

# COMMUNITY NEWS



**BACK 2 SCHOOL**  
Drive-Thru Fairs

**Saturday, August 14, 2021**  
**10:00 a.m.**

3 Counties on 1 Date

- Central High School**  
15875 New Hope Valley Rd.  
Florence, MT 59002
- East High School**  
2200 Avenue M  
Big Lake, MT 59008
- West High School**  
1. Avenue C  
Helena, MT 59601

Headwood School District will host its annual **Back 2 School Drive-Thru Fairs** at all three high schools on August 14. The goal is to safely provide students with resources for the upcoming school year and celebrate our wonderful district. **FREE** backpacks and school supplies will be provided as a first come first served basis until supplies are gone. In addition, free performances and other fun activities are being planned for the drive-thru fairs. Please do thank our local fire and police departments and community partners for providing backpacks and school supplies for the fairs.

For more information, visit [www.HeadwoodSchoolDistrict.org](http://www.HeadwoodSchoolDistrict.org).



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## THE SOURCE

# Prep squad

In 2014, Washington University began the College Prep Program to help talented St. Louis students with limited financial resources thrive in college. Six members of the first cohort just graduated from WashU.

Meris Saric was leaning back in his chair at Gateway STEM High School when he started to tumble backward. He reached for the wall, but it was too late.

“As I was falling, I ripped the brochure for the College Prep Program off the bulletin board,” Saric recalls. “My teacher said, ‘Well, I guess you have to apply.’”

Meanwhile, Marquise Butcher, a student at Central Visual and Performing Arts High School, asked his mom to grab his math book from his book bag. Instead she pulled out the same brochure.

“She asked me, ‘Did you read this? Do you realize what an opportunity this is?’” Butcher says.

And across town at Hazelwood West High School, Tabitha Smith learned about the program from her friend. The friend wasn’t interested, but Smith sure was.

“I was like, ‘Dang, this sounds great,’” Smith says.

The year was 2014, and Washington University in St. Louis had just launched the College Prep Program, an innovative effort to help talented first-generation St. Louis students with limited financial resources get to and through college, at no cost to them and their families. Looking back, graduates of the first cohort say the program changed their lives in ways they never imagined, introducing them to new people, new disciplines, new skills and — most of all — new possibilities.

“The College Prep Program opened up my world,” says Saric, one of six members of the inaugural cohort to graduate from Washington University in May. “I won’t say it made college easy because college is hard. But it did teach me how to take on the challenges and make the most of the opportunities.”

Currently, Washington University accepts 50 rising high school sophomores every year to join the three-year program. But the program started small: 26 students from across the region. Nominated by an educational, civic or religious leader, the accepted students demonstrated a passion for learning and a willingness to work hard. Many had never been away from their parents or visited a college campus when they moved onto the South 40.