

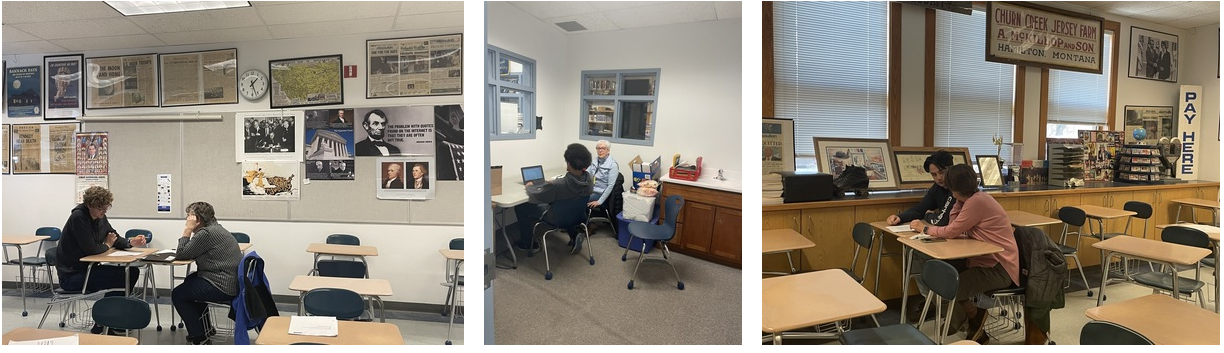
Coaching Update

We are in the thick of coaching in all three counties this spring!

Trained coaches, please check the [coaching calendar](#) on our website to see upcoming coaching opportunities.

We were thrilled to coach again at Hamilton High School last week and Columbia Falls High School this week--the first time for both schools in nearly two years--and at Corvallis High School earlier this week--the first time this school year. We're also continuing our robust coaching schedule in Missoula County Public Schools, with an upcoming opportunity to coach all 8th graders at Washington Middle School later this month and into March.

Pictured below: Coaches enjoyed working with students for two drafts in Phil Leonardi's AP Government class at Corvallis High School. One student even said, "I wish you could coach me on every assignment!"



Welcome our new Missoula/Ravalli coordinators!

WCM is delighted to announce that we have hired two coordinators for Missoula & Ravalli Counties. Not only will these coordinators allow WCM to expand its coaching capacity this spring, but they will also take over in-classroom management for Executive Director Cassie Sheets when she takes maternity leave later this spring.

Kat Jackson (right below) is a recent graduate of the University of Montana and a former intern of WCM. She is passionate about supporting public school educators and helping children cultivate literacy skills. When she is not working as a coordinator, she teaches creative writing to middle schoolers, writes fiction, and spoils her cat. Kat is thrilled to be a part of the WCM team and looks forward to working with all of our dedicated volunteers.

Sarah Silver (left below) recently moved to Montana after 20 years of living and teaching overseas in East Africa, Hong Kong and Southeast Asia as well as stateside in Virginia. Her professional experience includes the elementary classroom and student support services department. As a classroom teacher, Sarah utilized a writing workshop approach in the elementary grades and understands firsthand the value of 1:1 time with young writers. Having taught in a variety of settings and with a diversity of students and colleagues, Sarah is excited to extend her services to educational communities here in Montana. Sarah lives in the Ninemile valley with her recently retired husband Ted and their two East African village dogs, Chico and Buna. Her two children Liliana and Johan attend school in Massachusetts and Ohio.



Bilingual Learners: Volunteer Meet-up

On **February 24 at 5:30 PM**, we will hold our first spring 2022 volunteer meet-up. We are delighted to welcome WCM intern Shasta Hecht to facilitate this fascinating discussion topic.

From Shasta: This volunteer meet-up will highlight the difficulties that many students face when brought up speaking different languages at home. My goal is not to be a spokesperson for all students brought up this way. However, I hope to share my personal experiences to highlight the issues that can occur, specifically with writing. Furthermore, my goal is to help all of our volunteers understand this perspective, and then move forward with tools to help students who might be struggling due to having two (or more) languages circling in their mind. My experience is with French and English, so I will be speaking from this perspective. I welcome any other experiences too! So if you have a particular perspective in reference to this, please come ready to share.

All community members interested in WCM (not just trained volunteers) are welcome to [join through this link](#).



Strategic Planning Survey Reminder

We are busy preparing for a staff and board strategic planning workshop later this month. Thank you to coaches and teachers who have filled out WCM's strategic planning survey! If you received that email but have not yet filled out the survey, **please make sure to do so by Friday, February 18.**

If you are a trained coach, a teacher working with WCM, or a teacher interested in working with WCM and you did not receive an email with a survey link, please email admin@writingcoachesofmontana.org to request a survey link.

With gratitude,
The WCM Team

www.writingcoachesofmontana.org

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