



# Pleasant Hill School District

## WINTER 2024 NEWSLETTER

### A Letter from the Superintendent

Dear PHSD Community:

In the aftermath of the recent ice storm that left our community without power, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to each member who demonstrated resilience and unity during this challenging time. A special thank you goes out to our local utility company and emergency services department for their tireless efforts in restoring power swiftly and efficiently and keeping us safe during the storm. Your dedication has not only illuminated our homes but also highlighted the strength of our community spirit. In the face of adversity, we witnessed neighbors supporting one another, embodying the true meaning of solidarity.

As we step into the second half of the academic year, I want to express my gratitude for the commitment and enthusiasm you bring to our school community. Your unwavering support and dedication contribute to the positive and vibrant learning environment we strive to maintain.

#### Attendance Matters

As we embark on the remainder of the school year, I would like to take a moment to emphasize the critical importance of regular attendance. Every school day is an opportunity for our students to engage in valuable learning experiences and build the foundation for their future success. Consistent attendance not only ensures academic progress but also fosters a sense of community and belonging. Let's work together to make every day count for our students.

#### New Leadership at the Helm

I am thrilled to announce that we have a new addition to our school leadership team. Please join me in extending a warm welcome to Mr. Chris Reiersgaard, who will be serving as our interim principal for both the middle and high school. With a wealth of experience and a passion for education, Mr. Reiersgaard brings a fresh perspective and energy that will undoubtedly enhance our educational programs and support for students' growth.

As we embark on this new chapter together, let's remain united in our commitment to providing the best possible education for our students. Thank you for your continued partnership, and here's to a successful and fulfilling remainder of the school year!

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 everyone warmth, safety, and a New Year filled with brighter days,

*Jim Crist*  
Superintendent

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### CHANGE TO THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Due to the unexpected school closures on January 16, 17, 18 and 19, we would like to inform you that Pleasant Hill School District is making an adjustment to the academic calendar. A full instructional day for all students and staff has been added on Monday, February 19, 2024.

This modification is a response to the emergency closures experienced thus far.

Please be advised that any further unforeseen school closures during the current academic year may lead to additional extensions of the academic calendar. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in accommodating these changes.

# SHAC Updates and Info

Our School Health Advisory Committee (SHAC) is busy promoting the physical and emotional health of our school staff, students and broader community. This year our goal is to help support and promote a positive healthy environment for our students and staff.

We are happy to share that SHAC has allocated funds to add new water drinking stations around the district, including a new one coming soon at the high school track.

Additionally, we are striving to promote kindness and unity across campuses with the Elementary Kindness Squad, Middle School Kindness Club and healthy lunchtime activities for students.

National School Counseling Week is February 5-9. SHAC would like to take the time to express our gratitude to our school counselors for their hard work and commitment to the well-being of Pleasant Hill students and staff. They have a tremendous impact on our school community. Thank you!

SHAC is an active committee that is always looking for new members. Our next meeting is set for February 20 at 4:00 p.m. in Room 6 at the high school, or you can join in virtually. Contact Beth McCool at [bmccool@pleasanthill.k12.or.us](mailto:bmccool@pleasanthill.k12.or.us) for more information, and check out SHAC on the District website:

[www.pleasanthill.k12.or.us/resources/committees/school-health-advisory-committee](http://www.pleasanthill.k12.or.us/resources/committees/school-health-advisory-committee)



# BOOSTERS NEWS & EVENTS

Hello, wonderful Pleasant Hill community! We hope that you made it through the crazy weather that 2024 brought us. We feel blessed to live in such a caring and generous community as we saw so much service in action during the ice storm. We are excited to welcome new PHHS Principal Chris Reiersgaard to Pleasant Hill and were delighted to have him attend his first Booster Meeting in January.

We want to take a moment to express our gratitude for our longtime Booster Board Treasurer and member Michelle Allen and her years of dedicated service. We wish her well as she takes time to enjoy her son's senior year. We are excited to welcome Stefanie Sheava as our new Board Secretary and Social Media coordinator and Heather Van Ordstrand as our Board Treasurer and Concessions Coordinator. Stefanie is a lifelong community member and Class of 2025 and 2028 parent and Heather is our PHES Kitchen Coordinator (a.k.a., Cafeteria Lady) and has kids in the classes of 2025, 2027, and 2029.

As we look forward to spring, please save the date of April 27 for our annual Fundraising Dinner and Auction. We are awaiting final details, but we may welcome you to a new venue this year. Stay tuned! The auction is our biggest fundraiser of the year which helps us support the many athletic and extracurricular endeavors of our students. We most recently supported the baseball and softball teams with new apparel. During fall/winter seasons, we were able to support OHSET, boys' soccer, softball, baseball teams, and others with concessions earning over \$10,000.

Booster Club helps our student and athletic groups fundraise by providing opportunities to work and earn 50% of concessions proceeds. We will be looking for teams to work and earn during our upcoming baseball, softball and track seasons. As always, we rely on volunteers and invite you to please come and be involved in supporting our students. Our next meeting is Wednesday, February 14 at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Center. Bring a friend and come support our students. Go Billies!

## PLEASANT HILL MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR DEPARTMENT PERFORMANCES AND UPCOMING COMPETITION OPPORTUNITIES

The Pleasant Hill Choir Department had a successful first concert cycle. Last November, the advanced middle school choir, Variations, performed at their first choral festival in Monmouth, Oregon at Western Oregon University. The students performed for two choral experts and were given tips on vocal technique and stage presence. In December, our annual Winter Concert was a great success with an audience of families, students, and community members.

Now we are looking forward to our competition season. Our high school groups will be looking towards a full performance schedule starting in March with our combined choir concert with Lane Community College and Springfield High School at LCC on Friday, March 8. Ascensions will also be competing at the Clackamas Vocal Jazz Festival on Thursday, March 14 at Clackamas Community College. This is a great opportunity for our students to see what performing opportunities are available to them at the collegiate level. Ascensions will also be looking to qualify for the OSAA State Choir Championships on Friday, April 12 at Springfield High School. Last year, Ascensions took 3rd place out of 29 schools in the entire state and the students look to place and be named one of the best choirs in the state. To support the choir program and stay connected with us via Facebook and Instagram [@phillchoir](https://www.facebook.com/phillchoir).

Thank you and take care,  
*Kyle Ludwig*  
 Pleasant Hill Choir Director

# A Letter from the Principal

## WHAT IS PBIS?

PBIS stands for Positive Behavior Intervention and Support. This is a nationally recognized program that started originally at the University of Oregon. Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS) is a way for schools to encourage good behavior. Our school teaches our students about behavior, just like we teach other subjects like reading and math.

Our teachers and counselor teach lessons focused on Being Kind, Safe, Respectful and Responsible, our Billie Spirit Guidelines for Success, across all areas of the school not only the classroom, but the gym, cafeteria, recess and the bus just to name a few areas.

## WHY PBIS / BILLIE SPIRIT?

While our student behavior data presently looks pretty good with 90% of our students being either referral free or having no more than one behavior referral, we attribute this to consistency, not only across all of classes K-5, but within the individual classes too. The way Teacher 1 would allow a student to behave in their classroom or halls was likely to be different from Teacher 2, but with the implementation of the PBIS framework we have a common vocabulary and goals for our students.

Not only does our PBIS/Billie Spirit program help with behavioral issues, but it also helps build a deeper sense of community among the students and staff. Our staff has worked together to design our PBIS, Billie Spirit Program that works in our school and assists our students in learning Billie's expectations of being Kind, Respectful, Responsible and Safe.

## HOW DOES IT WORK?

Praise and encouragement combined with effective instruction taught by our classroom teachers and our school counselor. The lessons are comprised of our Billie Spirit Guidelines for Success the cornerstones of the Billie Spirit program. Appropriate behavior is encouraged and reinforced formally and informally on a regular basis across all school settings throughout the day. Students not only receive verbal or written praise, but can earn Billie Bucks for demonstrating Billie Spirit, by being Kind, Respectful, Responsible and Safe.

What can students do with their Billie Bucks? They can buy special privileges such as a positive phone call/email/Seesaw message home, an opportunity to brag to the boss about the cool things they are doing, a trip to the pencil machine, just to name a few coupons. Classroom teachers also hold special drawings and students can earn classroom specific privileges too. This year we are holding special weekly drawings on Wednesdays for an opportunity to spin Billie's Wheel at lunch. Students can also elect to save their Billie Bucks to purchase items such as fun pens, pencils, erasers, beads, bouncy balls, etc. from the monthly Billie Store.

Every month, grade levels gather to celebrate the great things our students are doing both academically and behaviorally demonstrating Billie Spirit. Classroom teachers recognize at least two students from their class and nominate one student to receive the Principal's Golden Goat award. We conclude our time together by awarding golden artifacts such as a golden shoe, drum / guitar, book, heart, book to name a few to the class who as a collective group has demonstrated Billie Spirit while at school.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Talk with your students about how they are Kind, Respectful, Responsible and Safe. Using this some vocabulary at home with your student also reinforces this are not just at-school expectations, they are life-long expectations.

Thank you for supporting your students daily. Also, thank you for reinforcing the Billie Spirit expectations, too.

Respectfully,  
*Devery Stoneberg*  
Principal

## COUNSELING CORNER WITH MRS. BLACK

As the elementary school counselor, I am excited for the opportunity to share what counseling looks like at the elementary level and what students are learning. I have the privilege of going into each classroom once a week to teach a lesson around social emotional learning. Our main curriculum used is Second Steps. These lessons are great for helping all our students develop skills for cooperation, communication and decision-making. I also implement a lesson around our character trait of the month. We have worked on being respectful, responsible, kind, and safe. Our goal is to help our Billies thrive in the classroom and in life!

I also love to use small groups as well as individual lessons to help our Billies learn and grow specific skills around friendship, self-regulation, confidence, sharing, kindness, and problem-solving. We are always working as teams at the elementary to look at data, listen to each other and work together to come up with ideas to best reach all of our students' needs.



We have great schools and a great community! I am so proud of the daily work and conversations from our Billies and their families! I hope this gave you some great insight to elementary counseling at Pleasant Hill. For more resources and links to our curriculum please go to the Pleasant Hill School District Home Page and under schools, click elementary and then counseling! I look forward to sharing updates regularly!

Thank you,  
*Stephanie Black*

# Updates from the Pleasant Hill Education Foundation

## THANK YOU!

The Foundation is off to an amazing year! Thanks to your generosity, the Pleasant Hill Education Foundation empowers the Pleasant Hill School District to offer a higher quality education. Your donations to the Foundation go towards inspiring learning, enhancing teaching, and creating opportunities for all students and teachers.

Thank you to everyone who attended Breakfast on the Hill on November 9, 2023. We had over 80 guests and enjoyed hearing from Tony Scurto, Superintendent at Lane ESD, our keynote speaker. Special thanks to our Honorary Chairs, Curt and Ginny Offenbacher and the FFA students, along with Angela White.

## SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, February 24 at 6:00 p.m. Our Prom Night Fundraising Gala at the Graduate Eugene Hotel. This will be our largest fundraiser, directly supporting the students of Pleasant Hill. We hope you'll join us for a fun evening of food, drinks, live music, and dancing! Ages 21 and over are welcome. Tickets will be available beginning in February at the elementary and high school offices and online at [www.phillfoundation.org](http://www.phillfoundation.org).

**Want to get involved?** We have many ways to help support our mission ranging from sponsorships, volunteering at events, serving on a committee and board membership! Contact Amber McKee at [amckee@phillfoundation.org](mailto:amckee@phillfoundation.org).

## COURAGEOUS KIDS GRIEF COUNSELING GROUPS RETURN TO OUR PLEASANT HILL SCHOOLS FOR 2024

Courageous Kids is a grief support program for youth and their families who have experienced the death of a loved one. Their program mission is to provide a developmentally appropriate, caring, and accepting atmosphere to normalize a child's thoughts & emotions related to grief and loss caused by the death of a friend, a family member, or other close loved one. Through a variety of activities & discussions, children and teens are able to give and receive support from each other.

Our district's school counselors have connected with Courageous Kids, in order to provide students access to grief support groups at school, in a confidential setting, during the school day. If you are interested in your child joining a grief counseling group, or if you would like more information, please contact our elementary, middle, or high school counselor. Additional information regarding Courageous Kids and all of the programs, camps, and supports they offer youth and families, can be found on their website, [www.courageouskidseugene.org](http://www.courageouskidseugene.org), or by calling (458) 205-7474.

Services offered by Courageous Kids are free of charge to all families, due to the funding provided by donors, grants, and PeaceHealth Hospice.

## PHES MUSIC PROGRAM NEWS

The Pleasant Hill Elementary winter concert series went off with a jingle! Thank you to everyone who helped set up and tear down the concert space, and to everyone who encouraged, and supported every student at PHES.

Looking forward, we have some exciting music performance opportunities:

- In April, we will have our 3rd grade and 1st grade concerts.
- In May, we will be revamping our K-5 talent show. All students will be able to apply to perform in the show. We will be hosting an afternoon and an evening performance of the talent show.
- Later that month, 2nd grade and 4th grade will have their spring concerts.
- We will end our series that month with an afternoon and an evening performance of the 5th grade musical, Schoolhouse Rock Live Jr.

All concert dates and times are listed on the district calendar. We can't wait to share the musical abilities of the students of PHES with the community in the coming months. It is an honor and a pleasure to serve this supportive community. Go Billies!



JOIN THE PTO AND  
OUR PLEASANT HILL  
COMMUNITY ON  
MARCH 14, 2024

# Winter 2024 FFA, CTE, and AG News and Updates

## PLEASANT HILL FFA EARNS THEIR FIRST NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP!

The Pleasant Hill Chapter attended the FFA National Convention this fall in Indianapolis, Indiana. Five middle and high school students attended workshops in areas such as leadership, college and career preparation, and agricultural technology. Zoey Brott won the Agriscience and Research competition with an amazing research project, in depth industry judge interviews and on-site presentations. This opportunity made a huge positive impact on our chapter and we thank our sponsor and community for helping us attend and achieve this amazing award. If you are interested in learning more about our FFA organization, how to sponsor our next National trip and other AG/FFA events, please contact Angela White, FFA Advisor at [awhite@pleasanthill.k12.or.us](mailto:awhite@pleasanthill.k12.or.us).



The Pleasant Hill FFA poses at the 2023 National Convention in Indianapolis, IN.



The skills of the FFA Ag Mechanics team took district by storm.



Savannah White will next compete in sectionals after her district performance.

## OTHER FFA NEWS

The Pleasant Hill FFA Ag Mechanics team earned a 2nd place district title for their great job in welding, electrical, small engine, parts, and land surveying. Savannah White placed second in the Job Interview Career Development Event and will continue onto the sectional competition in late February. Upcoming FFA chapter events include our 2nd official meeting February 12 at 6:30 p.m. in the student center. Farm Business Management, Public Speaking, and Parliamentary Procedure Career Development Event will occur in late February. This year we will be hosting the district Floraculture and Forestry Career Development Event at Pleasant Hill High School.

The FFA chapter will also assist with the Forest Today and Forever Breakfast Conference, the Pleasant Hill Education Foundation Fundraising Banquet, the Pleasant Hill Booster Club Auction, Oregon Women in Agriculture Banquet, and the Lane County Livestock Association Annual Meeting. We look forward to helping our community organizations by providing service, floral designs, as well as student projects.

## CTE CLASSES AND PROJECTS

Students are working hard gearing up for the Annual Plant Sale May 4, 2024 from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. in our greenhouse. The horticulture course utilizes student expertise to propagate and grow a variety of different plants including flowers, vegetables, fruits, and flower baskets, while learning a variety of other greenhouse management techniques. We received a partial grant from Wilco to install an irrigation system and students will be learning about those systems this spring. Mr. Bowden's metal shop is also creating customized basket hangers so students can grow more hanging baskets and practice a variety of marketing and growing techniques.

The woodshop continues to be very active in creating a variety of different customized furniture and student projects, including our laser, CNC machines, and cross training students to use CAD programs. With monies awarded through our CTE Perkins grant, we were able to purchase two additional laptops, which enable students to operate both advanced equipment in metals and wood shops. Students are also getting an amazing opportunity to work with the transitional house program and learning to build mini houses on site. Mr. Smith's class has successfully started two homes and will be completing those projects in early spring.

Metal shop is actively using our new plasma CNC table and has created a variety of projects, such as barbecues and items for our education foundation auction. The firefighting 2 Certification course is underway, and several students are enrolled for second semester Fire School and FF2 Certification.

The first semester of the new Health Occupations Career Pathways students showed interest in our anatomy and physiology classes, as well as our intro to health occupations. The program will offer an Emergency Medical Technologies class which may result in some students earning their Emergency Medical Responder Certification with the assistance of Pleasant Hill-Goshen Fire Department and other supporting organizations including Lane Education Service District.

## CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION NIGHT AT PLEASANT HILL ON MARCH 14

The Pleasant Hill High school CTE program is looking forward to hosting our first annual career and technology education night March 14 from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. Our staff will be available for some opening statements and then will be having student demonstrations in each of our four major areas. We invite prospective students, parents, industry members, school board members, and the community to attend this action-packed night.

# Pleasant Hill School District

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## Pleasant Hill High School News & Updates

### FALL & WINTER ATHLETICS

Winter sports at PHHS are in full swing and are experiencing a lot of success.

**Wrestling** has been busy competing at dual meets and individual tournaments. Most notably, the Billies hosted the annual King of the Hill Invitational, placing 7th out of 17 teams. The Billies had two champions: Freshman Bryson Boyles (113lbs) and junior Jace Harris (150lbs). Boyles earned the Most Outstanding Wrestler award for the meet. The boys' district meet is at North Valley High School February 9-10 with the girls' district meet at Cottage Grove High School February 16-17. The OSAA State Wrestling

Championships are February 22-23 at the Memorial Coliseum in Portland.

**Boys basketball** is currently 11-3 and ranked #2 in the state. **Girls basketball** is currently 8-4 and ranked #4 in the state. Both boys and girls finished first place in the inaugural Battle of I-5 Invitational prior to winter break. They also secured notable wins over MVC rivals Creswell. The Mountain Valley Conference finals will be February 17 at Thurston High School in Springfield. Both teams are hoping to win the league championship and earn a bid for the OSAA State Tournament in Coos Bay February 29 - March 2.

### PHHS BAND UPDATES

Happy new year to everyone! After a busy fall season and winter concert, the bands of Pleasant Hill are ready for 2024.

Our jazz bands attended their second jazz festival of the year at the University of Oregon in January where they heard and got to know the renowned vocalist and tenor saxophone player Camille Thurman on the first day of the festival. The second day was full of student performances and more concerts. Noah Bernacki, Ethan Bahen, Daphne Phillips, Charlotte Newman, and Nellie Smith all earned Outstanding Musician awards. Our next jazz festival is on February 10 at West Salem High School. This is our first competition of the school year and the students are working hard to prepare.

Our upcoming spring band concert is on Wednesday, March 20 in the High School Student Center. We hope to see you there!

### ANNUAL JAZZ FESTIVAL NEWS

Looking ahead into the spring, we will be hosting the 47th Annual Pleasant Hill Jazz Festival this year on Saturday, April 13. I'm pleased to share with you that five-time Grammy winning vocalist and bass player Esperanza Spalding will be our featured artist this year. We are extremely lucky and blessed to have such an accomplished artist visit our small community. Space will be limited, but please consider joining us on April 13 as we welcome dozens of schools and artists from the Pacific Northwest for an unforgettable day of music.