



# Harlem School District # 12

*"We are here to Provide a Learning Environment that encourages Excellence."*



## Impact Aid Committee:

- Dawn Bishop-Moore, Chairperson
- Bethany Lawrence, Vice Chairperson
- Michelle Sears, Samantha Allen

## Administration:

- Doreen Warren, Superintendent
- Teresa Cornell, Business Manager/Clerk

## **Please give an overview of Impact Aid.**

Federal Impact Aid is designed to assist United States local school districts that have lost property tax revenue due to the presence of tax-exempt Federal property, or that have experienced increased expenditures due to the enrollment of federally connected children, including children living on Indian lands. The application is due on January 31<sup>st</sup> of each year. Payments arrive at school districts very slowly and at various rates of fulfillment.

## **Why go to Washington, DC to see Senators and Representatives instead of visiting with them on Skype or on FaceTime?**

Calling and emailing Senators and Representatives are important ways to stay in touch and share your views. However, when 30-40 actual people from Montana appear in their offices, it has a bigger impact on the Senators and Representatives and they pay more attention.

## **Please provide an update of the Fisher Report.**

Not able to locate information on the Fisher Report.

## **How can we get paras on buses to improve students' behavior?**

When buses are doubled-up, a para rides the bus with the students. Also, in the past we provided MBI (Montana Behavioral Institute) training to the bus drivers and now would be a good time for them to have an updated training on managing student behavior.

## **How is gossiping being addressed?**

The biggest problem is social media and kids with cell phones. Kids (and sometimes adults) say some very unkind things on social media that they would never say to someone's face. In the elementary school these issues are addressed in the Character Education classes and by all homeroom teachers as well. In the Jr Hi/Sr Hi it becomes more complicated. The Blaine County Sheriff has conducted presentations for the students about using social media responsibly. Also, these issues are addressed during Advisement.

## **Other School districts have mentoring programs.**

In August 2017, Mr. Komrosky, Jr Hi/ Sr Hi Principal, implemented a mentoring program. While there was some initial hesitation on the part of students and families, it has been growing

into an important aspect of the school. Also, we instituted a “Basketball Buddies” program between the Basketball Teams and the Elementary students.

### **Volunteers to ride on buses?**

As always, the background check is an issue. The wait time on a background check depends upon the time of year; in the fall it can be well over a month and in the winter/spring it is usually a couple weeks.

### **What can families do about bullying? Our teachers should be trained around bullying.**

#### **What can the School Board do about bullying?**

- Families can teach their own children to not be by-standers. If they see someone being bullied, step in and support the student being bullied. If this is not practical, make sure that your student tells at least two adults at the school so that action will be taken.
- If your child is being bullied at school, please report it immediately. The school can only take action if it is aware of the issue.
- All administrators are trained to utilize OPI’s (Office of Public Instruction’s) Bullying Investigation Processes.
- **Bullying is bad behavior. But not all bad behavior is bullying.**
- The School Board can monitor bullying behavior via monthly reports from the Assistant Principals.

### **Need school assemblies focusing on 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> graders.**

The elementary Assistant Principal, Ms. Bigby, and the elementary Counselor, Ms. Sand, address bullying issues swiftly if they arise. There have been grade level presentations, group interventions, and/or individual interventions. Families are contacted and behavior plans are implemented.

### **Need more American Indian culture in schools. Request Cultural Involvement Committee to get guidance/input. Implement a ceremony for girls that become women.**

- Harlem School District follows MCA 20-1-501, Indian Education for All. American Indian culture, history, and traditions are part of K-12 curriculum.
- The Annual Pow-Wow is held every September at the High School.
- There is currently one Culture teacher district-wide and in planning for SY18-19, we will be discussing the expansion of this program.
- March 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Annual Indian Education for All Best Practices Conference; Julie Lamebull, Title VII Project Coordinator, Andrea Quintana, Title VII Liaison/Cultural Specialist, and teachers attend.
- March 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> MSU Northern, Havre, MT Indian Education Youth Conference; Julie Lamebull, Title VII Project Coordinator, Andrea Quintana, Title VII Liaison/Cultural Specialist, and students attend.
- April 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Montana Indian Education Association; Julie Lamebull, Title VII Project Coordinator, Andrea Quintana, Title VII Liaison/Cultural Specialist, and teachers attend.
- Tribal Wraparound Project brought to Harlem School District by OPI in January 2018. Culturally competent emotional support to youth and their families.
- Implementation of Jr. Tribal Council at Harlem High School. Students will attend monthly Tribal Council Meetings. Facilitator: Mrs. Crystal Doney.

- Indian Club at Harlem High School meets regularly and serves the community.
- November 2017; Montana Native Youth Conference Leadership Planning Meeting; meeting was attended by Ms. Brandi Horn and ten students.
- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Beading classes after school.
- Will discuss implementation of Cultural Involvement Committee with Julie Lamebull.

**National Study shows that American Indian students' achievement scores fall at or near 4<sup>th</sup> grade.**

- Henderson and Mapp (2002) provide research evidence that engaged families, regardless of their economic or ethnic background, result in improved student achievement scores as well as improved attendance, improved graduation rates, lower discipline problems, and improved social skills. First family engagement training for faculty and staff: 02.08.2018 and it will include trainers from the Parent-Teacher Home Visit Project from Poplar (who Ms. Warren trained several years ago).

Henderson, A.T. & Mapp, K.L. (2002). *A new wave of evidence: The impact of school, family, and community connections on student achievement*. Retrieved 01.26.2018 from: <https://www.sedl.org/connections/resources/evidence.pdf>

- Please see Chart 1 below. It is from: Montana American Indian Student Achievement Data Report, Fall 2017.

<b>Chart 1: Percent of American Indians scoring Proficient or Advanced on 2016-2017 Smarter Balanced Test</b>							
	<b>Blackfeet</b>	<b>Crow</b>	<b>Flathead</b>	<b>Fort Belknap</b>	<b>Fort Peck</b>	<b>Northern Cheyenne</b>	<b>Rocky Boy</b>
<b>English Language Arts</b>	12.2% (1021)	12.5% (807)	26.7% (1060)	26.3% (396)	12.2% (995)	3.1% (293)	21.9% (411)
<b>Math</b>	8.2% (1110)	6.6% (1014)	18.6% (1113)	35.0% (397)	6.2% (1019)	1.7% (290)	14.3% (419)

**Please explain chain of command as it pertains to a complaint about a school incident.**

Please see attached documents: Board Policy 1700 and the Harlem School District Complaint Form.

- Level 1: Informal Complaint. This is the first attempt to resolve the complaint.
- Level 2: Building Administrator. When the complaint has not been resolved at Level 1, the individual should utilize the Harlem School District Complaint Form and file the complaint with the Building Administrator. Must be filed within 30 days of event/incident.
- Level 3: Superintendent. The Superintendent will review the complaint and the Building Administrator's decision. The Superintendent will respond within 30 days of receiving the written complaint.

- Level 4: The School Board. Upon written request, the School Board will consider the Superintendent's decision. The decision of the School Board is final.

**Are there any programs in place for kids who aren't on Honor Roll? They should not feel left out.**

- ROAR Tickets are given out all day every day and there are weekly drawings for schoolwide recognition and prizes.
- Monthly Student of the Month Luncheons (SOM).
- Perfect Attendance certificates and prizes are given monthly.
- Improved Attendance Awards are given weekly to students who might have been struggling with their attendance.
- Improved Behavior charts and awards are available to students who are managing their behavior.

**Why did Honor Roll Swim Trip go to Havre?**

There were no life guards available at Red Whip.

**Why did the 5<sup>th</sup> grade students not have lunch during Honor Roll Trip?**

The Honor Roll students ate lunch at the school before they left. There was not enough time to both swim and eat lunch at a restaurant in Havre.

**How is there culture in the classrooms?**

- During Native American Week at cultural stations: stick games, traditional games, Lodge skirt making, traditional foods, drymeat class, drum making, pipe making, winter count, storytelling, sweet grass braiding, teepee set up, and uses of buffalo.
- High School English classes read Native books
- 4<sup>th</sup> grade Cultural Awareness Activity (Family Tree)
- Social Studies and Language lessons about Snake Butte
- Topography of Ft. Belknap
- Study construction of Ft. Peck dam
- Study the negative impact of mining in the Little Rocky Mountains
- Assiniboine and Gros Ventre Creation Stories
- Study Ft. Belknap's Tribal Council
- Study history of Ft. Belknap Seal
- Meaning of Sovereign Nation
- Map reading skills (of Ft. Belknap)
- Study crops traditionally grown on Ft. Belknap
- Travel around Ft. Belknap before there were cars
- History of religious journeys around Ft. Belknap
- Study history of census of Ft. Belknap
- History of all seven of Montana's reservations; discuss Little Shell's recognition fight
- How did people live in Ft. Belknap before there were houses
- History of Plains Indian headdress
- The negative impact of Columbus on Native Americans
- Study of items traded by Ft. Belknap American Indians so very long ago

- Traditional ways of honoring family members

**Cancellation of 21<sup>st</sup> Century After-School Classes**

The Program does everything within its power to not cancel the after-school classes.

**MBI (Montana Behavioral Institute) addresses bullying. Where does the budget come from?**

MBI's budget comes from OPI. All of the teacher training and Youth Days events are always paid for by MBI.

**Does the Tribal Council sign the Impact Aid Application?**

Only the school Superintendent signs the Impact Aid Application. Four entities sign Table 1 and Table 3: a representative of the Tribal Council, a representative of the BIA, the County Tax Assessor, and the school Superintendent.

**Under what circumstances do athletes get financial support from the school district to eat meals if they are out of town?**

The Athletic Department's policy is to provide meals from student athletes if they are travelling 40 miles or more for an event.

**Programs suggestions: Healthy Communities and Muffin Morning.**

We have a new Wellness Committee that meets four times a year. We are always looking for members from the community. The elementary has considered "Muffins with Mom" and "Donuts with Dad" for years but there has never been too much interest. Perhaps we should try again!