

PIEDMONT FOCUS

MONTHLY NEWS & UPDATES FROM PIEDMONT PUBLIC SCHOOLS





PIEDMONT

Public Schools

BOARD OF EDUCATION SEPTEMBER 12, 2022 MEETING UPDATES

APPROVAL OF BOARD POLICIES

Piedmont Public Schools Board of Education voted to approve Sections 6, 7, 8, and 9 board policies. These votes were unanimous. In addition, the Internet and Technology Safety policy was unanimously approved.

TABLED POLICY

The policy on Procurement was tabled for the next scheduled board meeting.

STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH PROTOCOL & ACCOMMODATIONS POLICIES

Piedmont Public Schools Board of Education unanimously approved the Student Mental Health Crisis Protocol policy and Mental Health Accommodations policy.

As the need for support for student mental health grows, Piedmont Public Schools has hired two Behavioral Health Professionals. The role of these individuals is to help students navigate difficult situations and to connect students and families to outside resources to improve mental health.

Each school has a counselor serving as a support person in partnership with all students, staff, and parents to help every child have a successful and positive school experience. As part of the counseling program, classroom guidance lessons are offered on a rotating schedule. Topics that are taught include bullying prevention, peer pressure, career exploration, and study skills. Counselors also see students individually and in small groups. Contact information for our counseling team is listed on the right side of this page.

BOARD WARDS

The board wards for Piedmont Public Schools were revised, as required by law. Board members unanimously approved these revisions.

DISCUSSION & PRESENTATIONS

Mrs. Lisa Campbell presented on the 2022 Spring Employee survey. The board approved the action to conduct another survey for employees for the 2023 school year. These surveys allow us to measure employee engagement and strengthen retention and recruitment efforts at Piedmont Schools.

PIEDMONT SCHOOLS COUNSELING TEAM PIEDMONT EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

Mrs. Jenna Smith, Counselor
jenna.smith@piedmontschools.org

NORTHWOOD ELEMENTARY

Mrs. Kelly Barker, Counselor
kelly.barker@piedmontschools.org

PIEDMONT ELEMENTARY

Mrs. Cathy Adams, Counselor
cathy.adams@piedmontschools.org

STONE RIDGE ELEMENTARY

Dr. Erin Nation, Counselor
erin.nation@piedmontschools.org

PIEDMONT INTERMEDIATE

Mrs. Jill Holland, Counselor
jill.holland@piedmontschools.org

Mr. Cody Ferguson, Mental Health Professional
cody.ferguson@piedmontschools.org

MIDDLE SCHOOL OF PIEDMONT

Mrs. Cindy Attalla, 8th-Grade Counselor
cindy.attalla@piedmontschools.org

Mrs. Amy Dalton, 7th-Grade Counselor
amy.dalton@piedmontschools.org

Mr. Cody Ferguson, Mental Health Professional
cody.ferguson@piedmontschools.org

PIEDMONT HIGH SCHOOL

Mrs. Brandi Bird, A-G Counselor
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Mrs. Rachel Hacker, H-Pg Counselor
rachel.hacker@piedmontschools.org

Mrs. Judie Meier, Ph-Z Counselor
judie.meier@piedmontschools.org

Mr. Jake O'Bannon, Behavioral Health Professional
jacob.obannon@piedmontschools.org



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BOARD OF EDUCATION SEPTEMBER 12, 2022 MEETING UPDATES

DISCUSSION & PRESENTATIONS CONTINUED

Middle School of Piedmont construction and student safety was discussed. A full-time school resource officer is on-site at the Middle School. Construction gates are closed unless accessed by a construction vehicle. Students are supervised during passing periods. Doors to MS buildings are closed and locked except during passing period.

Mr. Shawn Blankenship presented on our Transportation department, challenges for the department and potential solutions. Transportation procedures during road closures were discussed by board members and district leadership. Piedmont Public Schools' procedure is if there is a known road closure or a road closure with signs posted, a bus will not go down the road.

Board meetings will soon be streamed through the PPS YouTube channel. The link to meetings will be posted on the Piedmont Schools website on the Board of Education landing page.

The consent agenda was approved. The board did not convene into executive session. The board approved the employment list. These votes were unanimous.

PRINCIPAL REPORTS

ELEMENTARY FOCUS: DEVELOPING RELATIONSHIPS WITH PPS FAMILIES

The development of school-parent relationships is an integral part of student success, especially at the elementary level. Piedmont Early Childhood Center, Northwood Elementary, Piedmont Elementary, and Stone Ridge Elementary are emphasizing family engagement as we start the school year with relaxed COVID-19 protocols and school sites open to parents and families. The following events and opportunities are/were available for families in our school community to be involved in their student's school at the PK-4 level.



MEET THE TEACHER

Families across the district attended Meet The Teacher Night before the start of school. We were thrilled with the number of parents who took the time to bring their children to say hello to their new teacher and get acclimated to their new classroom. Teachers met the new members of their classes and shared relevant information to equip parents with tools to help their children be successful at school.

Meet the Teacher times were staggered to allow more time for parents to visit with their student's teacher and more time for teachers to speak to each student's family. Some of our schools followed Meet the Teacher with a Zoom "Parent Orientation" to communicate site-specific procedures, policies, and all other school-related matters.



HELPING HANDS

Helping Hands has returned! Parent volunteers assist our teachers by running copies or assembling materials for educational practices and lessons. Helping Hands is a fantastic opportunity for parents to get a first-hand look into the day-to-day tasks at our school sites. Our teachers are grateful for the Helping Hands volunteers!

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Parents can mark their calendars for parent-teacher conference sessions this school year. More information will be communicated via email as we get closer to these dates.

- October 10 & 11: (PK-12)
- March 28 & 30: Secondary (5th-12th)
- April 4 & 6: Elementary (PK-4th)



WEEKLY COMMUNICATION

From classroom-specific and site-dedicated emails to daily folders, our school sites put a heavy emphasis on communication with parents. We view communication as another way to build trust in our school community. Parents are encouraged to follow their school on social media for another glimpse into what students are working on in class.

PIEDMONT EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

Instagram: @eccwildcats
Twitter: @eccwildcats

NORTHWOOD ELEMENTARY

Instagram: @northwoodwildcats
Twitter: @NWPiedmontCat
Facebook: Northwood Elementary PTO

PIEDMONT ELEMENTARY

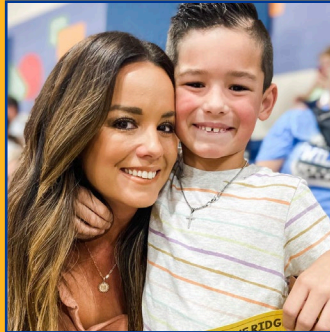
Instagram: @peswildcats
Twitter: @peswildcats
Facebook: Piedmont Elementary School Communication 2022-2023

STONE RIDGE ELEMENTARY

Instagram: @stoneridgewildcats
Twitter: @stoneridgeelem
Facebook: Stone Ridge PTO

PRINCIPAL REPORTS

ELEMENTARY FOCUS: DEVELOPING RELATIONSHIPS WITH PPS FAMILIES



WILDCAT WAKE-UP

Wildcat Wake-Up will continue each Friday morning with opportunities for parents to attend. Site-specific information is shared with parents and guardians via email.



PTO & CORNERSTONE

Piedmont Early Childhood Center, Northwood Elementary, Piedmont Elementary, and Stone Ridge Elementary have active PTO organizations. Piedmont Early Childhood Center has a Cornerstone group. If a parent or guardian has questions about how to get involved in their site PTO or the ECC Cornerstone, they can contact their school office.



MUSIC & SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Throughout the year, classrooms will showcase the skills and talents of our students with programs for parents and guardians to attend. Our school sites are working on specific plans for various programs, including Veterans Day, Grandparents Day and grade-level musical programs. Information regarding these events will be shared with parents and guardians via email.

HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

We look forward to welcoming our parents back into our buildings for holiday celebrations (fall, winter, and Valentine's Day). We will spread our celebration days over several dates and times, allowing for more visitors.



PRINCIPAL REPORTS

SECONDARY FOCUS: PROCEDURAL ADJUSTMENTS FOR STUDENT GROWTH

MIDDLE SCHOOL OF PIEDMONT



SCHEDULE CHANGES

Continuous growth in our student population and the beginning phases of our bond construction have forced several substantial changes to our master schedule:

- All middle school athletics have moved to 1st hour. Our “in-season” athletes report to facilities around the district to practice their sport, while traditional “off-season” students participate in a Current Events class until their sport is in season. This allows our coaches to add an extra section to their schedule daily, allowing for smaller class sizes due to an increased number of sections.
- Due to construction, we no longer have an on-campus facility for our band students to practice. Band students now end their day at the high school. We appreciate the efforts of our transportation department to safely transport our band students to practice every afternoon.
- Our lunch location has been moved to the East Building commons area. This school year, we added two additional lunches to our rotation to accommodate all students at lunch. We now have six lunches averaging an estimated 135 students throughout the late morning and early afternoon.

BELL SCHEDULE CHANGES

An alternating bell schedule for both 7th and 8th grade is another change we made to accommodate our growing student population during construction. We have a 5-minute, offset bell schedule that allows 8th grade and 7th grade to exchange classes separately. This allows for a reduction in hallway traffic and faster, more efficient class exchanges.

SAFETY & SECURITY

Along with the changes we made to our schedule, we have made several changes around campus to increase security and safety.

- We now have a full-time SRO on campus at MSP, and we are very thankful for this addition to our team.
- We have also relocated our main office to the East Building and added a new safety buzzer system to that entrance. This requires guests to check in the office when they arrive.
- Students must walk from building to building, so we added a secure outdoor hallway that is fenced. This ensures students avoid the construction area.
- We relocated our car drop-off line to the new road north of MSP and our bus loop to the south entrance.



PIEDMONT INTERMEDIATE

At Piedmont Intermediate, we set out to create a different year with a different experience and a different environment. These changes all started with a different school layout. The original design of content-based hallways and collaboration has served the school well for many years. As our student population has grown, we have realized a need to design a system for students to feel more comfortable in the hallways during passing period, and where they could develop a sense of ownership & pride for their space. We have moved all 5th grade classes to one end of the school and all 6th grade classes to the other, with few exceptions.

This change has allowed teachers and administrators to better interact with students during passing period, and has provided smoother transitions for everyone throughout the day. Our hallways are much less daunting with less than one fourth of students passing through the center of the building. Teachers have been able to better supervise students, and they can collaborate with same-grade colleagues throughout the day due to their classroom proximity. We have been able to use the “pod” or “commons” for whole-grade assemblies & presentations, along with using it for “indoor recess” without disrupting any other classes or the hallways.

We have started off our school year on the right foot. We look forward to continue to make positive improvements to best serve all Piedmont Intermediate students.



PRINCIPAL REPORTS

SECONDARY FOCUS: PROCEDURAL ADJUSTMENTS FOR STUDENT GROWTH



DID YOU KNOW?

Last year almost 300 students graduated from Piedmont High School. This year more than 425 ninth-grade students are enrolled at PHS.



PIEDMONT HIGH SCHOOL

This school year, the PHS administration team has made adjustments to procedures in our buildings to accommodate the growing population of students at PHS.

SUPERVISION

We have increased supervision in the hallways, at passing time, during lunch, and before and after school to maintain a safe and secure campus for both students and staff.

TEACHERS

Knowing small class sizes improve the learning environment for all students, we added multiple teaching positions at PHS in order to keep our class sizes as small as possible.

BAND

The Middle School of Piedmont has approximately 100 students transported to PHS for band practice due to construction on their campus. We have made adjustments to the master schedule in order to accommodate these students with consideration of both transportation and class assignments.

VIRTUAL TEACHERS

Due to increased demand, we have added a full staff of virtual teachers at PHS. These teachers will meet with students who need remediation or tutoring on a regular basis.

WILDCAT ATHLETIC CENTER

The construction of the Wildcat Athletic Center is winding down. We are excited for the completion of this facility for both sporting events, band concerts, extra curriculars, and pep assemblies.

DISTRICT UPDATES



CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

WILDCAT ATHLETIC CENTER

- Sub flooring has been installed
- Maple flooring is underway
- Maple floor will be sanded, painted, and sealed by September 25th
- Painting in lobby area
- Lighting is complete in lobby area
- Telescopic seating will be delivered on September 29th and 30th
- Bowl seating is 90 percent complete (one row on top floor must be installed)
- Scoreboard will be installed on October 10th

MIDDLE SCHOOL OF PIEDMONT

- Dirt work is ongoing
- Building pad is being formed
- Piers are scheduled for next week

PPS SPECIAL SERVICES

ENROLLMENT

We have added **76 NEW STUDENTS** to PPS Special Services

NEW AT PPS

Piedmont Special Services Department has been approved by the State Department of Education to be an official Special Education Boot Camp Provider. This means with our training we can provide anyone with a Bachelor's degree a provisional Special Education Teaching Certificate.

Upcoming Special Olympics Events

- **October 21, 2022 - Horseshoes in Yukon**
- **November 4, 2022 - Bowling in El Reno**

ELEMENTARY CURRICULUM

- We have collaborated with teacher leaders to revise the elementary report card to make it more meaningful for parents. This includes adding specific standards for the specials classes and reporting the revised science and math standards.
- Curriculum items continue to be delivered and distributed to schools.
- Ongoing professional development with teacher teams to support the rollout of the new English Language Arts curriculum.



DISTRICT UPDATES

INSTRUCTION & STUDENT SERVICES

GRANT AWARDED TO PPS AVIATION PROGRAM

Piedmont was awarded a grant of \$8,000 for the new Aerospace and Aviation Program. The program's primary objective for the 2022-23 school year is to create an awareness of the aerospace industry and to prepare students for the increasing number of career opportunities available in this field. The program will provide students with a solid foundation in the principles of aerospace and aviation. This will ignite the interest of learners of all ages as we implement curriculum and awareness in grades Pre-K through 9th grade.

Items that will be purchased with the grant dollars include a Red Bird Flight Simulator, curriculum for Piedmont Intermediate (parachute activity), straw rockets for our elementary sites, and wooden glider planes for our Early Childhood learners.

SECONDARY CURRICULUM

Ms. Reeves and our Instructional Resource Specialists (IRS) are collaborating with core teachers and departments to reevaluate current assessments to meet required standards and to ensure students receive rigorous instruction that exceeds expectations.

After each meeting, assessments are developed in Mastery Connect and shared with educators. Teachers are encouraged to provide feedback about the newly created assessments prior to student interaction. We have received positive feedback from using this new data collecting program. As we move forward in the semester and assessments are completed in our classrooms, we will hold data meetings to discuss what standards teachers should revisit for student success. We will institute strategies to ensure essential standards are instructed through bell work, exit tickets, supplemental resources, and reassessments.

Our pre-assessment meetings have also been imperative for new teachers to become familiar with curriculum maps and understand which standards will be assessed and at what point these assessments will occur during the quarter. We make sure teachers feel comfortable with teaching each lesson to our students. It has been valuable time spent with teachers as we get back in the swing of school.

Good News AT PIEDMONT PUBLIC SCHOOLS



We are proud to announce that twelve Piedmont High School students were selected as College Board National Recognition Program awardees. These students earned this recognition because of their academic achievements in school and outstanding performance on the PSAT/NMSQT®, PSAT™ 10, and/or AP® Exams.

The following student(s) have been awarded recognition:

- David Allen
- Jacob Bost
- Caleb Houston
- Dade Humes
- Titus Johnson
- Joshua Lennertz
- Travis Lloyd
- Aurora Olson
- Trina Pham
- Andrew Skelton
- Cale Woolf
- Wyatt Young

DISTRICT UPDATES

HUMAN RESOURCES

MENTOR-MENTEE PARTNERSHIP

Piedmont Schools has successfully launched a new Mentor-Mentee Partnership program. The goal of this program is to provide consistent support to new educators with scheduled touch points throughout the school year on specified topics. Roles and responsibilities are clearly defined for both mentors and mentees.

Mentors are seasoned teachers who are professionally licensed and have demonstrated a minimum of three years of successful teaching experience. A mentor is defined as a consultant and advisor whose role is to support and guide, not to evaluate the new teacher. Mentors and Peer Teachers must apply, be appointed, and be trained by their principal to assist fellow teachers who are new to the District and/or the profession. Mentors work collaboratively and non-judgmentally with the new teachers to help ensure an enjoyable and successful teaching experience.

TEAM COLLABORATION & COMMUNICATION

We have been consistently meeting with different groups to learn more about their specific processes and procedures and to make improvements for this school year. Our teams of reading specialists, counselors, nurses, elementary principals, and various teacher groups are dedicated to improving processes to create effective workspaces for employees and productive learning environments for all students. We are confident in our plans moving forward and are eager to see how we can get better every day.

OSSBA PANEL - CHILDCARE CENTER

Mrs. Lisa Campbell was invited to served on a panel to share about the development of onsite childcare centers for public school employees. She encouraged school districts to seek this opportunity for the recruitment and retention of quality teachers in the state of Oklahoma.



COMMUNITY RELATIONS

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AUGUST LUNCHEON

At the start of the school year, Mrs. Lisa Campbell was invited to speak to Piedmont Chamber members regarding the upcoming school year and immense growth of our school district. Chamber members shared their support of the district and had great questions about the future for PPS.

PIEDMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY AUGUST SPEAKER

Dr. James White was invited to speak at the Piedmont Historical Society regarding new programs at Piedmont Schools and improvements/construction across the district.



SCHOOL SAFETY

Piedmont Public Schools has adopted the Standard Response Protocol (SRP). Students and staff will be training, practicing, and drilling the protocols throughout the year. SRP utilizes clear and common language while allowing for flexibility in protocol.

The premise is simple - there are five specific actions that can be performed during an incident. SRP is based on the following actions: Hold, Secure, Lockdown, Evacuate, and Shelter. Students and staff are given specific directives depending on the category of the incident. District officials have made every effort to notify parents of drills with our new protocols.

In the event of a live incident, parents will be notified of the category/status of their student's school.

DISTRICT UPDATES

ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES

As the 2022-2023 school year begins, Piedmont Athletics and Activities department has focused on several areas to ensure a successful start. We have prepared facilities for athletic events, ensured our student-athletes complied with required paperwork, started season program meetings, attended team practices, and streamlined logistics regarding season passes and tickets.

In addition, we have introduced two new opportunities for our team of coaches to collaborate and improve communication across our department. First, our Coaches Round-table meets every other Wednesday before school to share ideas regarding practice formats and drills, motivational strategies, the development of positive culture, and other ideas surrounding program development. Second, our department has started a bi-weekly newsletter called The Playbook. This newsletter keeps coaches and administrators updated on schedules, results, and important deadlines. The aim is to provide a document to reference for all athletic needs.



HIGHLIGHTS FOR ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES

- Piedmont softball coaching staff was selected as the Regional Coaching Staff of the Year
- Kaylie Marshall was selected as Athlete of the Week
- Piedmont softball won the Veteran Bat Invitational
- Piedmont volleyball finished runner-up at the Coweta Tournament
- Junior Varsity softball won the Kingfisher Tournament (varsity tournament)
- Cross country teams finished third place at the Deer Creek Field Run
- Cross country teams finished 9th and 11th at Southlake Carroll