Board Report

Program: GEAR UP
Coordinator: Joshlynn Wippert
Month - October 2026

GEAR UP had a month full of activities. We enjoyed every minute of it, and look forward to keeping busy engaging with our students and families. As we come to the end of our Fiscal Year on October 31st, we are working on getting as much as we can done.

On October 5th we held a FAFSA night at Buffalo Hide Academy and had 5 students complete their FAFSA! The following day on October 6th we held a FAFSA night at Browning High School and had an amazing turnout of about 15 families come and complete their FAFSA! We decided to try and squeeze one more in for October 26th.

We are bringing students to visit the University of Montana and Salish Kootenai College on October 22nd - October 23rd. We are excited for the students to learn about these campuses!

We completed our lunch and learns, where 7th and 8th grade students are recommended by their teachers to join us for lunch in the BMS GEAR UP Office. We eat Subway and talk about their goals, and what they started to think about for their futures, and what they can look forward to in High School to reach their goals.

Taylee has also been working with the 7th and 8th grade advisors on creating a time capsule, where they get letters from teachers, peers, family, and themselves, have pictures, and collect information about their current interests. GEAR UP plans to keep these time capsules and return them to them when they are graduating seniors. We are so excited about this project, and hope to gather time capsules every year.

We look forward to November, where we plan to host the all-school College Bound Cat/Griz assembly on November 13th. We have had most of the schools RSVP and look forward to having them at the High School to celebrate those seniors who had applied for college or enlisted in the service. We plan to have some engaging activities and have fun with all the schools in attendance.