

PAXON HOLLOW

"MUCH TO LEARN YOU STILL HAVE" - YODA

Paxon Hollow "Peek of the Week" – Week of February 16, 2025

Dear Paxon Hollow Families,

As we approach the PSSA and Keystone testing window, I want to take a moment to talk about why these assessments matter - not just for our school, but for our students' futures.

Standardized testing is a part of life. Whether applying to college or pursuing a professional career, testing plays a role in opening doors to opportunities. Many careers require standardized exams, including:

- **Medical Field** (Doctors, Nurses, Pharmacists) – MCAT, NCLEX, PCAT
- **Law & Government** (Lawyers, Police Officers, Firefighters) – LSAT, Civil Service Exams
- **Engineering & Trades** (Electricians, Plumbers, Architects) – Licensing & Certification Exams
- **Education** (Teachers, School Administrators) – Praxis Exams
- **Military & Aviation** (Pilots, Armed Forces) – ASVAB, FAA Exams

While we understand that testing may not be a favorite activity, participation is important. It provides valuable insights into student progress and helps us improve instruction. In recent years, we've seen an increase in students opting out of the PSSA, which negatively impacts our results.

This year, we're excited to offer an amazing incentive to encourage participation! Thanks to our PTO, if we increase our testing participation rate, all students will get to enjoy a BMX Spectacular Stunt Show. We will

We appreciate your support in encouraging your child to give their best effort during testing. Let's make this a great experience for all!

As always, if you have any questions, please reach out to me.

Let's make it a great week,

TJ Gretchen




Paxon Hollow Middle School 2025 PSSA & Keystone Testing Schedule

We kindly ask for your help in keeping our students focused and ready to shine during state testing! If possible, please try to schedule any appointments outside of testing hours (8:00 AM – 10:30 AM) on the following dates.

We promise - after testing, they will be available for dentist visits, and eye exams. But during testing time, we need have them here, giving their best effort!

Thank you for your support as we approach testing season!



PSSA English Language Arts (ELA):

-  **Monday, April 28** – ELA Test 1
-  **Tuesday, April 29** – ELA Test 2
-  **Wednesday, April 30** – ELA Test 3



PSSA Mathematics:

-  **Monday, May 5** – Math Test 1
-  **Tuesday, May 6** – Math Test 2

PSSA Science (8th Grade Only):

-  **Wednesday, May 7** – Science Test 1
-  **Thursday, May 8** – Science Test 2

Algebra I Keystone Exam:

-  **Monday, May 12** – Algebra I Keystone
-  **Tuesday, May 13** – Algebra I Keystone

Letter Days for the Week of 2/16:

Monday, February 17 – No School
Tuesday, February 11 – C Day
Wednesday, February 12 – D Day
Thursday, February 13 – E Day
Friday, February 14 – F Day

SPRING SPORTS!

There is a Spring sports meeting on Friday, February 21st after school. The first day of Spring sports is Monday, March 10th, weather permitting. All athletes who did not participate in a fall or winter sport must have all their paperwork and physical completed before the first day of practice/tryouts. The PIAA packets are available on Paxon Hollow's website under Athletics. You can also pick one up in the front office and the Athletic office.

If your child would like to participate in a Spring sport, please complete the form at the link below.

<https://forms.gle/PR4moj4MBMQaPdbc7>

WIZARD OF OZ!

The Paxon Hollow Drama League is proud to announce that tickets for the Wizard of Oz are on sale now! Dates: Friday February 28th 7pm and Saturday March 1st 2pm

General Admission : \$8 each available for online purchase only. No cash will be accepted at the door. [TICKET LINK https://cur8.com/26237/project/129359](https://cur8.com/26237/project/129359)

February 16, 2025

District: Reminder - Monday, February 17, schools and offices are closed. School resumes on Tuesday, February 18.

The 2025-2026 Academic Calendar was Board approved on January 28, 2025. The full calendar can be found on our District's website by clicking this [link](#) and scrolling below the 2024-2025 calendar.

Regular Board Meeting, Tuesday, February 25, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room of the Administration Building. The public is encouraged to attend.

MNHS: This week marks the start of "Random Acts of Kindness Week," centered around the theme: Inspire, Empower, Act, Share. To spread positivity, members of our Kindness Club have hung posters throughout the building and created morning announcements. They also designed a kindness wall filled with inspirational quotes, located outside the SSC. The Kindness Club encourages everyone to focus on the positives in life; whether it's reconnecting with an old friend, checking in on a neighbor, or expressing gratitude to family and friends.

Congratulations to the Hi-Q Team for finishing the regular season in 1st place out of 21 teams in Delco Hi-Q! This outstanding accomplishment earns them a bye into the Championship and the exciting opportunity to host the Championship contest on Wednesday, March 12th. Great job to our outstanding team!

A huge thank you to our amazing community for supporting the Mural Club Fundraiser! Through their hard work and creativity, students painted Eagles logos on lawns throughout the area, raising an incredible \$700. Your generosity and enthusiasm made this fundraiser a success. The students greatly appreciate your support!

Important Dates:

2/16 – Mini-Thon Dine & Donate – Lascala's Fire in Newtown Square – All Day mention MNHS

2/17 – District Closed – Presidents Day

2/19 – Dine & Donate – Kiwi in Newtown Square

PHMS:

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Paxon Hollow Middle School is excited to kick off the 5th Grade Transition Program, helping our incoming 5th grade students smoothly move from elementary to middle school!

The program begins in early March when Mrs. Wigo, Dr. Gretchen, Ms. Barone, and Mr. Keehn visit each of our district's elementary schools. During these visits, 5th-grade students will get a sneak peek at all the exciting opportunities awaiting them at Paxon Hollow. They'll learn about clubs, making new friends, meeting teachers, understanding their schedules, and, of course, the fun events and trips to look forward to.

In May, 5th-grade students will visit Paxon Hollow with their class to explore the school firsthand. We'll host a Curriculum Night for parents, where we will provide an in-depth look at

what to expect in 6th grade on Wednesday, April 23rd, at 6:00 pm.

Additional details will be shared as we get closer to these events. We can't wait to welcome our newest Tigers to PHMS and begin this exciting journey together!

All Elementary Schools: PSSA testing will begin in late April for Grades 3-5. For planning purposes, please see below for specific testing dates. You will receive more information from your individual schools as we get closer to this timeframe.

ELA Grades 3-5: April 22-24 (Tuesday-Thursday)

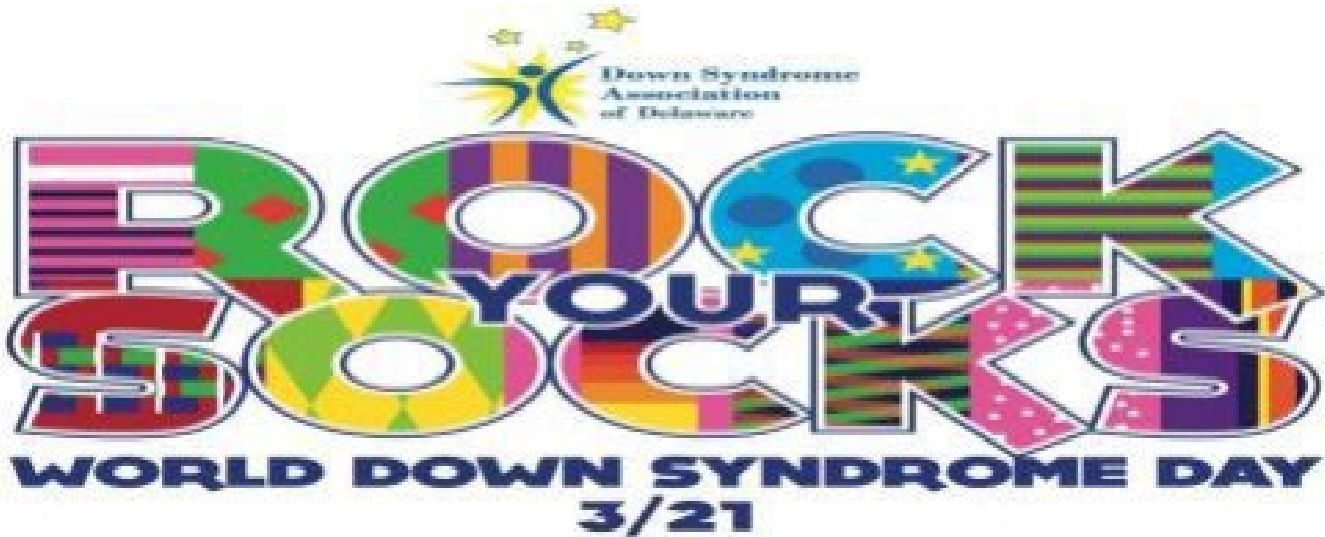
Math Grades 3-5: April 28-29 (Monday-Tuesday)

Science Grade 5 (changed from previous years): April 30-May 1 (Wednesday-Thursday)

Mrs. Michelle Lydon, our K-5 Supervisor of Special Education, has accepted a new position and her last day with us was February 7, 2025. We appreciate the outstanding service that Mrs. Lydon has provided for our district, and we wish her much success in her new position. Please click on the link below for more information:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1yK4dQ19cw87lFK1VmDVJc6d3AYFXS7QV/view?usp=sharing>

3/21 Rock Your Socks Order Form



On March 21st, 2025, PHMS Student Council and the Down Syndrome Association of DE will be joining other schools, businesses, and organizations around the world to celebrate **WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY** by wearing funny, silly, unique, and mismatched socks.

Together we will create a single global voice to advocate for the rights, inclusion, and well-being of our friends with Down Syndrome in our schools, community, and worldwide.

3/21 was selected to signify the uniqueness of the triplication (trisomy) of the 21st chromosome which results in Down Syndrome.

Paxon Hollow Middle School will proudly show our support by rocking our mismatched socks on **3/21**, a Friday this year, and it is our hope that all teachers, faculty, students, and their families join us in purchasing a pair (or more!) to wear for this event. Each pair of mismatched, funny socks is only **\$4.00**.

To get your socks in time for this event, please fill out the bottom portion of this order form and detach the bottom to return to the student's first-period teacher, no later than: **Friday, February 7th, 2025**.

Thank you in advance for your support of this special event! ***PHMS Student Council***

Student's full name: _____ Grade: _____

1st-period Teacher's last name: _____ and Room # _____

of pairs of socks: _____ (\$4.00 each pair) & Amount Due/\$ enclosed (cash only) _____

Please return this fully completed form and cash in an envelope to your first-period teacher by: 8:00 a.m. on Friday, February 7th, 2025.