



**HELLGATE  
ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL**

DISTRICT NO. 4  
2385 FLYNN LANE  
MISSOULA, MONTANA 59808  
(406)728-5626 FAX (406)728-5636

August 20, 2020

Dave DeGrandpre  
WGM Group  
1111 E Broadway  
Missoula, MT 59802

Dear Mr. DeGrandpre:

It has come to my attention that periodically comments are made about Hellgate Elementary and the school district's ability or lack of ability to accommodate more students that may enroll in the school district from potential residential development within the Hellgate Elementary boundaries. For the record, I have not been asked nor am I taking a position one way or the other as to the wisdom of any residential development project within the school district boundaries. My role is to simply supply information, as I see it from the school district's perspective, as to current student enrollment and the school district's ability to absorb additional students in the years to come.

As Superintendent of Hellgate Elementary, I believe the following to be true in terms of student enrollment and the school district's ability to accommodate more students. Currently, the school district enrollment stands at 1,530 students (Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> Grade). The completion of the new middle school, that opened on August 28, 2019, has increased the school district's capacity to comfortably accommodate another 270 students which would push the student enrollment to approximately 1,800 students (Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> Grade). If "push came to shove", the school district, on its 43 acre campus, could accommodate an additional 200 students which would push the school district's student enrollment to around 2,000 students.

Should student enrollment approach 2,000 students, thus placing approximately 500 students in each building, it would be crowded. No question about that. However, the school district has done this in the past, before the new middle school was built, with each of the three existing school buildings housing close to 500 students in each building. Ideally, I would like the school district to stay within the 1,800 student level but there is room to accommodate more students, if necessary.

Should you need any further information from me, please do not hesitate to contact me at (406) 728-5626.

Sincerely,

Douglas Reisig, Ed.D.  
Superintendent, Hellgate Elementary  
Missoula, Montana 59808