

# Pleasant Hill School District #1

## Winter & Spring 2022 Newsletter



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**Commitment  
Excellence  
Community**

## A Letter from the Superintendent

Dear Pleasant Hill Community:

The highest priority for PHSD is to safely hold school in-person, all-day, every school day, for every student, all year long.

We believe children learn better when taught in-person. Children and families may rely on schools to provide a caring and safe environment and access to a solid breakfast and a warm lunch. For parents and families, consistency matters, and for many, school is a way to ensure parents can go to work and support their family.

The Omicron variant is surging and COVID-19 fatigue has set-in. We are tired of having our routines impacted by masks, physical distancing, vaccinations, and other protocols. Meanwhile, our educators, aides, office staff, drivers, cooks, servers, custodians, and administrators have shown amazing tenacity throughout the pandemic. They have worked well beyond their normal hours, and at times outside their normal roles. They have been succeeding at providing care to students and each other. The importance of in-person learning drives their continued success. At this time, our district has no plans to move to online learning, as many schools have throughout the state. Our school board has prioritized keeping students in school and the district will continue to do so, within the governor's regulations. We will continue to monitor and adjust to this fluid situation.

I strongly believe that students need to be in school as much as possible. Our schools have tools to help mitigate the risk from COVID-19, such as indoor mask wearing; vaccination of staff, and now students; and the state's Test-to-Stay program.

We must remain vigilant. Students who have cold or COVID-like symptoms should remain home and we encourage families to have them tested to help limit its spread. Our goal is to keep students learning in-person and participating in sports and extracurricular activities.

Two other things reduce COVID-19 from spreading within PHSD, avoiding a temporary move to distance learning. The first happens at school. We must set our COVID fatigue aside and commit to re-teaching, reestablishing, and reemphasizing all the layered mitigation protocols:

- Choose to get vaccinated and boosted to avoid quarantines
- Wear properly fitting masks to limit spread
- Maintain physical distance to the greatest extent possible
- Provide opportunity for frequent hand washing
- Even through the winter months, maintain good airflow and ventilation

Second, we need continued support from the Pleasant Hill community. Consider the following to help keep our school doors open: stay up-to-date on your vaccination status. Wear a mask whenever you are around people outside your household.

Thank you for helping PHSD achieve its goal to hold school safely in-person, all-day, every school day, for every student, all year long.

Respectfully:  
*Scott Linenberger*  
Superintendent

# Pleasant Hill Education Foundation

The Pleasant Hill Education Foundation is celebrating our 30th anniversary! For 30 years, the Foundation has maintained its commitment to inspiring learning, enhancing teaching and creating opportunities for all students. We appreciate the community's ongoing support & we look forward to partnering with you to continue our mission to support the students and teachers in the Pleasant Hill School District.



## Save the Date!

After thoughtful consideration, the PHEF Board of Directors decided to postpone the 30th Anniversary Mardi Gras Celebration, which was scheduled for February 5. The safety and enjoyment of our sponsors, guests and supporters must always come first. After consideration and consultation with vendors, the 30th Anniversary Mardi Gras Celebration will now be held **Saturday, August 27, 2022**. We look forward to seeing you there!

## Exciting News: Luehring Endowment Fund!

The PHEF announces, with extreme honor and excitement, the founding of the Christine Luehring Endowment Fund. Chris Luehring taught English at PHHS from 1974 to 2002 and is known for being a stickler for correct spelling and grammar. She taught journalism and advised the Billie Bulletin for seven years, and served as cheerleading coach for 17 years. She is also known as a stalwart supporter of veterans. Beyond that, Chris is known for her utter devotion to her students, the school, and her community.

After she retired, she returned to tutor students, and was active in the Foundation's Innovative Educator Grant Review Committee and the Senior Scholarship Review Committee. So what does she do as a testimonial to her fierce loyalty to the Pleasant Hill School District?

Ms. Luehring has donated \$250,000 from her retirement investments to the Pleasant Hill Education Foundation. She is excited to see her gift being put into action and to have immediate significance for the students in the Pleasant Hill School District.

While still working out details, this astounding act of generosity will be used as an endowment to provide for student academics, field trips, projects and teacher training. The majority of Ms. Luehring's adult life has been dedicated to serving the Billies of Pleasant Hill, and with this gift, she continues to have an impact for many years to come. The Pleasant Hill Education Foundation is eternally grateful.

# School Health Advisory Committee

The Pleasant Hill School Health Advisory Committee (SHAC) meets monthly to consider how to improve the over-all physical and emotional health of our District. Members include teachers, administrators, parents, and a PH School Board member. With COVID on everyone's mind and agenda, this year SHAC has been concentrating on how we can help our school community cope with COVID challenges.

Using grant money from the 2020 Wellness Award, we are funding the construction of picnic tables so more students can eat outside. Additionally, we are purchasing KN95 masks and related supplies for students and staff members.

Beth McCool chairs this committee, and welcomes new members. Contact Beth at [bmccool@pleasanthill.k12.or.us](mailto:bmccool@pleasanthill.k12.or.us) for more information.

Meeting minutes and more information can also be found on the district website: [www.pleasanthill.k12.or.us/resources/committees/school-health-advisory-committee](http://www.pleasanthill.k12.or.us/resources/committees/school-health-advisory-committee)

# PHHS Music Program Updates and Upcoming Events

It has been a busy fall season for music at Pleasant Hill. Here are a few updates on our various programs.

## Ryan Strong: Elementary Music

The elementary school had a successful holiday sing along in December. All students had the chance to sing together and get into the holiday spirit! Although family and friends were unable to attend because of guidelines unique to elementary schools, we were able to film the performances for families to enjoy online. We are looking forward to having future performance opportunities for our students later in the school year. In music class, students are learning fun songs and activities that teach about musical elements such as rhythms and solfege. The students and I are very excited to begin learning about the orchestra, composers, and the wide variety of cultures that are bound together by music.

## Daniel Huynh: HS and MS Choir

In December, our middle school and high school choirs held their first concert since the pandemic began. Students were excited to perform for their friends and family. We are currently working on music for our next concert and upcoming music festivals, and we are grateful to be able to continue singing and making music together in person.

## Zac Tendick: HS and MS Band

It has been truly great to have a mostly normal school year so far. Our winter concert in December was a lot of fun and it was fantastic to be with the 6th graders on stage for the first time. We are gearing up for a busy spring season of music festivals and performances for our high school ensembles, and preparing for the 45th annual Pleasant Hill Jazz Festival on April 16th. We are glad and excited to bring back this long-standing tradition to the northwest community. An army of volunteers is essential for a successful festival, so please reach out if you would like to be involved this year.

**Thank you for supporting our music students and we all hope to see you at a performance soon!**

# A Letter from the PHES Principal

Dear Families,

## What is Billie Spirit?

Praise and encouragement combined with effective instruction are the cornerstones of the Billie Spirit program. Although negative consequences are sometimes necessary to change inappropriate behavior, students are more likely to learn and demonstrate appropriate behavior in an encouraging and supportive learning environment.

Appropriate behavior is encouraged and reinforced formally and informally on a regular basis in all school settings throughout the day. Students not only receive praise, but also can earn Billie Bucks for demonstrating Billie Spirit, by being Kind, Respectful, Responsible, and Safe.

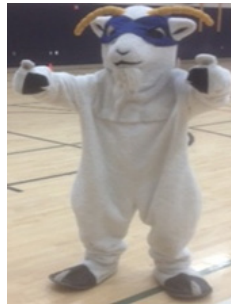
## What can students do with their Billie Bucks?

They can buy special privileges such as a positive phone call/email/Seesaw message home, an opportunity to brag to the boss about the cool things they are doing, a trip to the pencil machine just to name a few coupons. Classroom teachers also hold special drawings and students can earn classroom-specific privileges too. This year we are holding special weekly drawings on Fridays for an opportunity to spin Billie's Wheel at lunch. Students can also elect to save their Billie Bucks to purchase items such as fun pens, pencils, erasers, beads, bouncy balls, etc. from the Billie Store.

Once a month, grade levels gather to celebrate the great things our students are doing both academically and behaviorally. Socially distanced either inside the blue gym or outside on the blacktop, classroom teachers recognize at least two students from their class and nominate one student to receive the Principal's Star Student award. We conclude our time together by awarding golden artifacts such as a golden shoe, drum/guitar, book, apple, lunchbox to name a few to the class who as a collective group has demonstrated Billie Spirit while at school.

Thank you for supporting your students daily. Also, thank you for reinforcing Billie Spirit expectations, too.

Respectfully,  
*Dewery Stoneberg*  
Principal



# Agricultural, FFA, and CTE Updates

PHHS Agricultural & FFA programs are starting this year strong. The Business Management Team has secured many grants and scholarships for our program and chapter activities. Academic work in the greenhouse has begun and classes are gearing up for our first Plant and Vegetable Sale on May 7, 2022.

Ag classes are working hard this spring in our new Discovery Arboretum and invite community members to our Open Trail Day, also on May 7.

Our FFA Chapter has taken first place in Agriculture Sales and third place in Agricultural Mechanics Career Development Events. Competing in Public Speaking, Farm Business Management, Horticulture, Livestock Judging, and Crops are the chapter's focus this spring.

Thank you to all the volunteers and industry members for the installation of automatic greenhouse irrigation system, Ag storage shed, and assistance with our livestock entrepreneurial and breeding programs. This amazing CTE program is only possible because of a community like ours!

# A Letter from the PHMS & PHHS Principal

Dear PHHS Community,

Pleasant Hill High School and Pleasant Hill Middle School are halfway through school year and I would like to thank all the parents, students, and school personnel for contributing to a successful Fall and Winter. With the challenges that the ongoing pandemic presents, our school community has worked together to provide a positive experience for our students; from in-class instruction, to Fall and Winter Activities and Athletics, Holiday Concerts, and a Homecoming dance hosted by PHHS parents.

Compared to our year of online learning and very few extracurricular activities, we have truly come a long way. With the hopes of a somewhat normal Spring, I know there will be more opportunities for us to work side by side to provide positive, lasting experiences for our students.

If there is ever a time that you have ideas on how to provide an even better experience, please don't hesitate to call or email the school.

Best regards,  
*Randy Fisher*  
Principal

# Destination Imagination

On March 5, 2022, Pleasant Hill will host a Regional Destination Imagination Showcase for teams in the Southern Region. Pleasant Hill's four Destination Imagination teams will be among those performing their solutions to the challenge they have chosen this year.

We have a Middle School team, two Elementary teams, and one Rising Stars (grades 1 and 2) team. These performances will be held at the Elementary School.

Schedules and specific locations will be available at a later date.

# Find Billie News & Sports Online!

We want to make it easy for you to find out the latest Pleasant Hill School District information, whether it's the date and time of a school event, upcoming games or matches, or other vital updates throughout the year.

## School Calendar

<https://www.pleasanthill.k12.or.us/about/calendar>

## Billie Athletics

<https://billiesathletics.com/>

## School District News and Information

<https://www.pleasanthill.k12.or.us/district-updates/news>

## Phone Numbers

Pleasant Hill Elementary School:	541.736.0400
Pleasant Hill High School and Middle School:	541.747.4541
District Office:	541.746.9646

# Booster Club Updates

The Pleasant Hill Booster Club is tentatively planning for our Yearly Auction on April 30, 2022. Please keep an eye out on Social Media and your mail for confirmation of the event by the end of February.

It has been two long years since the last auction and we are excited to be able to host it at a new Outside Venue on Wallace Creek Road! It is a great time for teams and community members to volunteer because we will need all the help we can get!

We always need volunteers and have tasks large and small for anyone interested in helping. You can reach out to Jennifer Jordan at [pleasanthillboosters@gmail.com](mailto:pleasanthillboosters@gmail.com) or directly at (541) 554-1070.

## Pleasant Hill School District

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