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# BILLIE NEWS!

[www.pleasanthill.k12.or.us](http://www.pleasanthill.k12.or.us)

*Vision Statement: Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow*



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## Pleasant Hill Elementary

36386 Highway 58, Pleasant Hill, Or 97455

Phone: (541) 736-0400

Fax: (541) 736-0446

Attendance Line: 541-736-0411

Office Hours: 7:30—4:00 p.m., Mon. - Fri.

Meal Prices: Breakfast 1.75 / Lunch 3.00

Daily Schedule: 8:00 - 2:15 p.m., Mon. - Thur.

Supervision: 7:45 - 2:30 p.m. Mon. - Thur.

8:00 - 1:25 p.m., Fri.

7:45 - 1:30 p.m. Fri.

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## Welcome Back!



Welcome back to all of our new and returning Pleasant Hill Elementary families. It was so nice to see so many of you last Tuesday, September 5th, at either our Kindergarten Open House or Meet and Greet the Teacher for students in grades 1 -5.

We presently have 451 students enrolled at Pleasant Hill Elementary School. In addition, we have a wonderful staff committed to seeing that every student, every day is

successful so they are "Learning Today to be Leaders Tomorrow!"

## Pleasant Hill Elementary Staff Assignments for the 2023-2024 School Year

We have a staff of about 55 people who make Pleasant Hill Elementary the amazing place it is. The district office is in the process of updating our Staff page online. Below are the teaching assignments for this year:

Kindergarten: Darci Craig, Jennifer Fisher, Brooke Quinones

1st Grade: Kayla Mason, Heather Sprague, Angie Yates

2nd Grade: Valerie Davis, Lori Griffiths, Carrie Reinking

3rd Grade: Naomi Croucher, Aaron Holladay, Kaitlyn Michlanski

4th Grade: Dalton Bond, Mali Howell, Emily Smith

5th Grade: Todd Grassman, Nicola Shaddon, Rachelle Smythe

Student Support Staff: Nathan Bofto (PE), Ryan Strong (Music), Stephanie Black (Counselor), KayLynn Thomas (Title I), Jessica Wolpe (Reading Intervention), Jessi Goble (CLC), Kimmie Hoskins (LC), Tracy Durfee (Case Manager)



## Seesaw, Text Messages and Email

Not only do our classroom teachers use Seesaw, but we use it schoolwide too in order to provide you with information we receive from our transportation provider First Student, school closures or delays

due to weather, as well as reminders for families of upcoming opportunities as well as the daily menu. If you have not set-up your student's or your family account, please contact your student's teacher for assistance.

If you have not received any of our school emails or messages from our school district, please verify your phone number and email address with our office. The district uses a service called Blackboard which pulls contact information from the registration materials families filled out last spring if you are a returning family.

This is also a great time to update your student's emergency contacts list, who we can call if your student becomes ill or you are authorizing to pick up your student from school either during the day or after school. Please call our office at 541-736-0400 to update your contact information.

## School Safety



Many of you have experienced some new safety features our district has added to our school campus. If you have tried to enter the office this year, you may have found yourself unable to enter. The office door will be locked at all times.

Starting Monday, September 11th, there is a newly installed door bell with a camera.

Please ring the bell, one of our secretaries will look at the camera to see who is at the door and buzz you into the office. Prior to entering the office if you are volunteering please sign in on the clipboard in the foyer and put a badge. If you are a guest visitor having lunch with your student, a guest speaker, etc also sign in and put a badge on before entering the office. If you have an appointment with either the principal, counselor, or school nurse, or need to pick-up or drop off your student, please walk right into the office and our secretaries will assist you.

We also have a nice new big gate at the ramp entrance to the playground. The gate is locked full time preventing anyone from entering the playground during the school day. Therefore, if you also drop off middle school or high school students in the morning, they will need to walk down the sidewalk on Katie's Lane to the middle school / high school.

## GoGuardian



GoGuardian is a software company that helps districts manage a fleet of Chromebooks.

GoGuardian Admin is primarily used to filter the content of the Internet on our district-owned Chromebooks. The district's IT staff creates filtering policies that block or allow websites based on predetermined categories and assigned to students. GoGuardian's content filtering only applies to district-owned devices.

GoGuardian keeps track of the websites that a student visits on their school issued device. A report provides a chronological timeline of websites and apps visited along with how much time was spent on each site. Even if the browsing history is erased, the record is still available from when they were online.

GoGuardian uses artificial intelligence and machine learning in order to block websites based on what is on the screen regardless of where the content was found. It examines the words and images on a web page for

inappropriate content and if believed to be unsuitable for students, it will block the page immediately. This helps to protect students from exposure to unwanted materials accidentally or intentionally. No filtering or monitoring program is perfect, as technology is constantly changing, but it has helped alert teachers and admin to student safety issues that would have been missed or overlooked without it.

GoGuardian also has a Teacher Module, a classroom management tool for Chromebooks. It allows teachers to see what is on the screen of every student in their classroom. They can see the active tab the student is currently looking at, as well as any other open tabs in the browser.

Teachers can close tabs for students, send messages to students, and lock student screens. Messages between a teacher and student on GoGuardian are logged. Students cannot message other students through GoGuardian, only the teacher.

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## Parking Lot Safety

Just a few reminders about what parents can do to help keep Pleasant Hill Elementary students be safe in the parking lot:

- Use one of the following drop off and pick up locations:
  - o K /1 students in the front of the school
  - o 2 / 3 students in front of the library
  - o 4 /5 students in front of the community center
- \*\*Drop off and pick-up all your students in the location of the youngest student in your household.
- Pause long enough to drop students off along the curb and move on.
- Do not double park...this causes traffic jams and requires students to walk through cars to get to the curb.
- If you plan to park, please walk your students to the sidewalk or meet them at the sidewalk and walk back to your car.
- Drive slowly through the parking lot...watch for students and families who are walking in the parking lot.
- Students should arrive at school no earlier than 7:45 a.m. unless previous arrangements have been made. Students report directly to their classrooms starting at 7:45 a.m. or the cafeteria for breakfast.
- Notify your student's teacher and the office in advance about any changes in your student's drop off or pick up routine prior to 1:30 p.m. when daily notes are delivered to classrooms Monday - Thursday or 12:30 p.m. on Fridays.



## First Student

First Student Transportation is the district transportation provider. Thank you for being flexible with the schedule they have provided you with at either Kindergarten Open House or Meet and Greet the Teacher. First Student Transportation tries their best to estimate what time your child will be picked up or arrive home each day by providing you with a 5-minute window as to when a bus can be at your stop.

If you have questions or concerns related to transportation, please contact First Student at 541-688-0454, the main office in Bethel ext. 300 or ext. 304. If your concerns are not addressed, please feel free to contact me, Devery Stoneberg, at 541-736-0400.

## Bus Loading / Unloading Zone

The bus loading and unloading zone is in the gravel parking lot area beside the cafeteria. All buses will enter and exit the campus via Enterprise Road. Students will be dropped off along the side of the cafeteria entering the campus via a large gate at the back of the cafeteria that will only be open during bus times.



All students when they arrive in the morning either go to the cafeteria for breakfast or wait on the black top on the playground until 7:45 a.m. when they may go to their classrooms.

In the afternoon, buses will pick up all students in the busing area. Students will be released and exit the building and walk to the bus loop located next to the playground. So, please make sure your student knows what their after-school plans are each day as the buses leave the building five to six minutes after dismissal.

## Attendance Matters



One of the most reliable predictors of school success is regular attendance. Absences for any reason result in lost instruction time. We know that students who fall behind often become discouraged learners. It is our hope that we can work together to encourage your child's regular attendance and success at school. We understand that

there are many factors in your lives that make it difficult, at times, for your child to be in school or on time. However, it is important that we work with you to reduce these to an absolute minimum. Class activities start promptly at 8:00 a.m. The morning class time is one of the most important times of the day as teachers go through the schedule for the day, hold class meetings, and take care of morning business taking attendance and lunch counts. When a child comes in late, not only have they missed valuable class time, it is disruptive to their classmates.

Your child is less likely to succeed if he or she is chronically absent, which means missing 18 days or more during the school year. Research shows:

- Children chronically absent in Kindergarten and 1st grade are much less likely to read at grade level by the end of 3rd grade.
- By 6th grade chronic absence is a proven early warning sign for students at risk of dropping out of school.
- By 9th grade good attendance can predict graduation rates even better than 8th grade test scores.

Absences add up quickly. A child is chronically absent if he or she misses just two days every month!

We don't want your child to fall behind and feel discouraged. So, we have put together an attendance incentive:

- **Weekly:**
  - Classes who have weekly attendance rate of at least 90% or greater will receive a special Billie Attendance Banner to display on their classroom door for the week.
  - Students who have 100% attendance for the week will receive a raffle ticket and be entered into a grade level drawing for a token to Billie's Book Vending Machine. Winners will be announced each Friday from the prior week's attendance. Winners must be present to claim their prize.
- **Monthly:**

- Any student who has had no more than 2 absences during the month will receive a Billie Attendance Award for the month.
- Special Friday Billie Spirit Days.
- The primary, K-2, and intermediate, grades 3 -5, class with the highest rate of attendance for the month will get an extra PE class with Mr. Bofito.
- Quarterly:
  - Students who have perfect attendance will receive a certificate.
    - The grade level with the highest rate of student attendance for the quarter, will earn a special Billie Recess.

When your child is going to be late or absent from school, please call the attendance line at 541-736-0411, before 8:30 a.m. and inform the office staff. You may leave a message on the voice mail, if calling before office hours. Please leave the name of your child, their teacher's name, and the reason for the absence. It is extremely important that this be done, as every child must be accounted for on a daily basis. If you forget to call, someone from our office will be calling.

As a friendly reminder, according to Oregon Truancy Regulations, if your student has eight unexcused half-day absences in any four-week period, you will receive a letter from the school notifying you of our attendance concerns. Please let us know how we can be of assistance in seeing that your student is in school daily. If your student continues to have irregular attendance, we are obligated to make a referral to a truant officer for further investigation.

## What is Billie Spirit?

Billie Spirit is our Positive Behavior Intervention Support System, PBIS, which is a systematic approach to building the capacity of schools to educate all students. It is based on the idea that when students are taught clearly defined behavioral expectations and provided with positive corrective responses to behavior, 85% or more of students will meet those expectations. Those needing additional assistance are provided with more support.



There are three components to our PBIS system:

School-wide systems to establish a positive culture.

Classroom systems that blend academic and behavioral expectations.

Individual student support for those students needing the most intense behavior support needs.

We have four school wide expectations of students: **Kind, Respectful, Responsible, and Safe**. Each area of the school, playground, classroom, and other areas of the campus have specific behavior expectations for our students based on these principles. These expectations are taught at the beginning of every school year, and are reinforced throughout the year, with booster lessons after every major break such as winter and spring break.

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 will be encouraged and reinforced formally and informally on a regular basis in all school settings.

Students have an opportunity daily to earn Billie Bucks for demonstrating Billie Spirit by being Kind, Responsible, Respectful and Safe. Students can buy special privileges such as to eat lunch with a friend in the cafeteria instead of at their classroom table, brag time with the principal, write in ink for the day, purchase special recess privileges, just to name a few things students can spend their Billie Bucks on. Classroom teachers also hold special drawings and have classroom specific privileges students can purchase, too.

## **Pleasant Hill Elementary PTO**

We are very fortunate to have an incredibly supportive parent group and community who organize events and fundraising activities. All funds raised are used to enrich your student's school experience.

If you would like to learn more about our PTO or like to assist with projects and events join our first PTO meeting of the year, Tuesday, September 12th, at 2:30 p.m. in the Pleasant Hill Community Center. Monthly meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. in the community center.



You are invited to check out Destination Imagination Wednesday, October 4, 2023, 2:15 - 3:15 p.m. in the Pleasant Hill Community Center.

This exciting international program stresses teamwork, creative problem-solving, and improvisation. Challenges are available for all kinds of talents and all grades. Parents and interested students are invited to attend. Students will participate in a DI meeting and parents will have the opportunity to observe the activities and participate in a question and answer time at the end of the meeting.

Information materials and sign-up forms will be available at the end of the meeting. Find out how parents can assist with a team. Sign-up forms will need to be returned to the Elementary office by October 7. Each team formed will need an adult volunteer to assist.

If you have questions about DI or are unable to come to this meeting, feel free to call Joan Hladky at 541-746-0135 or email to [jhladky@pleasanthill.k12.or.us](mailto:jhladky@pleasanthill.k12.or.us)