

PIEDMONT FOCUS

MONTHLY NEWS & UPDATES FROM PIEDMONT PUBLIC SCHOOLS





PIEDMONT Public Schools

BOARD OF EDUCATION

MAY 2022 MEETING UPDATES

A reception and special recognition were held to honor our 2022 retirees– we appreciate their years of service to our Piedmont students.

- Sharon Briscoe, Pre-Kindergarten Teacher at Piedmont Early Childhood Center
- Luanne Michael, Teacher Assistant at Piedmont Early Childhood Center
- Jean Stafford, Administrative Assistant at Piedmont Early Childhood Center
- Sally Kilby, Social Studies Teacher at Piedmont Intermediate School
- Andrea Kirton, Math Teacher at Piedmont Middle School
- Danna Morrison, Special Education Teacher at Piedmont Middle School
- John Gray, Maintenance Employee for Piedmont Schools

Dr. James White was recognized for his commitment to excellence in education as the recipient of the Oklahoma Association of School Administrators Superintendent of the Year for District 14.

Consent Agenda

Mrs. Katie Cornman requested Item I be voted on separately.

Motion to approve all excluding I and K by Mrs. Katie Cornman

2nd by Mr. Greg Duffy

Board voted "Yes" unanimously.

Item I: Motion to approve Director salary scale adjustment

Motioned by Mr. Steven Cox

2nd by Mr. Layne Jones

Votes - No: Cornman, Duffy; Yes: Cox, Jones, Moser

Item K: Motion to adjust summer office hours to 7am - 4pm, M-Th in June & July

Motioned by Mr. Steven Cox

2nd by Mr. Layne Jones

Votes - No: Duffy; Yes: Cornman, Cox, Jones, Moser

The board voted not to convene into executive session and unanimously approved all employment recommendations.



PRINCIPAL REPORTS

FOCUS: SUCCESSFUL TRANSITIONS FOR STUDENTS

PIEDMONT EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

Entering school for the first time or moving from one grade to the next can be especially challenging for students and their families. We can help support this transition with careful planning and preparation. Piedmont ECC takes special care to facilitate a smooth transition in the following ways:

- Classroom teachers will complete a placement card for our current students. Placement cards provide information about students' current level of functioning, behavior, special needs or concerns. This information helps create a balanced classroom mix of children with different needs and strengths, best serving each child.
- During conferences, parents/guardians receive information about their student's level of performance and the skills and knowledge they will need to be successful in the grade ahead. Parents are encouraged to read with their children nightly.
- We hold transition meetings with the principal of each elementary building to exchange relevant information for student success. (SPED, health, safety, behavior support, or other concerns)
- For students with special needs, we offer a classroom visit for receiving staff to observe the student and provide important insight into the student's learning styles, communication needs, medical issues, and behavior support.
- Transition for three-year-old students includes a Transitional Placement Meeting with parents/guardians and the IEP team to review eligibility and develop an Individual Education Plan for each child.
- Meet the Teacher events allow our students and families to meet school staff and become familiar with the school building.
- Parents/guardians receive emails throughout the summer with information about our clubhouse program, bus schedules, helpful hints, a car line survival guide, volunteering opportunities, Cornerstone, and available resources. Parents/guardians of our Pre Kindergarten students also receive the "Ready for School Checklist" to use as a guide to help prepare their child for school.



WHETHER A STUDENT IS COMING TO SCHOOL FOR THE FIRST TIME, MOVING TO A NEW CLASSROOM, OR A NEW BUILDING, IT IS HELPFUL TO IDENTIFY THE BEST CLASSROOM TEACHER FOR EACH STUDENT. AFTER A STUDENT IS ENROLLED, THEIR PARENTS/GUARDIANS RECEIVE A SURVEY WITH SPECIFIC QUESTIONS ABOUT THEIR CHILD AND THEIR NEEDS.



PRINCIPAL REPORTS

FOCUS: SUCCESSFUL TRANSITIONS FOR STUDENTS

NORTHWOOD ELEMENTARY

Transitioning to another grade or building can be exciting and challenging for students and parents/guardians. At Northwood, we do our best to help everyone understand the expectations at our school and what the new changes will look like moving forward.

Special Education

Northwood special education teachers meet with outgoing fourth-grade SPED students and their parents at the end of the school year to facilitate a meeting with the Piedmont Intermediate special education team. This meeting gives everyone a chance to ask questions about the program and determine what type of schedule or daily routine their student will have for next year.

New to Northwood Night

On August 4th, 2022, we will host our annual New to Northwood Night. Incoming first-graders and anyone new to our school have a chance to tour the building and meet staff members. Students get to see their classroom, bring their supplies, and learn about clubs and other opportunities at Northwood. This night helps ease any parent/guardian concerns and helps all students feel comfortable at their school!



STONE RIDGE ELEMENTARY

Each year, we work as a staff to welcome our incoming first graders and new students. We're very excited to have Mr. Bodell join our team to provide his input and expertise!

PTO Invitation for ECC

2022-23 Kindergarten parents/guardians were invited to our April 26th PTO meeting.

Back-to-School Celebration

Early discussions have started regarding a Stone Ridge Back to School Bash to build that excitement for both new and current Stone Ridge students and families. Activities discussed include food trucks, sports games with area teams, bounce houses, carnival-type games, and a dunk tank for staff/administrators to join in on the fun.

Revised Schedule for Fourth Graders

Once state testing is complete in the spring, fourth-grade students begin to practice the PI schedule with shorter classes. Teachers collaborate and rotate students by subject to other rooms. This helps our students begin to see what a day can be like with multiple teachers.

Welcoming New Students

At the beginning of each school year, Dr. Nation, the school counselor, plans a welcome get-together for students who are new to Piedmont Schools. Students meet fellow grade-level peers and get to know Dr. Nation as a resource they may need as they transition to a new school.

ALL ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Fourth Grade visits Piedmont Intermediate

All fourth-grade students will go to Piedmont Intermediate to tour the building and get a brief explanation of next year's day-to-day schedule. Students can ask questions, eat lunch, and enjoy outdoor recess at Piedmont Intermediate. Students look forward to this visit because it eases anxiety for many, but it also gets some students even more excited about upcoming changes and what the future holds.

PRINCIPAL REPORTS

FOCUS: SUCCESSFUL TRANSITIONS FOR STUDENTS

PIEDMONT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Change is difficult no matter the age group! At Piedmont Elementary, we want to ensure all students feel safe, loved, and welcomed when transitioning from one building to another within our school system or from another school district. Below are a few examples of how we welcome our newest Wildcats to Piedmont Elementary.

Special Education

Special education teachers from the ECC and PI meet with our PES special education teachers to discuss and learn about both incoming special education students from the ECC and outgoing special education students to PI. During this time, teachers discuss the specific needs and learning styles of students. This allows each special education staff to best accommodate ALL students from the first day of school until the last.

New to Piedmont Elementary Night

On August 4th, 2022 all students NEW to Piedmont Elementary, no matter the age group, will be invited to attend our New to PES night. On this night, students are welcome to tour our school, see their new classroom, meet staff members, drop off school supplies, meet the Principal and learn about after-school clubs and activities offered at Piedmont Elementary. This night helps to ease any first-day jitters for PES families.



PRINCIPAL REPORTS

FOCUS: SUCCESSFUL TRANSITIONS FOR STUDENTS

PIEDMONT INTERMEDIATE

Intentional, strategic transitions between schools is one of the most important elements to prepare students for a successful year. For our 6th-grade students heading to the Middle School of Piedmont, we will be collaborating with STUCO to present a "Day in the Life of A Middle School Wildcat" video and Q&A session. We are arranging a small, personal tour of MSP for our some of our incoming Special Education students to help them be more familiar with the teachers, program, and location of their new classes.

For our incoming 5th-grade students, we have a flurry of activities and events planned. First, we are hosting 4th grade tours for each elementary school during the school day, where our incoming Wildcats will tour the building, see their classrooms, have lunch & recess, and meet their administrative team. We will also be hosting additional tour and transition meetings for students in our Special Education programs.

In addition, we are planning a come-and-go Intermediate Showcase Night for all 4th grade families to tour the building, meet teachers, visit classrooms, experience electives, and see all the exciting parts of moving up to PI. In the fall, before school starts, we will again have an interactive SPUD (Schedule Pick-Up Day) with photo stations, meet & greets, guided tours with our 6th grade Wildcat Pride Ambassadors, teacher QR videos, and PI gear for sale. We will follow this with a PI Parent University night to share the rules, expectations, and procedures of PI, along with technology tutorials to help transition parents to the new setting. We can't wait to greet our new students and families!

MIDDLE SCHOOL OF PIEDMONT

As we wrap up the 2021-2022 school year, Middle School of Piedmont is looking forward to welcoming our newest Wildcats to our building next year. The MSP Counselor, Mrs. Attalla, visited Piedmont Intermediate in March to introduce students to the enrollment process. During those meetings, she discussed course availability, and students were able to select their future courses. Our next step in the transition plan is to allow the incoming Wildcats a chance to have a glimpse into the life of a middle school student. Our STUCO is making a "Day In The Life" video to share with our incoming 7th graders. The STUCO committee will take the video to PI to show it to the students and will also host a Q&A session about what it is like to be a middle schooler.

In addition to these visits, our special education team is hosting transition meetings with families. A teacher and administrator from the receiving school are invited to sit in the meeting to help make plans to ensure students are able to transition to other buildings as smoothly as possible. Several of our families in these meetings have requested a tour of the new building the student will attend, and we are scheduling those before school begins.

With our building under construction, everything will look different for both students and staff when we return to school. In August, MSP will host a schedule pick-up day. Students and families will be able to tour the building and classrooms. We will have many teachers and STUCO students available to give tours and answer questions, and MSP cheerleaders will be there to welcome our Wildcats.

8th-grade students are preparing for their move to Piedmont High School. PHS counselors and administrators visited our 8th graders in March and began the enrollment process with them. The PHS counselors introduced course options and followed up with small groups to finalize the enrollment selections. This was extremely helpful for the incoming freshmen to get an overview of how course credits work and current graduation requirements.

PRINCIPAL REPORTS

FOCUS: SUCCESSFUL TRANSITIONS FOR STUDENTS

PIEDMONT HIGH SCHOOL

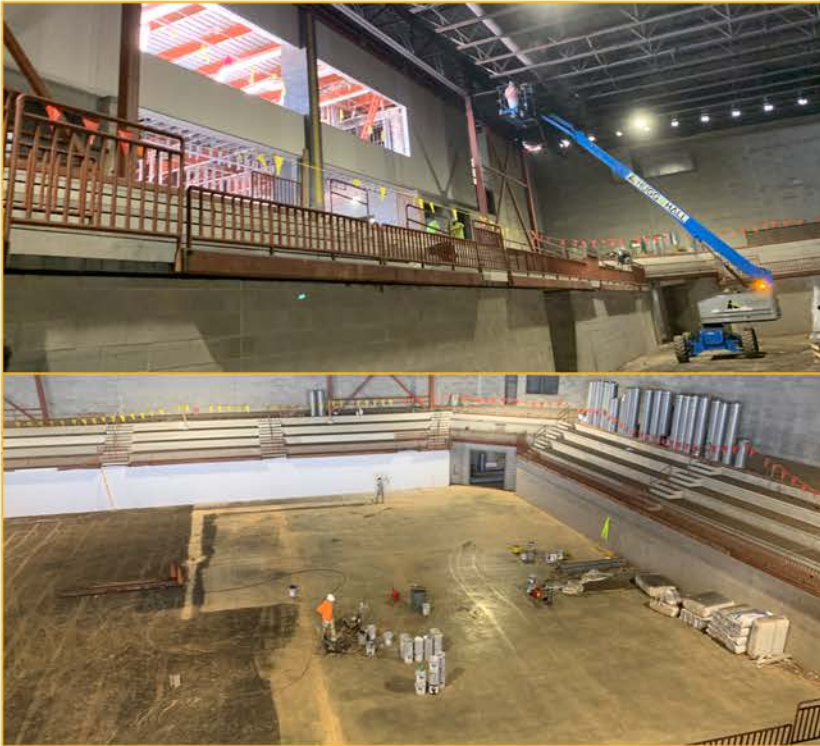
At Piedmont High School, our counselors have met with all incoming and outgoing students in large groups and in a small group setting to discuss the transition to a high school schedule and post-secondary opportunities.

PHS will host a parent night/freshmen open house in August of 2022 to welcome all 9th-grade students to the building. Administration, counselors, and teachers will be available to answer any questions and be a resource for the incoming 9th-grade students. National Honor Society and Student Council students will be available to give tours of the building.

Transition meetings will be held at the end of the school year to prepare the High School staff for any students coming from the middle school with special needs or accommodations.



DISTRICT UPDATES



CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

- Main ceiling in the gym is being painted black
- Exterior masonry is ongoing on all sides of the building
- Paving in the back of the building is underway - Curb and gutter and first layer of asphalt
- Framing and fur downs are ongoing
- Sheetrock installation is ongoing
- HVAC, electrical, and plumbing is ongoing
- Painting of walls will begin in the basement in the next few weeks



PPS SPECIAL SERVICES



SPECIAL OLYMPIANS COMPETE IN MAY

May 9th at Track and Field /Athletics in Yukon

May 22nd at Unified Cornhole in Weatherford

A NEW FRIEND AT NORTHWOOD

Northwood Elementary welcomed Alfred, or "Alf", our newest employee and service dog. He has quickly become a Wildcat favorite to both the students and staff.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS SUMMER GAMES ARE AROUND THE CORNER

DATE: Wednesday, May 11, 2022

Location: Gallagher Iba Arena

Time: Doors open at 6:45 p.m.

Opening Ceremonies begin at 7:30 p.m.

DATE: Thursday, May 12, 2022

Bocce Location: Smith Center on Hall of Fame, across from Boone Pickens Stadium

Time: 8:30 a.m.

Cornhole Location: Boone Pickens Stadium

Time: 9:00 a.m.



DISTRICT UPDATES

INSTRUCTION & STUDENT SERVICES

FOREIGN EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Piedmont High School will be rebooting the Foreign Exchange Program for the 2022-23 school year. Historically, Piedmont Schools has had a great relationship with several local placement agencies. Pre-pandemic, our high school would consistently host students from all over the globe. Benefits of the program include diversity and inclusion through exploration of the others' cultures and students learning to appreciate the differences in others. PPS is set to host five students in the upcoming school year.

CAREER TECHNOLOGY CENTER ENROLLMENT

The projected student enrollment for Canadian Valley Technology Center for the 2021-22 school year will see a 12% increase. We are pleased to share we will have an additional 94 students entering a program pathway at CV Tech. This will bring our overall enrollment up to 158 students. Career pathway programs include Biomedical, Pre-Engineering, Electrical Trades, Accounting & Business Management, and Computer Information Systems.

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

PREPARING FOR THE 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR

As the end of the school year is quickly approaching, we begin looking at necessary changes for the upcoming school year. Over the summer, we will continue to adjust curriculum maps, look at additional resources needed for each grade level, and attend professional development to continue learning about our new ELA curriculum and resources.

We will be reevaluating our Instructional Resource Specialists positions and their specific role for the upcoming school year. We will make necessary adjustments to ensure that their impact continues to make the biggest difference within our school community. Our ISRs have done a great job working with teachers to review data, help make assessments, and ensure that curriculum maps are updated and in place. The hire of a new Elementary Curriculum Director will ensure that the needs of all of our students and buildings are being met through collaboration and communication.

Good News AT PIEDMONT PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Congratulations to Superintendent Dr. James White on his selection as the Oklahoma Association for School Administrators District #14 Superintendent of the Year!



U.S. News and World Report has ranked Piedmont High School as a nationally-ranked high school, TOP 20 high school in the state of Oklahoma, and #12 in the OKC Metro. Congratulations to our PHS administrators, teachers, staff, and students!

DISTRICT UPDATES

Good News AT PIEDMONT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ENROLLMENT CENTER

REGISTRAR MEETING

We hosted a meeting with the school site registrars to discuss end of year procedures and close out processes in our student information system.

RESIDENCY AFFIDAVITS

The PPS enrollment team has notified parents/guardians of all students currently enrolled on a Residency Affidavit to require updated residency documentation for the 2022-23 school year, per PPS Board of Education Policy FD. Families who did not meet the April 15th deadline must begin the process again.



Piedmont Public Schools is proud to share Avony Green, Piedmont High School Senior, was selected as a recipient of Oklahoma City University's Clara Luper Scholarship.

The Clara Luper Scholarship honors the legacy of the Oklahoma City civil rights leader (1923-2011). This highly competitive scholarship includes full tuition, room and board, and membership in the prestigious President's Leadership Class.

**THE PIEDMONT SCHOOLS
EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATOR SOCIAL
MEDIA CAMPAIGN HAS BEEN
A RAVING SUCCESS! WE HAVE
MORE TEACHERS AND STAFF
NOMINATED THAN WE HAVE DAYS
LEFT IN THE SCHOOL YEAR.**

DISTRICT UPDATES

HUMAN RESOURCES

STAFFING WITH PRINCIPALS

I have met with each school site principal to review projected enrollment numbers and staffing needs. Job postings have been posted to reflect current needs for the 2022-2023 school year.

ENERGAGE SURVEY

A subsequent survey was sent to all PPS employees as a follow up to our Energage Survey during the first semester of this school year. We have begun evaluating the results and look forward to sharing them soon.



SHOWING APPRECIATION

We showed our appreciation for our bus drivers and administrative professionals on social media for School Bus Driver Appreciation Day and Administrative Professionals Day.



HEALTH & WELLNESS AT PIEDMONT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

VACCINE CLINICS

Our Health Services team have coordinated two more COVID Vaccine Clinics and two Tdap Clinics at Piedmont Intermediate in the past month. We are proud of the strides made to give our community many opportunities to get vaccinations for their students.

VACCINATION RECORDS

Our incredible team of nurses have worked hard to provide ample opportunities for students to receive required vaccinations in accordance with the Oklahoma Immunization Law. Parents were notified if their student is not in compliance. They must provide a vaccine record or a complete exemption certificate by May 6th. Failure to provide necessary documents will result in the student not being placed on a class list or not receiving a schedule for the 2022-23 school year. Students will be placed on a class list or will receive their course schedule once proper documentation is received.

