>Capital High School</i>	Henry Langreder <i>Capital High School</i>
Elliott Pryor <i>Capital High School</i>	DeLacey Humbert <i>Capital High School</i>
Dane Rieger <i>Helena High School</i>	Scott Evans <i>Helena High School</i>

**SCHOLAR EDUCATOR**

Elizabeth Rigby <i>Helena High School</i>	Andrew Roberts <i>Helena Middle School</i>
Meghan Robinson <i>Capital High School</i>	Leslie Hagenruber <i>CR Anderson Middle School</i>
Hannah Rohrer-Fitzhugh <i>Capital High School</i>	Karry Hauck <i>Four Georgians Elementary, retired</i>
Anna Romero <i>Capital High School</i>	Rebecca Leaphart <i>Capital High School</i>
Gunter Roylance <i>Helena High School</i>	Don Pogreba <i>Helena High School</i>
Celina Sanchez <i>Capital High School</i>	Tanner Duncan <i>Capital High School</i>
Meriwether Schroeer-Smith <i>Helena High School</i>	Rich Wirak <i>Jefferson Elementary, retired</i>
Alexander Seburn <i>Helena High School</i>	Clay Burkett <i>Helena High School</i>
Devin Seyler <i>Helena High School</i>	Ted Polette <i>Clancy School, retired</i>
Emma Sihler <i>Helena High School</i>	Julie Ladd <i>Helena High School</i>
Jaskrit Singh <i>Capital High School</i>	Duane Zehr <i>Capital High School</i>
Cody Tofflemire <i>Capital High School</i>	Sarah Urban <i>Capital High School</i>
Alana Tonidandel <i>Capital High School</i>	Amy VanDam <i>Capital High School</i>
Frances Tupper <i>Capital High School</i>	Matt Lyng <i>Capital High School</i>
Aloura Tyler <i>Helena High School</i>	Molly Steele <i>Helena High School</i>
Bryndon Wilkerson <i>Helena High School</i>	Kara Nelson <i>Montana City School</i>



High school teachers nominated **Distinguished Achievers** based on excellence in a specific curricular area, leadership, overcoming obstacles to achievement, or service.

**ACHIEVER EDUCATOR**

Ciarra Apodaca <i>Capital High School</i>	Cory Chenoweth <i>Capital High School, TRIO Upward Bound</i>
Andrew Bugni <i>Capital High School</i>	Jim Weber <i>Capital High School</i>
Shelly Charles <i>Project for Alternative Learning</i>	Renee Driessen <i>Project for Alternative Learning</i>
Tye Cumley <i>Helena High School</i>	Cindy Galbavy <i>Helena High School</i>
Hannah Dreesbach <i>Capital High School</i>	Jodi Delaney <i>Broadwater Elementary</i>
William DuBray <i>Helena High School</i>	Jeff Sykes <i>Helena High School</i>
Asher Easterby <i>Capital High School</i>	Bob Pearce <i>Capital High School</i>
Lové Howe <i>Helena High School</i>	Joan Leik <i>Helena High School</i>
Damon Ingolia <i>Project for Alternative Learning</i>	Emily Currier <i>CR Anderson Middle School</i>
Delaney Knudson <i>Capital High School</i>	Helen Bosch <i>Capital High School</i>

**ACHIEVER EDUCATOR**

Makenzi Long <i>Helena High School</i>	Mike Agostinelli <i>East Valley Middle School</i>
Samantha Matteucci <i>Helena High School</i>	Patty Buckley <i>Radley Elementary, retired</i>
Konner McKay <i>Helena High School</i>	Michelle Johnson <i>Helena Middle School</i>
Lillian Mitchell <i>Capital High School</i>	Genevieve Anderson <i>Capital High School</i>
Gage Pierson <i>Helena High School</i>	Ty Ridgeway <i>East Valley Middle School</i>
Connor Poppe <i>Capital High School</i>	Ryan Hanson <i>Capital High School</i>
Mackenna Schmolke <i>Helena High School</i>	Jonna Schwartz <i>Helena High School</i>
Kelsey Soltis <i>Helena High School</i>	Samantha Humphrey <i>Helena High School</i>
Abigail Stiffler <i>Capital High School</i>	Sid Burgess <i>Hawthorne Elementary, retired</i>
Sarah Swingley <i>Capital High School</i>	Christina Sieminski <i>Capital High School</i>



## CIARRA APODACA

### PARENTS

Kim Bradford

### COMMUNITY SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES

Cheer

Upward Bound

Student Council

National Honor Society

Travel Club

Art Club

### PLANS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

Attend the University of Montana to study communication and global humanities

### DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR

## Cory Chenoweth

*Capital High School*  
*TRIO/Upward Bound*



### DISTINGUISHED STUDENT

## Ciarra Apodaca

*Capital High School*



I first met Cory Chenoweth when I was a weary and timid freshman. Within weeks of MT Tech Trio Upward Bound summer program, I had quickly become a critical thinker, community member, and “sass master.” Cory helped instill a sense of confidence and capability within me that I never had before. I am now enrolled to go to college and earn a degree; two goals I never thought I would achieve. Thank you, Mr. Chenoweth, for believing in me when I wouldn’t and paving pathways for my dreams when I couldn’t.



## RACHEL BARANEK

### PARENTS

Douglas Baranek

Susan Baranek

### COMMUNITY SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES

Green Club Vice President

Orchestra

Cross Country

National Honor Society

Youth leader at  
Our Redeemer’s Lutheran Church

### PLANS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

Attend Montana State University to pursue a degree in cell biology and neuroscience

### DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR

## Susan Baranek

*Capital High School*



### DISTINGUISHED STUDENT

## Rachel Baranek

*Capital High School*



From day one, I knew that Mrs. Baranek was going to be the best teacher I’d ever have. My initial intuition has proven true for eighteen years. She taught me how to behave morally, take pride in my work, and overcome any obstacles. After being homeschooled for seven years, I thought I had learned everything she could teach me. Last year she was my official English teacher and I discovered how wrong I was. I hope that I continue to learn from her my entire life. Thank you, Mom.

## AUDREY BARBER

### PARENTS

Denise Barber

Jeff Barber

### COMMUNITY SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES

National Honor Society

HHS student representative for the  
Helena Education Foundation

Link Crew

Outdoors Club

Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA)

Student Council

Track and Field

Waitress at Bullman's Wood Fired Pizza

Daycare volunteer at Florence Crittenton

### PLANS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

Attend Western Washington University to  
study pre-medicine and modern languages  
with a concentration in Spanish

### DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR

## Emily Petrik

*Helena High School*



### DISTINGUISHED STUDENT

## Audrey Barber

*Helena High School*



Miss Petrik embodies what it means to be a teacher, not only inside the classroom but outside as well. She brings amazing energy and positivity to class each day. Her passion for studying the history, culture, and meaning behind the Spanish language is what makes her class so unique and effective. Her class has not only influenced my decision on my major in college, but the content that we have studied has truly helped me become more aware of the world around me. I am forever grateful for the opportunity to have had Miss Petrik as a teacher.



## HANNA DARTMAN

### PARENTS

Jack Dartman

Kate Dartman

### COMMUNITY SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES

Health Occupations Students  
of America (HOSA)

Outdoors Club

Student Council

Tennis

Intern at Apex Animal Hospital

### PLANS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

Attend Montana State University to study  
pre-veterinary medicine

### DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR

## Susan Bartels

*Helena High School*



### DISTINGUISHED STUDENT

## Hanna Dartman

*Helena High School*



Mrs. Bartels is one of the most devoted and thoughtful teachers I've ever had. Her passion for teaching is obvious to everyone around her. When I joined French as a sophomore, I was touched by the positive attitude she spread in her class and the care she showed to all of her students. She has taught me about friendship and compassion, and I am so grateful for all that she's done for me and all that she continues to do. Thank you, Mrs. Bartels, for making the past three years unforgettable.

## CHRISTOPHER BOKOVOY

### PARENTS

Kevin Bokovoy  
Brenda Bokovoy

### COMMUNITY SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES

Jazz Band  
Wind Symphony  
National Honor Society  
Youth Government  
USAF Aux. Civil Air Patrol (CAP)  
American Youth Leadership  
Program (AYLP)

### PLANS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

Attend Montana State University to study  
political science and philosophy

### DISTINGUISHED STUDENT **Christopher Bokovoy**

*Helena High School*



### DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR **Rob Loveridge**

*Helena High School*



Every morning I awake, awaiting the arrival of each moment in time with anticipation, for with such passage of time I edge closer to the moment of the day where my colleagues and I come together to play music. From the smooth sounds of jazz to the euphony of the symphony, we all await the instruction of our conductor, the one and only Mr. Loveridge. I can say, with absolute certainty, that Mr. Loveridge has been a continuing source of inspiration for my fellow band students and me. Thank you, Mr. Loveridge, for everything you do to make the world more musical and, thus, a better place.



## HUNTER BOLES

### PARENTS

Patrick Boles  
Misty Boles

### COMMUNITY SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES

Math Club: President  
Robotics Club: Vice President  
Science Club: Vice President  
Orchestra Club: Vice President  
Helena Youth Orchestra Chamber  
Ensemble: Principal Cellist  
National Honor Society  
Spanish Club  
CHS Science Camp Co-Organizer  
First Lego League Robotics Mentor

### PLANS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

Attend Montana Tech to major in data science,  
computer science, and business and  
information technology

### DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR **Kent Haab**

*Capital High School*



### DISTINGUISHED STUDENT **Hunter Boles**

*Capital High School*



Mr. Haab is my Distinguished Educator for many reasons, but the most prominent is his eagerness to facilitate my learning. I have a math course at Carroll that conflicts with his class three days a week, but he exceeded his duties to make sure I understood the material. Beyond that, he also cares about my well-being, and he asked me to email him so that he knew I had arrived safely at my college course. When I am in class, he is excited to teach and that is what makes coming to school enjoyable. Thank you, Mr. Haab!

## JAKE BUBB

### PARENTS

Lynn Bubb  
Shawn Bubb

### COMMUNITY SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES

Varsity Cross Country  
Cross Country Captain  
Varsity Track  
Robotics  
CYC Board  
Youth Group  
Volunteer Work  
Science Club  
Outdoors Club  
Employed at The Base Camp  
Ski Coach at Discovery Ski Area  
National Honor Society

### PLANS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

Attend Gonzaga University  
to study mechanical engineering

### DISTINGUISHED STUDENT

## Jake Bubb

*Capital High School*



### DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR

## Ed Darfler

*Capital High School, retired*



Coach Darfler is one of the most knowledgeable, passionate and inspiring people I have ever met. Darf has not only pushed me to be a better runner, but also to be a better person. Since the first day of cross country my freshman year to the last day of track my senior year, Coach Darfler has shown me that I can push my limits and that hard work pays off. Ed Darfler is one of the kindest, most selfless people I have ever known. Thank you, Coach Darfler!



## ANDREW BUGNI

### PARENTS

Katherine Bugni  
Matthew Bugni

### COMMUNITY SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES

Dance  
Skills USA Chapter President  
Student Council Senior Class President  
National Honor Society  
MBI  
Track and Field

### PLANS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

Pursue a degree in mechanical and  
aerospace engineering

### DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR

## Jim Weber

*Capital High School*



### DISTINGUISHED STUDENT

## Andrew Bugni

*Capital High School*



Over the past two years Mr. Weber has been a positive influence in my life. He has taught me applicable skills such as the importance of work ethic, time management, ingenuity and perseverance. In addition, the technical skills that I have acquired in his classes will give me a head start in my pursuit of a degree in mechanical engineering as well as in life. Mr. Weber challenges his students because he cares about them. Thank you, Mr. Weber!

## EMILY BURKE

### PARENTS

Erik Burke

Liz Burke

### COMMUNITY SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES

National Honor Society

Allegro School of Dance

Girl Scouts

Envirothon

Band

Science Olympiad

Poetry Out Loud

Green Club officer

CHS Greenhouse Developer

### PLANS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

Attend University of Portland,  
University of Montana or  
University of Chicago to pursue  
a career in a medical field

### DISTINGUISHED STUDENT

**Emily Burke**

*Capital High School*



### DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR

**Jay Partridge**

*Capital High School*



Mr. Partridge taught me that learning can be more than just lectures and tests. With each day, Mr. Partridge brings charisma to the classroom, challenging us to think critically and connect history to current events. He makes learning fun with the passion and the energy he brings to every topic, not to mention his extensive collection of action figures that bring history to life. Thank you, Mr. Partridge, for having the courage to teach history with your quirky sense of humor and style that is all its own.



## SHELLY CHARLES

### PARENTS

Tecee Dunn

Brenda Swails

### COMMUNITY SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES

Summer Educational Camp

PAL Yearbook

Employed at Walmart

### PLANS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

Become an EMT

### DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR

**Renee Dreissen**

*Project for Alternative Learning*



### DISTINGUISHED STUDENT

**Shelly Charles**

*Project for Alternative Learning*



I would like to thank Renee Dreissen for helping me get to the point I am at now. Renee is an amicable, good-hearted teacher and I am lucky to have been blessed with her. When I first came to P.A.L., graduation seemed unachievable, but thanks to her encouragement and guidance, I have made it. She has helped me immensely with school and personal struggles. Teachers play such an important part in encouraging and guiding, especially teachers like her. Thank you for always caring.

## MARIE CURTIS

### PARENTS

Laura Curtis

### COMMUNITY SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES

Student Council

Orchestra

Choir

Church Ministries

I work as a personal companion

### PLANS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

Attend Whitworth University  
in Spokane, Washington and play  
in the University orchestra

### DISTINGUISHED STUDENT

## Marie Curtis

*Capital High School*



### DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR

## Kevin Cleary

*CR Anderson Middle School*



Mr. Cleary has always been more than a teacher to me. I first met Mr. Cleary right before the start of 6th grade at one of the pre-middle school lessons he hosts to meet his incoming students. He has guided me through orchestra and from the start, given me leadership roles. Through the years he has helped me grow as a student, a leader and a teacher, supporting me in my pursuits and helping me grow from any challenges I face. I could not have asked for a more passionate and caring teacher. Thank you, Mr. Cleary!

## TYE CUMLEY

### PARENTS

Mike Cumley

### COMMUNITY SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES

Welding Club

### PLANS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

Iron worker apprenticeship

### DISTINGUISHED STUDENT

## Tye Cumley

*Helena High School*



### DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR

## Cindy Galbavy

*Helena High School*



Mrs. G has changed my life for the better in a few ways. She helps me with anything I need, whenever I need it; she has gone the extra mile to help me graduate; and she supports me through all the stress in my life. She is setting me up to have a great career in welding and I recommend everyone who is interested in the trades to take Mrs. G's class, because she is such a good teacher and person. Thank you, Mrs. G!



## KONNOR DONALDSON

### PARENTS

Tracy Donaldson

Rick Donaldson

### COMMUNITY SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES

Tennis

Science Olympiad

Science Bowl

### PLANS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

Attend Montana State University

### DISTINGUISHED STUDENT

## Konnor Donaldson

*Helena High School*



### DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR

## John George

*Helena High School*



Mr. George is a wonderful teacher. He knows his math, and he knows how to get his students to learn, whether it's algebra or calculus. His classroom helped me to develop the study skills and attitudes I need to take forward into college, and his class has been an irreplaceable experience to have. Thank you, Mr. George!



## HANNAH DREESBACH

### PARENTS

Catherine Joyner

Alan Dreesbach

### COMMUNITY SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES

Volunteer at School Age  
Child Care program (SACC)

HEF Harrison Writing Award Winner

Independent research examining  
Mycobacteriophage HSavage

Montana Science Fair, 5 time award winner

Tennis

Niceness is Priceless Club

Science Club

National Honor Society

Youth Forest Monitoring Program

Forest Service internship

### PLANS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

Attend Montana State University to  
study biology. I also plan to pursue my  
love of creative writing

### DISTINGUISHED STUDENT

## Hannah Dreesbach

*Capital High School*



### DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR

## Jodi Delaney

*Broadwater Elementary*



It is hard for me to believe that anyone could approach their job with the enthusiastic creativity that Jodi Delaney applies to everyday life. Whether it is dressing up according to the day's class material or encouraging us to put on a class play, she never failed to approach a task with an infectious and unflagging energy. Not only does she make the classroom a captivating place to learn, but she encourages each of her students to be creative, independent thinkers. She inspired in me a love of learning and her motto *Carpe Diem* has stuck with me ever since. Thank you, Mrs. Delaney!

## WILLIAM DUBRAY

### PARENTS

Lee DuBray

### COMMUNITY SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES

Native American Activist

### PLANS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

Attend college

### DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR

**Jeff Sykes**

*Helena High School*



### DISTINGUISHED STUDENT

**William DuBray**

*Helena High School*



I first met Jeff Sykes as a student in his class. I would often skip, but he continued to help me out and my second year he would buy me lunch if I turned in all my homework. Junior year I was his Teacher Aide and he would help me with difficult schoolwork, regardless of the subject. He has always been there for me, even through the hardest stuff, like when my grandma died this year. I look up to Mr. Sykes; he is like the father I never had and he will always be in my heart. Thank you, Mr. Sykes!



## ASHER EASTERBY

### PARENTS

Jessica Margotat  
Nicolas Margotat

### COMMUNITY SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES

Cross Country  
Construction, Management  
and Design Club

### PLANS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

Attend Helena College

### DISTINGUISHED STUDENT

**Asher Easterby**

*Capital High School*



### DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR

**Bob Pearce**

*Capital High School*



I have only known Mr. Pearce for a short time, but I can definitely say that time has been well worth its weight in gold. He has taught me concepts that would have taken me a while to actually figure out on my own. Mr. Pearce has also been a part of my becoming a young man and he has helped shape who I am today. He has advised me on situations that I have struggled with and never denied me his opinion. Mr. Pearce cares for all his students and has their better interests at heart; he has taken his job above and beyond what has been required of him. Although we are not related, I would be comfortable with calling this Distinguished Educator a part of my family. Thank you, Mr. Pearce!

## KYER FREDERICK

### PARENTS

Lisi Kho

### COMMUNITY SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES

HOSA, State Vice President

National Honor Society

NAMI Walk

Varsity Lacrosse

Track and Field

Link Leader

### PLANS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

Attend the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs to study pre-medicine and play for their womens lacrosse team

### DISTINGUISHED STUDENT

**Kyer Frederick**

*Capital High School*



### DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR

**Sandy Jones**

*Four Georgians Elementary*



Sandy Jones was my fifth-grade teacher, and little did I know that I would be learning life lessons at such a young age. Educators have a larger purpose than just teaching; they train children how to be successful and responsible people. Mrs. Jones taught me to persevere in any challenges I face and to do so with a smile and with my heart. Thank you, Sandy, I will carry these lessons forever, and I can't wait to see what the future has in store.



## LOVÉ HOWE

### PARENTS

Janet Smith

Jeremiah Howe

### COMMUNITY SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES

Culinary Competition  
participant

Spanish Club

Culinary Club

Green Group

### PLANS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

I will be taking a gap year after which I plan to attend Helena College for a legal support specialist program

### DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR

**Joan Leik**

*Helena High School*



### DISTINGUISHED STUDENT

**Lové Howe**

*Helena High School*



Joan Leik is one of the kindest teachers I've ever had. Her personal interest in me built up my confidence and pushed me out of my comfort zone. I never would have had the courage to participate in the Culinary Competition had it not been for her encouragement, positivity and faith in my abilities. I've been able to utilize the skills I learned in her class every single day. Ms. Leik truly believes in me and what I can achieve. Thank you, Ms. Leik!

## DAMON IGNOLIA

### PARENTS

Tony Thompson  
Kassie Thompson

### COMMUNITY SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES

Enjoying time with family

### PLANS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

Begin working after graduation

### DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR

## Emily Currier

*CR Anderson Middle School*



### DISTINGUISHED STUDENT

## Damon Ignolia

*Project for Alternative Learning*



Mrs. Currier was always there for me when I was having a hard time. She was someone who understood how I think, so it was easy to talk to her and I always knew she was listening to what I said. She also treated me the same as everyone else, allowing me to feel more comfortable with the activities we were doing in and out of class. Thank you, Mrs. Currier!



## DELANEY KNUDSON

### PARENTS

Tressie White Knudson  
Glen Knudson

### COMMUNITY SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES

After School Teen Arts Council  
President at Holter Museum

Art for Survival at Holter Museum  
Helena Youth Orchestra Violinist

Teen Advisory Group; Teen Book Group; Teen  
Graphic Novel Book Group; Teen Writers' Group  
Lewis and Clark Library

Art Seen Club President, Capital High School

Rotary Youth Leadership Award 2015

MCAD Pre-College Summer Session Scholarship  
Animation - 2016

Scholastic Art and Writing Awards Recipient,  
Honorable Mention (2016) Silver Key (2017)

District Music Festival, Solo and Duet, 2017

Questbridge Scholar Finalist, 2017

Indigenous Scholar of Promise, 2017

Jack Kent Cooke Scholar Semifinalist, 2018

Coca Cola Scholar Semifinalist -2018

### PLANS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

Attend Brown University and The Rhode Island  
School of Design's dual enrollment program where  
I'll have a concentration in science and society at  
Brown and major in animation at RISD

### DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR

## Helen Bosch

*Capital High School*



### DISTINGUISHED STUDENT

## Delaney Knudson

*Capital High School*



As an avowed 'Art Kid', I would have never expected for chemistry to be just as valuable as any art class I have taken. Ms. Bosch not only taught me chemical equations and scientific law, but showed me the importance of trial and error, exploration and how to turn STEM into STEAM. Her classroom is not only a place where I can make jewelry out of Bismuth Crystals, or 3D print realistic human teeth, but it's a source of solace where I can unapologetically be myself. I have been accepted and supported on some of my worst days, and given a gateway to some of my best. It has been such a privilege to have Ms. Bosch as an educator, and I feel so fortunate to be able to call her a teacher and a friend.

## MAKENZI LONG

### PARENTS

Vicki Long

Rob Long

### COMMUNITY SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES

Student athletic trainer for  
football and wrestling

National Honor Society

MBI (Montana Behavioral  
Initiative) Club

Travel Club

TRIO

### PLANS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

Attend Helena College  
to study nursing

### DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR

## Mike Agostinelli

*East Valley Middle School*



### DISTINGUISHED STUDENT

## Makenzi Long

*Helena High School*



Mr. Agostinelli is not your typical educator. He doesn't teach in a classroom or sit at a desk all day. He goes out of his way to make sure children are safe and have an awesome experience at East Valley Middle School. School isn't my favorite place to be, but Mr. Agostinelli's presence made it better because of the special bond we have. I aspire to be at least half the person he is because of his compassion for others and his comical personality that provided joy in my life, as well as many others. Thank you, Mr. Agostinelli!



## GRACE LUDLOW

### PARENTS

Walter Ludlow

Sheila Ludlow

### COMMUNITY SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES

National Honor Society

Community volunteer

Science Club

Science Camps leader

X-Team Robotics. FTC Competition

Live music performer

Mentor and coach of X-Team  
Splash (FLL robotics team)

Mycobacteriophage research

State Science Fair,  
received five awards including  
state finalist.

International Science Fair

### PLANS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

Attend Montana State University  
and continue doing microbiology research

### DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR

## Kathryn Haddock

*CR Anderson Middle School*



### DISTINGUISHED STUDENT

## Grace Ludlow

*Capital High School*



In 8th grade, I had the good fortune to meet Mrs. Haddock. To me, she was more than a teacher. She was a role model, a mentor, and a friend. Every day was a lesson in arithmetic, but also in tenderness and sincerity. She sets an example of how to be strong and never discouraged, no matter the hurdles life may throw your way. Her personality was a tribute to kindness and I will never forget the warmth she brought to class through her dedication to each student as an individual. Thank you, Mrs. Haddock!

## LEANNA MARKOVICS

### PARENTS

Marisa Pedulla

### COMMUNITY SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES

Varsity soccer

Soccer Captain

National Honor Society

Peer tutor

Link leader

ACLU volunteer

Valedictorian

Exchange Club Student  
of the Month

French Club

Prickly Pear Land Trust volunteer

### PLANS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

Attend the University of  
Minnesota to study chemical  
engineering and French

### DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR

## Ryan Schulte

*Helena High School*



### DISTINGUISHED STUDENT

## Leanna Markovics

*Helena High School*



As my first AP teacher, Mr. Schulte helped me through quite a few obstacles. He helped me find confidence while in class, always encouraging me to speak up and to ask questions. Mr. Schulte is more than a Distinguished Educator; he is also a role-model. He always treats his students with kindness and respect, fostering an environment where students want to do their best. He is passionate about history, and makes learning it fun and eventful. Mr. Schulte has always believed in me and I could not be more thankful to have had his guidance. Thank you, Mr. Schulte!



## SAMANTHA MATTEUCCI

### PARENTS

Deb Matteucci

### COMMUNITY SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES

Softball

Volleyball

Outdoors Club

Spanish Club

Knitting Club

Gay Straight Alliance

### PLANS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

Attend the University of Maine  
Honors College to study  
elementary education

### DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR

## Patty Buckley

*Radley Elementary, retired*



### DISTINGUISHED STUDENT

## Samantha Matteucci

*Helena High School*



Mrs. Buckley is the perfect example of what kind of person should be an elementary school teacher. The traits that qualify her are not things that can be learned; they are natural gifts. Mrs. Buckley's passion for life and wholehearted optimism are what made my third and fourth grade years so memorable. Her ability to connect with students and to create a fun, welcoming environment are two of the main reasons she is a huge inspiration for me, as I hope to become an elementary school teacher as well someday. Thank you, Mrs. Buckley!



## JESSICA MAYNARD

### PARENTS

Marcia Maynard

### COMMUNITY SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES

DECA

Math Club

Spirit Club

Key Club

National Honor Society

Cross Country

Track

Big Sky Dance Works

### PLANS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

Attend Honors College at  
Montana State University

### DISTINGUISHED STUDENT

**Jessica Maynard**

*Capital High School*



### DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR

**Dennis Peterson**

*Capital High School*



Conquering a challenging math class becomes more pleasurable when you are greeted with a round of applause and smiles even for daily notes. It is unheard of to pass Mr. Peterson in the hall without a friendly hello. Constant encouragement and a door that is never closed show he is devoted to his craft and elated to help any student succeed. By revealing its practical uses, he has made math an enjoyable part of my life. Thank you, Mr. Peterson; our school is lucky to have you!



## KONNER MCKAY

### PARENTS

Josh McKay

Jenny McKay

### COMMUNITY SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES

Football

Track and Field

Wrestling

Link Crew Leader

National Honor Society

3-7-77's service club

Peer Performance

### PLANS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

Attend the University of Montana Western  
to study elementary education and  
environmental science

### DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR

**Michelle Johnson**

*Helena Middle School*



### DISTINGUISHED STUDENT

**Konner McKay**

*Helena High School*



Mrs. Johnson was my English teacher at Helena Middle School for my seventh and eighth grade years. She inspired me to develop a love for writing. Mrs. Johnson helped me to build the foundation for my writing skills that continued into my high school years. As a student in her class, I noticed the care that she invested while always encouraging me to do the best I could do. She not only cared about my education, but also about me as a person, and I am so thankful to have had her as one of my educators. Thanks, Mrs. Johnson!

## JAKE MICHALETZ

### PARENTS

Linda Michaletz  
Joe Michaletz

### COMMUNITY SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES

Cross Country  
Robotics  
Science Club  
National Honor Society  
Mathematical Modeling Contests  
State Music Festivals

### PLANS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

Attend Montana State  
University and study  
engineering and math

### DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR

## Henry Langreder

*Capital High School*



### DISTINGUISHED STUDENT

## Jake Michaletz

*Capital High School*



Mr. Langreder has been my German teacher for the past four years and as a junior, I was a winner of the National German Examination, administered by the American Association of Teachers of German. I could not have achieved such high proficiency without Mr. Langreder's outstanding teaching and encouragement. He is kind and approachable and has made learning a different language interesting and enjoyable. I am very grateful to him for all he has done for me. Thank you, Mr. Langreder!



## LILLIAN MITCHELL

### PARENTS

Autumn Mitchell

### COMMUNITY SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES

Orchestra  
Arts

### PLANS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

Attend Montana State University

### DISTINGUISHED STUDENT

## Lillian Mitchell

*Capital High School*



### DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR

## Genevieve Anderson

*Capital High School*



Mrs. Anderson is an educator who pushes the creativity of her students. She is always open to ideas for new projects and helps her students achieve their goals, no matter how daunting the tasks may seem. Along with flexibility, she always brings warm positivity to every occasion, whether rain or shine. She is kind and generous to everyone, no matter if she has known you for years or just a few minutes. Thank you, Mrs. Anderson!

## GAGE PIERSON

### PARENTS

Taya Hovan

### COMMUNITY SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES

Football

Basketball

Track and Field

Band

### PLANS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

Undecided

### DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR

## Ty Ridgeway

*East Valley Middle School*



### DISTINGUISHED STUDENT

## Gage Pierson

*Helena High School*



My Distinguished Educator, Mr. Ridgeway, made a huge impact on my life. As a new student in 8th grade at EVMS, he made me feel like I had a place in the school community. His encouragement, on and off the basketball court, gave me the confidence to be successful in middle and high school. His leadership at school showed me the importance of contributing to a community. Thank you, Mr. Ridgeway for being a great role model and friend and teaching the lessons I need to go forward in life.



## CONNOR POPPE

### PARENTS

Tammy Poppe

Lowell Poppe

### COMMUNITY SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES

Football

Track and Field

### PLANS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

Attend Helena College

### DISTINGUISHED STUDENT

## Connor Poppe

*Capital High School*



### DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR

## Ryan Hanson

*Capital High School*



Since 8th grade football, Mr. Hanson has always been a great mentor for me. Whether it was advice about football in middle school, or the casual outdoor talk in high school, Mr. Hanson has always been a person I've enjoyed having as a teacher and coach. In English class, I've learned a lot, while in a casual environment that makes learning a lot easier. I know if there's some advice I need on any subject, Mr. Hanson would be sure to help. Thanks for making class a fun place to learn!

## ELLIOTT PRYOR

### PARENTS

Ed Pryor  
Campbell Midgley

### COMMUNITY SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES

Robotics Club  
Science Club  
Math Club  
Soccer  
National Honor Society

### PLANS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

Attend Montana State University  
to study computer science

### DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR

## DeLacey Humbert

*Capital High School*



### DISTINGUISHED STUDENT

## Elliott Pryor

*Capital High School*



Mrs. Humbert has been an incredible influence on me at Capital High School. Her passion and knowledge of science is contagious; I often go to her for a quick question and end up staying far longer discussing quantum mechanics. She inspires me to continue my education outside of the classroom, and volunteers countless hours of her time so that we can work after school. Thank you, Mrs. Humbert, for always encouraging me to discover new things and for always going the extra mile to ensure that I understand a problem!



## DANE RIEGER

### PARENTS

Tammy Rieger  
Mike Rieger

### COMMUNITY SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES

Student Council, Helena High  
School Vice President  
National Honor Society,  
Vice President  
Key Club, Vice President  
Helena Bighorns Junior A hockey  
JV Tennis team, Captain

### PLANS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

Attend Montana State University  
Honors College and study nursing

### DISTINGUISHED STUDENT

## Dane Rieger

*Helena High School*



### DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR

## Scott Evans

*Helena High School*



After making the difficult move to Montana from Illinois, I entered freshman year with no friends, much less a familiar face, until Mr. Evans made me comfortable in my new home. He joked with me in class, always says “hi” to me in the hallways, and helped me to get more involved in school. Now it is my senior year and Mr. Evans has remained one of the most influential teachers during my time at Helena High by pushing me to be my best self both academically and socially. Thank you, Mr. Evans!

## ELIZABETH RIGBY

### PARENTS

Susan Lupton

Fred Rigby

### COMMUNITY SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES

Tennis

Swimming

Science Olympiad

Science Bowl

### PLANS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

Attend Oberlin College to  
study biochemistry

### DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR

## Andrew Roberts

*Helena Middle School*



### DISTINGUISHED STUDENT

## Elizabeth Rigby

*Helena High School*



Mr. Roberts was essential to my love of math. He always taught his students that math could be fun and practical. We can use it to solve all sorts of problems from baseball statistics to pinwheels to debating what would happen if the moon were made of gold. Mr. Roberts made math more than a subject used to torture children; he made it fun to solve problems and find patterns, but most importantly he taught me that there is always a solution. Thank you, Mr. Roberts!



## MEGHAN ROBINSON

### PARENTS

Brad Robinson

Susan Robinson

### COMMUNITY SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES

Cross Country

Track and Field

Green Club Co-president

French Club

National Honor Society

### PLANS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

Attend Montana State University and  
study environmental science

### DISTINGUISHED STUDENT

## Meghan Robinson

*Capital High School*



### DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR

## Leslie Hagengruber

*C.R. Anderson Middle School*



From plot surveys and dissections in science class to book projects in English, there was never a dull moment in Mrs. Hagengruber's class. She brought a contagious enthusiasm for learning to her classroom, and went above and beyond to make her lessons meaningful and memorable. Her engaging teaching style piqued my curiosity in many topics, and helped spark my ongoing interest in science. Apart from helping me become a better student, her constant kindness and great attitude have inspired me to be a better person. Thank you, Mrs. Hagengruber, for being so amazing!

## HANNAH ROHRER-FITZHUGH

### PARENTS

Rebecca Rohrer  
Andy Fitzhugh

### COMMUNITY SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES

Cross Country  
Track and Field  
Green Club  
French Club  
National Honor Society  
Competitive ski racing  
with the Great Divide Ski Team

### PLANS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

Attend Westminster College  
to run track and cross country and major  
in education and science

### DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR

## Karry Hauck

*Four Georgians Elementary (retired)*



### DISTINGUISHED STUDENT

## Hannah Rohrer-Fitzhugh

*Capital High School*



Mrs. Hauck was my second-grade teacher at Four Georgians Elementary School. Mrs. Hauck made learning fun, which helped create the love for learning I still have today. She challenged me every day, while encouraging me to be my best. I will always feel welcome in her classroom and for that I am grateful. So, thank you, Mrs. Hauck for planting a seed that continues to grow. Because of you (and Mrs. Frizzle) I will always remember to take chances, make mistakes, and get messy. Thank you, Mrs. Hauck!



## ANNA ROMERO

### PARENTS

Loma Romero  
Frank Romero

### COMMUNITY SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES

Health Occupations Students  
of America (HOSA)  
HOSA State Competition  
National Honor Society  
Niceness is Priceless Club  
Key Club  
Solo & Ensemble Competition  
for Choir

### PLANS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

Attend Carroll College to  
study biology

### DISTINGUISHED STUDENT

## Anna Romero

*Capital High School*



### DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR

## Rebecca Leaphart

*Capital High School*



Incredibly, Ms. Leaphart completely changed my perspective on English classes. Before her class, I referred to English as my least favorite subject, and I struggled to improve the overall quality of my writing. Ms. Leaphart took the time to fully explain language concepts, and challenged me to enhance my skills. She sincerely believed in me as a student, and she supported me through every assignment. Her class was engaging, and it urged me to rethink the value I place on English classes. I am very thankful for this new outlook. Thank you, Ms. Leaphart!



## GUNTER ROYLANCE

### PARENTS

Mark Roylance  
Colleen Roylance

### COMMUNITY SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES

Speech and Debate  
Soccer  
Jazz Concert and Pep Bands

### PLANS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

Attend Montana State University

### DISTINGUISHED STUDENT

## Gunter Roylance

*Helena High School*



### DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR

## Don Pogreba

*Helena High School*



Being in Mr. Pogreba's class for AP Language and now for debate has been one of the best educational experiences of my life. Whether it's getting motivated by shouting "I am a rooster!" at the top of our lungs, or writing several essays a week in preparation for the AP exam, he always finds ways to make class unique and engaging. Not only are the topics of discussion incredibly interesting and pertinent in today's society, they are always brought to the next level with humor for a touch of added pizzazz. Thank you, Mr. Pogreba!



## CELINA SANCHEZ

### PARENTS

Chris Sanchez  
Judy Sanchez

### COMMUNITY SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES

Volleyball, Captain  
Track and Field  
Academic All-State  
Helena Occupation Students of America  
(HOSA), Treasurer  
Key Club  
National Honor Society  
NAMI Walk

### PLANS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

Attend Montana State University  
to study biochemistry

### DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR

## Tanner Duncan

*Capital High School*



### DISTINGUISHED STUDENT

## Celina Maria Sanchez

*Capital High School*



Coming into my freshman year of high school, I didn't know what I wanted to do or what career I wanted to pursue. But having Mr. Duncan's Principles of Biomedical Science, first period soon made that decision clear. Mr. Duncan's constant questioning and enthusiasm for the medical profession encourages his students to not only question, but have a continuous thirst for knowledge. He has taught me to be passionate about the medical field, and has taught me valuable lessons that will stick with me throughout the rest of my life. Thank you, Mr. Duncan.

## MACKENNA SCHMOLKE

### PARENTS

Jason Schmolke  
Melissa Schmolke

### COMMUNITY SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES

Basketball  
Softball  
National Honor Society

### PLANS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

Montana State University  
Pre-Veterinarian program

### DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR

## Jonna Schwartz

*Helena High School*



### DISTINGUISHED STUDENT

## Mackenna Schmolke

*Helena High School*



As my junior and senior English teacher, Miss Schwartz taught me more than just basic grammar or writing strategies. She came to school every day with a passion to teach and to influence each student's life for the better. Through her funny stories, she taught me how to value the life that you live and the choices that you make every day. She taught me that everyone fails at some point in their lives, but that it's ok to fail. You can do one of two things when you fail, you can let the failure define you and the rest of your decisions, or you can learn from your mistakes and carry them with you as a reminder that you can make something good out of anything. Thank you, Ms. Schwartz, for a lifetime of lessons.



## MERIWETHER SCHROEER-SMITH

### PARENTS

Linnaea Schroeer

### COMMUNITY SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES

Outdoors Club, President  
Mock Trail  
Cross Country  
Link Leader  
National Honor Society  
Member of two bands  
Student representative on a  
State Grant Review Board

### PLANS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

Attend Montana State University  
to study sociology

### DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR

## Rich Wirak

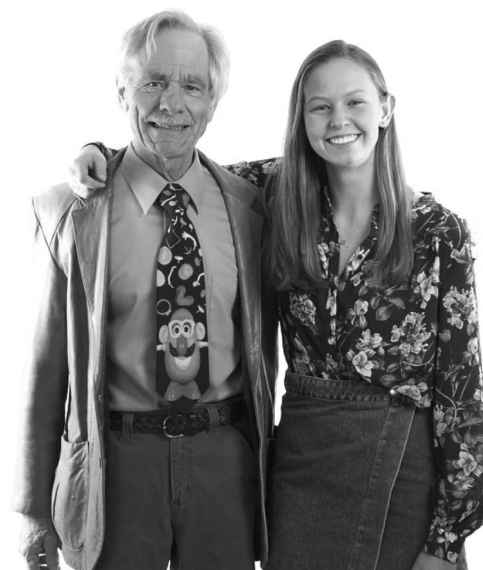
*Jefferson Elementary, retired*



### DISTINGUISHED STUDENT

## Meriwether Schroeer-Smith

*Helena High School*



When I went to go get my school supplies for my fourth-grade class, I went around getting all the usual things: pencils, markers, glue and Kleenex. But at the end of the list, a bag of marbles was included. Throughout the year, we would place a marble on Mr. Wirak's desk if we wanted to participate in small games and tasks, and the winners would divide the marbles up amongst themselves. I still have a small bag of mismatched marbles representing my victories in these silly challenges. Mr. Wirak always found unique and effective ways of teaching us the subject matter, and he taught me the value of hard work and perseverance, as well as fun. Mr. Wirak will remain one of my most beloved teachers, even as I advance to college.

## ALEXANDER SEBURN

### PARENTS

Suzi Seburn  
Dave Seburn

### COMMUNITY SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES

Tennis  
Cross Country  
Key Club

### PLANS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

Attend Montana State University to study  
mechanical engineering

### DISTINGUISHED STUDENT

## Alexander Seburn

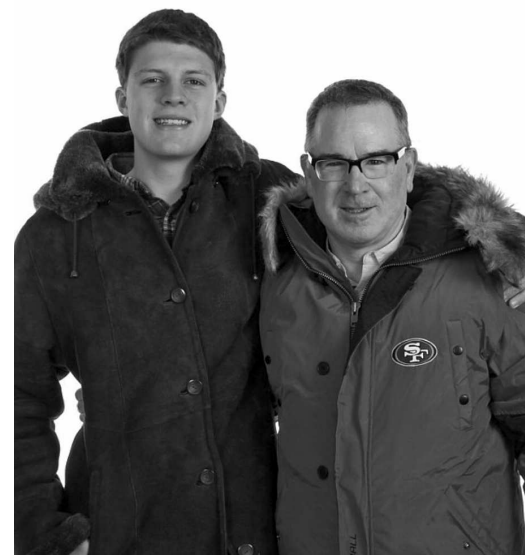
*Helena High School*



### DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR

## Clay Burkett

*Helena High School*



Since my first day of walking into Mr. Burkett's room he has been a constant source of motivation for me and for all his students. His everlasting source of dry humor and tough demeanor provided an excellent change of pace and would always help me stay focused on the math. The days spent busting out calculus problems in the back of Burkett's class are some of the best and most fulfilling days I've had while at Helena High. Thank you, Mr. Burkett, for making every day a whole lot better.



## DEVIN SEYLER

### PARENTS

Mark Seyler  
Kara Seyler

### COMMUNITY SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES

Science Olympiad  
Cross Country  
Science Bowl  
Band  
Envirothon  
Science Club  
Outdoors Club

### PLANS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

Attend Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
to study physics

### DISTINGUISHED STUDENT

## Devin Seyler

*Helena High School*



### DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR

## Ted Polette

*Clancy School, retired*



I've never encountered a better example of the power of positivity than my 8th grade science and P.E. teacher, Mr. Polette. A master motivator, he always had countless ways to inspire students to do their best whether in the classroom, at Science Olympiad, or in the gym. Mr. Polette exudes an unquenchable excitement for learning and a passion for science which have spurred many students, including myself, to pursue careers in science and engineering fields. Thank you, Mr. Polette, for teaching us to reach for the stars.

## EMMA SIHLER

### PARENTS

Paul Sihler

### COMMUNITY SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES

Mock Trial

Science Olympiad

Outdoors Club

HHS Together

National Honor Society

Student and Teaching Assistant  
at Grandstreet Theatre School

Intern in Medical Genetics at  
Shodair Children's Hospital

Page for the Montana House  
of Representatives

### PLANS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

Attend Montana State University Honors College  
or Dartmouth to study molecular biology  
and world health

### DISTINGUISHED STUDENT

## Emma Sihler

*Helena High School*



### DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR

## Julie Ladd

*Helena High School*



Mrs. Ladd comes to school every single day with a positive attitude and an energy that lasts the entire day. It's evident that she is truly passionate about teaching—the subjects as well as her students. Mrs. Ladd's enthusiastic teaching style, bubbly personality, and endless science jokes helped me fall in love with chemistry. But, more importantly, she is a role model for the type of person I aspire to be. Mrs. Ladd is a truly outstanding teacher and person, and I'm forever grateful for everything she does. Thank you, Mrs. Ladd!

## JASKRIT SINGH

### PARENTS

Harnek Singh

Ishinder Kaur

### COMMUNITY SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES

Robotics FTC and FLL

Coached junior robotics teams

Jazz Clarinet

Piano

Science Club Science Olympiad

Running Science Camps

Chemistry Bowl

Math Club Math Modeling Competitions

Cross Country

Soccer

Green Club

### PLANS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

Attend Carnegie Mellon  
University to study engineering

### DISTINGUISHED STUDENT

## Jaskrit Singh

*Capital High School*



### DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR

## Duane Zehr

*Capital High School*



After having spent over 1000 hours in Mr. Zehr's Band, Jazz Band, and Music Theory classes, I can say that Mr. Zehr has shaped me into the musician, leader and person that I am today. His philosophy has taught me that success is not the lack of failure, but the ability to learn from failure. What I respect most about Mr. Zehr is that he trusts his students to make mature decisions on their own, whether shaping musical phrases, or deciding not to cheat on a test. Thank you, Mr. Zehr!

## KELSEY SOLTIS

### PARENTS

Julie Johnson  
Scott Soltis

### COMMUNITY SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES

Jobs for Montana's Graduates (JMG)  
Montana Behavioral Initiative (MBI)  
Helena High Link Crew  
Graduation and Prom Planning Committee  
Helena High National Honor Society  
Helena High School Band and Business  
Professionals of America (BPA)

### PLANS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

Attend Montana State University  
and major in civil engineering

### DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR

## Samantha Humphrey

*Helena High School*



### DISTINGUISHED STUDENT

## Kelsey Soltis

*Helena High School*



Mrs. Humphrey has a heart of gold and a winning personality. I have loved coming to her class every day because she always makes it fun and she has an amazing ability to connect with all her students. Mrs. Humphrey cares deeply for every one of her students and strives to make sure they are all successful inside and outside of the classroom. She helps her students with everything; whether that is homework, letters of recommendation, or food if you forgot a lunch; she is prepared for anything. Thank you, Mrs. Humphrey!



## ABIGAIL STIFFLER

### PARENTS

Mark Stiffler  
Amy Christensen

### COMMUNITY SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES

Piano  
Irish dance instructor  
National Honor Society  
Night to Shine  
French Club, President  
Liturgy of the Word instructor  
Art for Survival  
Contributor to *Pen and Ink*  
Harrison Writing Award Winner

### PLANS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

Attend Seattle University

### DISTINGUISHED STUDENT

## Abigail Stiffler

*Capital High School*



### DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR

## Sid Burgess

*Hawthorne Elementary, retired*



From the pledge to our earth, joys and concerns journals, and worry stones, Ms. Burgess was not only an incredible teacher, but also a life changer. She inspired my love of writing, leading me to express myself, and she introduced me to worry stones, helping me recognize my own feelings. Her compassion and ability to help me in unique ways are part of what make Ms. Burgess so special to me. She taught me how to think beyond what I was told, founding a lifetime of intellectual curiosity. Thank you, Ms. Burgess!

## SARAH SWINGLEY

### PARENTS

Moreen Swingley  
Scott Swingley

### COMMUNITY SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES

National Honor Society  
National Art Honor Society  
Niceness is Priceless Club

### PLANS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

Attend Carroll College

### DISTINGUISHED STUDENT

**Sarah Swingley**

*Capital High School*



### DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR

**Christina Sieminski**

*Capital High School*



I am incredibly grateful to have had the pleasure of having a passionate teacher like Mrs. Sieminski. Her love for science and teaching is evident as soon as you walk into her classroom. When I was struggling with my health last year, Mrs. Sieminski was right there alongside me and has always been available. Mrs. Sieminski also helped my family and me establish the Niceness is Priceless Club at our school in honor of my cousin Mariah, and the time and energy she has poured into the club is unprecedented. I am eternally grateful to her, and she will forever hold a place in my heart.



## CODY TOFFLEMIRE

### PARENTS

Patti Tofflemire

### COMMUNITY SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES

National Honor Society, Vice-President  
Science Club President  
Science Olympiad  
Science Bowl  
Envirothon, President  
Science Camp Organizer  
Soccer  
Math Club competitions  
Coding Club  
4-H

PEAK Gifted and Talented program  
Volunteer technology teacher

### PLANS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

Attend Montana Tech to study science

### DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR

**Sarah Urban**

*Capital High School*



### DISTINGUISHED STUDENT

**Cody Tofflemire**

*Capital High School*



Mrs. Urban is an amazing teacher and an inspiration to all her students. She loves what she does and it shows in her passion for biology and for teaching. She brings so much energy and excitement into the classroom that you can't help but enjoy learning. Yet beyond her teaching duties, Mrs. Urban is a friend. She takes the time to get to know all her students and genuinely cares about each one. Mrs. Urban is supportive of students in and out of the classroom and she has dedicated her time to help CHS students host Science Camps for young kids throughout our community, inspiring a love of science in all. Thank you, Mrs. Urban!



## ALANA TONIDANDEL

### PARENTS

Bill Tonidandel  
Pam Attardo

### COMMUNITY SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES

Tiernan Irish Dance School  
Cross Country  
Track  
National Honor Society  
Pianist

### PLANS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

Attend the University of Vermont to study biology

### DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR

**Amy VanDam**

*Capital High School*



### DISTINGUISHED STUDENT

**Alana Tonidandel**

*Capital High School*



For the past 4 years, I have enjoyed learning French with Mrs. VanDam. She is always exuberant and excited about teaching her material, and engages her class with demonstrations, conversations, and other fun activities and games. Whether it was playing Jeopardy to learn our vocab words, or the various crêpe parties, or planning pretend trips to Paris, Mrs. VanDam always devised hilarious, yet informative ways of teaching us French. Each year, her class stands out to me as one of the most interesting and engaging periods of my day. Thank you, Mrs. VanDam!



## FRANCIE TUPPER

### PARENTS

John Tupper  
Heather Tupper

### COMMUNITY SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES

Youth in Government  
Outdoors Club  
Spanish Club  
National Honor Society  
Science Club  
Math Club  
Helena Youth Against Gun Violence  
Student representative on the Helena School Board

### PLANS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

Attend University of California, Davis and study biology

### DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR

**Matt Lyng**

*Capital High School*



### DISTINGUISHED STUDENT

**Francie Tupper**

*Capital High School*



Señor Lyng has been more than simply an educator the past two years I have been in his class. He is my mentor, my confidante, and most importantly, my friend. In an act of affection, Señor graciously gave me the Spanish nickname of Boca Grande. On days that I needed a little extra caffeine, Señor Lyng would brew me a cup of yerba mate tea, and give me half of his “pay day donut.” I will forever cherish the time I have spent with Señor, and never forget his teachings. ¡Gracias, Señor Lyng!

## ALOURA TYLER

### PARENTS

Bruce Tyler

Lew Tyler

### COMMUNITY SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES

Track and Field

Teaching Spanish at Bryant Elementary

No Kid Hungry Summer Program

Fiddler on the Roof, Crosstown musical

Personal Progress and Honor Bee

Habitat for Humanity

Choir Club, secretary

Literacy Night at Jefferson Elementary

Certified CAN

### PLANS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

Attending one semester at BYU-Idaho  
then serving an LDS mission

### DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR

**Molly Steele**

*Helena High School*



### DISTINGUISHED STUDENT

**Aloura Tyler**

*Helena High School*



Ms. Steele has built a phenomenal choir program. I came to Helena High School as the new, shy girl from California. That soon changed when I joined Ms. Steele's choir class. Through her infectious zeal for music, she helps students find their voices. She not only teaches about music, but also how to grow in confidence and to overcome fear and doubt. I will always be grateful for Ms. Steele because she has transformed my interest in singing into a life-long passion.



## BRYNDON WILKERSON

### PARENTS

Mikal Wilkerson

### COMMUNITY SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES

Choir

Student Council

National Honor Society

### PLANS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

Undecided

### DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR

**Kara Nelson**

*Montana City School*



### DISTINGUISHED STUDENT

**Bryndon Wilkerson**

*Helena High School*



Mrs. Nelson made learning how to play instruments in band class enjoyable and engaging for all her students; she knew just how to balance the students' learning with having fun. Although it was her first year teaching band when I started, her metaphors connecting life and music helped us to not only learn musical concepts, but they also helped us retain the concepts. Mrs. Nelson is a wonderful teacher whose class inspired me to continue with music in high school, both in band and choir.

# *Congratulations students and educators!*

---

HELENA EDUCATION FOUNDATION



**Great schools** are everyone's business

---



**Great schools** are everyone's business

**HELENA EDUCATION FOUNDATION**

**PO BOX 792**

**HELENA, MT 59624**

**HEFMT.ORG**

**406.443.2545**

**HEF@MT.NET**