

MONTHLY NEWS AND UPDATES FROM PIEDMONT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**PIEDMONT**

**FOCUS**



# SCHOOL SITE UPDATES



## MIDDLE SCHOOL OF PIEDMONT

First semester at MSP was one for the record books. Our students worked very hard and our staff is celebrating great academic gains in the classroom and beyond. Something new at MSP last semester was offering semester test exemptions to our Wildcats who met grade, attendance and behavior expectations. We saw great success with this incentive by having 71% of 7th graders and 72% of 8th graders qualify for test exemptions. The students and parents were excited about the incentive and we celebrated our students that qualified. We are looking forward to the 2nd semester and encouraging our Wildcats to maintain good attendance and good grades to achieve the opportunity for exemption again in May.

## PIEDMONT HIGH SCHOOL

Emy Tucker is a junior at Piedmont High School. She was among the inaugural class of 30 students accepted into Piedmont High School's Aviation STEM program and is now in her third year. Emy is the January female student of the month for the Oklahoma Department of Aerospace & Aeronautics. She is a member of her school's National Honor Society and maintains a 4.2 GPA. She was nominated by her teacher, Anthony Melendorf, as exemplifying the spirit of Oklahoma aviation and aerospace. Emy is the founder and president of Piedmont High School's Aviation Club, where she is instrumental in bringing guests from the aviation industry to her school, building meaningful industry connections and helping her peers gain insight into the many career pathways available to them within aviation/aerospace.



Emy is actively involved in the aviation community at large where she is a student member of the Ninety-Nines, the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, and the Experimental Aircraft Association. Emy volunteers at various events with the Ninety-Nines and serves monthly at the EAA Chapter 24's Pancake Breakfasts. She has attended Oklahoma's Women in Aviation Day luncheon and Girls in Aviation Day events the past three years. In August of 2023, Emy was asked by a fellow Ninety-Nines member to serve as co-pilot in the Okie Derby, a cross-country proficiency competition, where they placed 8th. Apart from her involvement in aviation/aerospace, Emy also has a passion for the arts. In 2022 and 2024 she won "Best of Show" at the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma's chalk art contest. Emy's future plans include going to college to study aviation. She hopes to one day become a commercial airline or corporate pilot.

In her nomination, Emy's teacher, Anthony Melendorf described her as "exemplifying a growth mindset. She approaches challenges as opportunities to learn and continuously seeks ways to improve herself and support her peers. Her positive attitude, strong work ethic, and willingness to embrace new experiences make her a role model for her fellow students."

# SCHOOL SITE UPDATES



## PIEDMONT EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

Mayor David Holt visited our Early Childhood Center and read Goodnight OKC to all our kindergarten students. Goodnight OKC is a beautifully illustrated children's book that takes readers through Oklahoma City's most iconic landmarks and attractions. Written in the classic Goodnight Moon style, the book highlights places like the Oklahoma City Zoo, Scissortail Park, and the Capitol building, offering a warm and charming way for young readers to connect with our city. The students loved hearing the story from the mayor himself, making it a memorable and special experience!



## STONE RIDGE ELEMENTARY

December was amazing at Stone Ridge with our Santa Store, dress-up days, and holiday celebrations! PTO also hosted our first annual Saturday with Santa, where families could join us for fun activities and get their pictures with Santa. The Stone Ridge Singers performed at the Downtown Piedmont Tree Lighting, and Stone Ridge was selected as the school of the month by the Special Olympics of Oklahoma! It was a great month to be a Stone Ridge Wildcat!

## PIEDMONT ELEMENTARY

December was filled with special activities that brought our school community together at "The Original"! The PHS Spanish Club visited to spread holiday cheer by caroling in our cafeteria during lunch, while the Middle School Band brought the festive spirit to our library. To top it off, we had an unforgettable 1st Grade Music Program!

We wrapped up December with a magical visit from some mischievous elves who left surprises for our students as they arrived each day. One elf even spent time on the roof of Piedmont Elementary and greeted students as they arrived at school!



# DISTRICT UPDATES

## PPS EDUCATORS RECEIVE COX CHARITIES GRANTS

Piedmont Public Schools is excited to announce that several educators received a total of \$16,478 in Cox Charities Education grants to support innovative student projects. Highlights include \$275 for flexible seating in Hannah Sawyers' Comfy Classroom at Piedmont Middle School, \$650 for a 3D printer to enhance language learning in Andrea Carpenter's project at Piedmont High School, and \$4,950 for new microscopes in Jessica Brown's Science in Focus project. Additionally, Shantaya Ross received \$1,500 for novels in her 10th-grade literature circles, and Kaleigh Mellendorf was awarded \$9,103 for lab equipment to teach DNA and biotechnology through her MniPCR project. These grants will provide students with valuable hands-on learning experiences.



## ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

Principals from Piedmont Early Childhood Center, all elementary school campuses, and Piedmont Intermediate had a collaborative meeting to discuss school-wide goals to end this academic year. Together, they explored different approaches to ensure the achievement of these goals, focusing on fostering a supportive learning environment for all students.

## TRANSPORTATION

PPS Transportation has launched a successful Commercial Drivers' License (CDL) training and testing program. Since September, we've administered the CDL exam 18 times, licensing bus drivers and coaches for our district and others. We're working with state officials to refine the program, and in March, when new CDL certification and testing guidelines take effect, officials will certify our testing course layout to ensure no disruption.

## MAINTENANCE

In December, PPS Maintenance received 160 work orders, a significant increase from 58 in December 2023. Since July 1, we've processed 1,334 work orders, up from 713 last year. The first round of HVAC filter replacements and preventative maintenance for FY24-25 was completed, and traffic barrier sticks were installed around the high school driving loop to enhance safety.

# DISTRICT UPDATES

## ENROLLMENT

	DECEMBER 2024	JANUARY 2025
Piedmont ECC	<b>616</b>	<b>618</b>
Northwood Elementary	<b>556</b>	<b>561</b>
Piedmont Elementary	<b>391</b>	<b>390</b>
Stone Ridge Elementary	<b>645</b>	<b>640</b>
Piedmont Intermediate	<b>836</b>	<b>838</b>
Middle School of Piedmont	<b>790</b>	<b>792</b>
Piedmont High School	<b>1574</b>	<b>1574</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5408</b>	<b>5413</b>

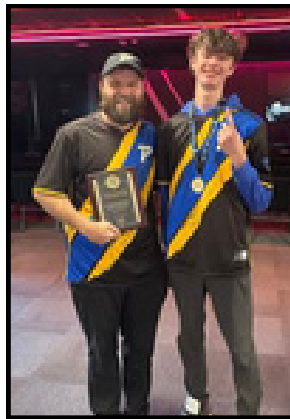


## OPERATIONS

On December 17th, the Black Box Theatre officially opened at Piedmont High School! This versatile space was designed to enhance our performing arts programs. This state-of-the-art theatre features 135 stadium seats, with additional side seating, accommodating up to 200 people. Our students are excited to have a dedicated space to showcase their talents, significantly benefiting the drama program and other fine arts disciplines.

This new facility represents a tremendous opportunity for students and the community, providing a professional venue for performances and events.

## ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES



- Piedmont Boys and Girls basketball were Bixby Invitational Consolation Champions
- Piedmont Wrestling defeated Yukon, Shawnee, and Putnam City in duals
- Drew Hurd took home the 6A E-Sports Madden State Championship
- Girls Wrestling won their first dual in school history against Putnam City
- Wildcat Wrestling competed in the Kansas City Stampede
- Piedmont Swim competed in the Edmond Schools Invitational

- The Pride of Piedmont hosted their senior night and 2024 winter band concert
- Wildcat Athletics attended the 2024 National Athletics Directors Conference
- PHS Theatre Arts hosted their winter showcase in the new Black Box Theater
- Piedmont Pom took runner-up at the Trendsetters Dance Oklahoma State Competition
- Lady Wildcat basketball hosted their annual Wildcat Toy Drive