



September 3, 2021

Dear Helena School District Families,

Thank you for helping us make the first week of school a terrific one. I couldn't be prouder of our community for making this week a success.

While we see reports of discord and heartache at schools across the country, our Helena community pulled together for our children. For that, I offer my most sincere thanks.

Please also join me in thanking our teachers for their hard work and positive energy. As we celebrate Labor Day this weekend, we can count them among our hardest-working American heroes. I dropped in on schools across the district this week to see our teachers in action. Aside from the masks, our classrooms felt remarkably normal and filled with back-to-school energy and enthusiasm.

Speaking of masks, please know that we're all eager for the day when we can see your children's smiles brighten our classrooms. We also know we won't be out of the COVID-19 woods for some time yet. The transmission rate in Lewis & Clark County remains at the "High" level, with case numbers continuing to climb. Our current mask status remains in place – masks remain required for PreK-8 and are strongly recommended for grades 9-12.

Yet after our shared success this week, I remain optimistic that our community can give our children the school year they deserve. Thank you for helping us keep your children safe and in the classroom.

I wish you a safe and happy Labor Day weekend with friends and family.

We're going to have a great year!

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rex Weltz". The signature is stylized with a large, looping flourish at the end.

Rex Weltz
Superintendent, Helena Public Schools