

# SEPTEMBER PHE'S BILLIE NEWS!



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<https://pbes.pleasanthill.k12.or.us/>

**Vision Statement: Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow**

## **Pleasant Hill Elementary**

36386 Highway 58, Pleasant Hill, Or 97455

Phone: (541) 736-0400

Office Hours: 7:30–3:30 p.m., Mon. – Fri.

Attendance Line: 541-736-0411

Daily Schedule: 8:00 – 2:15 p.m. Monday – Thursday, 8:00 – 1:25 p.m. Friday

Supervision: 7:30 – 2:15 p.m. Monday – Thursday, 7:30 – 1:25 p.m. Friday

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### **Welcome Back!**

We have had a wonderful start to the year! I am so excited to be sending out the first Billie News of the year. As a reminder, The Billie News comes out monthly on the third Wednesday of the month. I will send out weekly Seesaw reminders once a week on the Wednesdays in between and other reminders throughout the week as needed.



### **School Communications- Seesaw & Billie News**

Our classroom teachers use Seesaw, and we use it schoolwide in order to provide you with information about reminders and upcoming events. We also use this when we receive updates from our transportation provider First Student. When we have school closures or delays due to weather, we will post on Seesaw. If you have not set-up your student's or your family account, please contact your student's teacher for assistance.

Our email list- Billie News is another way we send communications to families. If you are not currently receiving Billie News emails, please contact the office and we will add you to the mailing list.

If you have not received any of our school emails or messages from our school district, please verify your phone number and email address with our office. This is also a great time to update your student's emergency contacts list, who we can call if your student becomes ill or you have authorized to pick up your student from school either during the day or after school. Please call our office at 541-736-0400 to update your contact information or update this in Synergy.

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## Arrival & Dismissal Clarifications and Expectations

Supervision for students begins at 7:30am. This is when the cafeteria opens and when students can enter through the gate near the gym. Please do not drop your students prior to this time as supervision is not provided and this is a safety concern.

All adults accompanying students to class need to enter through the front doors.

All students who are dropped off prior to 8:00am (between 7:30am-8:00am) will go to the cafeteria or covered area. The front doors open at 8:00am. We do not allow dogs in the building during arrival and dismissal. Please do not bring dogs in when you walk your child to class in the morning. If you have questions about animals in the classroom or on school property, please review our [board policy](#) on this matter.

Reminders on Parking Lot Expectations & Safety:

- Pause long enough to drop students off along the curb and move on.
- Do not double park...this causes traffic jams and requires students to walk through cars to get to the curb.
- If you park, please walk your students to the sidewalk or meet them at the sidewalk and walk back to your car.
- Drive slowly through the parking lot.



Here are the doors each grade level will exit out of and where they will wait to be picked up:

Kindergarten - Will exit out the front doors, picked up in front of the office.

1st Grade- Will exit out of their classroom doors and be picked up next to Katie's Lane by the library.

2nd Grade-Will exit out of the gym doors and be picked up in front of the gym/ramp.

3rd Grade - Will exit out of the gym doors and be picked up in front of the gym/ramp.

4th Grade - Will exit out of the front doors and be picked up in front of the library.

5th Grade - Will exit out the side doors facing Katie's Lane and be picked up in front of the Music Building/Community Center

Please use the pick up lane that is closest to your child's waiting area. If you have multiple children, please use the pick up area & lane of your youngest child.

Thank you for your patience, flexibility, and understanding as we make improvements to our arrival and dismissal procedures.

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## Go Home Plans

Please notify your student's teacher and the office in advance about any changes in your student's drop off or pick up routine prior to 1:30 p.m. when daily notes are delivered to classrooms Monday - Thursday or 12:30 p.m. on Fridays. If you have a weekly plan or long term plan, please let us know so we can document this. The end of the day can get very hectic with last minute changes. Sending a note with your child to school is very helpful if their go home plan will be different than usual that day. The earlier we know, the better we can get kids where they need to be!



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## First Student

First Student Transportation is the district transportation provider. If you have questions or concerns related to transportation, please contact First Student at 541-688-0454. The First View Parent App can help you access real time bus information. Here are instructions on how to download, install and set up the app:



<https://firststudentinc.com/wp-content/uploads/FirstView-GPS-Tracking-Parent-Registration-Guide.pdf>

You will need the district code: Q3Z1U

Your student's first & last name, school, and assigned trip information

Please contact First Student directly if you have any questions about installing or using the app.



### Picture Day! Thursday, September 25th

LifeTouch will be on campus taking photos of every student. If you plan to purchase photos you may send back the envelopes that your student brings home or simply order on-line at mylifetouch.com. The Picture Day ID is EVT3RD9S3.

### Jog-a-thon, Friday, September 26th

Pleasant Hill Elementary's major fundraiser of the year is our annual jog-a-thon. This year the Jog-a-thon is September 26th. The Jog-a-thon provides funds for educational opportunities such as field trips, guest speakers, special grade level activities such as swimming lessons, etc. More information about the Jogathon is coming soon from the PTO!



You are welcome to join us on the track Friday morning to encourage our joggers, and walkers.

8:30 – 9:00 K / 1 will be on the track

9:35 - 10:05 2 / 3 will be on the track

10:30 -11:00 4 / 5 will be on the track



### Medications at School

Please remember, children are not to transport any medication. A Parent/Guardian must bring the medication to the school office and fill out a medication form that must be kept on file in our office.

### Healthy Snacks & Soda

We have all breakfast and lunch free this year to all students. Please send a snack with your child so they can have something to eat in between. Please make sure this is a healthy snack option. Per the state of Oregon nutritional guidelines, caffeinated drinks are not allowed in elementary schools. Please do not send coffee, soda, or energy drinks to school with your child.



### Our Current Cell Phone Policy

Students may bring cellphones to school for safety reasons. However, cell phones must remain off, in a student's backpack or book bag. Misuse of cell phones will result in the cell phone being placed in the office for a parent / guardian to pick-up. We will adapt our policy to match the Middle/High School as the new mandates roll out. I do not anticipate this will greatly change our current policy.

### New Assessment System- STAR Renaissance



We have adopted a new reading and math assessment system district wide. Here is some information about the program.

#### Star Assessments

Star Assessments are short tests that provide teachers with personalized learning data for each student.

Star tests are computer adaptive, which means they adjust in difficulty to each answer students provide. This helps teachers get the best data to help students in the shortest amount of testing time (about one-third of the time other tests require).

Star Assessments are not a “pass/fail” type of assessment, nor are they assessments for which students can study. Instead, Star assesses students’ early literacy, reading, and/or math ability, providing teachers with data and insights to determine which skills your child knows and which skills they are ready to learn next and identify which students may need additional support. Star data helps educators to personalize your child’s practice on the skills they need to keep them learning and growing.

The best way to prepare for Star is to simply encourage your child to do his or her best.

Star Assessments are research-based and scientifically proven to help teachers guide each student on their unique path to proficiency. Please ask your child’s teacher for your child’s results and discuss next steps to motivate, accelerate, and celebrate student learning.

For more information and resources for families, please visit the following page:  
<https://www.renaissance.com/resources/family-resources/>

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## **Adjustments to our Literacy Instruction**

We have made some adjustments to the structure of our literacy curriculum. Some people have asked if we will still have a walk to read component to this and the answer is yes! Walk to Read or WIN (What I Need) time will happen for 30 minutes at each grade level. This will be a time when students are served by our Title team, grouped by ability, and get the opportunity to work on skills they may still need to learn, or extend for our students who are working beyond grade level. We will use the data from our new STAR Assessments to group students. All of the adjustments are made with intent to be more aligned with best practices in literacy instruction. This is often referred to as an MTSS Model (Multi-Tiered System of Support). Here is some information about this model:

MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Supports) for literacy means that schools provide different levels of reading instruction based on a student’s needs, starting with high-quality teaching for everyone (Tier 1) and then adding more focused support (Tier 2) or intensive, individualized help (Tier 3) as needed. Data from assessments guides these decisions, and parents play a key role by communicating with teachers, asking for progress updates, and supporting reading at home.

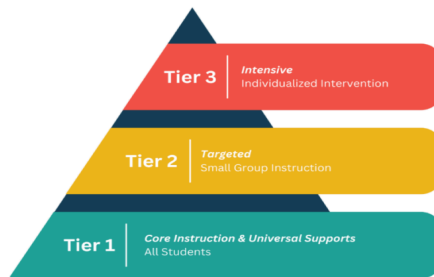
#### What MTSS Means

**Tiered Support:** Think of it as a series of support levels, like a layer cake, where everyone gets the foundational layer of good teaching.

**Individualized Needs:** The goal is to ensure all students receive the right amount of instruction at the right time.

**Data-Driven Decisions:** Schools use assessments to figure out which students need more support and what kind of help is best for them.

**Evidence-Based Practices:** The instruction and interventions used are based on proven strategies that are known to work.



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## Character Trait of the Month

Our character trait for the month of September is Responsible!



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## Pleasant Hill Elementary PTO

We are very fortunate to have an incredibly supportive parent group and community who organize events and fundraising activities. All funds raised are used to enrich your student's school experience. If you would like to learn more about our PTO or like to assist with projects and events join our next PTO meeting of the year, Tuesday, October 8th, at 2:30 p.m. in the Pleasant Hill Community Center. Monthly meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month. in the community center at 2:30pm. We have had a lot of turnover in our PTO board this year. Please welcome our new board members! Thank you for your willingness to give your time and energy to this amazing organization.

Megan Flanders - President  
Phoebe Cooksey - Vice President  
Bethany Marks - Treasurer  
Liz Taylor and Ashley Vaccaro - Secretaries  
Cindi Olsen and Jessica Berra - Fundraising  
Jennifer Radcliffe - Volunteer Coordinator  
Dawn O'Donnell - Social Media  
Marni Wolf - Book Fair

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## Upcoming Events

**September 19th-** Popcorn Day!  
**September 22nd-** Board Meeting, 7:00pm  
**September 25th-** Picture Day!  
**September 26th-** Jogathon  
**October 8th-** PTO- 2:30pm, Pleasant Hill Community Center  
**October 13th-** Vision Screening  
**October 20th-** Board Meeting, 7:00pm  
**October 23rd-** Picture Retakes  
**October 29th & 30th-** Parent/Teacher Conferences (½ days)  
**October 31st-** No school