

HHS World Studies Field Trip

Monday, May 12th, 2025

HOUSEHOLDS of WORLD STUDIES STUDENTS:

This email is intended to reiterate important notices regarding our field trip opportunity coming up Monday, May 12th, 2025. If you remember, we completed not too long ago, a unit on North America with a heavy emphasis on our tribal nations here in the state of Montana. A few of our connecting activities were participating in North American Traditional games (*worked closely with Mr. Joe Pichardo and Ms. Terri Johnson*), 'Stone People's Lodge' (*art of storytelling*), ledger art and Bison doll creations (*led by Mrs. Twoteeth-Pichardo*), to name a few activities that assisted in connecting with how impactful Bison and the history of this animal affected and continues to effect our Indigenous people. With that said, it is important to understand that due to our extensive work with this unit, we received two grants to allow for us to embark on this field-trip to the First Peoples Buffalo Jump State Park (*Ulm, MT*) to further our knowledge and enhance content. We will meet the proctor of the state park at the top of the jump, learn the history of our location, hike/walk around, listen to traditional stories about Bison, and have lunch. We are also hoping to play 'double-ball' a traditional game all freshman were able to participate in playing, earlier this fall (*weather depending*). Click [here](#) to read more about the game of double ball, provided by the National Park Service.

Our field trip will take the school day, which will follow the early release schedule. Please read the important take-aways below to ensure your teens are prepared for field-trip departure on Monday, May 12th, 2025;

1. A form titled, 'Permit to Attend Helena Public Schools Sponsored Activity and Emergency Medical Treatment Authorization' went home last week. We will still take these as it is required for students to attend. Time is of the essence with receiving your permissions.
 - a. NOTE: Many students have already turned in their signed permissions slips, if they have, it will appear in their gradebook
2. Press coverage *could* be present as this is grant supported by a multitude of agencies. It is my duty to alert you to this. While the field trip is an extension of the classroom, you must **opt out** your teen if you DO NOT want media to include them in any way shape or form.
3. Review the attachment sent from the state park and go through it with your teen. While it will of course be covered in class, this is the first field-trip out of town for many. It would be greatly appreciated if you could also reiterate the points highlighted. Our opportunity to attend and engage in not only a historical exploration of the place, but also get to pay homage to our indigenous community. Students will be paying respect to the land and represent our community of HHS through positive interactions. I am not worried as these students are great humans, but over-preparedness is key to success.
4. Note the item mentioned in the state park letter about appropriate dress that caters to the terrain and climate.
5. FINALLY, we have a slew of people pitching in to feed our students. We are able provide smaller sandwiches with 'fixing's' on the side, chips, pickles, and other items that may present themselves through donated food items from HIA. I would really suggest bringing more snacks and re-fillable water bottles too, as our trip spans the regular hours of a school day and staying hydrated, and bellies satisfied is suggested. Please take note too that I am not sure exactly what the food provided will be and with additional snacks being brought by others, be mindful of your child's needs (*hence, the indicators regarding allergies, restrictions, and other important 'must-knows' for travel should be present on the permission slip as I will have them with me on the bus*). It is important to know we are traveling with a lot of students throughout World Studies, Montana History, Native American representatives, and additional younger students from one of our local elementaries.

Students know they will meet outside of our gym here at HHS to load the bus parked on Roberts street, between the field and the gym, by 8:15am, which departs at 8:30am. We will leave with ample time to ensure we are back no later than 2:15pm as we recognize rides will be waiting, activities need to be attended too, and busses need to be caught.

Appreciate your time and please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions. Everyone involved in this is incredibly excited!

Lauren E. Gustafson
Helena High School
Social Studies Teacher
Go Bengals!