

Browning Middle/High School GEAR UP September 2020 Board Report

BMS/BHS GEAR UP

We had our virtual GEAR UP staff meeting this month and covered a number of topics including an awesome presentation “Being Trauma-Informed During a Pandemic” by Dr. Emily Salle, University of Montana professor. Will share this professional development opportunity with staff once recording is available.

BHS GEAR UP

We have a number of exciting activities for our students, parents and staff this month as fall is traditionally a very busy season, especially for our BHS Seniors.

**National GEAR UP Week (September 21-25th)*

This is an opportunity to spotlight GEAR UP and share some of our success stories. On the 21st we did a “District All” email share out on our program including data on post high school graduation plans of our former BHS students. We also have a GEAR UP lesson this month that gives teachers an opportunity to share their educational journey with their advisory students.

** BHS GEAR UP Meetings*

We held our first meeting (a monthly meeting is required per our grant) on Tuesday, September 22nd with our BHS/WBH GEAR UP Team. Previously GEAR UP was a part of the building’s SLT Team however we needed more time to go over GEAR UP topics so it made more sense to schedule a separate meeting time. Magee will still be the GEAR UP rep on the BHS SLT group and give report outs. Our BHS GEAR UP team consists of the following reps: BHS Building Administrator (J. Wagner), WBH Administrator (M. Johnson), Counselor (S. Schildt-Speicher), Core Teacher (J. Johnson), and GEAR UP Staff (M. Magee and M. Krupa). We reviewed this year’s plan and budget, discussed CO-VID impacts and GEAR UP staff gave a report out on summer programs and projects currently working on.

**Virtual College Fair Week (September 21st-25th)*

-This event allows our students to connect with colleges all over Montana and a number from out of the state as well as military recruiters and other employment agencies. We normally do this in person with our Seniors in Cut Bank in the fall, however due to CO-VID this event was changed to virtual. One advantage of being virtual is that we are able to invite more students (and staff and parents) and more colleges and businesses to participate. They have also added a number of live sessions to cover important topics like financial aid and scholarships.

**College Application Week (September 28th- October 9th)*

This event is for our seniors to apply to Montana colleges early. The goal of CAW is to increase the number of low-income and first-generation college students applying to colleges and universities. We are also excited that the Montana University System (MUS) now has a central college application that students can use for all MUS colleges rather than having to complete a different application for each college.

**GEAR UP Career/College Prep Advisory Lessons*

From the advisory working group this summer, by the end of this month our advisory teachers will have delivered two of our lessons that we worked on this summer: (1) A guided (fun scavenger hunt) activity on how to use the free planners provided by Montana GEAR UP and (2) a lesson on the importance of college and how “education pays.” Did you know that a person with a college degree makes a million dollars more in their lifetime than a person without one?

**Dual Enrollment*

-With CO-VID and the time it took most of our students to come out of summer hibernation, we didn't have as many enrollees as projected despite multiple outreach efforts. Presently we have 19 students taking dual enrollment courses at/with the following colleges: Blackfeet Community College (1) and Salish Kootenai College (3). Our goal is to increase that number second semester (we already have a number that are interested) as we have more opportunities to virtually connect with students and get them organized and set up. Note: We are also happy to report that Travis Miller (which he got going on is own. Way to go Travis!) is also teaching a dual enrollment course through Montana Tech. He has 15 students (7 juniors and 8 seniors). BHS GEAR UP was approved to help with tuition and books costs but there are no costs! This is an awesome opportunity to look for more ways our high school teachers can teach dual credit courses so that our students can earn both high school and college credit and not have to leave the building!

BMS GEAR UP

**National GEAR UP Week (September 21-25th)*

In celebration of National GEAR UP Week, Nathan encouraged all BMS staff to share where they went to college.

**BMS GEAR UP Meetings*

We held our first meeting (a monthly meeting is required per our grant) on Thursday, September 17th with our BMS GEAR UP Team. Previously GEAR UP was a part of the building's SLT Team however more time was needed to discuss GEAR UP topics so it made more sense to schedule a separate meeting time. Magee will still be the GEAR UP rep on the BMS SLT group and give report outs. Our BMS GEAR UP team consists of the following reps: Building Administrator (W. Huebsch), Counselor (S. Rutherford), Core Teacher (J. Hayes), and GEAR UP Staff (M. Magee and N. Stone). We reviewed this year's plan and budget, discussed CO-VID impacts and GEAR UP staff gave a report out on summer programs and projects currently working on.

**GEAR UP/Teacher Collaboration Projects*

(1) Virtual STEM Event

Over the last couple of years GEAR UP has organized and financed STEM events at BMS. We have connected with our Science and Technology teachers and are organizing (and soon to be shopping) our first virtual STEM event for our 7th and 8th grade students for this first quarter. (Note: Although BMS now includes 6th graders, our grant regulations specify that our service population is 7th grade on up.). We will certainly share resource ideas with our 6th grade staff and students.

(2) Collaborative Lessons

We have connected with some of our teachers to work on collaboration projects this quarter e.g., a career interest inventory with our Language Arts teachers. We will continue to work on this as part of our annual goals, despite being virtual.

**GEAR UP Google Classroom*

Nathan has again set up GEAR UP google classrooms for both the 7th and 8th grade students. Examples of some of the lessons completed so far include: Reality Check (a virtual game where the learn the value of a degree), What is your Voyage? (academic and career planning mini lesson), etc. We are struggling a little with participation rates – approximately 85% of 7th and 35% of 8th graders are participating. We will look for other creative ways to get students involved. Working on collaboration projects with teachers will also provide an easier opportunity to connect with our students as well.