



Welcome to Glacier Gateway Elementary School. Our staff, students, and parents collaborate to create an effective, safe, and positive learning environment. Students contribute by trying hard to learn, behaving responsibly, and being considerate of others. Parents contribute academically by making sure students attend regularly, reading with their children, helping with homework, and volunteering in classrooms. They support the safety and effectiveness of our school when they hold children to high behavioral and academic expectations. All of us working together create a great place for learning!

Our academic programs meet learners at their current levels and work toward promoting self-motivated students who commit to learning. In each grade level, students have the opportunity to work with others who are learning at a similar pace and level. This allows our teachers to tailor instruction specifically to the learning needs of the students. Those who need extra support and intervention receive it on a daily basis, while those seeking extra challenges have opportunities to explore. We are committed to involving students in their own learning and assessment by using instructional strategies and grading practices that help students recognize and understand their individual progress. Students have opportunities to read with students from different grade levels, to work with senior volunteers, and to collaborate with other students on special projects. Additional support for students to work in a supervised environment is available at lunch in the computer lab and after school at Homework Club in the library. All students are invited to participate in the Great Brain Project, in which students research a topic of interest in depth and present it to their classmates.

School safety is a continual focus at Glacier Gateway. We have a strong Montana Behavioral Initiative program that all staff members work together to teach to all of our students. Positive student behaviors are taught and recognized in the classroom, the halls, at lunch, and on the playground. Each month, students participate in an assembly that teaches an important Quality for Success. We regularly celebrate our collective accomplishments in keeping our school safe and friendly. The school counselor teaches each grade level appropriate strategies for how to avoid bullying, how to make and keep friends, and how to solve individual difficulties.

We believe school should be a fun and engaging environment for students. To support that goal, we offer a variety of activities during the school day and after school. During the day, students may participate in Knitting Club, Walking Club, organized playground games, Student Council, Recycling Club, Student Store, and various other activities offered by homeroom teachers. Student field trips take advantage of the great outdoor and cultural resources the Flathead Valley has to offer. Each year, we also have guest speakers and artists who visit school to work with our students. After school, Homework Club is available every weekday except Wednesday, and a variety of other offerings ranging from sports, to arts & drama, to science, to computer activities are available on an occasional basis. In addition, we have several family participation evenings. These include Book Fairs, a Halloween Carnival, a Family Appreciation BBQ, and other fun activities that vary from year to year. Individual classroom teachers also offer many chances for families to participate in their children's learning.

Please feel free to contact me at 892-6540, or dwood@sd6.k12.mt.us with further inquiries.

Dot Wood