

MONTHLY NEWS AND UPDATES FROM PIEDMONT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**PIEDMONT**

**FOCUS**



# SCHOOL SITE UPDATES



## PIEDMONT INTERMEDIATE STAFF COMPLETES CAPTURING KIDS' HEARTS TRAINING

On August 13th and 14th, the entire staff at Piedmont Intermediate participated in a comprehensive Capturing Kids' Hearts training. This two-day professional development experience focused on strengthening relationships among staff and fostering meaningful connections with students. Through engaging activities and focused sessions, our team came together to build trust, deepen understanding of one another, and enhance collaborative culture within the school.



*As someone who has been in this building for many years, this training is what we have **needed**.*

*This has been a reset not only for our staff relationships, but also to set an expectation for our building!*

*Thank you for **investing in us and our students!***

*-Megan Burlison, 6th Grade ELA Teacher*

The training emphasized the importance of healthy relationships and culture-building through the Capturing Kids' Hearts EXCEL Model™, which stands for Engage, Explore, Communicate, Empower, and Launch. Staff members gained practical tools for communication, conflict resolution strategies, and opportunities to practice giving and receiving candid feedback. By participating in this immersive program, our team is better equipped to lead with clarity, trust, and a shared sense of purpose.

Since completing the training, our staff has begun implementing key strategies within the school, including:

- Building Social Contracts in classrooms to establish shared expectations and promote positive behavior.
- Greeting all students throughout the building to foster a welcoming and inclusive environment.
- Applying the EXCEL Model in daily interactions to actively engage, explore ideas, communicate effectively, empower students, and launch them toward success.

These strategies will serve as a central focus for Piedmont Intermediate this school year as we continue to prioritize relationship-building, student engagement, and a supportive school culture. We are excited about the lasting, positive impact this training will have on our staff, students, and overall learning environment.





# SCHOOL SITE UPDATES



## STONE RIDGE ELEMENTARY

Stone Ridge Elementary has been named a Solution Tree PLC Promising Practices School, one of only two schools in Oklahoma to earn this honor. This national recognition is awarded to schools that demonstrate outstanding implementation of Professional Learning Communities (PLCs).

The Promising Practices designation highlights Stone Ridge's emphasis on collaboration, the use of data to drive student achievement, and a focus on continuous improvement. As a PLC Promising Practices School, Stone Ridge is recognized for ensuring that every student learns at high levels while fostering a culture that empowers staff to pursue ongoing professional growth and development.

## PLAYGROUND DEDICATION IN HONOR OF BEAU PARKS

On August 16, family, friends, and educators gathered at Piedmont Early Childhood Center to dedicate a new farm-themed playground in honor of Beau Parks. Beau was a cherished student at ECC, and while his time with us was far too short, his memory will live on through this meaningful addition to the school.

This project was made possible through the generosity of numerous individuals, the Piedmont Public Schools Education Foundation, and the Robert Glenn Rapp Foundation. Their support created a space that will bring joy to students for years to come while honoring Beau's lasting impact on our school community.



## NORTHWOOD ELEMENTARY

Northwood Elementary launched the new school year with its annual Back-to-School Bash on Thursday, August 18. Families gathered for an evening of fun, enjoying food trucks, bounce houses, and face painting, all thanks to our dedicated PTO. The night also included Parent Orientation, giving parents the opportunity to learn about daily classroom routines and expectations directly from their child's teacher. Guests could bid on special experiences, like front-of-the-line parking and "Principal for a Day." The event highlighted what makes Northwood special!



# SCHOOL SITE UPDATES



## MIDDLE SCHOOL OF PIEDMONT

Wildcats Run on Reading! During their ELA classes, our 7th graders got a sip of something special at our MSP Book Tasting! With plenty of titles on the menu, students were able to 'Dunkin' to Reading' and sample new stories from the library.

Thanks to our outstanding ELA teachers, Librarian, and Instructional Coach, every student left with a fresh-brewed book of their choice—because nothing perks you up like a good read!



## PIEDMONT HIGH SCHOOL

At Piedmont High School, students in Mr. Bivens' Forensic Science class are already diving into crime scene investigations. Students performed a baseline diagnostic to determine what they already know. This allows Mr. Bivens the opportunity to focus his instruction and curriculum on what students need the most.



## PIEDMONT ECC

Piedmont ECC students started their day with big smiles and excitement on August 29 as Piedmont High School cheerleaders and football players welcomed them to school. This partnership with the Piedmont Football Touchdown Club and the Jr. Wildcats program gave our youngest Wildcats a memorable start to their day. The help from these high school role models turned an ordinary morning into one our students will remember forever.

## PIEDMONT ELEMENTARY

Piedmont Elementary Parent Orientation Night was once again paired with PTO's Back-to-School Bash, featuring inflatables, food trucks, and community partners. This event has proven to be a great success, giving students a chance to enjoy a fun-filled evening while parents spend time in classrooms connecting with teachers. Partnerships with Czar Athletics and local vendors made the night possible, and the fun activities provided families with an engaging start to the school year. We appreciate our Piedmont Elementary team and amazing PTO for making the start of our year great.



# DISTRICT UPDATES

## ENROLLMENT

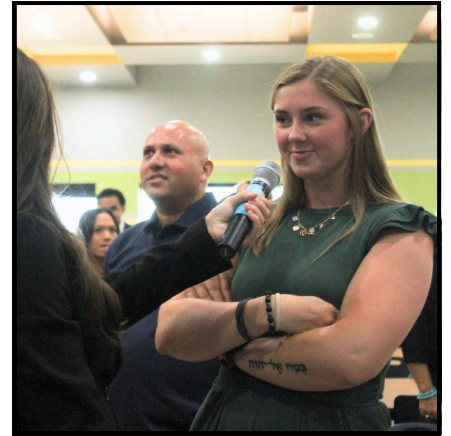
	END OF 2024-25 SY	SEPTEMBER 2025
Piedmont ECC	<b>622</b>	<b>489</b>
Northwood Elementary	<b>558</b>	<b>604</b>
Piedmont Elementary	<b>394</b>	<b>420</b>
Stone Ridge Elementary	<b>642</b>	<b>707</b>
Piedmont Intermediate	<b>837</b>	<b>796</b>
Middle School of Piedmont	<b>796</b>	<b>859</b>
Piedmont High School	<b>1570</b>	<b>1622</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5419</b>	<b>5497</b>



Piedmont Public Schools extends sincere appreciation to our enrollment specialists, **Lisa Bole and Elizabeth Quiñones**. Together, they have processed enrollment for more than 800 new-to-Piedmont students this year.



## 40 NEW-TO-PIEDMONT TEACHERS JOIN TEAM PPS!



Piedmont Public Schools welcomed **40 new teachers** to the district for the 2025–2026 school year. Each educator holds a full certification with a standard teaching certificate in at least one subject area, ensuring a high level of expertise in our classrooms.

To prepare for the year ahead, new staff members participated in the district's New Teacher Academy on August 7–8. These two days offered opportunities to connect with district and school administrators, engage in professional learning sessions, and gain insight into key priorities, including district values, instructional technology, classroom safety, and student support systems.

We are honored to welcome our newest teachers and staff to the Wildcat family and look forward to the impact they will have on our schools and community.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION UPDATE



The newly renovated science labs are nearly complete at Middle School of Piedmont! These updated spaces are fully equipped with modern tools and will provide students with excellent opportunities for hands-on learning and exploration.

# DISTRICT UPDATES



## TRANSPORTATION

Over the summer, Joe Mitchell earned his certification as a State of Oklahoma school bus inspector and promptly completed all required inspections and maintenance for the district.

In August, the transportation team reunited for convocation and then participated in three days of CDL in-service training, route adjustments, safety reviews, and fleet cleaning. Their preparation ensures safe, reliable transportation for students throughout the year.

## MAINTENANCE & FACILITIES

Between July and August, our maintenance team completed 314 work orders, with 322 still outstanding as of September 4. Major projects included a full renovation of the football stadium visitor restrooms, ongoing upgrades to the middle school softball and baseball concessions and restrooms, and new screening on the high school tennis court fencing. Extensive HVAC work was also completed across the district, with significant improvements at Stone Ridge and ECC to resolve long-standing issues.



Piedmont's 2024 OSSAA State Champion Unified Volleyball Team was awarded with championship rings at the football game on Sept. 29

## ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES

Our fall athletic programs are off to a strong start.

### Softball

- 11-2
- Veteran Bat Tournament Champions

### Volleyball

- Placed second at the Choctaw Tournament
- Upset #5 ranked Westmoore

### Football

- Opened the season with a 53-0 victory over Midwest City

### Cross Country

- Season opens this week





# DISTRICT UPDATES



Piedmont High School has reimagined the Advisory period at PHS, now called Wildcat Success. The new structure provides targeted opportunities each day with the goal of supporting academic growth, fostering student well-being, and strengthening school culture:

- Monday – Team-building activities with teachers
- Tuesday/Thursday – Sustained Silent Reading (SSR)
- Wednesday – ICAP tasks, make-up work, and study time
- Friday – Club meetings and activities that help students connect beyond the classroom



## ACADEMIC SERVICES

This school year, Algebra 1 is being offered at Middle School of Piedmont for advanced 8th-grade students who met established qualification criteria. To ensure consistency and rigor, Algebra 1 teachers at both the middle school and high school collaborated to align curriculum, sequence, and instruction. This partnership guarantees students taking Algebra 1 in middle school receive the same high-quality instruction as high school students, preparing them for accelerated math opportunities throughout high school.

## WILDCATS ARE READY FOR A SUPER YEAR!

