

# THOMPSON FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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## DRIVER EDUCATION: A DEFINITION

Driver Education is a learning experience provided for the purpose of helping students to become good traffic citizens and to operate motor vehicles safely and efficiently. Instruction centers on characteristics of drivers' development of judgment, development of driving skills, defensive driving techniques, traffic laws and ordinances, the motor vehicle, traffic collision avoidance, the effects of alcohol and drugs on driving, driving to conserve energy, and other relevant learning experiences and information.

## WHAT CAN A DRIVER EDUCATION PROGRAM PROVIDE THE STUDENT?

The program is designed to provide the student with six hours of behind-the-wheel-in-traffic driving, twelve hours of observing other student drivers, and forty-two hours of classroom instruction. The program offers a variety of learning experiences that will provide the student an opportunity to develop skills in safe driving.

A student has a better understanding of the alternatives in the decision-making process and can become a safe and defensive driver through the use of the knowledge acquired in the program. On the other hand, driver education programs are not designed to produce experienced drivers, since that takes many years to develop. The student will be given the opportunity to obtain a Traffic Education Learner's Permit so that they may practice driving with their parents or guardians.

## WHAT THE DRIVER EDUCATION INSTRUCTOR EXPECTS FROM PARTICIPATING STUDENTS:

- A mandatory meeting for students and parents/guardians will be held Monday, May 20, 2024 at 6:00pm at Thompson Falls High School.
- The student is expected to attend every hour of the 42 hours of classroom instruction. This instruction has been scheduled from June 3, 2024-June 29, 2024. A tentative schedule has classroom instruction from 10:00am - noon weekdays and 7:00am - 9:00am Saturdays. The scheduled times are subject to change. If the student misses any hour of this instruction, he/she must bring an excused reason from his/her parent or guardian. At most, two hours of excused absences will be permitted. If the student misses more than two hours of classroom instruction, he/she will not be eligible for the Montana Driver Education Traffic Endorsement. All makeup work must be completed on the due date indicated by the instructor.
- The behind-the-wheel instruction sessions will be set up beginning June 5, 2024 and ending by June 28, 2024. Students will be assigned a time for these sessions, lasting 3 hours, during which each student will drive for one hour and observe for two hours. These sessions will be held from 7:00am - 10:00am, noon - 3:00pm, and 3:00pm - 6:00pm on weekdays. Driving instruction may also be scheduled on Saturdays if necessary (depending on the number of students enrolled in the course). The student is expected to be present at, and on time for, all sessions of behind-the-wheel instruction. Make-up for behind-the-wheel instruction is difficult. It must be done at the instructor's convenience and may result in additional fees. Failure to complete all of the driving lessons will result in a failure of the course.

- We believe that a student must qualify to drive behind the wheel by maintaining a classroom average of 80% or better. The student must be able to do more than just put a car into motion. He/she must also have a minimum of 80% understanding of the decision making process, defensive driving, and good driving techniques that are covered in the classroom instruction. The students will not be permitted to drive at any time when his/her classroom average is below 75% or an individual test has not been passed with at least a 75%.
- The student is expected to obey all Montana Traffic Laws. For this reason, the student will not be eligible for the Montana Driver Education Traffic Endorsement if he/she is seen doing the following:
  1. Driving in the city or on public highways without a Learner's Permit and without being accompanied by a parent or guardian.
  2. Riding behind the bars of a motorcycle in the city or on public highways without a Motorcycle Learner's Permit and without being accompanied by a parent or guardian.
  3. Involved in an automobile accident in which he/she was the driver of an automobile. This does not apply to a student who is driving with a Traffic Education Learner's Permit and was accompanied by a parent or guardian.
- No refund of fees paid will be made if the student finds himself/herself ineligible for the Montana Driver Education Endorsement. No refunds will be made after May 31, 2024 .
- The course will be graded as an academic class with a pass or fail awarded. The course is worth 0.5 credit as an elective
- Cell phones are not allowed to be used during classroom instruction or behind-the-wheel driving.

Thank you for reviewing this information with your student.

Sincerely,

***Bob Schalk***

Bob Schalk, Driver Education Instructor

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PLEASE SIGN THE FOLLOWING AND RETURN THIS PAGE TO THOMPSON FALLS HIGH SCHOOL TO RESERVE A SPOT IN THE CLASS:

Class size is limited to 24 students. Spots will be filled on a first come first serve basis for students that live within the boundaries of school district #2. Out-of-district students will be accepted if space in the class is available.

A fee of \$350 will be charged for the class. Payment is due by May 31, 2024.

Student Birthdate (*must be before January 1st, 2010*): \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Student Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

I, the parent/guardian of \_\_\_\_\_, have read the attached information and understand the requirements of the course.

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_