

PIEDMONT FOCUS

MONTHLY NEWS & UPDATES FROM PIEDMONT PUBLIC SCHOOLS



FOCUS: USING INTERVENTIONS FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

PIEDMONT INTERMEDIATE

We are committed to meeting students where they are and building the academic scaffolding of interventions that will allow them to make gains throughout the year. Using multiple data points from different sources, such as Performance Matters, iStation, OSTP, and classroom assessments, we can fluidly provide targeted interventions along a continuum of services. All students are assessed quarterly through the iStation Indicators of Progress (ISIP™), which creates a personalized plan for improvement regardless of the student's current level of understanding in math and reading. All students then access the self-paced program during Advisory time each week to work toward mastery.

Advisory time is also available for our math teachers to create short-term small groups that would benefit from additional math interventions, focusing on targeted skills. For all students, we are continuing to offer lunch-time opportunities to complete missing work and allow students to stay after school for Academic Enhancement. In addition, we are utilizing the unique situation of having students in classrooms earlier in the morning, which allows for more teacher-directed assistance daily.

For our students who have demonstrated a more significant discrepancy in their current proficiency level in reading, we are thrilled to be able to enlist the expertise of our new Reading Specialist. Mrs. Sheetz has worked tirelessly to assess students, analyze the data, create easy-to-understand presentations for parents, and create small groups that can work in parallel to shore up specific skills that improve their learning across all content areas. She has also transformed an area within the library to create a space that provides students privacy, dignity, comfort, and success. We are excited for our students as they "test out" of enhanced reading intervention due to this collaboration.



MIDDLE SCHOOL OF PIEDMONT

MSP STUCO spread some KINDNESS with a week full of dress up days and kind acts! Students enjoyed a week full of fun and spreading positivity in our MSP community!

PIEDMONT ELEMENTARY

W.I.N. Time (What I Need) is a school-wide intervention time that is implemented 5 days a week each morning for approximately 40 minutes. During this time, teachers provide interventions specific to each child's needs through programs such as iStation, Heart Words, Reading A-Z, Zoo Phonics, Rooted in Reading, and more.

The lessons used for this time focus on specific skills that students need extra practice on such as phonics, phonemic awareness, vocabulary, fluency, and more.



WILD
GATS
AT
WORK



TAKE FLIGHT WITH AMY BIXLER, READING SPECIALIST NORTHWOOD ELEMENTARY

Take Flight is a program implemented by Academic Language Therapists that have completed a two-year program and certification process. This intervention is conducted in a small group format and uses multi-sensory instruction to remediate students struggling to learn to read. Students with even the lowest reading skills show advancement. This is our fourth year to serve students in Piedmont Schools using Take Flight. All three elementary schools have trained therapists providing this service.



PIEDMONT HIGH SCHOOL

Interventions are a critical component of learning at Piedmont High School. We currently offer tutoring to all students for English, Math, History, Science, Spanish, and Technology courses during their advisory periods. In addition, we are starting the process of offering after-school tutoring for Math and English.

We are utilizing data analytics from Performance Matters to identify standards students are not grasping in class to reteach necessary skills. Our curriculum department meets with teachers of core subjects on a monthly schedule. These meetings allow our staff to develop tests linked to state standards and help us identify standards that need remediation based on the data provided through Performance Matters. Once this remediation occurs, we look and see how the interventions have helped. Our ZAP program during lunch offers students a chance to make up assignments necessary for success.



NOVEMBER 2021

SLB-STRUCTURED LANGUAGE BASICS PIEDMONT ELEMENTARY

Structured Language Basics (SLB) is a multi-sensory curriculum that addresses the needs of a variety of readers, from reading-disabled to gifted. SLB features instruction in phonological awareness, phonics, oral reading fluency, vocabulary, comprehension, grammar, handwriting, and spelling. Advanced syllable division and root-and-affix instruction prepare students to confidently attack multisyllabic words. Our team enjoys teaching SLB, knowing how good it is for students. We are seeing wonderful progress!



WILDCATS TAKE FLIGHT AT9 STONE RIDGE ELEMENTARY

Mrs. Wilcox teaches our students with indications of dyslexia. Take Flight is a Comprehensive Intervention for Students with Dyslexia that meets the criteria in all five components for a Comprehensive Dyslexia Program. Phonological Awareness: Auditory discovery, articulation of sounds, placement of production, and voicing. Mrs. Wilcox has had extensive training to help our students with needs in the area of dyslexia.



MIDDLE SCHOOL OF PIEDMONT

Before school started, we began looking for ways to give the Math Department at Piedmont Middle School more opportunities to be purposeful and intentional and find a useful way to increase our math interventions and remediations. While building the master schedule, time was carved out for the math teachers to use their Advisory classes for that purpose. Starting early in the semester, teachers began to pull students into small groups and sought to reteach math concepts. Each Advisory class block has at least one math teacher available every day to host small group interventions. The math teachers have partnered with the Curriculum Department to identify specific standards and concepts that need to be addressed. Using student performance from daily work, tests, quizzes, and exit tickets, teachers have identified where students need additional work.

The 7th-grade interventions have focused on adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing integers. The 8th-grade teachers have focused on solving equations, integer rules, and solving/graphing inequalities. Most days you can find 5-10 students in each math classroom during Advisory. Students work hard during this time to relearn and practice skills they may have not mastered previously.

"Having time to remediate skills and even preview new ones is a game-changer for our students," said Mrs. Sydney Silva, Intro to Algebra Teacher. "Not only does it give them a chance to master concepts, but it also allows them to build confidence in math-- which is vital. Math interventions at the secondary level are imperative for student success."

We are proud of the extra work and time our Math Department has dedicated to our students. Our MSP mathematicians are growing daily in their skills and understanding, and we can't wait to see their academic gaps close as they work hard alongside their teachers.

STONE RIDGE ELEMENTARY

Stone Ridge teachers look at monthly ISIP data and create small groups for their class for individualized reading instruction. These students are grouped according to need, then receive instruction in a small group setting to help them achieve success. This strategy also allows us to group students who need enrichment activities to further their progress.





W.I.N. TIME NORTHWOOD ELEMENTARY

W.I.N. Time (What I Need) is a school-wide intervention time to meet varying student needs, specifically in the area of reading. Teachers use research-based interventions such as iStation, Zoo Phonic, 6 Minute Fluency, Reading A to Z lessons, Heart Words, etc. These lessons focus on skills such as phonics, phonemic awareness, fluency, and comprehension skills. This time is uninterrupted and happens for 30-45 minutes 5 days a week.

PHONEMIC AWARENESS PIEDMONT EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

Some children develop phonemic awareness through literacy experiences at home before entering school, while others have limited exposure to print and role models who engage in reading and writing. Many students, regardless of their home experiences, will struggle with understanding phonemic awareness.

When our students experience difficulty with beginning reading skills, our teachers work collaboratively to collect data to help identify the problems. All students receive phonological awareness through our district curriculum, Zoo-Phonics, Heggerty Phonemic Awareness curriculum, and our reading curriculum, Wonders. All ECC students participate in 90 minutes of daily reading instruction.

We administer I-Station formative assessments monthly to monitor each

student's progress. Instruction is based on the individual need of each student: Tier 1 students receive whole and small group instruction from classroom teachers. Tier 2 students receive whole group and small group instruction with interventions provided by the teacher or teacher assistant. Tier 3 students receive whole group, small group instruction, intervention from the classroom teacher, and weekly small group sessions with our reading specialist.

Students who qualify as English Learners receive additional support from a digital platform, Imagine Learning. Imagine Learning programs teach critical skills to help students become proficient in phonological awareness, phonics, and vocabulary.



WILD DOGS AT WORK

FOCUS: DISTRICT AND DEPARTMENTAL INITIATIVES



HUMAN RESOURCES

**PARTNERSHIP WITH GRAND CANYON UNIVERSITY
BENEFITING PPS EMPLOYEES**



We are excited to announce our new partnership with Grand Canyon University. GCU is fully accredited and offers 100 percent online classes. Benefits of this partnership include 10 percent off tuition scholarship for graduate degrees and 15 percent off tuition scholarship for paraprofessionals (an approximate \$7,000 savings for a paraprofessional).



DISTRICT HEALTH & WELLNESS INITIATIVES

Our PPS District Nurses have coordinated Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 Booster Clinics for staff and Flu Immunization Clinics for both students and staff.

COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES

Our Special Services department has updated OATECA Curriculum, which focuses on Cognitive, Self Help, and Job Skills for students with disabilities. In addition, training has been provided to teachers who will be using this curriculum in the classroom.

Amber Ramsey, Vonda Rempe, and Emily Johnson recently earned their Assistive Technology Team Certification

We're excited to announce a NEW program/partnership with the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation. This partnership allows our high school students to participate in Work Adjustment Training and School Work Study.



THE WILDCAT INCLUSIVE

THE WILDCAT INCLUSIVE INTERNAL NEWSLETTER

Each month we focus on a new topic with lesson plans, books, features, and resources to aid our employees in exploring these topics with students and colleagues. For the month of November, we focus on Native American Heritage Month.

The month provides an opportunity to commemorate the rich and diverse cultures, traditions, and histories and acknowledge the important contributions of Native American/Indigenous people.

[**READ THE NEWSLETTER NOW**](#)

NOVEMBER 2021



PPS Special Olympic Athletes competed in the Unified Cornhole area games. This is the first time we've competed in this event.

FOCUS: DISTRICT AND DEPARTMENTAL INITIATIVES

ENROLLMENT & DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES

YEAR-TO-YEAR ENROLLMENT COMPARISON OCTOBER 2020 TO OCTOBER 2021

SCHOOL SITE	OVERALL ENROLLMENT	ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED	BILINGUAL
ECC	623	-23%	37.5%
NW	465	14%	16%
PES	438	12.6%	28.6%
SR	550	-13%	-22.7%
PI	706	-40.8%	6.25%
MSP	788	-23.5%	15%
PHS	1261	-30%	11.32%
DISTRICT	4831		



INSTRUCTION & STUDENT SERVICES

ACT & PSAT OPPORTUNITIES FOR PIEDMONT STUDENTS

PSAT Exam

The State Department of Education sponsored students from around the state to participate in the qualifying program for National Merit Scholars. Piedmont High School had **138 sophomores and juniors** participate in taking the PSAT. Students will be notified in September of 2022 as to their qualifying status.

ACT Exam

Piedmont High School had **438 students** take the ACT exam offered free of charge by the State Department of Education. Students took the test on October 5 at the high school. Students have received their test results, and district officials will examine results to evaluate the success of remediation programs we have implemented thus far.



SOPHOMORE DISCOVERY DAY FOR CANADIAN VALLEY TECHNOLOGY CENTER PROGRAMS

CV Tech Discovery Day allows sophomore students to explore the program options at Canadian Valley Technology Center. Students visited the program fair at Piedmont High School on October 29th and spoke with current CV Tech students. This event helped students determine which programs they are most interested in to sign up for the Sophomore Showcase on November 15th. During the sophomore showcase, students will visit the state-of-the-art facilities at CV Tech and explore the FREE opportunities to jump-start a career after high school or fast-track their education to excel in college.

NOVEMBER 2021

SUCCESSSES IN ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES

GOLD *Standard*



PIEDMONT HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL

Our softball team won their second state title in three years.



PIEDMONT HIGH SCHOOL BAND

The Pride of Piedmont captured the state championship in the Oklahoma Bandmasters Association's 5A state contest, with a score of 81.90 overall.



CONGRATULATIONS COACH COLEMAN!

Head Softball Coach, Keith Coleman, was named 5A/6A Regional Coach of the Year and Fast-Pitch Coaches Association 5A/6A Coach of the Year!



CONGRATULATIONS COACH WILLIAMS!

Head Volleyball Coach, Tom Williams, was selected as the OCA Regional Coach of the Year!



PIEDMONT HIGH SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY

Piedmont Cross Country excelled all season, ending with two state runner-up finishes.



PIEDMONT HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL

Volleyball completed its most successful season in school history with advancing to the state semi-finals.



PIEDMONT HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMIC TEAM

PHS Academic Team won the District Championships!

