

PIEDMONT FOCUS

MONTHLY NEWS & UPDATES FROM PIEDMONT PUBLIC SCHOOLS





PIEDMONT

Public Schools

BOARD OF EDUCATION SEPTEMBER 11, 2023 MEETING UPDATES

ROLL CALL

All board members were present.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No Public Participation

PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD

Zonda Education delivered a comprehensive presentation to the Board of Education, focusing on demographic studies and related services. This company provides enrollment projections, offering valuable insights into future student population trends. They can track housing developments in the area to help us better gauge how new neighborhoods will impact enrollment. Zonda Education works with an average of 100 districts per year. Specific case studies from Mustang and Edmond Public Schools were presented, showcasing how demographic studies assisted in district planning.

BUSINESS ITEMS

A. The board discussed the Oklahoma State School Board Association Superintendent Evaluation Model. Derek Jones motioned to approve. The board unanimously approved this motion.

B. The board discussed an extra duty contract in the amount of \$4,800 with Dayton Garrett for landscaping and remodeling at Stone Ridge Elementary. Derek Jones motioned to approve. The board unanimously approved this motion.

C. The board discussed the proposed payment of Extra Duty stipends as listed in Attachment D.

1. Football Game Duty Stipend
2. Native American Education Tutoring Hourly Stipend
3. Band Adjunct Stipend
4. Swim Stipend

Katie Cornman motioned to approve. The board unanimously approved this motion.

D. The board discussed revised maintenance and bus driver compensation schedules. Steven Cox motioned to approve. The board unanimously approved this motion.

E. The board discussed the proposed policy FFACDA Administration of Emergency Opioid Antagonists. Lanye Jones motioned to approve the policy. The board unanimously approved this motion.

F. The board discussed a Memorandum of Understanding with SNU for Renew Counseling Center student intern clinical rotations. Steven Cox motioned to approve. The board unanimously approved this motion.

G. The board discussed a Memorandum of Understanding with Red Rock Mental Health for counseling services for students. Katie Cornman motioned to approve. The board unanimously approved this motion.

H. The board discussed entering into an agreement with the Cooperative Council for Oklahoma School Administration (CCOSA) to participate in the CCOSA District-level Services Program for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. Steven Cox motioned to approve. The board unanimously approved this motion.

I. The board discussed adopting a resolution of a lease purchase agreement to refinance an existing lease purchase. The initial agreement providing funding for three separate projects. The board unanimously approved this motion.

J. The board had extensive discussions regarding an agreement with Zonda Education for a demographic study and related services based on the presentation at the beginning of the meeting. Dr. Eichelberger mentioned that the city manager would play a role in planning for the next bond, and there would be collaboration with city and community leaders in the long-range bond planning committee. Dr. Eichelberger emphasized the importance of data in adding credibility to these efforts. Katie Cornman motioned to approve both sections. The board unanimously approved this motion.



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BOARD OF EDUCATION SEPTEMBER 11, 2023 MEETING UPDATES

K. The board unanimously approved the purchase of two 24 x 64-foot Double Classroom Buildings with Ramtech Building Systems Portable Buildings, valued at \$118,050.00. These buildings will be located at Piedmont Intermediate and can be relocated if/when necessary.

L. The board unanimously approved the proposed policy DAAP Sexual Harassment.

M. The board unanimously approved the proposed policy regarding graduation Tribal Regalia. This is an accreditation checklist item.

N. The board discussed the Administrative Accounting Assistant Job Description. Layne Jones motioned to approve the job description. The board approved the motion unanimously.

O. The board discussed the FY24 Estimate of Needs. Layne Jones motioned to approve. The board approved the motion unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

All items on the consent agenda were unanimously approved, with the addition of a male chaperone for Item K. FFA to the National FFA Convention.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The board did not convene into executive session.

ACTION ITEMS

The board voted to approve employment as listed on Attachment C.

NEW BUSINESS

New business included the resignation of Alicia Baker-Muncaster, which was received on Monday, September 11, 2023. The board voted to accept the resignation.

DISTRICT UPDATES

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

By almost any measure, we have had a great start to the school year. Today was our 21st day in school. We owe this great start to the hard work, dedication, and planning of our teachers, office staff, support staff, and administrators. We also owe a big thank you to all the parents. They have been a huge part of the successful start of another school year. Parents, thank you for showing us grace as we worked through the first of the school year issues.

The following are a few of the many comments I received after the first day or two with students:

“

My favorite part of today was the **intentional relationship-building** that I saw as I visited every single classroom in our school. Our teachers were not going over rules but rather doing **interactive activities** to get to know the students and make them excited about returning tomorrow. There was lots of laughter, movement, energy and fun. I am beyond **proud** of our students and staff for making today all about connections!

“

Today was an amazing day in Piedmont! My kids were fantastic! **Everyone was so positive.** I was asked several times if I needed anything and how it was going! Day one dismissal was the best I've ever seen. **It's a great day to be a Wildcat!**

“

I can tell you from a high school teacher's perspective, this is the best first day of school I have had at PHS. While navigating the challenges in the parking and drop-off at the high school, I witnessed **happy principals and teachers** working together to get our kids to class quickly. The students saw happy (smiling) faces and were **greeted warmly** making them excited, energetic, and ready to participate in class. I **cannot express to you how much of a positive impact this has had on my day as a teacher.**



“

It was the **BEST first day** I have ever been a part of in Piedmont! Every single teacher/staff member was **truly happy**. They engaged with children. The children were smiling and so glad to be back at school. One fourth-grade boy told me, "I have waited for this day all summer!"

“

Honestly, I feel that the **culture** made a HUGE difference today. People felt **supported**, especially me. It felt like the teachers and our students truly mattered. Especially, when I saw district administrators walking the halls. I loved it when my principals came into my classroom and joked around with my students. I could not have asked for a better day, and **it feels so good to feel valued and supported.**

I want to thank one other group that had a great deal to do with our school year starting so positively and successfully. Thank you, Piedmont Board of Education! Your decision-making and support have allowed this great start to be possible.

DISTRICT UPDATES

CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE

This report provides an overview of recent and upcoming construction and maintenance activities within our school district. These efforts aim to enhance the safety, functionality, and overall quality of our educational facilities.

CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Daycare Reopening:

The Daycare facility successfully reopened on Tuesday, August 26, providing essential support for our school community.

District Administrative Offices:

On Wednesday, September 5, we began the process of moving back into our district administrative offices.

Admin/Daycare Roofing Project:

Coryell Roofing completed the Admin/Daycare roofing project, finishing on Friday, August 22. This was part of our ongoing agreement with the company following our roofing insurance claim.

Middle School of Piedmont (MSP):

Steel Work:

Commencing on Wednesday, September 5

Concrete Pour:

On Friday, September 7, the final major concrete pour on-site will be completed.

Gas Connection:

During the week of September 23, we are scheduled to connect gas services.

Road Completion:

Anticipated for the week of September 11, road construction near MSP will be finalized.

More completed projects for MSP:

Hardwired smoke detectors have been installed in portable classrooms. Portables at MSP have had their decks widened to meet fire code requirements. We have completed construction on the sidewalk connecting MSP East to the car line and on the NW side of the MSP West building.

MAINTENANCE

A/C Outages:

We have reduced district-wide A/C outages from 30+ to 10-12. Repair and replacement plans are in progress for any remaining issues.

Administration Maintenance:

Flooring: Flooring installation completed in the Administration Building.



HVAC: The HVAC system in the administrative side of the Admin/Childcare building has been checked and cleared for moisture-related concerns.

Childcare Center:

Maintenance connected all sinks and inline water heaters, repaired/replaced the door threshold on the exterior boardroom door, and assisted with appliance installation.

Athletics Maintenance:

Football Stadium: The underground electric line at the football stadium will be repaired the week of 9/4 before the next home game.

Press Box: Door handles in the press box have been replaced.

External Door Security:

Exterior door/lock repairs have been completed at HS, NW, and PI, enhancing security.

Special Services:

Changing Tables: Changing tables have been moved/installed at PI, HS, and WAC.

Power Outlets: New power outlets were added at PI and HS.

Accessibility: Curb/walkway/stepping stones were painted to improve visibility for students with visual impairment.

Transportation/Maintenance:

Maintenance and transportation facilities have seen improvements, with five overhead doors repaired or replaced.

Work Orders:

Since July 1, we have received more than 300 maintenance work orders.

DISTRICT UPDATES



REOPENING PIEDMONT CHILDCARE CENTER

The Piedmont Schools Childcare Center officially reopened its doors on Tuesday, August 29th, following an eagerly awaited renovation project. The day before the reopening, district staff, and dedicated Piedmont High School students, including some childcare center workers, worked together to meticulously prepare our classrooms to ensure a warm welcome for our youngest Wildcats.

The reopening of the Piedmont Learning Center truly reflected the strong community spirit that makes our Piedmont great. Volunteers thoroughly cleaned every toy and arranged classroom furniture, leaving no detail unchecked to guarantee the facility's readiness for our staff children. The high school students were instrumental in guiding the placement of toys and items in each room.

We extend our sincere appreciation to Piedmont First United Methodist Church for their generous support in allowing us temporary use of their facilities. We are grateful for their contribution to our continued service of childcare to our school community.



ENROLLMENT CENTER	8-11-2023	9-7-2023	
	PIEDMONT ECC	634	616
	NORTHWOOD ELEM.	483	482
	PIEDMONT ELEM.	454	451
	STONE RIDGE ELEM.	640	637
	PIEDMONT INTERMEDIATE	877	865
	MIDDLE SCHOOL	771	762
	HIGH SCHOOL	1542	1520
TOTAL	5401	5336	

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION



In an effort to continually support the growth and development of our students, we are thrilled to announce we have secured a grant from the Oklahoma State Department of Education valued at \$125,000. This substantial grant will provide all elementary students with access to Imagine Learning.

Imagine Learning offers individualized support for students, particularly in the realm of reading. Our elementary students will benefit from access to the Reading program, while students in grades 6 through 8 will have the opportunity to utilize the Math program. This digital resource can be accessed both at school and from the comfort of students' homes, fostering a seamless and flexible learning experience.

PREPARING FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

In preparation for our forthcoming Professional Development Day on September 25th, we have exciting opportunities lined up for our educators. Elementary teachers will benefit from an external presenter's expertise in the Science of Reading, while additional development avenues will be presented by our instructional coaches, special education directors, and district teacher leaders. This day offers a valuable chance for our teachers to further their professional growth and expertise.

DISTRICT UPDATES



WILDCAT PAW PRINT AWARD

In August, we introduced a Wildcat Paw Print Trophy to our district leadership team, a new tradition designed to recognize outstanding contributions within our school community. Mrs. Lisa Campbell was the first recipient of this prestigious award, acknowledging her consistent impact on a daily basis. As part of this tradition, each recipient is tasked with identifying and celebrating the exceptional work of their peers, presenting the trophy at our monthly meetings. Both our Middle School and High School are embracing this initiative to honor their heroes who make a difference in our school district.



SECONDARY SCHOOLS UPDATE

Collaboration with Instructional Coaches

We are maintaining a strong collaborative relationship with our Instructional Coaches, Riley Thomas and Brenda Davis. Together, we are working on redefining their roles and finding ways to better support our dedicated teachers. This includes ongoing assessments of curriculum needs to ensure our educators have the resources they need to succeed.

Data Analysis and Goal Setting

Brenda Davis and Mark Melton recently met with Erin Pruitt and her team to initiate data analysis for ELA and math departments. We are establishing baseline data and discussing achievable targets to enhance student performance. Erin's leadership during this discussion was commendable, and we anticipate positive outcomes from our efforts.

Upcoming Meeting with Piedmont High School

Brenda Davis, Mark Melton, Steve Spears and his team will work through the same data-driven process as mentioned above to improve educational outcomes for our students.

Reports for the State Department of Education (SDE)

We are working on reports for the SDE, specifically focusing on Alternative Education and Post-Secondary Opportunity Reports, which have impending deadlines. These reports are crucial in demonstrating our commitment to providing diverse educational pathways and opportunities for our students.

Professional Development Planning

We are diligently planning for upcoming Professional Development sessions with our team. These sessions aim to further enhance the skills and knowledge of our staff, ensuring that our educators remain at the forefront of educational excellence.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS UPDATE

Amy Bixler, Piedmont Schools School Literacy Development and RSA Coordinator, has been working with Reading Specialists and Reading Interventionists on the literacy continuum process for early childhood and elementary students. Teachers have been excited to assess their students and track growth. Reading Sufficiency Benchmarking has begun! Those benchmark scores will assist us in developing interventions and enrichment opportunities for students.

Debbie Caywood, Piedmont Schools Federal Programs, Testing, & Reporting Coordinator, will administer the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) to second grader, fifth grade, and new-to-Piedmont students who opted in to take exam during the month of September to identify students who qualify for the Piedmont Gifted and Talented Program.



DISTRICT UPDATES

HUMAN RESOURCES

Title IX training for all district administrators is scheduled with OSSBA's Staff Attorney Brandon Carey. Administrators will be educated on various forms of discrimination covered under Title IX, such as sexual harassment, the failure to provide equal athletic opportunities, sex-based discrimination, and other OCR guidelines.

On Friday, September 1, the WorkKeys tests were administered to tier II paraprofessionals as part of their state requirement.

The HR department is preparing for accreditation next month and will establish a procedure for sites and principals to complete site accreditation reports.

TRANSPORTATION



Ridership is up again this month, with daily counts consistently at or above 2,400 riders. We are in the process of developing projections for the upcoming year to anticipate potential growth and determine route requirements. Furthermore, we strongly encourage drivers to establish relationships with both students and parents at bus stops, fostering the best possible bus experience for everyone involved.

SPECIAL SERVICES



Areas of Focus and Training:

Southern Nazarene University Workshop with Dr. Lynette Thompson:
Focus: Conducting Successful Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) & Ensuring Parent Participation
Participants: Site Principals and Assistant Principals

504 Processes Workshop:
Focus: The 504 Processes.
Participants: Site Counselors

OATECA Curriculum Specialist and Creators Workshop:
Focus: OATECA Adoption & Curriculum training
Participants: Severe/Profound Special Education Teachers

Professional Development Highlights:

Administered ACT WorkKeys to 8 paraprofessionals.
PHS Continuing Adult Program staff attended a luncheon and tour at Wings: A Special Needs Community.

Achievements:

The Special Services department celebrated a significant win in the first Unified Volleyball game against Yukon High School.
Next Home Game: Scheduled for September 15th at 6:00 PM.

External Engagement:

Kaitlin Smith, Director of Special Services, attended the CV-Tech Advisory Meeting to strengthen collaboration and partnerships within the community.



DISTRICT UPDATES



ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES

FAST PITCH SOFTBALL

High School - 13 Wins 1 Loss (7 - 0 in District Play)

Middle School - 7 Wins 2 Losses

Taylor Moss named Prep Nation Player of the year Finalist.



CROSS COUNTRY

High School Men

Deer Creek Field Run - Third Place

Southlake Carroll Invitational - Eighth Place (Landry Finch School Record 15:32)

High School Women

Deer Creek Field Run - Second Place

Southlake Carroll Invitational - Seventh Place (Claire Collins School Record 18:09)



Middle School Boys

Deer Creek Field Run - 7th Grade Fourth Place, 8th Grade Second Place

Middle School Girls

Deer Creek Field Run - 7th Grade First Place, 8th Grade First Place

BAND

Working diligently to perfect their routine in front of Yukon Marching Contest September 30



FOOTBALL

High School - 2 Wins 0 Loss

Slated to host Blanchard and honor Veterans Sept. 8th

Middle School - 1 Win 0 Loss

VOLLEYBALL

High School - 10 Wins 4 Losses #11 OSSAA Class 6A Ranking
Coweta Tournament Champion

Unified Volleyball - Lots of Excitement for Match versus Yukon
1 Win 0 Losses



CHEER

OSSAA Regional @ Broken Arrow September 16 - 11:00 am

OSSAA State @ Union September 23 - TBA



SEPTEMBER 2023

PRINCIPAL REPORTS



PIEDMONT HIGH SCHOOL

Kelly Barker, Bailie Hollingshead, and Judie Meier serve as the high school counselors. One of their key responsibilities is ensuring that all students, numbering over 1,500, have schedules for the first day of school. Failure to provide students with correct class schedules on the first day can lead to total chaos and set a poor tone for the beginning of the school year. The first day at PHS was a success, largely thanks to these dedicated individuals.

WILDCAT WOW FACTOR



MIDDLE SCHOOL OF PIEDMONT

Mrs. Cindy Attalla and Mrs. Amy Dalton, the counselors at MSP, are truly exceptional! They dedicated extensive efforts throughout the summer and the initial weeks of the school year, ensuring that all students had appropriate schedules and that teachers had the essential resources to kickstart the academic year. They also played a pivotal role in preparing our school building for a successful day one.

Beyond their instrumental role in school readiness, our counseling team consistently goes the extra mile to create an environment where students feel valued, included, and cherished at MSP. They maintain an open-door policy, welcoming students to drop by, enjoy a snack, and have a chat about their day. It's not uncommon to witness our Wildcats gathered in the counseling hallway with lots of laughter and smiles and hugs to keep them going strong.



STONE RIDGE ELEMENTARY

Jessica Taylor, a recent addition to the Stone Ridge team, has proven to be an invaluable asset from day one. She arrived with a deep understanding of our reading curriculum from her previous district, and her expertise has played a pivotal role in formulating successful teaching strategies for her team.

Perhaps even more noteworthy is her ability to swiftly establish positive connections with her students and their families. In a relatively short span, Jessica has fostered meaningful relationships that are greatly appreciated by all.

To celebrate a significant number of compliments received, Jessica and her students enjoyed a special "tent" day. This creative experience involved students working within makeshift tents, using fitted sheets to create cozy learning spaces over their desks.

PIEDMONT INTERMEDIATE

Mrs. Theresa Griffin brings with her a wealth of experience garnered over several years in diverse content areas and roles, having relocated from the sunny state of Florida. She has played an instrumental role in transforming the "Commons Classroom" into an authentic learning environment where students excel. Her boundless energy, unwavering commitment to student learning, and her dedication to enhancing the school community immediately distinguish her as a teacher-leader.

PRINCIPAL REPORTS

PIEDMONT ELEMENTARY

Mrs. Lisa Nunes, though new to Piedmont Elementary this year, is a seasoned educator with a remarkable impact. She serves as an exceptional special education teacher, contributing significantly to our school community. This year, PES initiated a new teacher recognition program called "Far Out Feature," highlighting individuals who go above and beyond their duties. Mrs. Nunes received multiple recommendations for this accolade.

One testimonial stated, "Lisa has been a fantastic addition to PES this school year! She is a skilled teacher, excels with students of diverse needs and backgrounds, and readily lends her assistance wherever it's required. We are immensely grateful to have her at Piedmont Elementary and as a valued member of our SPED department!"



NORTHWOOD ELEMENTARY

Jennifer Fuston has dedicated 20 years to teaching, with 12 of those years being at Northwood. She is known for her passion for using hands-on activities to captivate students when teaching grade-level standards. As a part of their social studies curriculum on map skills, Mrs. Fuston and her colleagues craft paper-mache globes at the start of each school year. Her commitment to school activities and willingness to assist wherever needed is evident. Currently, she is actively involved with our students as a sponsor for the Wildcat Pack.

PIEDMONT EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

Mrs. Kelsey Clifton enters her sixth year as an educator, currently fulfilling a vital role as one of our special education teachers. She stands out as a driven and proactive leader, known for her self-motivation and initiative. We are thrilled to welcome Mrs. Clifton to our school community.



#PIEDMONTPROUD

Our Piedmont community is the driving force behind the success of Piedmont Public Schools. Their unwavering support, active involvement, and dedication to our students contribute significantly to our thriving educational environment.

PIEDMONT EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

The ECC is thrilled to kick off our "Corner Stone" group. Each year, we extend invitations to parents and community members to volunteer in various school areas, including the cafeteria, treat trolley, helping hands, library, and during special events. These dedicated volunteers play a crucial role in supporting our staff and students year-round.



PIEDMONT HIGH SCHOOL

On August 25, PHS football players began their day by assisting with car lines and reading to students at the childcare center. They will continue this tradition every Friday when we have home football games. The PHS cheer squad followed suit and worked to assist students the following week. Culture first, culture always!

PRINCIPAL REPORTS

#PIEDMONTPROUD

Our Piedmont community is the driving force behind the success of Piedmont Public Schools. Their unwavering support, active involvement, and dedication to our students contribute significantly to our thriving educational environment.



NORTHWOOD ELEMENTARY

Northwood Elementary recently hosted "New to Northwood Night" for all incoming students who are new to the school. Families and students were welcomed to visit the school on the evening of August 2nd to meet staff, receive information about the upcoming school year, and explore the campus.

PIEDMONT INTERMEDIATE

PI recently held its first PTO meeting in several years, marking an exciting milestone. We are delighted to have a dedicated group of stakeholders who are enthusiastic about introducing fresh ideas, renewed energy, and new opportunities for both students and families.



MIDDLE SCHOOL OF PIEDMONT

MSP Staff extends a heartfelt shoutout and thank you to Life Church and Faith Church for their generous support. Both churches provided incredible "survival baskets" to our staff during the first week of school, fueling their energy and enabling them to excel as leaders in our classrooms. We deeply appreciate our community's investment in our MSP Staff!



STONE RIDGE ELEMENTARY

During our Meet the Teacher night, we had representatives from PTO, Girl Scouts, and Boy Scouts present to introduce opportunities for our students to engage within both our school community and the wider Piedmont community. We also organized our inaugural PTO Bash, featuring two beverage trucks and an inflatable obstacle course for students to enjoy while their parents connected with our teachers to learn about their individual classrooms.



ACADEMIC FOCUS

Our primary focus remains on enhancing academic performance, empowering our students to achieve their fullest potential. Through dedication, innovation, and a commitment to excellence, we pave the way for success in the classroom and beyond.



Piedmont High School has five students that earned academic honors from College Board's National Recognition Programs! The criteria for eligible students include:

- GPA of 3.5 or higher
- PSAT 10 assessment scores that are within the top 10% of assessment takers in each state or earned a score of 3 or higher on 2 or more AP Exams in 9th and 10th grade.
- Attend school in a rural area or small town, or identify as African American/Black, Hispanic American/Latino, or Indigenous/Native.

Congratulations to Anabelle Toole, Corbin Redding, Giovanni Rodriguez, Jewell Horn, and Logan Dennie.

PRINCIPAL REPORTS



ACADEMIC FOCUS

MIDDLE SCHOOL OF PIEDMONT

Middle School of Piedmont English and Math teachers collaborated with district Instructional Coaches Brenda Davis and Mark Melton, along with building administrators, to review the results of the Oklahoma State Testing Program (OSTP) for the 2022-2023 school year. Together, they identified numerous areas warranting celebration in testing subsets and student achievements. Simultaneously, the teams pinpointed areas for further examination, serving as launching points for ongoing evaluation of student performance and instructional strategies to promote continued student growth. These focal points will guide our department teams as they continue to assess curriculum and develop rigorous assessments throughout this school year.



PIEDMONT ECC, ALL ELEMENTARIES, AND PIEDMONT INTERMEDIATE

On September 25th, educators will engage in professional development sessions, diving deep into the analysis of state testing data from April. This ongoing commitment to improvement extends to weekly Professional Learning Community (PLC) meetings, where collaborative efforts flourish.

Notably, Piedmont Intermediate is embracing a transformative shift in its approach to assessment. In the 5th grade, the school is transitioning to standards-based assessment, placing a strong emphasis on skill mastery.



UNLOCKING THE MAGIC OF LEARNING

Where School Meets Fun



PIEDMONT HIGH SCHOOL

The PHS student body is enjoying themselves while exhibiting outstanding fan support at football, volleyball, and softball games. Our students have displayed commendable behavior and sportsmanship, demonstrating their enthusiasm with a spirited and proud presence!

MIDDLE SCHOOL OF PIEDMONT

Fall sports are in full swing, and our Wildcats are shining brightly on the fields and courts across the metro area. Volleyball, Cross Country, Football, and Softball teams are all actively competing following a summer of dedicated strength and conditioning training. We invite you to join us and show your support as we cheer our Wildcats on to success this season!



PRINCIPAL REPORTS

UNLOCKING THE MAGIC OF LEARNING

Where School Meets Fun



NORTHWOOD ELEMENTARY

We welcome back our service dog, Alfrie, this year! Alf is available to assist students who may require calming, a leisurely walk, or simply some comforting cuddles.



Additionally, we've adopted a spider that has spun its web outside our outdoor learning center, affectionately naming it Aragog, inspired by the spider from the Harry Potter series.



PIEDMONT INTERMEDIATE

Moving away from traditional percentage grades and minimum assignment counts, our fifth-grade teachers have found renewed opportunities to teach with passion. Embracing this change has encouraged more movement and hands-on activities in the classrooms, reducing digital reliance.



PIEDMONT ELEMENTARY

Last week, our 4th graders enthusiastically embarked on their first science experiment of the school year. In a dynamic lesson, they explored the concepts of potential and kinetic energy by constructing ramps with two pencils propped against books. As their understanding deepened, students added more books to increase the height of the ramp, fostering an engaging hands-on learning experience that ignited their excitement for science.

PIEDMONT EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

Setting procedures for a school that serves prekindergarten and kindergarten students is of utmost importance. These early years are crucial for establishing a strong foundation for learning, social development, and overall well-being. We incorporate fun in learning by providing hands-on learning, engaging social strategies, and learning through cooperative play.



STONE RIDGE ELEMENTARY

We harnessed the spirit of our school mascot to craft a summer vacation video, which we enthusiastically shared during Wildcat Wakeup. Furthermore, our teachers have created videos to introduce their classrooms to both parents and students before the school year commenced. Additionally, we've implemented flexible seating arrangements throughout our classrooms, ensuring an adaptable and comfortable learning environment for all.



SEPTEMBER 2023

PRINCIPAL REPORTS

BUILDING A PAW-SITIVE CULTURE

School sites throughout the district have developed initiatives and programs to foster a positive culture district-wide. Our goal is to create an environment where both students and staff feel valued.

One such initiative, known as "Wildcat Wake-Up" (WCW), focuses on promoting student achievement. This program centers around our beloved Wildcat mascot and is designed to engage and inspire students during assemblies. To ensure the engagement of our entire school community, school sites extend invitations to parents, and community members, including F&M Bank, and various other groups.

Moreover, our schools place a strong emphasis on cultivating school spirit. Students enthusiastically don their best BLUE and GOLD attire, creating an atmosphere of excitement and unity. This spirited occasion is highlighted by warm welcomes from football players, cheerleaders, and the iconic Piedmont Wildcat mascot.

Many of our school sites also prioritize the recognition and promotion of outstanding student behavior. Through various initiatives like Golden Tickets and Good Phone Calls to Home, students who exemplify traits such as friendliness, kindness, respect, and cooperation are celebrated for their positive contributions.

We are excited to place a focus on celebrating the big and small moments at all of our schools, emphasizing the value of a positive culture for all Wildcats!

