



Pleasant Hill School District

FALL 2023 NEWSLETTER

A Letter from the Superintendent

Dear PHSD Community:

Welcome back to School! We hope this letter finds you well and excited for another enriching academic year. Together we can create a strong foundation for your child’s growth and success. We would like to take this opportunity to share some important information about the upcoming school year.

Our Vision: *To graduate all students with high levels of academic and personal achievement, who are ready for post-secondary excellence, and who are prepared for productive, compassionate citizenship, through research-based instruction and a collaborative system of support.*

Curriculum and Enrichment: Our curriculum is designed to engage students in meaningful learning experiences that considers different learning styles. We are excited to offer a range of academic subjects, extracurricular activities, and special events that will help students develop their talents and interests. From arts and sports to STEM, humanities and Career Technical Education, there’s something for everyone to explore.

Communication: We believe in open communication and encourage parents to actively participate in their child’s education journey. Our teachers and staff are readily available to discuss your child’s progress, answer questions and address any concerns you may have.

Parent involvement: We value the partnership between school and home. Parent involvement plays a crucial role in a child’s success. We invite you to join our Parent-Teacher Association, Pleasant Hill Booster Club, attend school events and participate in volunteer activities. Your support strengthens our school community.

We are excited to embark on this new academic year with you and your child. Together, we can create a positive and impactful learning experience that prepares Pleasant Hill students for a bright future. Thank you for entrusting us with your child’s education and please feel free to reach out to your child’s school office if you have any questions or need information. We are here to support you.

My ‘WHY’ is to provide an educational environment where our students feel safe to explore their boundaries as they grow and mature while also being pushed to meet and exceed academic expectations so that they are prepared to be a productive, compassionate citizen no matter where their post-secondary experiences take them. In order to complete this mission we have to work together on their behalf. We have to model and maintain cooperative partnerships in order to ensure that every Pleasant Hill student finishes the school year having maximized their achievement and individual growth.

Wishing you a wonderful school year ahead!

Warm regards,

Jim Crist
Superintendent

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A NOTE FROM THE PHEF

Pleasant Hill Education Foundation is excited to announce the return of The Breakfast on the Hill. This will be held on Thursday, November 9 from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. in the Student Center. We look forward to seeing you there!

Luehring Enrichment and Advancement Fund (LEAF) Grants are available for all students, Pre-Ks through 12th grade. Do you have a class you want to take at LCC or an educational camp you would like to attend?

Visit our website, www.phillfoundation.org, to find more information and apply! Innovative Educator Grants are open now through September 29, 2023.

Save the date for our Annual Fundraising Gala: February 24, 2024, at the Graduate Hotel!

Updates from the PTO

Hello, Pleasant Hill Community!

On behalf of the entire Pleasant Hill Elementary School PTO, welcome back to school!

Last year was one for the record books! With the help of our PHES student body and our Title Sponsor, Epperson Orthodontics, the 2022 Jog-a-thon raised over \$33,000. We were able to fund Rainy (or smokey) Day Recess Carts for all grade levels, our new Rock Wall was installed and ALL requests for field trip funding were fulfilled.

The new Book Vending Machine was a HUGE HIT with the kiddos. They were able to earn tokens to buy books all year long! The Nacho Feed made an enormous comeback paired with the bookfair and Living Museum. The kids enjoyed spending their hard-earned Billie Bucks with the return of The Billie Holiday Gift Shop. Finally, the 2022-2023 school year wrapped up with Field Day. This was a day filled with fun activities for the kids complete with a dunk tank for the teachers to take a little dip. The PTO also awarded Linda Kordon and Dawn O'Donnell as our "Volunteer of the Month" for April and May. What an amazing year!

We are so ready to hit the ground running for the 2023-2024 school year! The school year will kick off with Jog-a-thon on Friday September 29. Thank you to Epperson Orthodontics, who will be our Title Sponsor again this year! This year, we are excited to roll out PledgeStar for collecting pledges. This will enable students to easily collect both online donations as well as cash and checks. Additionally, this will cut way back on volunteer hours spent counting/recording donations and tracking prize winners (we are VERY excited about this).

Also this year, we'll be handing out our "Volunteer of The Month" award each month to deserving volunteers who sacrifice their time to serve our students. If you haven't already, and you wish to volunteer, please turn in your volunteer forms to the District Office or Elementary Office.

Our 2023-2024 PHES PTO Board Members are:

President:	Madeline Carlton
Vice-President:	Ashlee Hodge
Treasurer:	Katie Baker
Secretary:	Ashley Wayne
Fundraising Coordinator:	Jona Wilson and Jennifer Johnsen
Volunteer Coordinator:	Phoebe Cooksey
Social Media Coordinator:	Miranda Means
Book Fair Chair:	Megan Flanders

Please reach out to any one of us with questions about the upcoming school year or to inquire about being involved in the PTO this year. We look forward to a fun-filled year!

UPDATES FROM THE PLEASANT HILL BOOSTER CLUB

The Pleasant Hill Booster Club is excited for the new school year! We encourage Pleasant Hill High School staff, coaches, parents, and athletes to get involved with the Pleasant Hill Booster Club. We have many ways to get involved and raise money for your club or sport!

Our next meeting will be at the Pleasant Hill Community Center on Wednesday, October 11 at 6:30 p.m. We would love to see you there!

Sincerely,

Jennifer Jordan

Pleasant Hill Booster Club President

HIGH SCHOOL AND MIDDLE SCHOOL CHOIR NEWS

The Pleasant Hill Choir Department is excited to start off the 2023-24 school year. Both the high school and middle school choirs will be active this fall with a couple of exciting performances.

Ascensions, the varsity choir at Pleasant Hill, will be performing at the Willamette Valley Collaborative Choral Festival at Lane Community College this October. Last year, our students got the chance to do a video recording with a mass choir from Eugene-Springfield and surrounding areas. Additionally, they will share the stage with Portland-based semi-professional choir, In Medio, at First United Methodist Church on Sunday, November 5. In Medio shares and performs choral music at neighboring high schools to enrich the choral singing experience for students.

The Music Department will be hosting a fundraiser at Roaring Rapids Pizza Company on Wednesday, December 6 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Come out and enjoy some live music and food to support our Pleasant Hill Music Department.

Lastly, we will have our Winter Choir Concert on Wednesday, December 13, at 6:00 p.m. in the Student Center. We're excited to share a new year with our community.

At the middle school level, we will be attending our first middle school choir festival at Springfield High School on Thursday, November 9. This is a new opportunity for our middle school students to perform and receive valuable feedback from choral professionals.

I cannot wait to see what these students will accomplish this next school year. Come on out and support the choir program and stay connected with us via Facebook and Instagram @Phillchoir.

Sincerely,

Kyle Ludwig

A Letter from the Principal

Dear Families,

Fall is always an exciting time of year. The staff and I have been hard at work preparing for another exciting school year at Pleasant Hill Elementary. As part of the preparation, the staff and I have been talking about the importance of building relationships with our students and families, as a student's education starts at home.

Studies consistently show that parents who establish routines at home set their student up for learning success. Some of those routines consist of:

- Preparing for school the night before by packing and refrigerating lunches, setting backpacks by the door and laying out clothes to wear the next morning.
- Establishing sleep routines ensuring your student is well rested and ready for school.
- Developing morning habits and routines so they leave the house in the mornings prepared for the day.
- Choosing a work time after school each day for your student to complete any homework.
- Reading 20 minutes nightly.

The staff of Pleasant Hill Elementary is committed to:

- Providing high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment.
- Checking in with families building relationships.
- Holding parent conferences in October to share student strengths and areas for improvement.
- Jointly formulating goals for your student to work towards during the school year.
- Providing families with progress reports/report cards at the end of each nine weeks.
- Reaching out to families as needed to share areas of concern as well as celebrations of student growth.
- Being available to parents to answer questions, address concerns and share ideas via Seesaw, email, voicemail or in person by appointment.

In order for the staff to do their best to help all students learn and succeed we need each family to see that their student is in school daily. Students who miss more than 10 percent of school (1-2 absences a month) can have a harder time:

- Gaining early reading and math skills.
- Making and keeping friends.
- Developing good attendance habits.
- Graduating from school.

Therefore, the staff of Pleasant Hill Elementary is asking you to:

- Ensure your student is at school, on time, unless due to an excused absence such as illness.
- Take a few minutes each day to ask your child about their day at school.
- Partner with the staff, working to assist your child in being successful
- Call and talk with your child's classroom teacher before calling the office about any concerns as well as successes.
- Make reading 20 minutes nightly a priority within your family.

Thank you for partnering with us to make the 2023-2024 school year great for our Billies!

Respectfully,

Devery Stoneberg
Principal

MUSIC PROGRAM UPDATES

Hello Pleasant Hill!

This is going to be an exciting year for Pleasant Hill's Elementary music program! Like last year, we will have our usual Holiday concerts in December, and individual grade level concerts in the springtime. But this year, we are going to be adding two new opportunities for students.

The first opportunity is a musical. As an afterschool activity, 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders will have the opportunity to perform the musical "School House Rock Jr. Live!" Rehearsals will begin in October with a performance around spring break. Keep an eye out for more information!

The next opportunity is our "Billies Talent Show!" This May, participating Kindergarten through 5th graders will get to show the community what their unique talents are. It will be a fun, memorable time for both students and families that you won't want to miss.

I am ecstatic about the 2023-2024 school year! It is a privilege to get to serve the Pleasant Hill Community. Have a great school year and GO BILLIES!

Sincerely,

Ryan Strong



A Letter from the Principal

Dear Families,

THE BIG THREE FOCUSES AT THE MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL THIS YEAR

This year we are focusing our attention on three areas to help improve support and success for our students. These three areas are relationships, differentiation and teaming.

1. **Relationships** are at the heart of everything we do. If we don't have a positive relationship with our students, we lack connection and if we don't have a connection, the successes of our students are diminished. We will be dedicating staff time this year to review the new Social Emotional Standards due to come out July 1, 2024, identifying our collective why and practicing different relationship strategies to better connect to our students.
2. It is imperative that we meet every student where they are so they all receive the individual support they need in order to be successful. We will be meeting with staff on a regular basis throughout the year to explore different **differentiation strategies** and practicing those strategies in order to increase the use of them in our classrooms.
3. **Teaming** is crucial when we work together as a staff to improve our practices. The time we spend to utilize each of our teachers' individual experiences, strengths and expertise helps to ensure that we take care of each other and the students we serve the best we can. Teaming is also an important tool when it comes to analyzing student data and problem solving together as a staff to guarantee that we are doing what we can to make sure students are successful.

NEW TEACHERS TO PLEASANT HILL

CTE welcomes Christy Vough, our new Health Occupations Teacher. Christy recently relocated from Teaching in California to be closer to family. Christy brings over 16 years of industry experience as a paramedic and a degree in Anatomy and Physiology. Mrs. Vough is excited to share her extensive industry experience and passion for the health pathway to the classroom! Christy is seeking guest speakers and industry connections. If you are interested in helping with our Health Occupations Program please contact Christy at cvough@pleasanthill.k12.or.us

Jennifer Crim will be stepping in as our 9th grade Future Success and Language Arts Teacher. Jennifer brings 20 years of teaching experience and amazing industry knowledge together in classes designed to teach essential study skills, soft skill development, career and pathway planning and communication skills needed to succeed in high school and beyond. This course is critical in helping students get on educational paths early to maximize high school educational opportunities and experiences for post-graduation success.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Middle School students are back and focused on being Safe, Respectful and Responsible. This pertains to attendance, academics and positive behavior. To better support the Social and Emotional Learning of Middle School students, we are now delivering weekly Character Strong lessons. Character Strong is "a curriculum that impacts engagement, belonging, and student well-being."

We look forward to helping your students have a fun and successful 2023-2024 school year!

Sincerely,
Garth Gerot
Principal

BAND PROGRAM UPDATES

It's so great to be back making music with students. I am excited about our band program and am looking forward to building on last year's successes.

The band program at Pleasant Hill High School and Middle School features seven performing ensembles. At the middle school, band begins at the 6th grade level with Beginning Band. I am enjoying getting to know this new group of students and working through the basics of establishing skill on their respective instruments and rudimentary music reading. The 7th grade Intermediate Band is filled with a wonderful group of students that are excited about building on their first year of band, trying new instruments and learning to perform more advanced music. The 8th grade Concert Band features students that have had two years of band experience and are ready to take their musicianship and instrumental skills to the next level as they prepare for high school band next year.

At the high school, our first group is the Wind Ensemble, which contains a mix of students from grades 9-12 and competes at the state level as part of the Oregon Schools Activities Association. Our junior varsity jazz band, Second Generation, contains mostly underclassmen and some high-achieving middle schoolers, and participates in competitions and festivals throughout the year. Our varsity jazz band, Solar Jazz, is a highly competitive ensemble that travels frequently and often contends for the state title at the OMEA State Jazz Championships. We were thrilled to bring home the first-place title last year for the first time.

Our final ensemble is the Pep Band that features 8-12 grade band students, and we perform at the home athletic events throughout the year.

We are excited for another year full of music festivals, athletic events, concerts, and competitions. Please join us for our first school band concert of the year on Thursday, December 14 at 6:00 p.m. in the PHHS Student Center.

Sincerely,
Zac Tendick

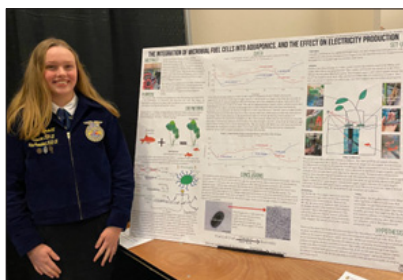
Agriculture & Natural Resources CTE Updates and News

FFA IS NATIONALS-BOUND!

The Pleasant Hill Chapter will be attending the FFA National Convention October 31 through November 5 in Indianapolis, Indiana, attending various workshops in areas such as leadership, college and career preparation and agricultural technology. While at the event, students are engaging in hands-on activities allowing them to gain understanding of agriculture on a national level and be exposed to new careers and opportunities.

For the first time in the Pleasant Hill Chapter's history, students will compete in the Agriscience and Research competition. This opportunity will increase our chapter's experiences and knowledge through a variety of workshops, serving on committees, and observing national level competitions. Our chapter has been working for years on a fundraising campaign to make this trip possible.

If you are interested in learning more about our FFA Organization, how to sponsor our National trip and other AG/FFA events, please contact Angela White, FFA Advisor, at awhite@pleasanthill.k12.or.us.



National FFA Competitor Zoey Brott

SUMMER EVENTS AND NEW SCHOOL YEAR ACTIVITIES!

During the week of July 26, Pleasant Hill FFA members showed and sold market and breeding animal projects at the Lane County Fair Youth Fair. Students did an outstanding job of promoting their entrepreneurial projects to the community and will use profits to contribute to savings, investments, and next year's projects.

Our Chapter is excited about welcoming many new Middle and High School students. Our first meeting will be held at the HS Student Center Monday, September 25 at 6:30 pm. Our Ag program and FFA Chapter started events and activities for middle and high school students the first week of school! We have planned over 20 career development events, multiple field trips and guest speakers, community service projects, and amazing class activities in our district workshops and labs! Thank you to the community and parents for supporting such an active and productive program.



Middle and high school students showing market animals at the 2023 Lane County Fair

MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL FALL ATHLETICS

We are looking forward to another year of Pleasant Hill Athletics!

This fall, our high school students will be competing in football, boys and girls soccer, boys and girls cross country, cheerleading, and volleyball. Middle school fall sports include football, volleyball, and cross country.

Please visit osaa.org to view all PHHS schedules.

Our newly formed Student-Athlete Leadership Council will be hosting Breakfast of Champions once a month as an opportunity for our students to share successes, challenges, and upcoming contests while partaking in breakfast with the greater Pleasant Hill community. The next Breakfast of Champions is Friday, October 13 from 6:45 to 7:45 a.m. in the PHHS Student Center.

Thank you for your continued support of Pleasant Hill Athletics. Go Billies!

LEARN MORE AND SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR FFA

Stay up-to-date on the Pleasant Hill Chapter of the FFA by visiting pleasant-hill-ffa-alumni-and-supporters.square.site/ or simply use your phone to scan the QR code below.

Once there, you'll learn about the FFA Nationals trip, upcoming fundraising opportunities, and more. You'll also be able to donate directly and sign up for our newsletter and stay informed.



Pleasant Hill School District Meals 2023-2024

Pleasant Hill School District Families,

Welcome back to school! Our school kitchen staff are looking forward to serving your students daily breakfast and lunch. As a reminder, our school district does not qualify for free meals for all students.

If your student chooses to have school meals, they are charged the student meal price per meal, unless they have qualified for the 2023-2024 school year for free, reduced, or Oregon Expanded Income Guidelines (Oregon EIG) meal program (see income guidelines on the next page). Many families qualify for these programs, but YOU MUST APPLY EVERY YEAR. You are financially responsible for the meal charges your student incurs. Apply now!

Apply for Free or Reduce Priced School Meals online now!

You can complete an application in just a few minutes.



- ✓ Easy to use – you are guided step by step through the application.
- ✓ Secure – your personal information is protected
- ✓ Green Technology – Environmentally friendly, eliminates the need for a paper application!
- ✓ Available 24/7 – all you need is an internet connection.

[Apply for school meal benefits now](#)

All applications are reviewed by the appropriate sponsor / school district nutrition office for approval. Paper applications are still available; please contact your school office for details.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

¡Solicite en línea comidas escolares gratuitas o de precio reducido ahora!
Puede completar una solicitud en solo unos minutos.



- ☑ Fácil de usar: se le guía paso a paso a través de la aplicación.
- ☑ Seguro: sus datos personales están protegidos
- ☑ Tecnología ecológica: elimina la necesidad de una aplicación en papel!
- ☑ Disponible las 24 horas del día, los 7 días de la semana: todo lo que necesita es una conexión a Internet.

[Solicite , beneficios de comidas escolares Ahora!](#)

Todas las solicitudes son revisadas por el patrocinador apropiado / oficina de nutrición del distrito escolar para su aprobación. Las aplicaciones en papel todavía están disponibles; por favor comuníquese con la oficina de su escuela para más detalles.

Esta institución es un proveedor que ofrece igualdad de oportunidades.

STUDENT MEAL PRICES

Elementary

Breakfast: \$1.75
Lunch: \$3.00
Milk: \$0.50

Middle High School

Breakfast: \$1.75
Lunch: \$3.00
Milk: \$0.50

PAY AND CHECK YOUR STUDENT'S MEAL ACCOUNT BALANCE ONLINE

Visit www.schoolpay.com to create your account.

Instructions on how to create a SchoolPay account are available on the Pleasant Hill School District website's School Nutrition page:

www.pleasanthill.k12.or.us/resources/school-nutrition

QUESTIONS?

Call your school kitchen:

Elementary (541) 736-0490
Middle/High (541) 736-0742

Interested in Free Student Meals?

Review the Oregon National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs income guidelines table below to see if your household qualifies for free, reduced or Oregon EIG. Then apply online at <https://www.ode.state.or.us/apps/frlapp> or pick up an application in your school office.

You can find this form along with all available information about these programs by visiting our school district website at <https://www.pleasanthill.k12.or.us/resources/school-nutrition>.



Oregon National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs Federal & Oregon Expanded Income Guidelines (EIG)¹ Effective School Year 2023–24: July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

Federal Free Meals

Participants may qualify for free meals if the household income falls at or below the limits on this chart.

Household Size	Annual	Monthly	Twice Per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly
- 1 -	18,954	1,580	790	729	365
- 2 -	25,636	2,137	1,069	986	493
- 3 -	32,318	2,694	1,347	1,243	622
- 4 -	39,000	3,250	1,625	1,500	750
- 5 -	45,682	3,807	1,904	1,757	879
- 6 -	52,364	4,364	2,182	2,014	1,007
- 7 -	59,046	4,921	2,461	2,271	1,136
- 8 -	65,728	5,478	2,739	2,528	1,264
Each add'l household member add	6,682	557	279	257	129

Federal Reduced Price Meals

Participants may qualify for reduced price meals if the household income falls at or below the limits on this chart.

Household Size	Annual	Monthly	Twice Per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly
- 1 -	26,973	2,248	1,124	1,038	519
- 2 -	36,482	3,041	1,521	1,404	702
- 3 -	45,991	3,833	1,917	1,769	885
- 4 -	55,500	4,625	2,313	2,135	1,068
- 5 -	65,009	5,418	2,709	2,501	1,251
- 6 -	74,518	6,210	3,105	2,867	1,434
- 7 -	84,027	7,003	3,502	3,232	1,616
- 8 -	93,536	7,795	3,898	3,598	1,799
Each add'l household member add	9,509	793	397	366	183

Oregon Expanded Income Guidelines (EIG)

Oregon students may qualify for EIG meals at no charge² if the household income falls at or below the limits on this chart and above the limits on the Federal Reduced Price Meal chart.

Household Size	Annual	Monthly	Twice Per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly
- 1 -	43,740	3,645	1,823	1,683	842
- 2 -	59,160	4,930	2,465	2,276	1,138
- 3 -	74,580	6,215	3,108	2,869	1,435
- 4 -	90,000	7,500	3,750	3,462	1,731
- 5 -	105,420	8,785	4,393	4,055	2,028
- 6 -	120,840	10,070	5,035	4,648	2,324
- 7 -	136,260	11,355	5,678	5,241	2,621
- 8 -	151,680	12,640	6,320	5,834	2,917
Each add'l household member	15,420	1,285	643	594	297

¹ EIG only applies to NSLP and SBP and not all Child Nutrition Programs

² Available through SSA funding. CNPWeb must document the selection to participate in EIG.

This Institution is an equal opportunity provider

USDA NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/usda-program-discrimination-complaint-form.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 Complaint form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

1. mail:

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary
for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
or

2. fax:

(833) 256-1665 or
(202) 690-7442; or

3. email:

program.intake@usda.gov

Pleasant Hill School District

36386 Highway 58
Pleasant Hill, OR 97455

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Support Our Student Athletes

Be sure to visit our athletics website at
<https://www.osaa.org/schools/183>
for schedule updates and more information
about Billie teams and sporting events.