

**Browning Middle/High School GEAR UP  
January 2021 Board Report**

**BHS/BMS**

Free (paid for by Montana GEAR UP) Trauma Informed Training was made available to staff at both schools in December. We had a total of 50 staff take advantage of the training.

Our GEAR UP staff have been taking advantage of different professional development opportunities to learn how to help support students and staff during this pandemic.

**BHS/WBH**

In November we launched a texting support platform with Student Success Agency. Any high school student that signs up gets their own personal “agent” and will receive one on one support in areas such as mentoring, tutoring, ACT prep, career and college advising, etc. For the months of November and December we got a report that there were 1256 and 944 texts logged respectively for those months. I did get feedback from one senior student that they are helping her figure out her post high school college plan, including helping her with all of the college paperwork, like letters of recommendation. GEAR UP appreciates having the extra support from SSA.

Update on our FAFSA event and follow up efforts to assist Seniors in completing their FAFSA’s. As of January 11<sup>th</sup>, we had 25 seniors that have completed their FAFSA’s. It has been a bit of a challenge due to the pandemic but with our Higher Pathways grant from the American Indian College Fund we continue to dangle our “carrot” i.e., \$20 gift cards to the first 50 seniors that complete their FAFSA.

We continue to offer our Brown Bag Sessions with students. We have offered a number of virtual workshops for students to hear from different professionals about their career and/or college experiences. Some examples we had in December and this month were: FBI/Secret Service Agent, Park Ranger, and Miles City Community College’s new meat processing program. We also had two student panels – one freshmen from MSU Bozeman on one virtual presentation and the other had 3 students from UM and Missoula College talk to our students about their college experience so far.

With the upcoming ACT tests planned for our Juniors and Seniors for Spring, we plan on purchasing some test prep products to help our students do their best on the test. Even if our school stays virtual, ACT is running a virtual sample test this month with possible future options for our students to take the test in that format.

We completed our annual college going rate report last month for the Class of 2020. We had a 50% college going rate which breaks down as follows:

BCC – 39 students  
Dawson CC – 1 student  
MSU – 7 students  
MSU Billings – 1 student  
MSU Northern – 2 students  
SKC – 5 students  
UM/Missoula College – 10 students  
University of Providence – 1 student

The college going rate is a little lower than we have seen compared to the previous 5 years as noted below, but we know in visiting with students and parents that the pandemic has definitely impacted some students attending college at this time e.g., some have chosen to enroll in college at a later date when the pandemic impacts are not as great.

- CO 2015 - 67% College Going Rate; 3% Military
- CO 2016 - 61% College Going Rate; 3% Military, 2% Job Corp
- CO 2017 - 59% College Going Rate; 2% Military
- CO 2018 - 57% College Going Rate; 3% Military
- CO 2019 - 63% College Going Rate

## **BMS GEAR UP**

### *\*GEAR UP Google Classroom*

Nathan is continuing his awesome work on a GEAR UP google classroom for both the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. For this quarter, his schedule was moved to a Friday classroom. Since GEAR UP is helping with the attendance incentives, it is now a requirement that students must attend the Gear Up google classroom in order to receive perfect attendance for the week. One speaker we had was our former GEAR UP student, Marcia St. Goddard. Her presentation was very positive and inspiring. Nate also incorporated it into one of our freshman GEAR UP advisory lessons. Leah Whitford was also a guest speaker. She talked about the land trades of the Blackfeet people and the fur exchanges that happened at Robare and Fort Benton.

### *\*GEAR UP Presentations in Regular Classrooms*

We have also been invited into teacher's classrooms to do career and college presentations including 7<sup>th</sup> grade English/Language Arts and Social Studies classrooms. Latrice Tatsey (another former GU student) was a guest presenter. She talked about MSU and her study of the bison. It was an awesome opportunity to promote college and to talk about specific degrees like agriculture.

### *\*Office Space*

Our GEAR UP office space was ready at BMS so we were able to go in and start setting up our offices this month.