

## **Browning Middle/High School GEAR UP September 2021 Board Report**

### **BMS/BHS GEAR UP**

Nate and I attended our Fall GEAR UP meeting in Polson September 21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>. The theme of the meeting was: What do students need to be college ready? We had some awesome conversations with college reps from several Montana colleges about our perspectives in what we can both do (high school vs. college side) to help our students be successful.

We presently have MT AIMS (American Indians in Math and Science) students at both BMS and BHS. These are students that are interested in STEM careers and have applied to get into the program which is based at the University of Montana. These students have attended summer programs for the last several years and will continue every summer until they graduate from high school. We are also planning a GEAR UP trip for these students to return to UM (hopefully October) for continued STEM activities.

### **BHS 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.

*\*National GEAR UP Week (September 27<sup>th</sup> – October 1<sup>st</sup>)*

This is normally the week of September 20<sup>th</sup> but we have moved it to the following week as GEAR UP staff were busy with other meetings and events. We will provide “treats” and share program highlights at the end of this month. We also have a GEAR UP lesson this month that gives teachers an opportunity to share their educational journey with their advisory students. We will provide cake and other program highlights at the end of this month.

*\* BHS GEAR UP Meetings*

We will have our first meeting (a monthly meeting is required per our grant) on Thursday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> with our BHS GEAR UP Team. 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 (W.Lucke), and GEAR UP Staff (M. Magee). 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.

*\*Cut Bank College Fair*

We will be taking seniors (open to all that sign up) to this annual event on Thursday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>. 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.

*\*Senior Meeting*

GEAR UP continues to work closely with the Senior counselor on career and college prep items. We will have our first Senior meeting on Wednesday, September 29<sup>th</sup>. Topics will include important events like College Application Week, FAFSA Workshop, Decision Day, etc.

*\*GEAR UP Career/College Prep Advisory Lessons*

We are excited to be in person this year and also have more opportunities to get our GEAR UP Advisory Lessons out to advisory teachers. We are fortunate to be able to provide career and college prep lessons to advisory teachers for their students every week. Topics so far this month have been on how to use the planners provided by Montana GEAR UP, student support services available in the schools and our SSA kick-off event (discussed below)

*\*Dual Enrollment*

For this semester, we have 5 students taking dual enrollment courses at/with the following colleges: Blackfeet Community College (5) and Flathead Valley Community College (3). Our goal is to increase our numbers for next semester as we have had a number of students reach out to us to say they weren't able to do first semester but are interested in taking classes next semester. (Note: Montana GEAR UP has been able to support the funding to continue the One, Two, 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 at BCC)

*\*Student Success Agency*

We held our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual SSA Kick Off on Wednesday, September 15<sup>th</sup> 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 was the first year that we utilized this program and had # students using this resource. At our kick-off this year, we had 67 students sign up so far (those that signed up last year still have their same agent). We also received our August report that showed for last year's students that are using the program, that there were over 500 contacts made with agents that month!

**BMS GEAR UP**

*\*National GEAR UP Week (September 21-25<sup>th</sup>)*

In celebration of National GEAR UP Week, Nathan has scheduled daily dress up days for students and staff. We will also have treats available as we highlight GEAR UP for the week.

*\*BMS GEAR UP Team Meetings*

We will have our first meeting (a monthly meeting is required per our grant) on Thursday, September 23<sup>th</sup> with our BMS GEAR UP Team. 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).

*\*GEAR UP/Teacher Collaboration Projects*

(1) STEM

We have 4 teachers that are teaching a STEM class. GEAR UP is working closely with them to help with lesson ideas as well as purchasing materials. We are also putting a plan together to do quarterly STEM events for all students .

(2) *GEAR UP Lessons*

When some teachers are absent, Nathan has been able to go into those classes and teach some career and college prep lessons. He has again set up GEAR UP google classrooms for both the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. This is where he will post all of the lessons he has taught in the regular classrooms.

*\*NEPRIS Career Resource*

We have purchased licenses from this company to access a variety of career speakers. This was an excellent resource last year for our annual Career Day. Nathan has also been using this resource in the classroom.