

PIEDMONT FOCUS

MONTHLY NEWS & UPDATES FROM PIEDMONT PUBLIC SCHOOLS





PIEDMONT

Public Schools

BOARD OF EDUCATION OCTOBER 9, 2023 MEETING UPDATES

ROLL CALL

Derek Jones, Katie Cornman, Steven Cox, and Layne Jones were present. Greg Duffy was absent.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Shaun Witt addressed the board regarding support for the Pride of Piedmont Band Program. He called for funds and additional resources to purchase new equipment and support the needs of the program.

Ms. Tara Noah and Mr. Tim Graham addressed the board regarding the Gifted and Talented program, specifically at Piedmont Intermediate. Both commented on the lack of communication. Ms. Noah specifically commented on revising the Gifted plan for students. Mr. Graham noted the importance of clubs and activities to serve the needs of Gifted and Talented students and the encouragement of teachers to sponsor such clubs. He also stated that we should put a greater emphasis on academics over athletics.

BUSINESS ITEMS

A. The board discussed the proposed payment of Extra Duty stipends as listed on Attachment D (Incremental Stipends Not Listed in Negotiated Agreement). Katie Cornman motioned to approve. The board unanimously approved this motion.

B. The board discussed an agreement with Supplemental Health Care for a Speech Pathologist at \$80 per hour. This contract would be in place until we fill one SLP position. Steven Cox motioned to approve. The board unanimously approved this motion.

C. The board discussed the Secondary Career Technology Contract and Supplemental Allocation. Katie Cornman motioned to approve. The board unanimously approved this motion.

D. The board discussed an agreement with Accufax for preliminary background checks at \$24.95 per screening. Katie Cornman motioned to approve. The board unanimously approved this motion.

E. The board discussed the purchase of a Chevrolet 2500 4WD Crew Cab Truck from Joe Cooper Chevrolet at \$48,729.00. Steven Cox motioned to approve. The board unanimously approved this motion.

F. The board discussed the purchase of 2024 Minetour DRW 051MS 14 passenger bus for the special services department from Midwest Bus Sales - \$110,338.00. Derek Jones motioned to approve. The board unanimously approved this motion.

G. The board discussed the purchase of four 2025 77 Next Gen Passenger Buses from Holt Truck Centers at \$136,000.00 per bus. Katie Cornman motioned to approve the purchase of four buses at \$136,000 per bus. The board unanimously approved this motion.

H. The board discussed the lease of iX-7 DS Mailing System from Quadient Leasing USA, Inc. - \$4,549.08 annually. This system would help all school sites and prevent the continual purchase of stamps. Steven Cox motioned to approve. The board unanimously approved this motion.

I. The board discussed the purchase of 5 Aruba 6300M Switches and 20 Aruba AP-515 Wireless Access Points from United Systems for \$86,148.73. This system will cover the new additions to the Middle School. Steven Cox motioned to approve. The board unanimously approved this motion.

J. The board discussed the purchase of exterior lit signage for the Administration building from Signs Now at \$14,660.23 per the estimate. Derek Jones motioned to approve. The board unanimously approved this motion.

CONSENT AGENDA

All items on the consent agenda were unanimously approved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The board did not convene into executive session.



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Public Schools

BOARD OF EDUCATION OCTOBER 9, 2023 MEETING UPDATES

ACTION ITEMS

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

NEW BUSINESS

New business included approval of the recommendation for up to 6 employees to attend the OKSTE conference in Tulsa. It is a two-day event with an overnight stay. The conference provides professional development on Technology. The board unanimously approved this recommendation.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Eichelberger shared his thoughts on the first nine weeks of the year. He specifically shared that we are focused on improving week-to-week, month-to-month, and year-to-year. We want to be the best in all we do. He spoke on training and recruitment and our emphasis on customer service. The expectation is all employees should show kindness and respect to others, give grace for mistakes, and take ownership of mistakes.

DISTRICT UPDATES

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR ALL

On September 25, Piedmont Public Schools hosted an exceptional day of district-wide professional development, garnering positive feedback from both teachers and administrators. The event featured a diverse array of leaders, including external presenters, instructional coaches, central office staff, and teacher leaders, ensuring a rich and multifaceted learning experience.

Notably, this comprehensive professional development day extended its benefits to paraprofessionals and those providing related services, underscoring our commitment to fostering growth and excellence across all educational roles.

Three 5th grade social studies teachers participated in Professional Development at the Cherokee Strip Heritage Center in Enid regarding "Teaching American History." They provided a booklet of primary sources on the French and Indian War, and teachers spent the day looking through and discussing the documents with a professor from West Point. After this session, we toured the museum's "village," which included the original Enid Land office from the Cherokee Strip landrun. This formal training gave participants a new perspective on the war.

Fifth through twelfth-grade social studies teachers met at the Oklahoma History Center. The History Center encouraged teachers to utilize primary sources to give students an accurate historical perspective regarding all historical subjects. The OHC shared digital and physical resources available to teachers. Teachers spent time visiting exhibits in the museum as part of their training.



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

Middle School

- MS Administration office - surveying completed Wednesday, September 27. Dirt work began Tuesday, October 3.
- The elective hall bathroom opened on Friday, October 6.
- The fire lane was paved and completed on Friday, September 29.
- Structural Steel inspection completed last week.
- Classrooms are in the process of being painted.
- A structural steel inspection in the gym was completed last week.

Coryell Roofing

- Gutters installed at admin/daycare
- Color matches confirmed for NW, MSP, and PHS
- Supplies delivered to Middle School with a scheduled start date of October 16.
- Supplies delivered to Piedmont Intermediate with a scheduled start date after Middle School completion.

MAINTENANCE

One hundred and forty maintenance work orders were completed during the month of September. The additional people on our maintenance team have allowed us to provide MUCH better response to needs across district.

District-Wide

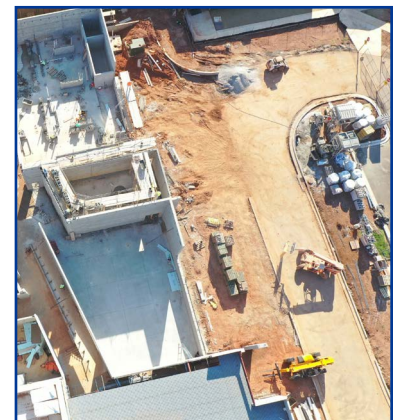
HVAC repairs throughout the district. We have less than five A/C outages district-wide as of 10/1. This is down from 40+ in August.

Childcare Center

Added new window blinds to all classrooms of the PPS daycare.

ECC

Repairs and improvements to playground equipment
Replaced all carline pickup signs



Northwood Elementary

Repairs and improvements to playground equipment

Piedmont Elementary

Repairs and improvements to playground equipment
Assembled office and classroom furniture
Added/moved/replaced/repairs white boards

Stone Ridge Elementary

Added/moved/replaced/repairs white boards

Piedmont Intermediate

Added ant-slip coating, a concrete approach pad and structural reinforcement for all portable ramps and decks

Middle School of Piedmont

Worked extensively on water remediation and cleanup

Piedmont High School

Added/moved/replaced/repairs white boards

Administration

Assembled office furniture

DISTRICT UPDATES



SECONDARY SCHOOLS UPDATE

We have dedicated significant time to a restoration piece with discipline, particularly around alcohol/drug offenses for secondary students. In the past, if we had alcohol or drug offenses, students received lengthy suspensions with no support or services to help the student or family with underlying issues. Regrettably, this approach often resulted in students returning to us in more challenging circumstances than when they initially left.

Utilizing our partnership with the Canadian County Juvenile Justice Center, we have developed a contract and plan to help students and families deal with those underlying issues and assist them in getting to the root of the problem.

If a student is found under the influence or in possession at school or a school-sponsored event, they will have the opportunity to receive a reduced suspension by abiding by the Alcohol/Drug Contract.

The contract includes:

- A. An initial assessment conducted by trained professionals at the Canadian County Juvenile Justice Center.
- B. From the assessment, mandatory counseling and substance abuse classes will be assigned, and must be completed.
- C. Mandatory monthly drug testing with negative results must be reported to the school, serving as an incentive for students to say "no" to pressure to participate in risky behaviors.
- D. Required completion of 20 hours of community service.

Any violation of the contract items will result in the original suspension to be reinstated.

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.

Darnell Zook, Director of Maintenance, was recognized as our outstanding staff member in September by Mrs. Campbell. He chose to pass along the trophy to Kiley Rio, Director of Special Services. He presented the trophy at our October monthly meeting.



HUMAN RESOURCES

Title IX Training was a success! Administrators learned the history and evolution of Title IX, specifically sexual harassment under Title IX regulations. They were introduced to our updated Title IX board policy and learned about the school and district's required response to incidents of sexual harassment. The Title IX grievance process was explained, and we covered students' rights and due process considerations under Title IX. All training slides and the Title IX process are outlined on our website.

The state accreditation process is underway. Site principals are diligently working together to ensure we comply with the state guidelines.

Principals and administrators received their OKTLE and McRel certification and recertification training to fulfill state requirements.

Our State Personnel Report (SPR) is in the process of being completed and will be submitted for audit on Friday, October 13. This report ensures that all teachers are paid in accordance with state law.

| ENROLLMENT CENTER | | 9-7-2023 | 10-6-2023 |
|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|
| | PIEDMONT ECC | 616 | 618 |
| | NORTHWOOD ELEM. | 482 | 485 |
| | PIEDMONT ELEM. | 451 | 446 |
| | STONE RIDGE ELEM. | 637 | 638 |
| | PIEDMONT INTERMEDIATE | 865 | 865 |
| | MIDDLE SCHOOL | 762 | 761 |
| | HIGH SCHOOL | 1520 | 1518 |
| | TOTAL | 5336 | 5333 |

DISTRICT UPDATES



SPECIAL SERVICES



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

SNU: Dr. Lynette Thompsons

Focus: Meaningful IEP's and Goals

Participants: Special Education Teachers

PPS: The Many Roles of the Paraprofessional

Focus: Related Services, Health/Medical, Behavior

Participants: Paraprofessionals

Dr. Lynette Thompsons from SNU guided our special education teachers in exploring meaningful Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) and goals. Paraprofessionals engaged in discussions concerning their diverse roles, spanning related services, health/medical support, and behavior management.

CRISIS PREVENTION INSTITUTE: NON-VIOLENT CRISIS INTERVENTION

We are proud to announce that twenty-five employees, including School Resource Officers, have successfully completed certification in Non-Violent Crisis Intervention through the Crisis Prevention Institute. This certification equips our staff with valuable skills and strategies to handle crisis situations with care and non-violent techniques.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Our Special Olympics program has continued to excel. We are thrilled to share that we have qualified for the OSSAA State Unified Volleyball Playoffs, scheduled for October 20, 2023, at Tulsa Union! Students will also compete in State Unified Soccer on October 11, 2023, at the Owasso Sports Complex.

CONTRACT UPDATE: BC BEHAVIORAL SERVICES

The BC Behavioral Services contract, which began on September 6th, has proven to be a significant asset to our district. This contract provides support from a team of four rotating employees, comprised of a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) and Registered Behavior Technicians (RBTs).

Benefits of the Contract to Date:

- **Meaningful Data Collection and Reporting:** We have established a system for daily data collection and reporting, facilitating more informed decision-making and personalized interventions.
- **Reduced Injuries:** Our collaboration with BC Behavioral Services has resulted in a significant reduction in injuries to all parties involved.
- **Improved Relationships and Communication:** The partnership has fostered improved relationships and communication among all stakeholders.

DISTRICT UPDATES

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS UPDATE

We are focusing intently on student learning outcomes. We are ensuring transparent communication with parents about state standards for student learning through the use of standards-based report cards. This grading system provides a comprehensive overview of a student's mastery of specific concepts in relation to state standards for particular subjects. Our elementary schools have employed standards-based grading for several years, and we are diligently working to implement this model at Piedmont Intermediate. Fifth grade Team Collaboration meetings have been focused on learning how to grade using a standards-based reporting scale.

Standards-based report cards offer a clear understanding of student progress and identify areas that may pose challenges to the student. The standards on the report cards are written in easily understandable language, enabling students to take greater ownership of their learning process. When teachers focus on specific standards and monitor their students' progress toward mastery, it leads to relevant instruction in whole group, small group, and individualized settings. By collaborating, teachers, students, and parents can address these challenges and provide necessary support.

The start of the school year has been met with big feelings and big behaviors for some students at Piedmont Early Childhood Center. ECC administrators, counselors, teachers and staff know that these first years have a lasting impact on the long-term success these learners will experience. They have worked tirelessly to meet our littlest Wildcats where they are and help each one experience success at school. Mrs. Campbell met with the administrative team to talk through interventions the team had implemented and the challenges they were facing. She followed that with an afternoon session for teachers, assistants, and paraprofessionals to voice the behaviors they were seeing, strategies that were working and the areas they continued to need support. Mrs. Campbell then provided two training sessions to add "tools" to their educator kits as they meet the needs in their classrooms.

Good News AT PIEDMONT PUBLIC SCHOOLS



On October 6th, the Middle School of Piedmont gathered for a ceremonial beam signing. Joining the staff and students of the school were members of the Piedmont Public Schools Administration executive team. This small piece of history marks a significant moment in the history of Piedmont Public Schools and our community! We cannot wait for the Middle School remodel to be complete. Thank you to our community for supporting our school district by voting YES during our 2020 bond election.



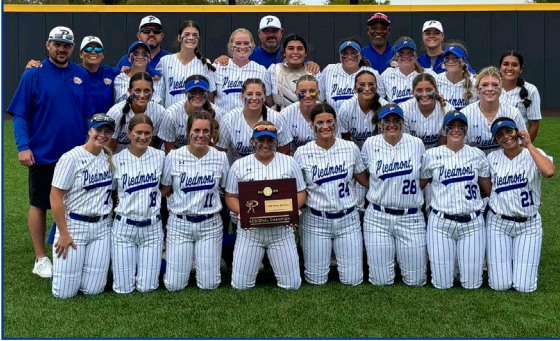
TRANSPORTATION

We're working diligently to prepare for our regional accreditation officer visit next week.

We have 2,423 students registered to ride the bus. We now have a total of 34 buses running regular routes daily, most of which serve a secondary site followed by an elementary.

DISTRICT UPDATES

ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES



Academic Bowl

District Seeding Round Robin @ Edmond Memorial October 9

High School Band

2nd Place @ Yukon Marching Contest

Upcoming Band Contests

OBA State Contest @ Mustang HS October 21

OSSAA State Marching Contest @ Yukon HS October 24

High School Cheer

OSSAA State Competition 9th Place

Cross Country

Moore XC Invitational

HS Boys 2nd Place HS Girls 1st Place

MS 7th Grade Boys 4th Place MS 8th Grade Boys 5th Place

MS 7th Grade Girls 1st Place MS 8th Grade Girls 1st Place

Bethany XC Invitational

HS Boys and HS Girls 1st Place

MS 7th/8th Grade Boys and Girls 1st Place

Chili Pepper XC Festival in Fayetteville, AR

HS Boys 9th Place out of 110 Teams HS Girls 8th Place out of 83 Teams

Upcoming Events

COAC Conference HS/MS Boys and Girls October 10 @ Deer Creek

OSSAA Regionals HS Boys and Girls October 21

OSSAA State Meet HS Boys and Girls October 28

Fast Pitch Softball

Varsity 30 Wins 3 Losses

District 5A-2 Champion

State Tournament @ Firelake Ballfields and OU October 12, 13, 14

Football

HS Football 5 Wins 1 Loss

HS Freshman 2 Wins 1 Loss

MS 7th Grade 5 Wins 0 Losses

MS 8th Grade 2 Wins 3 Losses

Volleyball

HS Varsity 14 Wins 12 Losses

Class 6A Ranking #16

Regional Tournament @ Deer Creek October 10

State Tournament October 19, 20, 21

Unified Volleyball

OSSAA/Unified State Tournament October 20 - 21 @ Union High School

Piedmont will host Class 4A State Volleyball Quarterfinals October 12 and Class 6A Cheer/Pom Gameday Cheer Regionals on November 4

OCTOBER 2023

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, PIEDMONT ELEMENTARY AND STONE RIDGE

On September 8th, our elementary schools celebrated Grandparents Day with great enthusiasm. Grandparents were warmly welcomed to site Wildcat Wake Up events. Grandparents had the opportunity to engage in various activities and capture cherished moments in their students' classrooms.



PIEDMONT HIGH SCHOOL

The FFA students demonstrated their commitment to service by volunteering a collective total of 12 hours across two days, contributing their efforts to both Junklahoma and the Founders Day Parade. Service is a fundamental component of the FFA program, aligning with the FFA motto that emphasizes the importance of members practicing "learning to do, doing to learn, earning to live, living to serve." These students' dedication to giving back to their community embodies the core values of the FFA and showcases their commitment to making a positive impact.



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.

Congratulations to Caleb Houston for being selected as a 2024 National Merit Semifinalist. The nationwide pool of semifinalists, representing less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors, includes the highest scoring entrants in each state. **Piedmont High School salutes Caleb Houston for this prestigious honor!**

PRINCIPAL REPORTS

UNLOCKING THE MAGIC OF LEARNING

Where School Meets Fun



MIDDLE SCHOOL OF PIEDMONT

The hallways at MSP were alive with 8th grade Math students solving absolute equations this month. Our teachers posted task cards throughout the hallway and students were given the challenge of solving ten equations, and if solved correctly, the numbers converted to letters that created a fun phrase. Making learning fun and allowing movement and creativity brings about lots of energy and academic practice for our Wildcats.

The Vocal program has been diligently dedicating time and effort to master their new musical pieces and choreography, all in anticipation of their upcoming performances. Under the guidance of Mrs. Peters, the Vocal program has transformed into an exciting and engaging experience for students.



NORTHWOOD ELEMENTARY

In their second-grade classes, students delved into the fascinating story of Johnny Appleseed. Their learning journey encompassed studying both the historical Johnny Appleseed and comparing the factual account with the fictional character. As a culminating activity, they engaged in a hands-on cooking experience, crafting delicious applesauce using a variety of apple types.



PIEDMONT ELEMENTARY

Piedmont Elementary 3rd and 4th graders kicked off Hispanic Heritage Month with a lively performance at our Wildcat Wake Up event. We invited parents to join the fun, and our talented students sang "La Perlitas" and showed off their dance moves inspired by Hispanic culture. These kids had been practicing since the school year began and were eager to show off what they have been learning.

The following week, our 1st and 2nd graders kept the celebration going with their rendition of the same song and dance. One 4th grader, Mateo, translated everything from English to Spanish during both performances, making the shows even more special and meaningful. These events showcased our students' talents and brought the diverse and vibrant traditions of Hispanic Heritage Month to life in a fun and engaging way!

PRINCIPAL REPORTS

UNLOCKING THE MAGIC OF LEARNING

Where School Meets Fun

PIEDMONT INTERMEDIATE

With the guidance of elementary colleagues and Mrs. Taylor's experience, Piedmont Intermediate has started "Wildcat Wake Up" weekly. Homebase classes take the lead, allowing each class and students to showcase their creativity.



PIEDMONT EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

Kindergarten students embarked on a virtual field trip to an apple orchard in Indiana. They observed as a farmer drove a tractor through the orchard, learned about diverse apple varieties, their colors, and flavors, and witnessed the apple-picking process. Notably, all apples in supermarkets are hand-picked. This experience fostered a connection with nature and an appreciation for the orchard's beauty while instilling awareness of food sources. Following the virtual excursion, students participated in hands-on activities that included apple tasting, crafting apple-themed artwork, and preparing applesauce.



STONE RIDGE ELEMENTARY

This year, making field trips accessible to all grade levels has been a top priority. On Friday, October 6th, our first graders visited Orr Family Farm, marking the beginning of our exciting field trip lineup. We have upcoming trips planned to the science museum, the zoo, Harn Homestead, and the Oklahoma History Center!

WILDCAT WOW FACTOR



PIEDMONT EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

Mrs. Dahlgren, a devoted and seasoned early childhood educator, boasts an impressive 26-year tenure in the field of education. Over the course of her career, she has continually refined her teaching abilities, adeptly adjusting to evolving educational methods and technologies, all while remaining dedicated to her fundamental values of patience, compassion, and a profound commitment to her students.

PRINCIPAL REPORTS

WILDCAT WOW FACTOR



PIEDMONT INTERMEDIATE

Jeri Melton, a new addition to our staff, has left an unforgettable mark on the student experience within her classroom and our entire school community.

Students in her class begin each day with a personalized greeting and interaction. In this warm and inclusive environment, every student is given the choice of a high five, a hug, a fist bump, a handshake, or a wave. Mrs. Melton introduced this welcoming tradition, which has become widely adopted throughout the school. This simple gesture has fostered a sense of connection and camaraderie among students and staff.

Additionally, Mrs. Melton has played a key role in revitalizing an active PTO (Parent-Teacher Organization) with remarkable success. Her contributions are a testament to the promising future ahead for our Piedmont Intermediate families.

STONE RIDGE ELEMENTARY

Candice Boesch serves as our Library Media Specialist, with a primary focus on educating students about the effective utilization of books for both learning and enjoyment, as well as harnessing technology as a valuable tool to enhance their understanding of the world around them.

NORTHWOOD ELEMENTARY

Jennifer Lawson boasts an impressive 18-year career as an educator. This school year, she transitioned from her role as our mild/moderate special education teacher to that of a severe/profound special education teacher.

Ms. Lawson has consistently demonstrated a profound passion for working with children who have special needs. Her exceptional qualities, including kindness, patience, and a strong work ethic, have played a pivotal role in this crucial transition, particularly as this marks our inaugural year with this program.

Working with our team of dedicated paraprofessionals, Ms. Lawson has masterfully cultivated a classroom environment characterized by its tranquility, enjoyment, and interactivity. Her efforts have undoubtedly contributed to a positive and enriching experience for each of her students.

PIEDMONT ELEMENTARY

Piedmont Elementary School welcomes Robin Sheetz as its new Reading Specialist. While she is new to PES, Mrs. Sheetz boasts extensive experience in education spanning several years. Her exceptional classroom background and deep expertise in the Science of Reading, combined with her genuine dedication to students and the learning process, truly distinguish Mrs. Sheetz as an outstanding educator. She possesses a fervent commitment to fostering students' reading skills, radiates positivity, and consistently goes the extra mile to assist teachers in discovering the most effective methods for aiding their students.

PRINCIPAL REPORTS

PIEDMONT HIGH SCHOOL

PHS Science teacher Dee Kohen is known for her innovative, challenging, engaging, and enjoyable lessons. She firmly believes that "boring" is the arch-nemesis of student engagement. She understands that monotonous lessons equate to lower levels of learning. Dee Kohen deserves commendation for her exceptional effort in crafting lessons that offer the most enriching learning experiences for her students.



MIDDLE SCHOOL OF PIEDMONT

During her initial weeks as a math teacher for our Piedmont Wildcat community, Mrs. Erin Fluman has seamlessly settled into her role. Mrs. Fluman's passion for teaching mathematics shines brightly as soon as you step into her classroom. She recently demonstrated her commitment to student success by conducting individualized interventions following a quiz.

Mrs. Fluman conducted one-minute meetings with each student to address specific areas of misunderstanding identified on the quiz. Following these brief discussions, she provided each student with a targeted practice assignment tailored to their individual needs. Remarkably, our students embraced the feedback and engaged in meaningful academic discussions with Mrs. Fluman during these concise meetings.

We extend our gratitude to Mrs. Fluman for her meticulous attention to detail and her dedication to customizing instruction to cater to the diverse needs of all our students.

WILDCAT
WOW
FACTOR