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Today's Date Should Be: **Thursday, January 2, 2025**

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Kevin Wilkerson

The Wilkerson Family gathering has been moved to the Andrus Hotel "The Gathering Place" for ease of access. **Saturday, January. 4th at 1 p.m.** to honor Kevin and share in the memories of his life.

Bannack Association Dinner

The Bannack Association Annual dinner will be held on Saturday. January 11, 2025, in the Lewis & Clark room at U of M Western. The social gathering, no host bar, and silent auction will begin at 5 pm followed by dinner at 6 pm. A short meeting will be held at 7pm with a year-in-review park report and election of board members. Following this will be a program "Cowboy Songs and Stories" presented by Phil Paige

The dinner is open to anyone interested in Bannack State Park. Membership renewals or new memberships include the cost of the dinner and can be paid for at the dinner: Single membership - $25, Family membership (includes 4 immediate family member) - $40, Business Membership (2 people) - $50.

Please RSVP by January 3rd, so we can make sure all who attend will be served. For reservations, please call the park and leave a message with the visitor center at 406-834-3413 or Arlis Vannett at 406-925-2209 or arlis_v@hotmail.com

3 Rivers Back Country Horseman

The Annual meting of the 3 Rivers Back Country Horseman will be held January 7 2025 at 6:30pm at the Search and Rescue building. Election of new officers will be held.

Little Skiers Late Sign ups

If you missed the sign up for Little Skiers come by the Jaycee building on Thursday, January 2 from 6-7pm to sign up. For questions call Leslie Ferguson 406-596-1689.

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

January 2, 2025
12:15 P.M.

BEAVERHEAD COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

THURSDAY January 9th, 2025
COMMISSIONER'S ROOM, COUNTY COURTHOUSE
1:00 PM REGULAR MEETING

ICE SKATING AT BANNACK

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MONTANA WESTERN NAMES STUDENTS TO DEAN'S LIST

The University of Montana Western named 547 students to the 2024 fall semester Dean's List.

To achieve this honor, students must be enrolled full-time or for 12 semester credits and carry a minimum 3.33 grade point average. An asterisk after a name indicates a student received Dean's List high honors.

DILLON: Ben Austiguy, Nathan Bellinger, Haylee Brown, Kyle Conway*, Phoenix Eck, Stephanie Feurer*, Jace Fitzgerald, Samuel Frank, Jennifer George *, Joyana Gillentine *, Nicolas Johnston, Victoria Johnston, Eden Kindberg, Jonathan Kirkley, Carsten Lemelin, Taylor Lovaas*, Nicolas Macdonald, Eli Nourse, Rebekah Pierce, Kathryn Rondeau*, Karen Sparman, Mia Thorne*, Charlotte Walters*, Taylor Williams, Lauren Wyatt

Glen: Kaden Pittman*

Polaris: Kimberly Giannone*

Twin Bridges: Lillian Grabil *, Ellen Humbert, Molly Humbert, Hadley Johnson*, Kyle Pancost, Clementine Pierre*

Moy Earns Second Frontier Conference Player of the Week Honor This Season

The Frontier Conference announced this week's ERCK Hotels Women's Basketball Players of the Week this afternoon. Maddy Moy was selected as the conference Defensive Player of the Week.

Moy, a sophomore guard from Kalispell, Mont., was selected as the Defensive Player of the Week after she led the Bulldogs with an impressive six steals and seven defensive rebounds, propelling UMW to an 87-34 home victory over Keyano College. She also registered a block in the game.

This is Moy's second career Erck Hotels / Frontier Conference Player of the Week award.

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Programs/Group Exercise
Stop by the "Y" TODAY and check out our group exercise programs and aquatic activities. Body Blitz (T,TH, - 5:45am), Biker Blast (M,W,F - 5:45am), Yoga Strength (T,TH - 7:00am), Yoga (T,TH - 12:10pm), Senior Fit (M,W,F - 9:30am), Interval Strength (T,TH - 8:30am), Strength & Conditioning (M,W-5:30pm), Ride to Rhythm (T,TH - 5:30pm), Ski Conditioning (T,TH - 6:15pm).

Adventures in After School Program
This program starts September 3rd and gives participants a more in depth programming while giving parents flexibility to fit work schedules. Children will ride the bus to the Y, have a snack, and then b involved in the camp offered for that week. You may sign up for a week or the month, it's up to you. Children in K-5th grade are eligible to join. Camp will end at 5:30pm each day. Camps will be offered all school year long with the exception of school holidays. Full and half day programs will be offered on school's out days for an additional charge. A separate registration is required.

AFTER SCHOOL REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!
Next in the After School Series (Jan. 2nd-Jan. 3rd) is "A Fresh Start." This week we will be making goals for the New Year and crafting some fun creations.

Ski & Snowboard Conditioning
Presented by OrthoRehab and your YMCA. Class starts Nov. 5th at 6:15pm and runs every Tues. & Thurs. until December 31st. Class available to non-members, members are free.

New Years Hours
The "Y" will be closed Dec. 31st at 1:00pm, closed all day on Jan. 1st so our wonderful staff can enjoy the New Year. Have a happy and healthy holiday!

YMCA Swim Team
Join our team from 4:15-5:15pm every Tuesday and Thursday starting September 24th.

YMCA Online Registration
Online registration for programs available now. Please visit www.swmtf-ymca.org

YMCA's have long been at the forefront of serving their communities and making a positive difference in the lives of everyone who participates. Please consider a gift today and help a child learn, grow and thrive.

Strong Family Campaign
Exercise your heart in more ways than one, give and join!
The purpose of this campaign is to generate funds to support programs, activities, scholarships and services for all members of our community regardless of age or ability to pay. Please help us reach our 2024 campaign goal. Thanks for your continued support of the YMCA!

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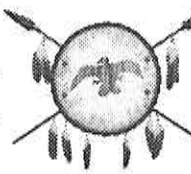
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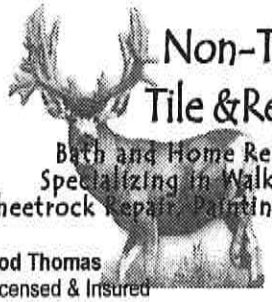


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Bulldog Women Cruise Past Huskies

The Montana Western women's basketball team (4-7) got back on track this afternoon in an 87-34 rout of Keyano College (AB).

Keke Davis led the Bulldogs with a career high 15 points off of a 7-9 shooting performance from the field.

"Both teams scrapped hard for 40 minutes. Our ladies battled the whole game, which gave our younger players some quality time on the court," Head Coach Britt Cooper said. "A great team win for us as we get ready for conference."

How It Happened: Montana Western capitalized on turnovers in the opening minutes, leading to a 14-4 opening quarter lead.

Davis got Western rolling in the second quarter, hitting a triple followed by a pair of buckets to put Western up by 21 points in the first four minutes of the second quarter.

A layup from Ava Bellach in the final minute gave the Bulldogs enough of a push to take a 44-16 lead into the half.

Keyano found some rhythm, riding behind a 10-0 scoring run midway through the third quarter. The Huskies' run was short-lived as Isabella Lund broke the streak with back-to-back layups.

Bellach added to the quarter by hitting a pair of triples split by a fastbreak layup to flip momentum back in favor of the Bulldogs and help UMW to take a 64-30 lead into the final frame.

Montana Western's bench players contributed significantly in the fourth, combining for 21 points and securing the 87-34 victory.

Notables

- The Bulldogs combined to shoot 49.3 percent in the game, with a second quarter high of 77.8 percent from the field.
- UMW's bench added 40 points in today's win, with Bellach hitting a career high 14 points in the game.
- The Bulldog defense forced Keyano into 30 turnovers in the game, with both Kylee Old Elk and Maddy Moy each totaling six steals.
- Davis hit a career high 15 points off of a 7-9 shooting performance from the field. She also added six rebounds, two steals, and an assist.
- Moy and Bellach matched each other's shooting on the afternoon with 14 points apiece. Moy also led the Bulldogs with seven rebounds.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Beaverhead Food Pantry: open Tuesday Nights 5:30 - 7:30 & Wednesday 12-2:30

Happy New Year!



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Commerce's Agritourism Grant Program Allocates Funds to Promote Agricultural Tourism Across Montana

More than $350,000 of funding will support local agricultural businesses and rural communities

The Montana Department of Commerce announced today that over $350,000 of grant funding will be divided among 17 agricultural businesses and communities throughout Montana. These funds will support diversification, agricultural opportunities and tourism revenue across the state. The funding is through Commerce's Agritourism Grant Program.

"As a state with a strong focus on agriculture and an abundance of rural communities, agritourism is a uniquely beneficial opportunity for Montana," said Paul Green, Director of the Montana Department of Commerce. "Through supporting both rural and tribal agricultural businesses, Commerce can showcase Montana's distinct cultures and encourage the diversification of agricultural operations."

Agritourism is a commercial enterprise that links tourism with agricultural production to attract visitors to ranches, farms or other agricultural businesses for entertainment or educational purposes. The Agritourism Grant Program assists rural businesses with their efforts to promote agritourism in their communities.

The following will receive Agritourism Grant Program funding:

- Border Farm in Bozeman will receive $10,000 for the Processing Kitchen and Farm Classroom Project.
- Blonde Farms of Montana in Ledger will receive

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- $10,000 for the Farrowing Barn Expansion Project.
- Wickens Salt Creek Ranch, LLC in Hilger will receive $10,000 for the Montana Savory Hub Project.
- PR Country Comforts in Forsyth will receive $50,000 for the Honey House Project.
- Red Hen Farm and Orchard, LLC in Missoula will receive $31,484.99 for the Red Hen Farm Classroom and Farm Stay Project.
- Primrose Farm and Bakehouse in Missoula will receive $9,795 for the Education Shelter and Expansion Project.
- ReWild Ranch, Inc. in Missoula will receive $49,400 for the ReWild Final Phase Agritourism Project.
- Victory Gardens in Missoula will receive $50,000 for the Victory Gardens Education Center.
- Country Pumpkins in Havre will receive $10,000 for the Country Pumpkin Activity Expansion Project.
- The Smokehouse, LLC in Polson will receive $7,215 for the Hyper-Local Farm-to-Table Project.
- KRose Company in Kalispell will receive $50,000 for She's a Hand Ranch Camp.
- Alberton Orchards in Alberton will receive $5,700 for the Enhance Alberton Orchard Agritourism Project.
- Sweet Grass County in Big Timber will receive $25,000 for the Sweet Grass County Fairground Grandstands Improvement Project.
- Montana Moments, LLC in Glendive will receive $16,810.50 for Expanding Our AGvocacy Through Eastern Montana Tourism.
- Shugabeet Farm Organics in Emigrant will receive $4,500 for the Shugabeet Farmstead: From Field to Feast Project.
- AG Talk, LLC – DBA Manner West in Forsyth will receive $5,000 for the Farm Store and On-Farm Event Space Project.
- Live Oak Belgians, LLC in St. Ignatius will receive $9,660 for the Barn and Cabin Reconstruction Project.

Eligible applicants for the Agritourism Grant Program include local governments, schools, tribal governments, enrolled tribe members, Montana residents and businesses that work in Montana's agriculture sector, provide agriculture experiences or offer agritourism opportunities to the public. The Agritourism Grant Program is a state-funded opportunity authorized by the 2023 Montana Legislature's enactment of Senate Bill 540.

For more information, visit commerce.mt.gov.

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Veteran's Corner

By Mike Lawson

Greetings to all of you who read my SW MT Veteran update articles. It's now that lull of time between Christmas and New year. I write this column on Saturday the 28th of December. Christmas was a bit strange with our mild weather and little or no snow. Some West Coast storms are in the forecast, so maybe we'll be a recipient of snow coming from some of those storms.

I became acquainted with a Veteran who became stranded in Dillon after wrecking his vehicle. He got into some trouble by having "too much fun" in some Dillon Bars and was brought to Butte by the Dillon police. I was called, picked him up and took him to the Butte VA Clinic. Too make a long story short, he is bipolar and was living on the streets of Butte and Dillon. His wrecked vehicle was sitting in a wrecking yard full of his stuff. He doesn't have the money to pay for it being stored there and is living on a small SS Check. He was living on the streets, homeless. After a month of this and staying in contact with me, I decided to get him to the wrecking yard, load his stuff in my vehicle and take him to his off-the-grid home 10 miles from Florence, Montana. It was a 177 mile journey from Dillon to his home located in the mountains 10 miles from Florence. He talked non -stop with some of it making sense and some of it not. My experience with this very intelligent bipolar veteran with his mental illness was a wake up call for me. There are many veterans like him out there trying to survive. It was an interesting 10 mile journey from Florence to his mountain cabin … going through areas of high-money homes on acreages, before hitting about 5 miles of gravel roads leading up to his off-grid cabin. Getting to his cabin and unloading his stuff was a relief. His set-up of solar and wind generation power was just one testament to the intelligence of the innovations he has made there since 1990. The whole gist of this is that people like him need help in the way of caseworkers, counselors/care givers/etc., to help them survive and live in our society. When funding cuts are on the table to eliminate these services, we as a society will be the losers. These types of folks will be put out on the streets and will be out of control in a negative way. I would like to think the 395 miles I drove on this endeavor, maybe saved

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a life and hopefully will have made and continue to make a positive difference in this Veteran's life. May we all look at ways we can help those who are mentally challenged, that need a helping hand in life to just survive in a positive way.

Veteran News Updates:

Our Butte and SW Montana Toys For Tot's Campaign was a great success. Hopefully we'll have tabulated all the numbers for my next column to report. Again many thanks for all who were involved from workers to contributors.

A wide ranging,"landmark" bill for veterans and their caregivers just passed Congress. The House approved the final version of the bicameral bill 382-12. The Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act, will bring much needed relief to America's veterans and their caregivers. One Veteran group CEO said lawmakers put aside their political divisions and "did right by American Veterans and passed this important piece of Legislation." I would encourage any of you veterans and your loved ones to look this Dole Act up and see the many great benefits for veterans that will be provided for the young/old, for both men and women. It's uplifting to see, in this time of political turmoil, both sides respecting each other and coming to an agreement for this country's Veterans.

The following mental health services for military veterans include: 1) VA medical centers:Call or walk in anytime. 2) Vet Centers: Community-based counseling during clinic hours. 3) Open Arms: Provides free counseling, crisis support, and peer programs. 4) Department of Veterans' Affairs (DAV): Funds Mental Health care based on service connection and individual circumstances. 5) Emergency care: Available for veterans in an acute suicidal crisis, including inpatient and outpatient care

The 2025 New Year is now upon us. The political arena will be different for sure and hopefully one of compromise and not one of steamrolling the other side's agenda. That's my concern and prayer for this new year in which each of us will get one year older. So, a toast to each of you for a Happy New Year!!

Until next time, take care.

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- Knowledgeable with computers.
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- Must maintain a professional image

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The practice is looking to fill various shifts Monday- Friday 7a-5p.

Job Type: Full-time
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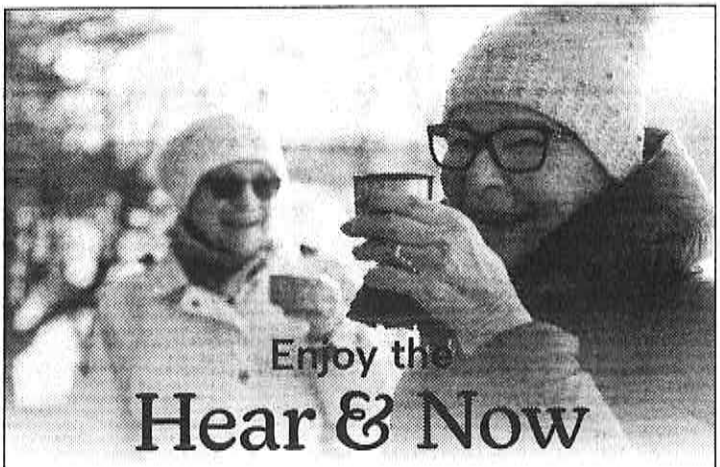
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Dillon Jaycee Little Skiers 2025

Thank you for joining the Dillon Jaycee Little Skiers Program. To ensure your child has a great experience here are a few reminders and rules:

- Skiing/Riding will be 2, 4 WEEK SESSIONS starting on January 4th, 2022 – Jan. 25th and Feb 1st - Feb 22nd. There will be NO makeup days for anyone who missed a day.
- For those that ABSOLUTELY need transportation Buses leave at 8:25 am and return at approximately 4:30 pm. Parents transporting participants should plan on meeting at Maverick at 9:15am.
- If a child rides the bus in the morning but will not be riding the bus in the afternoon, **A Note Must Be Provided**. This includes children riding home with parents or with another adult. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**
- Kids must be dressed appropriately for winter weather (Snow pants, winter coat, hat and goggles/glasses) Always be prepared for cold weather conditions. **These items are not provided!**
- Lunch is provided. Lunch times are staggered from ~11am to 1pm. Kids are welcome to bring snacks. Concessions are available at the Mountain.
- Equipment, including skis, snowboard, boots and poles, are available to rent from the Dillon Jaycees and can be used throughout the season. The equipment is property of the Dillon Jaycees and must be returned.
- The date for Equipment Return is April 2nd at 6:00pm at the Jaycee Building. If this time does not work please contact us to make other arrangements.
- Once at Maverick kids will grab their equipment and meet their instructor. The instructor is in charge until the end of the day. *Groups will be small 8 or less. Lessons are structured to learn, PARENTS are strongly discouraged from skiing with lesson groups.*
- Children riding the bus back to town must be aboard the bus by **3:25 pm**

Start Date Session 1:
1/4/2025

Start Date Session 2:
2/1/2025

Drop Off/Pick Up Location:

Beaverhead Golf Course
1260 Hwy 41

Drop off Time: 8:00 am

Pick Up Time: 4:30 pm

Lessons Start @ 9:30 am

Contact Information:
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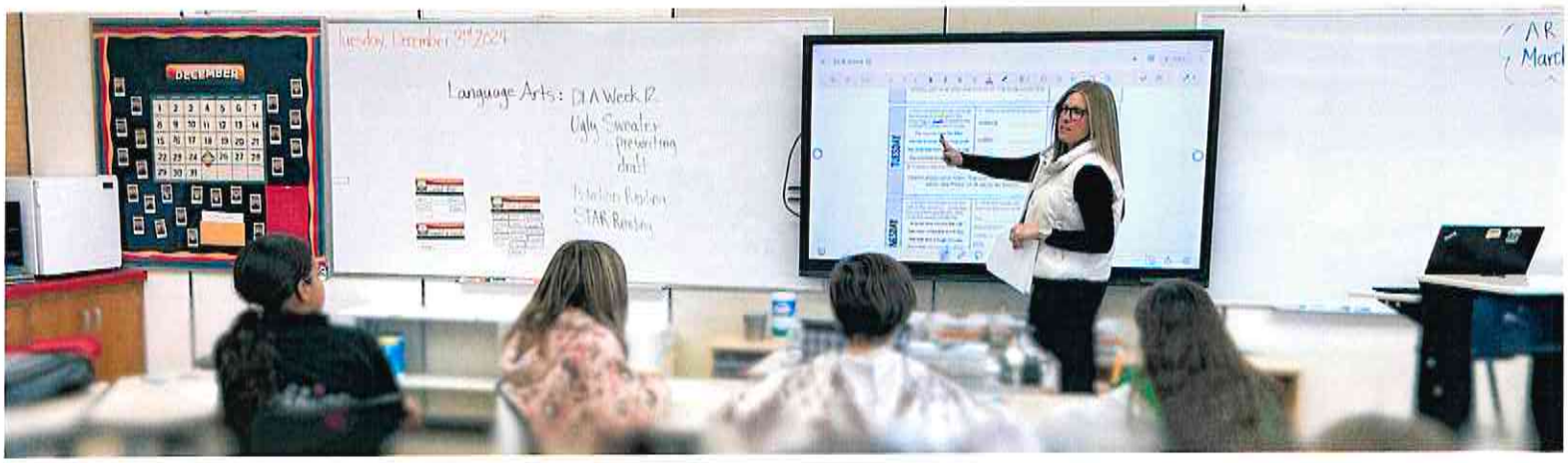
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Dillon Elementary School District #10

2025 Technology Levy



By the Numbers

$150,000

Technology Fund increase to protect student and staff data, purchase student learning software, improve parent communication tools and maintain and replace instructional devices.

10 year term for levy

If approved, the technology levy would remain in place until 2035.

14.7% less per-pupil

Dillon Elementary School District spends 14.7% less per-pupil than Montana's per-pupil average. SD #10 spent $11,388 per pupil, in contrast to Montana's state average of $13,346, as reported in the 2022-2023 school year.

$50,000 - $1 million

Monetary losses to school districts following a cyber incident ranged from $50,000 to $1 million according to the U.S. Government Accountability Office.

23 years

Number of years since Dillon Elementary School District has requested technology funds, despite growing demand. Currently, the district has a $50,000 annual technology levy.

141%

Increase in technology-related costs over the last 7 years ensuring students and the district can keep pace with technological advancements essential for modern education.

$275,000 current shortfall

Current technology costs exceed the existing $50,000 technology levy by $275,000. A new technology levy would increase funding and allow general funds to be reallocated to support our students, teachers, staff, and community.

Learn more at https://www.dillonschools.org/page/2025-technology-levy or scan the QR Code.

Dillon Elementary School District #10

2025 Technology Levy

Dillon Elementary School District #10



Why is Dillon Elementary asking for a technology levy increase?

Dillon Elementary School District #10 is asking for voter approval of a $150,000 technology levy increase in the May 2025 election to help maintain and update critical educational technology. This additional funding will support the following:

- Protecting Student and Staff Data
- Purchasing Student Learning Software
- Improving Parent Communication Tools
- Maintaining and Replacing Instructional Devices

How much would this cost me?

Tax Increase Estimate	
$8.01 per year	*Estimate for a home with a market value of $100,000*
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$48.03 per year	*Estimate for a home with a market value of $600,000*

Please visit the website below for additional tax estimates and information.

The Dillon Elementary School District technology levy will provide sustainable funding to maintain a safe learning environment, ensure reliable access to educational resources, purchase parent communication tools and digital learning platforms as well as maintain and replace instructional devices.

Protecting Student and Staff Data and Privacy:
Annual threat response and cybersecurity subscriptions are vital in protecting student and staff data and maintaining a safe learning environment. In 2023, 22% of all data breaches involved the education sector, highlighting the significant risk and need for effective data protection measures.

Purchasing Student Learning Software:
Annual software fees for student assessment and learning tools are essential to the success of our students. The variety of educational resources provides personalized learning experiences, allowing students to progress, addressing their individual needs in an effective and enjoyable way. Additionally, it offers valuable data and insights to help us track progress, identify areas for improvement and tailor instruction to better support student achievement. Technology directly impacts our students' success.

Improving Parent Communication Tools:
Effective parent communication technology is crucial for fostering a supportive school community focused on student success. These funds will enable timely updates and the purchase of tools that enhance collaboration between parents and educators, improving student outcomes. Additionally, communication technology supports both administrative functions and the diverse needs of students.

Maintaining and Replacing Instructional Devices:
Maintaining and replacing instructional devices is crucial for keeping technology up to date and supporting effective teaching. Annual IT support contracts help our small school manage technical issues, maintain a productive learning environment, and allow educators to focus on student success. We also need repairs for devices used in state-mandated assessments.

Learn more at https://www.dillonschools.org/page/2025-technology-levy or scan the QR Code.

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