

Browning Middle/High School /WBH GEAR UP September 2022 Board Report

All School GEAR UP

We had our Fall GEAR UP meeting at Fairmont Hot Springs September 19th-20th. This is our annual meeting that covers programming information for the year. We also had our new Browning High School Youth Leaders (Delbert Blackman and Amari Calf Robe) at the meeting attend a separate Youth Leadership Academy workshop. Their role this year will be to represent BHS GEAR UP. They will be required to do a community service project along with helping us get a Youth Leadership workshop set up at our high school this year.

MT AIMS (American Indians in Math and Science)

We currently have 8 students at both BMS (2) and BHS (6 - this number dropped from 13 as a number of students weren't able to attend the summer camp which is a requirement to stay in the program). These are students that are interested in STEM careers and have applied to this program back when they were in 6th/7th grade. They are required to attend an annual summer camp and every year there are other opportunities and a chance to earn \$20 per month if they have a "C" or better in all of their classes. BHS GEAR UP also does a mid-year STEM trip for these students as well. The 6 remaining BHS students also have an opportunity this year that if they maintain a B or above in all of their Fall classes, they will get an all expense paid trip to a NASA Space Center next Spring.

National GEAR UP Week (September 26th-30th)

We will provide "treats" and provide various activities this week at BMS, BHS and WBH. We will provide cake for everyone on Friday, the 30th.

College Visits/Other Trips

We just turned in our trips for the year for all of our GEAR UP schools and we have a total of 20 trips planned for students this year, 13 for BMS and 7 for BHS.

BHS/WBH GEAR UP

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

* BHS GEAR UP Meetings

We had our first meeting (a monthly meeting is required per our grant) on Tuesday, September 20th with our high school GEAR UP Team. Our BHS GEAR UP team consists of the following reps: BHS Building Administrator (K. McKay), Counselor (S. Schildt-Speicher), Core Teacher (W.Lucke), and GEAR UP Staff (M. Magee and R. Goss). Our monthly meetings will focus on implementing our GEAR UP goals and objectives for this year as well as discussing other ways that we can help support students and staff.

*Conrad College Fair

We will be taking seniors (open to all that sign up) to this annual event on Thursday, September 22nd . 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.

*Seniors

GEAR UP will continue to work closely with the Senior counselor on career and college prep items. 2 big events for them coming up are College Application Weeks (October 3-14th) where they can apply to Montana colleges and a FAFSA/Scholarship senior/parent/guardian event scheduled for Tuesday, October 11th from 5-6 pm.

*GEAR UP Career/College Prep Advisory Lessons

We are continuing our annual GEAR UP lessons in advisory classes every Wednesday. The topics will focus on anything career and/or college related topics.

*Dual Enrollment

We continue to work collaboratively with several colleges - BCC and Flathead Valley Community College. This year was our largest dual enrollment class to date, which we owe mostly to the Grow Your Own grant being administered by BCC that allows some of our own BHS teachers to teach dual credit (high school and college credit) classes right at our high school. We are tallying up our final numbers of enrollees and will share that in next month's report - we are at about 70 students this semester taking 1 or more college classes! See photo attached below.

We also wanted to share that last school year we had a total of 137 credits earned by BHS and WBH students which is equivalent to 45 college classes! This breaks out to the following:

Fall 2021 Semester, we had 8 students earn a total of 27 college credits

Spring 2022 Semester we had 35 students earn a total of 110 college credits

Note: Montana GEAR UP has been able to support the funding to continue the 1-2-Free program that provides up to 6 credits free at any Montana University School for eligible high school students. Also, in our local GEAR UP budget we also have money to pay for tuition and book costs over and above that amount.

*Student Success Agency

We will have our 3rd Annual SSA Kick Off on Wednesday, October 5th in the gym for all students. SSA is a texting platform that allows students to access their own personal “agent.” Students will be able to get help with the following: tutoring, career and college prep, ACT prep, etc. Last year’s report showed that our students are using the program, with an average of 500 contacts made with agents per month!

BMS GEAR UP

*BMS GEAR UP Team Meetings

We will have our first meeting (a monthly meeting is required per our grant) on Tuesday, September 27th with our BMS GEAR UP Team. Our BMS GEAR UP team consists of the following reps: Building Administrator (A. Heavy Runner), Counselor (D. Sure Chief), Core Teacher (J. Goss), and GEAR UP Staff (M. Magee and N. Stone).

*BMS AVID

Nate is teaching this class. It is our principal’s goal to get AVID back on track and GEAR UP will continue to support this as we are grateful that AVID is in our school because of initial funding from Montana GEAR UP and reaching out to us to pilot the program. BMS GEAR UP will also provide an annual STEM/Career Exploration trip for all of the AVID students this Spring.

*GEAR UP/Teacher Collaboration Projects

(1) STEM

We will be working closely with our GEAR UP team and teachers to plan our first quarter STEM event that will provide a number of fun hands-on STEM opportunities for our students

(2) GEAR UP Lessons

We will also be offering various GEAR UP career and college prep lessons on a weekly basis to our GEAR UP students.

Summer Activity Report

We had 3 BHS students attend a MEDStart (students interested in medical careers) college summer camp - 2 went to Great Falls and 1 went to Missoula.

We had 4 BMS students attend a week-long STEM summer camp at Montana State University.

We were working on a summer dual enrollment camp with FVCC and BCC but those were tabled due to attendance issues and more time needed to plan and get the word out. Next summer we are hoping that we can get these officially off the ground.



First of 4 trips to BCC to help our Dual Enrollment students get signed up for their college classes!