

PIEDMONT FOCUS

MONTHLY NEWS & UPDATES FROM PIEDMONT PUBLIC SCHOOLS



PIEDMONT Public Schools

BOARD OF EDUCATION

APRIL 2022 MEETING UPDATES

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

David Jewell, the HS principal, introduced these exceptional students and the Board of Education recognized National Merit Scholarship Finalists Noah Koehn and Gracie Meade and Academic All-State honorees Madison Lake and Gracie Meade.

The board voted to set a Special Board Meeting on May 25 at 12 p.m. at the Piedmont Learning Center Conference Room regarding the sale of \$9,020,000 of Taxable Combined Purpose Building Bonds.

Katie Cornman made a motion to set the meeting for May 25, 2022, at 12 p.m. at the Piedmont Learning Center Conference Room. Steven Cox seconded. The board voted "Yes" unanimously.

The board heard the suspension appeal of A.M., a student of Piedmont Public Schools. Steven Cox made the motion to uphold the suspension and Greg Duffy seconded. The board voted unanimously to uphold the 44-day suspension.

The board unanimously voted to approve the consent agenda, which included an activity fund account for the new agriculture education program, numerous overnight trip requests for athletics, the purchase of a portable building for use at Piedmont Intermediate, and three new job descriptions (Director of Elementary Curriculum & Instruction, Director of Secondary Curriculum & Instruction, Administrative Assistant - Substitute Scheduler). The vote was motioned by Greg Duffy and seconded by Steven Cox.

The board unanimously approved the rehiring of the submitted list of certified and support employees for the 2022-2023 school year, along with several new hires including Julie Horton as the agriculture education teacher, and Tyler Bodell as Stone Ridge Elementary Principal. The vote was motioned by Steven Cox and seconded by Katie Cornman.

The board also voted to approve the hiring of an additional academic counselor for the Middle School of Piedmont and an additional academic counselor at Piedmont High School.



PRINCIPAL REPORTS

FOCUS: TEACHER RESOURCE DAYS

WHY ARE TEACHER RESOURCE DAYS GREAT FOR PIEDMONT SCHOOLS?

"Being able to fully enjoy Spring Break knowing that I had Monday to prepare for the coming week was very nice and appreciated! With report cards being due and conferences coming up, the gift of time to prepare during school hours was amazing!"

- **MELISSA WOOLF, PIEDMONT ECC**

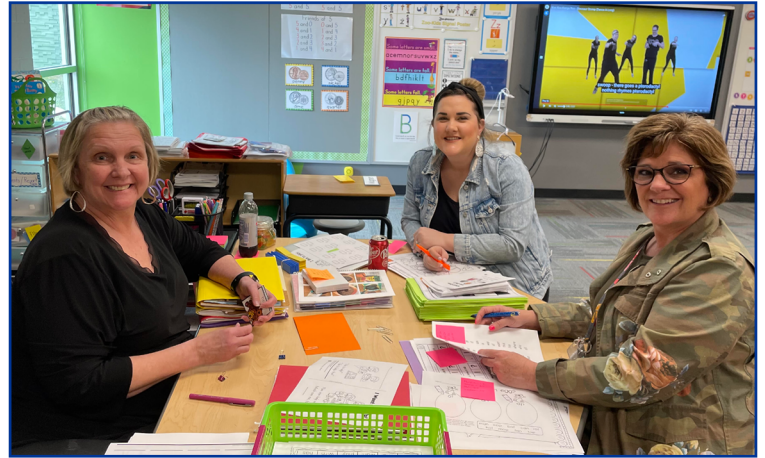
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TEACHER RESOURCE DAYS ARE BENEFICIAL AND A HUGE INCENTIVE TO RECRUIT AND RETAIN TEACHERS.

- **AMANDA BAKER,
STONE RIDGE ELEMENTARY**

Teacher resource days are incredibly valuable! During our last resource day, my team and I were able to prepare extra student activities for the week, run copies, plan for the following week, enter grades for report cards, discuss goals for the 4th quarter, and prep materials. These days give us much-needed time to prepare and catch up on work that we don't always have time to do during the week. We also felt like it gave us time to be more creative with our lessons, and then prepare for those lessons. Not only do we benefit, but we feel our students do too. We are so appreciative of these resource days!

- **JESSICA KEYSER, NORTHWOOD ELEMENTARY**



At Piedmont Early Childhood Center, we hold retention meetings with each kindergarten teacher to address the needs of their students. These retention meetings involve multiple staff members and take a considerable amount of time. It is challenging to schedule an appropriate time during school hours for this type of meeting. Our most recent teacher resource day allowed all concerned staff to attend the meeting and give their professional input as we made crucial decisions for our students.

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OUR TEACHERS APPRECIATE THAT THEIR CONCERNS WERE HEARD AND ACTED UPON TO IMPROVE THEIR WORKING SITUATION.

- **JENNIFER CARVER,
PIEDMONT EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER
PRINCIPAL**

We are fortunate to have such a dedicated group of people leading our school district. I appreciate your leadership, commitment to our students and staff, and your support of our mission to improve continually.

PRINCIPAL REPORTS

FOCUS: TEACHER RESOURCE DAYS

WHY ARE TEACHER RESOURCE DAYS GREAT FOR PIEDMONT SCHOOLS?

We spend so much of our daily “planning time” doing things like checking email, planning, and prepping for THAT day that fifty-five minutes of a schedule planning time goes faster than one might think. Teacher resource days are so incredibly helpful to be able to plan for a couple of weeks in advance, get caught up on making copies, collaborate with our teams, and find resources for lessons - without having to use time at home!

- **AMANDA LUNNON, NORTHWOOD ELEMENTARY**

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IT IS SO NICE TO BE ABLE TO ACTUALLY PLAN OUT THE REST OF THE YEAR WHILE SITTING IN MY OWN SPACE WITHOUT WORRYING ABOUT GRADING, PHONE CALLS, OR MEETINGS.

- **AMY LENNERTZ, PIEDMONT INTERMEDIATE**

“I started the day with a fresh mind and fully rested, so I began searching online for new ideas for my music classes. I found many interesting videos that complement my lessons. I had plenty of time to do thorough research without feeling rushed. My search led to valuable new ideas for lessons and was tremendously helpful for lesson planning. Music teachers across the district had the opportunity to meet to exchange knowledge and ideas. My students have greatly benefitted from this time.”

- **STEVEN HAM, PIEDMONT ELEMENTARY**



“I want to take a minute to express my gratitude for our teacher resource day. The day we returned from Spring Break was my first day back from maternity leave. Having that day to work in my classroom was a lifesaver in more ways than one. I used every minute of that day to prepare for the week. My tasks included making lesson plans, getting centers prepared and ready for the kids, getting my sign-up genius out to parents for conferences, creating and sending out my weekly newsletter to the parents, and organizing and cleaning my room. That was all just in the morning! I filled my time in the afternoon entering grades for twenty-three students into the computer.”

- **STEPHANIE NING, PIEDMONT ECC**

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TEACHER RESOURCE DAYS ARE EXACTLY WHAT WE NEED IN OUR CALENDAR TO HELP US HAVE TIME TO COLLABORATE. TIME IS THE BEST GIFT AND WE NEED MORE AND MORE OF IT AS OUR WORKLOAD GROWS.

- **HANNAH SAWYERS, MIDDLE SCHOOL OF PIEDMONT**

PRINCIPAL REPORTS

FOCUS: TEACHER RESOURCE DAYS



Our teacher resource day was beneficial to discuss upcoming state testing and allowed for our committee representatives to collaborate with district leaders on a new student management system for content sharing. This time was beneficial to site administrators to talk with grade level and specialty teams on current needs to end the school year strong.

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**KEEPING THE OVERALL MINDSET
OF WHAT'S BEST FOR OUR
STUDENTS BY PROVIDING
TEACHERS A DAY TO WORK
PROFESSIONALLY AND
PRODUCTIVELY IS INVALUABLE
TO OUR STAFF.**

**- KYLIE SANDERS
STONE RIDGE ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL**

Our resource day was also very beneficial to our special education department. Our site special education teachers, Melanie Hill and Tasha Dougherty, both say the resource day was helpful to “get ahead on required paperwork” and helped keep them from working so much on non-contract time to stay in compliance.

WHY ARE TEACHER RESOURCE DAYS GREAT FOR PIEDMONT SCHOOLS?

“I truly appreciate the teacher resource days. Normally I cut my school breaks short to make sure I have everything ready on Sunday, or I spend my break doing report cards. Teacher resource days allow us time to collaborate with our teams and in our rooms. I don't have to work over the break or come in the day before! It also allows us to do projects in our rooms we typically don't have time to do after school. I hope these days continue after longer breaks!”

**- DENISE ASHMORE, STONE RIDGE
ELEMENTARY**

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**WITH ALL OF THE NORMAL
CHAOS THAT SURROUNDS
EACH TEACHING DAY, IT WAS
WONDERFUL TO HAVE AN
OPPORTUNITY NOT ONLY TO
PREPARE BUT ALSO TO REFINE.
ADDITIONALLY, ANY EXTRA TIME
THAT ALLOWS FOR MEANINGFUL
GRADING IS ALWAYS
APPRECIATED.**

**- JEFF ROBISON,
PIEDMONT HIGH SCHOOL**

DISTRICT UPDATES

HUMAN RESOURCES

RECRUITMENT & RETENTION COMMITTEE

Our committee met and developed an exit survey for all employees to complete. Responses are confidential and optional. We look forward to gathering this feedback to impact future decisions, programs, and initiatives.

[View the survey.](#)

TEACHER RESOURCE DAY

The PPS Human Resources Department partnered with our Community Care Employee Assistance Program to provide an optional one-hour session on Stress Management to staff on the March teacher resource day.



PPS SPECIAL SERVICES



SPECIAL OLYMPICS BOCCIE

PPS Special Services took 56 athletes and unified partners from PHS, MSP, PI, and Stone Ridge (for the first time) to participate in Bocce Ball.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS DONATIONS

We have the greatest community partners. We are excited to accept \$1,000 from Jimmy Hatley, CPA and \$400 from F&M Bank.

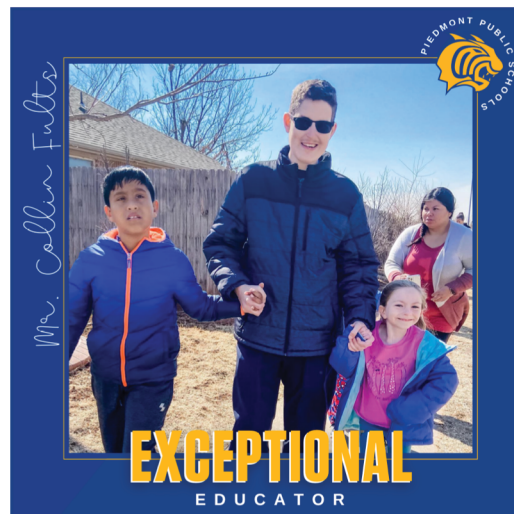
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Tanya Caraballo, Samantha Walton, and Melanie Hill participated in MESA Project training. This specialized training provides consultation and professional development to educators and professionals who work with children with autism spectrum disorder.

SENSORY ROOM OPENS AT PHS

We are thrilled to open the new ADRC Covid-19 Response Grant Sensory Room! We held a grand opening of this fantastic space on Tuesday, April 5th.

PUBLIC RELATIONS/COMMUNICATIONS



PPS EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATORS

Thanks to our Climate and Culture Committee, we recently launched a social media campaign focused on highlighting the amazing people we have working in our district. These "EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATORS" go above and beyond for our students and make Piedmont a great place to work and learn! The best part - they are nominated by their colleagues. This has been a great way to spread positivity in our community!



DISTRICT UPDATES



HEALTH & WELLNESS/SAFE SCHOOLS

The Total Wellness Clinic closed its doors Friday, March 25, 2022 due to low patient numbers. The chart below gives an overview of patients seen and positive COVID-19 cases:

	Total Test	% of district (4850)	Total Positives	Average Visits	Average Positives	Avg % Positives
August	329	6.8%	27	65.8	5.4	8.3%
September	473	9.8%	47	23.7	2.4	10.5%
October	303	6.2%	35	17.8	2.1	12.8%
November	468	9.6%	65	24.2	3.3	13.8%
December	405	8.4%	52	19.2	2.0	9.3%
January	1112	22.9%	363	53.0	17.3	30.4%
February	87	1.8%	6	6.2	0.4	9.6%
March	56	1.2%	0	4.3	0.0	0.0%
TOTAL	3233		595			

- Growth & Development Sessions will be held for 5th and 6th graders on April 11th and 12th. Parents were [sent information](#) about the sessions with an opt-out option
- Dental screenings for all 1st graders in the district schedule for April 7th.
- Caring Van Covid Vaccines Clinic is scheduled for April 7th and April 28th. Ages 5+
- Total Wellness Annual Wellness Clinic for Staff is April 18th and 19th. They will be going to each individual school.
- Total Wellness Tdap clinic for 5th and 6th graders is April 13th and 14th, and May 5th.
- CPR courses continue at PHS. Approximately 770 students have been certified/taught so far!

ENROLLMENT CENTER

Our Enrollment Specialists, Elizabeth Quiñones and Lisa Bole, have been busy assisting families in enrolling their children for the 2022-23 school year! We have already seen an impressive number of people enroll for the 2022-23 school year, and Pre-K is on waitlist.

Grades	Enrollees
Pre-Kindergarten	191
Pre-Kindergarten Waitlist	25*
Kindergarten	37
First-Fourth	15
Fifth-Sixth	9
Seventh-Eighth	6
Ninth-Twelfth	6

*An additional 11 pre-kindergarten enrollments have been initiated, but not completed.

The Enrollment team has [notified the parents](#) of all students currently enrolled on a Residency Affidavit that updated residency documentation for the 2022-23 school year must be completed by April 15th, per PPS Board of Education Policy FD.



DISTRICT UPDATES

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

NEW ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS CURRICULUM FOR PPS ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

After thoughtful and thorough research, our curriculum team is moving forward with purchasing Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (HMH) for our elementary ELA curriculum adoption. We are working to finalize pricing and order placement to allow our teachers to have Teacher Edition Books in hand before the summer break. We have received many positive responses from teachers regarding the new curriculum! We believe HMH will help fill gaps in our Language Arts curriculum to reduce the number of supplemental materials needed for effective lessons, giving our teachers more time to spend on other duties.

STATE-MANDATED TESTING BEGINS IN APRIL

Our curriculum teams have created practice tests for students to help identify areas where students may require last-minute tutoring. We have gradually increased the number of questions on each practice test to build stamina for testing days. We are optimistic because our students continue to close gaps from COVID disruptions, and we know that will be proven in testing data for the 2021-22 school year.

VIRTUAL AND BLENDED LEARNING AT PPS

With next year's enrollment almost complete, we continue to see our virtual numbers rise, especially in our blended model. To better prepare our students for any post-secondary path they choose, we have added additional requirements for our virtual students. We communicated the new expectations to parents and students during our March parent-teacher conference nights. More than 183 parents attended a virtual school session with Michelle Reeves, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, to discuss plans for a more robust virtual curriculum.

Piedmont Schools will continue to be able to offer a virtual learning option that keeps students in Piedmont Public Schools rather than being forced to transfer to an alternative online school. We are meeting the needs of hundreds of our students every day due to this additional learning option!

LIBRARY-MEDIA PROGRAM



Many of our site libraries recently hosted a Scholastic Book Fair. Families were able to shop IN-PERSON with their children during Parent-Teacher Conferences. Proceeds raised from the book fair will provide needed funds to purchase replacement and new books for each school's collection.

Library-Media Specialists are completing training through Follett-Destiny, our library circulation system. We recently transitioned to web-hosted resources, which opens new tools for library-media specialists to use.



NATIONAL SCHOOL LIBRARIAN DAY was Monday, April 4th! We appreciate our team of library-media specialists and all they do for our students!



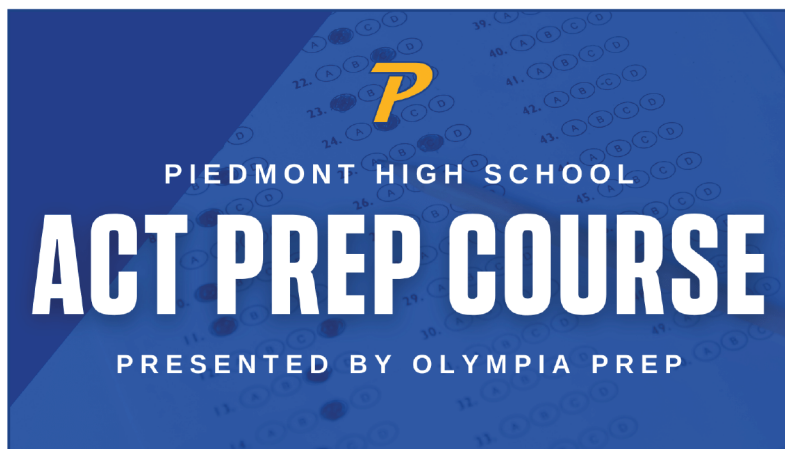
DISTRICT UPDATES



INSTRUCTION & STUDENT SERVICES

ACT PREPARATION ACADEMY

Olympia Prep presented a condensed ACT academy for all Piedmont juniors. This program provides the most up-to-date strategies and skills for the ACT, as well as functional, content-area instruction on some of the most tested areas on the exam. Students spent part of their school day on April 4th participating in the workshop in preparation for the state-mandated ACT taken on April 6th.



EXTENDING CAREER TECHNOLOGY EXPERIENCES

We have partnered with Canadian Valley Technology Center to offer career exploration opportunities and activities to a broader audience. We are eager to implement career interest inventories at Piedmont Intermediate in our character education classes. Students will have the opportunity to listen to various guest speakers in different career fields.



CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Wildcat Athletic Center

- Framers are framing on the first floor
- Facia is being installed in the lobby area
- Three mechanical units were set last week
- The wrestling roof is underway - The project is 95% dry in
- The sprinkler system is being installed
- Brick veneer installation will begin in a week
- Exterior insulation finish systems have started from the roof up
- Plumbers are installing copper in the basement



Students at Piedmont Middle School enjoyed a field trip to CV Tech where they participated in a program called "Reality Check." This hands-on activity allows students to choose a career pathway and manage the cost of living with the average income of that occupation.

Piedmont High School students will have the opportunity to attend three separate presentations per semester on career pathways. These presentations will cover a wide range of occupations, providing students with the best information to make informed decisions on future career plans.

DISTRICT UPDATES

ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES

EVENTS & HAPPENINGS

Throughout the month of April, the Piedmont Athletic Department has been targeting three significant areas, interviewing candidates for current 2021-2022 vacancies, determining program needs in the areas of personnel, and organizing logistics (dates, times, facilities, etc) for our Summer Camps and Summer Pride.

- Gained membership into the MMSAC (Metro Middle School Athletic Conference)
- Held recruiting workshop for student-athletes interested in playing at the next level
- Participated in several interviews of prospective applicants
- Worked with campus leaders to prepare class schedules for returning coaches
- Began to work through Summer Pride logistics for all summer sessions
- Summer camp information made public on April 7th (Purplepass)
- Drug tested 50 student-athletes on March 9th
- Began to hold evaluations for coaches/sponsors of activities
- Conducted a full staff coaches meeting to review best practices
- Processed winter sports transportation logs (bus driving)
- Re-keyed gates and repaired fence at F&M stadium
- Hosted ninth grade, junior varsity, and varsity baseball tournaments



HIGHLIGHTS FOR ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES

- Special Olympics competed in Bocce Ball in Weatherford
- The academic team competed at 5A State Championship
- Piedmont women's basketball had three players selected to the Suburban Conference all-conference team: Jilian Crawford was named to the first team, Khloe Carr was named second-team and Rylie Burnett was named Newcomer of the Year
- Piedmont men's basketball team had Jayce Daniels named a Suburban Conference all-conference first team member
- Celebrated our head athletic trainer Bryan Smith for National Athletic Trainers Month
- Women's basketball team made it to the area consolation championship
- Piedmont men's and women's track seasons are underway
- Subway Players of the Week - Khloe Carr, Ella Watkins, Hayden Rodriguez
- Piedmont men's and women's golf have competed in several tournaments
- The Pride of Piedmont's varsity and middle school guard performed at Collett Fieldhouse
- Both Piedmont men's and women's soccer programs have gotten off to strong starts
- Wildcat men's soccer won the Chickasha Tournament
- Baseball opened the season strong and played host to several tournaments in their brand new stadium
- The Lady Wildcats stunt team went 1-1 in their first STUNT games of the spring
- Wildcat football celebrated their season with their end of the season banquet
- 8th-grade baseball won the Kingfisher Championship
- Piedmont men's and women's tennis programs have been competing in tournaments