



Rooster Review

Pleasant Hill R-III District Newsletter August 2023

In This Edition:

- Building Activities
- First Day of School
- Fall Sports Kickoff
- New Staff Highlights

From Our Assistant Superintendent:

We have experienced a smooth start to the 2023-2024 school year! My name is Dr. Suzanne Brennaman and I am the Assistant Superintendent in the Pleasant Hill R-3 School District. I had the pleasure of joining Pleasant Hill R-3 in the 2021-2022 school year. This is my 26th year in education and each year it just keeps getting better! I am very excited for the 2023-2024 school year for many reasons. I am excited for our students to experience the new additions or renovations to their buildings. I am excited to watch our students grow as learners and leaders throughout this school year. I am also excited for our community to get to know the wonderful teachers and staff at each school. The Pleasant Hill R-3 School District has so much to celebrate! I hope you look forward to our monthly newsletter as much as I do. It is a great way to see the exciting things happening in our schools each month. Additionally, please follow us on our social media platforms to see more pictures of our wonderful students and to stay current on upcoming events! We can be found on Twitter at @PHR3SD, and on Facebook at Pleasant Hill R-3 School District.

If you are a returning family to our district, you know that we have the best students, teachers and staff around! If you are a new family to our district, I cannot wait for you to have the full Pleasant Hill R-3 experience! Our purple pride is contagious!

Go Roosters & Chicks!
Dr. Suzanne Brennaman
Assistant Superintendent



Our new teachers are excited to start the new year! For full profiles, see pages 11-15.



Second grade teachers welcomed their students from last year to 3rd grade on Transition Day!



Primary Pride



Mrs. Blundell and Ms. Jeffries' 2nd grade class is ready for a great year!



Mrs. Farr and Mrs. Proudfit's class sure looked sharp on the 2nd day of 2nd grade!

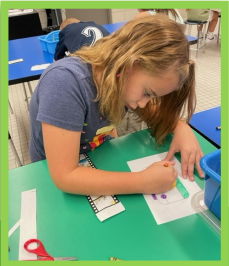


Upcoming Events

- No School: September 4-5
- Picture Day: September 11
- Late Start: September 13
- Fall Dental Screenings: September 15



Kindergarteners practice "Lips & Hips" in the hallways!



2nd graders' first art project in Mrs. Jackson's art class was drawing a camera reel full of fun memories of summer break!

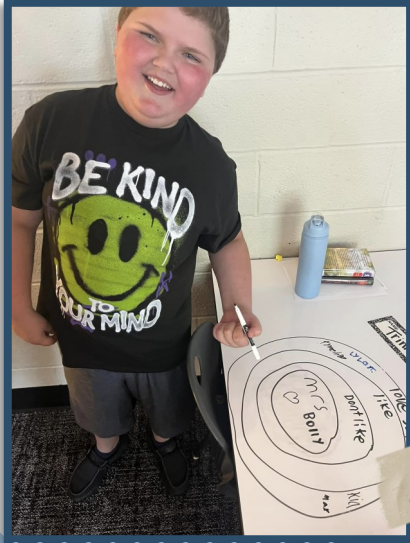
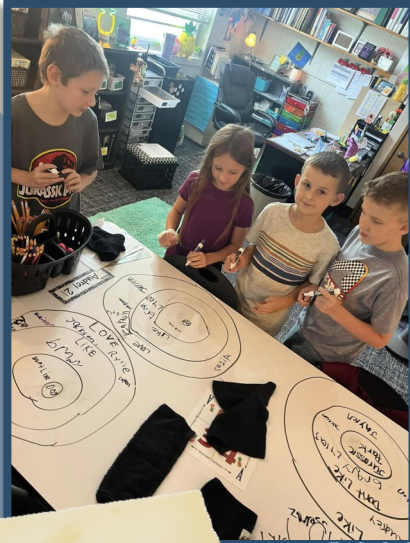


Mrs. Helus ate lunch with some awesome 2nd graders during the first week of school!

PHPS Staff is ready for a great year!

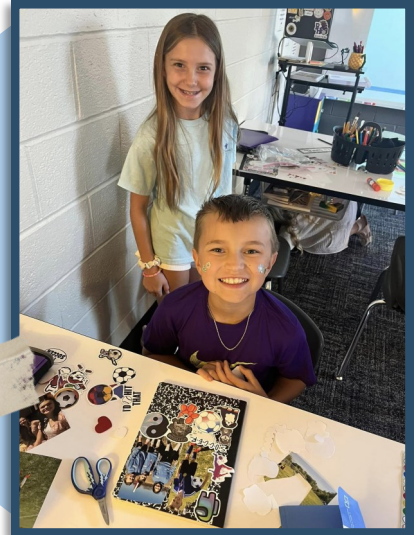


Elementary Enrichment



Mrs. Boley's class played "Who's In Your Circle?" a fun get-to-know-you game!

They also had fun decorating their writer's notebooks for the upcoming year!



Upcoming Events

No School: September 4-5
Late Start: September 13



PHEs Staff is ready for a fantastic year!



Class projects, circle time, and reading stories are more fun at the ES!



Intermediate Ingenuity



Preview Day at the IS had a great turnout! This gave incoming 5th graders a chance to meet their teachers and learn where their classes will be before the year began.



Upcoming Events

No School: September 4-5
5th/6th Choir Begins: September 11
Late Start: September 13



The IS rolled out the red carpet for the first day of school!



Students worked together in Mrs. Glazner's science class to build marshmallow towers. They talked about what worked, what didn't, and what they would change.





Middle School Magic



Meet the Teacher Night (above) was a big success!



Upcoming Events

No School: September 4-5
Late Start: September 13



MS students are loving the updates to the library and locker rooms!



Preview Day at PHMS (above) invited our seventh grade students to tour the building, practice lockers, and get otherwise oriented before the first day of school.



Above left: students take it all in on the first day of school.
Above right: PHMS Staff can't wait to have a great year!





High School Highlights

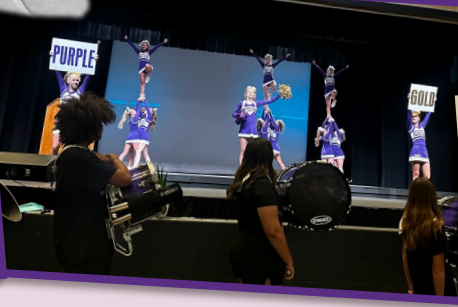
Incoming Freshmen were greeted by the cheer squad on transition day! They got to explore their new building, meet their teachers, and learn their schedules before the year started.



Upcoming Events
 No School: September 4-5
 Notables Carnival: September 8
 ASVAB Testing: September 19
 Jostens Sr. Meeting: September 19
 Sr. Swag Order Day: September 27



Bungee Barbies in Mrs. Case's class



The HS choir, drumline, and cheer squad performed at the district's annual back-to-school staff meeting on August 15.

The first pep rally of the year was a rousing success!



More High School Highlights



Rooster FFA Catering provided delicious food for our new staff luncheon!

Hillside Singers are ready for a great year!



The cheer squad volunteered with Dana at the PH Animal Shelter. They swept, cleaned, and painted the floors to give it a quick freshen up!



Juniors (above) are already hard at work on their dual credit classes in the HS library!



First year Biomed students (left) are off to a great start investigating the crime scene of the mysterious death of Anna Garcia. Thanks to 4th year Biomed student Grace McCommon for such an amazing performance as this year's Anna Garcia!



Introduction to Engineering and Design students (left) built catapults to launch wiffle balls. The goal was for their catapult to produce consistent launch distances. After recording 10 launches they will find the mean, medium, and range of these distances. Then students will then try to improve their designs to increase launch precision, record 10 more launches and compare results with their previous launches.

Freshmen students (right) participated in a scavenger hunt in the HS library to help get them acclimated to their new building!



The Pride of the Hill Band (left) had a great turnout for band camp before school started!



Sports Highlights



Purple & Gold Night



Fall sports athletes, their families, and the community were invited to Eklund Field on August 14th to celebrate the kickoff of fall sports.



PLEASANT HILL

2024

Chiro
ROOSTERS &
Chicks

PROJECT GRAD MEETINGS

LAST WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH

7PM IN THE HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY

FOR QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT OFFICERS BELOW:

President- Ashley Nicholas & Carrie Hull

Vice President- Don Donovan

Treasurer- Savannah Bush

Secretary- Mindy Halfmann



NOTEABLES CARNIVAL



We hope you have an amazing time filled with lots of laughter and fun. We have a wide range of activities to choose from: inflatables, carnival games, cake walk, face painting, and so much more!

**Pleasant Hill High School
1 Rooster Way
September 8; 6pm-9pm**



Thank you for supporting the PHS vocal music department via its booster club, NOTEables!

New Teachers Spotlight



Ali Murray | High School

Mrs. Murray is a part-time counselor at the High School.
She attended the University of Central Missouri, and this is her first year in education.

Alicia Behrens | Primary School

Mrs. Behrens is a Kindergarten teacher at the Primary School.
She attended Shenandoah University, and has been in education for 16 years.
A fun fact about her is that she loves to eat cereal!



Amber Stark | Primary School

Mrs. Stark is a teacher at the Primary School.
She attended the University of Central Missouri, and has been in education for 9 years.

Anita Shippy | Primary School

Mrs. Shippy is a Kindergarten teacher at the Primary School.
She attended the University of Central Missouri, and has been in education for 9 years.
A fun fact about her is that she is red-green color blind!



Ashton Stark | Primary School

Mrs. Stark is a first grade teacher at the Primary School.
She attended Northwest Missouri State University, and has been in education for 5 years.
A fun fact about her is that she married her high school sweetheart, and now they have two children, three dogs, and a herd of cattle!

Ann Culver | Elementary School

Mrs. Culver is a third grade teacher at the Elementary School.
She attended Oklahoma State University, and has been in education for 5 years.
A fun fact about her is that she has seen Taylor Swift in Concert five times!



More New Teachers



Austin Passmore | Primary School

Mr. Passmore is a PE teacher at the Primary School.

He attended Emporia State University, and this is his first year in education.

A fun fact about him is that he loves to play with his Corgi, Parker, in his spare time!

Autumn Edwards | Middle School

Mrs. Edwards is an ELA teacher at the Middle School.

She attended the University of Central Missouri, and has been in education for 3 years.

A fun fact about her is that sometimes she likes the movie more than the book...then feels guilty about it!



Damon Clodfelter | High School

Mr. Clodfelter is a math teacher at the High School.

He attended Northwest Missouri State University, and has been in education for 20 years.

A fun fact about him is that he played baseball for Northwest while attending!

Dana Scott | High School

Mrs. Scott is an ELA teacher at the High School.

She attended the University of Central Missouri, and has been in education for 25 years.

A fun fact about her is that she loves flowers, camping, and spending time with her family!



Dana Duncan | Middle School

Mrs. Duncan is an ELA teacher at the middle school.

She attended Lincoln University, and has been in education for 5 years.

A fun fact about her is that she loves Mexican food!

Emily Graham | Middle School

Mrs. Graham is an art teacher at the Middle School.

She attended the University of Central Missouri, and has been in education for 2 years.

A fun fact about her is that she has artwork that hangs in a bank in Warrensburg!



More New Teachers



Haley Lefholz | Elementary School

Mrs. Lefholz is the librarian at the Elementary School.

She attended both the University of Central Missouri and the University of Missouri, and this is her first year in education.

A fun fact about her is that Frankenstein is her favorite book, and she collects all things Frankenstein related!

Heather Martin | High School

Mrs. Martin is the choir teacher at the High School.

She attended the University of Central Missouri, and has been in education for 5 years.



Jessica Branstetter | Intermediate School

Mrs. Branstetter is a fifth grade math teacher at the Intermediate School.

She attended both Buena Vista University and the University of Missouri, and she has been in education for 14 years.

A fun fact about her is that her first job was a Sandwich Artist at Subway!

Kacey McCollum | Intermediate School

Mrs. McCollum is a social studies and writing teacher at the Intermediate School.

She attended Hannibal La-Grange University, and she has been in education for 2 years.

A fun fact about her is that her parents own a rodeo company!



Gary Renshaw | High School

Mr. Renshaw is a PE teacher and coach at the High School.

He attended Baker University, and he has been in education for 30 years.

A fun fact about him is that he married his high school sweetheart; they have the same middle name and both have birthdays in October!

Hannah Wisdom | Middle School

Ms. Wisdom is a teacher at the Middle School and a coach at the High School.

She attended Kansas State University, and this is her first year in education.



More New Teachers



Kelsey Bryan | High School

Mrs. Bryan is an ELA teacher at the High School.
She attended Southern New Hampshire University, and she has been in education for 5 years.

Lindee Wentworth | Intermediate School

Mrs. Wentworth is a first grade teacher at the Primary School.
She attended Calvary University, and this is her first year in education.
A fun fact about her is that she has ten siblings!



Maggie Miller | Elementary School

Mrs. Miller is a fourth grade teacher at the Elementary School.
She attended the University of Missouri, and this is her first year in education.
A fun fact about her is that she has a goal to visit every National Park!

Mark Amos | High School

Mr. Amos is a science teacher at the High School.
He attended Missouri State University, and has been in education for 21 years.
A fun fact about him is that he has been to two Taylor Swift concerts, and one Post Malone!



Mitchell McNeal | Primary School

Mr. McNeal is a first grade teacher at the Primary School.
He attended Baker University, and has been in education for 17 years.
A fun fact about him is that he grew up in Paradise!

Katherine Smith | Intermediate School

Mrs. Smith is a science teacher at the Intermediate School.
She attended Central Methodist University, and has been in education for 6 years.



More New Teachers



Taylor Covington | Middle School

Mrs. Covington is a math teacher at the Middle School.

She attended Missouri State University, and she has been in education for 4 years.

A fun fact about her is that she used to do archery in 4H as a kid!

Taylor Glazner | Intermediate School

Mrs. Glazner is a science teacher at the Intermediate School.

She attended the University of Central Missouri, and this is her first year in education.

A fun fact about her is that she is an advanced certified scuba diver! She has explored a shipwreck 140 feet below the ocean!



Tracie Kimminau | Primary School

Mrs. Kimminau is a first grade teacher at the Primary School.

She attended both the University of Central Missouri and William Woods, and she has been in education for 22 years.

A fun fact about her is that she is a first-time Grandma to Heidi, who is one year old!

Wayne Griffin | High School

Mr. Griffin is an ELA teacher at the High School.

He attended Truman State University, and he has been in education for 8 years.

A fun fact about him is that he plays guitar!



Ragen Reed | Middle School

Mrs. Reed is a science teacher at the Middle School.

She attended the University of Central Missouri, Baker, and Lindenwood, and she has been in education for 23 years.

A fun fact about her is that she can fit both feet behind her head, and she used to be both a competitive skater and in a rock n' roll band!

Nancy Miller | Intermediate School

Mrs. Miller is the librarian at the Intermediate School.

She attended the University of Missouri, and this is her first year in education.

A fun fact about her is that she has been giving carriage rides in downtown Pleasant Hill for 30 years!



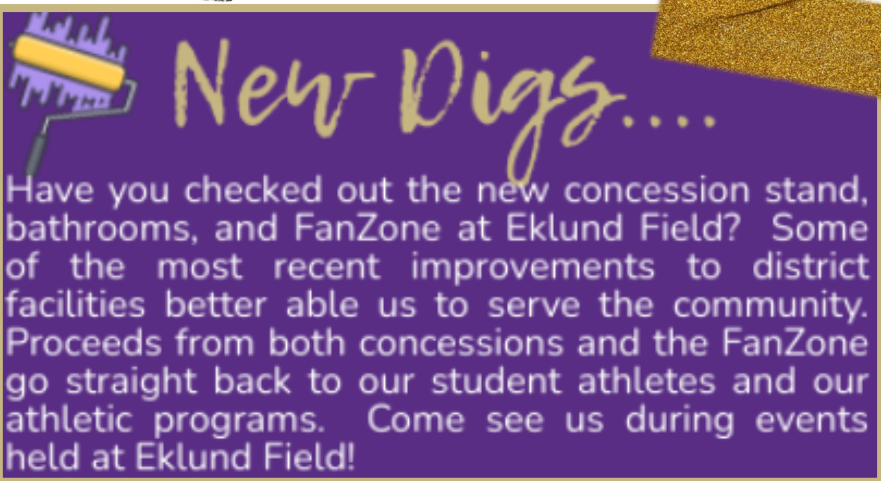
PTO, Boosters, & Bright Futures

Highlighting the wonderful volunteer, donation, and charitable opportunities provided for our schools

Athletic Booster Club

Join Today!

Booster Club memberships are available for purchase for the 2023-2024 school year! Your membership gives you discounts in the FanZone and for Booster Club Concessions while providing support for all our athletic programs. Gold Level Memberships are \$50 and Purple Level memberships are \$25. Email pleasanthillboosterclub@gmail.com for more information or to get your membership.



New Digs...

Have you checked out the new concession stand, bathrooms, and FanZone at Eklund Field? Some of the most recent improvements to district facilities better able us to serve the community. Proceeds from both concessions and the FanZone go straight back to our student athletes and our athletic programs. Come see us during events held at Eklund Field!

Bright Futures

Did You Know?

You can now donate to Bright Futures on our website! Bright Futures helps provide food, clothing, every day necessities, and Christmas gifts to students in need. Every donation helps a child in Pleasant Hill towards being the best they can be!

Donations can be made in increments of \$5.00. To donate, scan the QR code to the right or visit phr3.org and click on Online Store to enter our webstore. BF Donations can be found under the K-12 button.



Parents as Teachers

Meet Your Parent Educators!

Sherie Cox, pictured left: This is my 25th year at Pleasant Hill and my 31st year in education. I have 5 kids and 2 grandkids and one on the way! This summer was all about spending time with the family and doing projects. I was also my 14-year-old's personal taxi taking him to and from football and weights. We also added a new furry friend to our family, named Rocky.



Courtney Borgman, pictured right: This is my third year in Pleasant Hill. I have 2 little ones who keep me very busy. This summer was all about gardening, biking, exploring sourdough, going to church, and enjoying lots of family time!



We look forward to meeting all your prenatal to pre kindergarten needs while growing with your family!

To enroll your child in Parents as Teachers scan the QR Code!



WHAT IS PTO?

Parent teacher organization (PTO) gives parents and teachers the opportunity to work together to supplement and enrich the educational experience. We provide support to the Primary, Elementary and Intermediate Schools.

WHAT FUNDRAISERS ARE PTO:

- Spirit Wear
- Trash Bags
- Read-a-thon

We also host monthly Goddie Days, provide snacks for Map Testing, gifts for all teacher's during teacher appreciation week as well as a meal, and provide funding for all field trips! Plus so much more!

MEETING DATES:

- September 13th
- November 8th
- January 10th
- March 13th
- May 8th


TEACHER SUPPORT:


- THIS YEAR WE ARE ABLE TO SUPPORT TEACHERS AND STAFF BY PROVIDING OVER \$9,000 IN ADDITIONAL CLASSROOM FUNDING!
- TEACHER'S CAN ALSO REQUEST ADDITIONAL FUNDING.


HOW CAN I HELP:

We encourage you to get involved! Participate in fundraising and join us at our meetings!

Follow us on socials for meeting locatuons

 Pleasant Hill Parent-Teacher organization

 PHr3PTO

 Ptopleasanthill@gmail.com



Community Engagement

Board of Education Update

At August's Meeting:

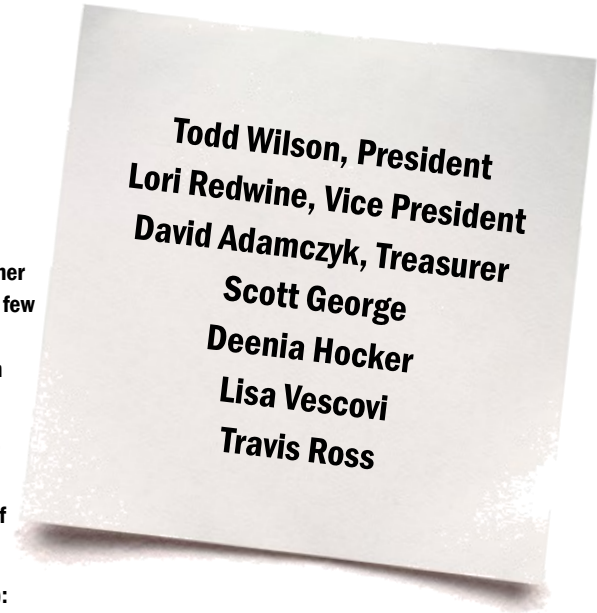
Tax Rate Public Hearing and Recommendations for the 23-24 School Year: Dr. Michael Weishaar shared information with the board on current data related to the FY24 tax rate.

Student Recognition: Reagan Donovan (pictured below with Board President Todd Wilson and PHYRE Teacher Michelle Carey, top left) presented to the Board her recent visit to Capetown South Africa. Reagan spent a few weeks over the summer studying in South Africa as a part of the Ocean Conservation, Marine Biology program. She took part in some coastal and beach cleanups, and enjoyed a real life African safari.

PS Principal Sherry Helus and a few staff members (pictured below, top right) presented to the Board their PBIS Award of Excellence. PBIS is Positive Behavior Support Training. The staff at the Primary School was awarded the Bronze award for completing Tier 1 of training and the Silver award for completing the Tier 2 of training.

Dr. Burke presented the 2023-24 Pleasant Hill Administration Team to the Board (pictured below, bottom):

- Mrs. Sarah Gregory- Director of Special Services
- Dr. Jak Boden- Director of Curriculum and Assessment
- Dr. Paul Canaan- High School Principal
- Mrs. Linda Sharp- Assistant Director of Special Services
- Dr. Tiffani Collins- High School Asst Principal
- Mr. Mike Clevenger- Director of Facilities
- Dr. Michael Weishaar- Director of Finance and Business
- Dr. Suzanne Brennaman- Assistant Superintendent
- Mr. Jim Poplau- High School/Middle School Asst Principal
- Dr. Celia Davidson- Intermediate School Principal
- Mr. Greg Reeves- Middle School Principal
- Dr. Monica Pickett- Intermediate School/Elementary School Asst Principal
- Mrs. Melissa Franklin- Primary School Asst Principal
- Mrs. Sherry Helus- Primary School Principal
- Mrs. Lori Burbee- Elementary School Principal
- Mr. Sam Horrell- Activities Director/High School Asst Principal
- Mr. Jim Schlichting (absent)- Tech Director



Tax Rate Approval for FY 24-: The FY24 tax rate at an operating levy of \$3.5953 and a debt service levy at \$1.0018 for a total levy of \$4.5971 was approved.

Mr. Sam Horrell presented to the board his recommendation for the Ekland Field Turf Replacement. This renovation will begin in January of 2024.

Newkirk and Novak presented to the board current updates on the bond projects.

Policy Updates: Dr Burke presented to the Board policy updates.

Policy BBFA was adopted for the 23-24 school year.

Dr. Brennaman and Dr. Boden presented to the Board the reformatted Comprehensive School Improvement Plan for the School Years of 2022-25.

The next regular board meeting will be September 19th at 6:00pm.



Continued Community Engagement

We're Hiring!

There are currently some exciting employment opportunities at PHR3! Go to phr3.org for up-to-date and complete listings, and apply today!

Speech Language Pathologist
IS, HS Teachers
Special Education Teachers
Paraprofessionals
Custodians

MS, HS Coaches
HS, IS Accompanist
Substitutes

Retirement Celebration!



Congratulations to Brent Duncan on his retirement from the high school! Mr. Duncan has been a custodian with Pleasant Hill for four years.

He received the high school's "Above and Beyond the Call" classified staff member award in the 21-22 school year, and will be greatly missed!

Our Staff Rocks!



All of PH staff gathered on August 15th for the annual district convocation welcoming everyone back from summer break. Our staff got pumped up with help from the HS drumline, cheer squad, and choir all performing to kick off the morning!



Our admin and central office staff (above) had a blast during their team-building retreat at Top Golf!



"Everything is Awesome" at the Primary when you have a great staff like this one!



The 22-23 Educators of the Year were presented with new latex banners to display in their classrooms!
PS: Cerine Proudift
ES: Morgan Boley
IS: Jacob VanSlyke (District Educator of the Year)
MS: Katie Rasmussen
HS: Amy Fifer