PLEASANT HILL SCHOOL DISTRICT #1

HOME OF THE BILLIES

NEWSLETTER | FALL 2025

OUR MISSION

To graduate all students with high levels of academic and personal achievement, who are ready for post-secondary excellence, and who are prepared for productive, compassionate citizenship, through research-based instruction and a collaborative system of support.

A Letter from the Superintendent

At Pleasant Hill School District, we carry a legacy that runs deeper than our classrooms and campuses. It is woven into the spirit of our community. For generations, families in Pleasant Hill have trusted this district to educate their children, instill strong values and prepare them for life beyond our hills. That trust is both humbling and motivating, and it is the foundation upon which we build our future.

Over the last three years we have been building the foundation for a strategic academic plan that reflects the best of who we are and where we are going. It outlines our commitment to academic excellence, inclusive practices and future-ready learning environments while staying true to the relationships, traditions and sense of place that define Pleasant Hill.

Developed with input from students, staff, families and community members, this plan is grounded in our shared vision for the knowledge, skills and character we believe every graduate should carry with them. You can view the 2025-2028 PHSD Strategic Plan by finding the insert in this newsletter or visiting our website.

Our Learner Profile defines success as more than a test score. We are committed to helping every student grow as a critical thinker, collaborator, communicator, resilient learner, responsible individual and global citizen. These attributes guide our instructional decisions, shape our culture and align our priorities across the district.

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Nondiscrimination Statement

Pleasant Hill School District does not discriminate and prohibits discrimination in any programs or activities on the basis of protected class, including age, disability, national origin, race, color, marital status, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity. See Policy AC Nondiscrimination and Policy KL Public Complaints and KL/GBM-AR Complaint Form. Complaints and/or inquiries may be directed to the appropriate Coordinator as listed below, and/or may be referred to the U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights (OCR).

The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination:

Title IX Coordinator
Name and Title: Jim Crist, Superintendent
Address: 36386 Hwy 58, Pleasant Hill, OR 97455
Phone Number: 541-746-9646
Email Address: jcrist@pleasanthill.k12.or.us

Section 504/ADA Coordinator
Name and Title: Whitney Connolly, Special Education Director
Address: 36386 Hwy 58, Pleasant Hill, OR 97455
Phone Number: 541-746-9646
Email Address: wconnolly@pleasanthill.k12.or.us

Title II Coordinator:
Name and Title: Jim Crist, Superintendent
Address: 36386 Hwy 58, Pleasant Hill, OR 97455
Phone Number: 541-746-9646
Email Address: jcrist@pleasanthill.k12.or.us

Civil Rights Coordinator:
Name and Title: Jim Crist, Superintendent
Address: 36386 Hwy 58, Pleasant Hill, OR 97455
Phone Number: 541-746-9646
Email Address: jcrist@pleasanthill.k12.or.us

SUPERINTENDENT, CONTINUED

We recognize that the world our students are entering is changing rapidly. Our responsibility is to prepare them not only with strong academic foundations but with the curiosity, creativity, empathy and confidence they will need to thrive in an unpredictable future. Whether a student's path leads to college, a career, military service or an entrepreneurial journey, our goal is the same: to ensure they leave Pleasant Hill ready to lead, serve and succeed.

This work is ongoing. It requires shared ownership, reflection and a deep commitment to growth. Just as we have done for generations, we will continue to move forward together, guided by our values, shaped by our community and dedicated to every student's success.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Together, we are rooted in legacy and built for tomorrow.

Warmly,

Jim Crist

Superintendent

Civil Rights Statement

USDA NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

IIn accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the State or local Agency that administers the program or contact USDA through the Telecommunications Relay Service at 711 (voice and TTY). Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English
.
To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at "How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint" (https://www.usda.gov/about-usda/general-information/staff-offices/office-assistant-secretary-civil-rights/how-file-program-discrimination-complaint) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

1. Mail:
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or

2. Fax:
(833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or

3. Email:
program.intake@usda.gov

CONTINUING FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR: SCHOOL MEALS PROVIDED AT NO COST TO STUDENTS

Our school district is starting our second year of being able to participate in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) of the National School Lunch Program. This means that during the 2025-2026 school year our schools will offer all enrolled students, regardless of income levels, one breakfast and one lunch at no cost to them. Families will not need to complete the free and reduced application as in past years. If students wish to purchase extras such as milk or seconds they will need to have money on their food service account.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

District Cell Phone Policy

GOVERNOR ISSUES EXECUTIVE ORDER ON STUDENT CELL PHONE USE

On July 2, 2025, Governor Tina Kotek issued Executive Order 25-09, which requires all Oregon public school districts to adopt a personal electronic device policy that limits student cell phone use during the instructional day. The order is intended to support student learning, reduce distractions, and promote mental health and well-being.

Under the order, all districts must adopt a compliant policy by October 31, 2025 and have it fully implemented by January 1, 2026.

Our Timeline for Developing a Policy

Pleasant Hill School District will be taking the next few months to develop a policy that meets state requirements while also reflecting the needs of our students, families, and staff.

- August–September: Collect input from students, families, staff, and community partners through a short survey and conversations with building and district administrators. Review feedback and present a draft policy to the School Board for consideration.
- September–October: Review feedback and present a draft policy to the School Board for consideration. Two readings will occur before adoption, no later than October 31.
- January 1, 2026: New policy will go into effect.

How You Can Share Your Input

Feedback may be provided:

- By emailing your building principal or the superintendent, or
- By speaking during public comment at a School Board meeting.

Your perspective is important in shaping a policy that is effective, age-appropriate, and respectful of our community's values. Thank you in advance for your time and input.

FAQ: EXECUTIVE ORDER 25-09 ON STUDENT CELL PHONE USE

Q: What does the order require?
All Oregon districts must adopt a policy that prohibits student personal electronic device use during the instructional day, with limited exceptions for medical needs, learning accommodations, or administrator-approved exemptions.

Q: When will the policy be in place?
Adopted by October 31, 2025 and fully implemented by January 1, 2026.

Q: Will students still be able to bring phones to school?
Yes, but usage will be limited to times and locations outlined in the new policy.

Q: How can I share my opinion?
Provide feedback directly to your building principal, the superintendent, or at a School Board meeting.

Q: Where can I learn more?
The Oregon Department of Education has published statewide guidance at:
www.oregon.gov/ode

Annual Notice for Oregon's Statewide Summative Assessments in English Language Arts and Mathematics

FOSTERING EQUITY AND EXCELLENCE FOR EVERY LEARNER

Oregon is committed to preparing every learner with academic knowledge and skills necessary for success beyond high school. Oregon's statewide assessments in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics are fully aligned to Oregon's State Standards and provide students in grades 3-8 and 11, along with their families, one measure of academic achievement and growth.

OREGON'S STATEWIDE ASSESSMENTS…

- **…are created by educators in Oregon** and across several other states
- **…challenge your child to think critically** and apply their knowledge across a variety of contexts
- **…go beyond multiple choice** and ask your child to explain their answers
- **…act as a snapshot of your child's progress** that may be considered along with other pieces of information to determine your child's academic success
- **…help schools and districts** evaluate their systems of teaching and learning, as well as identify groups of students whose academic needs may not be adequately met
- **…help communities** understand how well their public schools are performing

DESCRIPTION OF RIGHTS

Oregon law (ORS 329.479) permits parents and adult students to annually opt-out of Oregon's statewide assessments in *English Language Arts (ELA) and/or Mathematics* by submitting an annual form to the school the student attends. Schools will provide parents with the appropriate form at least 30 days prior to the start of testing.

Why does my child's participation matter?

While no single assessment can give a complete picture of your child's progress, statewide assessments provide Oregon educators and administrators with one source of information about what educational approaches are working and where additional resources may be needed. Your child's participation is important to ensure schools and districts identify the areas in which they are meeting students' overall needs, as well as to identify areas of growth.

When will my child take the test?

Your child's school will determine the specific dates your child will take the assessments within the statewide testing window.

STATEWIDE TESTING WINDOW

The statewide testing windows for English Language Arts and Mathematics apply to both the general and alternate statewide summative assessments.

Grades 3-8	Grade 11
03/31/2026 — 06/12/2026	02/03/2026 — 06/12/2026

STAY INFORMED

Visit Oregon's Starting Smarter webpage (https://or.startingsmarter.org) to learn more about what your child should know and be able to do in English Language Arts and Math, to view sample assessment questions, and to read more about your child's test results. Contact your child's teacher or school principal with questions.

Aviso anual para evaluaciones sumativas estatales de Oregón en Artes del Lenguaje Inglés y Matemáticas

FOMENTANDO LA EQUIDAD Y EXCELENCIA PARA CADA ESTUDIANTE

Oregón tiene el compromiso de preparar a cada estudiante con el conocimiento y las destrezas necesarias para tener éxito más allá de la escuela preparatoria. Las evaluaciones estatales de Oregón en Artes del Lenguaje Inglés (ELA) y Matemáticas están completamente alineadas con los Estándares Estatales de Oregón y proveen a los estudiantes en los grados 3-8 y 11, junto con sus familias, una medición del desempeño y crecimiento académico.

LAS EVALUACIONES ESTATALES DE OREGÓN...

- **...son creadas por educadores en Oregón** y a lo largo de otros estados
- **...desafían a su estudiante a pensar críticamente** y aplicar su conocimiento a lo largo de una variedad de contextos
- **...van más allá de las opciones múltiples** y piden que su estudiante explique sus respuestas
- **...actúan como un vistazo sobre el progreso de su estudiante** que puede considerarse junto con otras piezas de información para determinar el éxito académico de su estudiante
- **...ayudan a las escuelas y distritos** a evaluar sus sistemas de enseñanza y aprendizaje, así como también identificar los grupos de estudiantes cuyas necesidades académicas podrían no satisfacerse adecuadamente
- **...ayudan a que las comunidades** entiendan qué tan bien se desempeñan sus escuelas públicas

DESCRIPCIÓN DE DERECHOS

Las leyes de Oregón (ORS 329.479) permiten que los padres y estudiantes adultos puedan excluirse cada año de las evaluaciones estatales de Oregón en *Artes del Lenguaje Inglés (ELA) y/o Matemáticas* mediante la presentación de un formulario anual en la escuela donde asiste el estudiante. Las escuelas proveerán a los padres con el formulario apropiado cuando menos 30 días antes de comenzar las evaluaciones.

¿Por qué es importante la participación de mi estudiante?
Aunque ninguna evaluación sola puede ofrecer un panorama completo sobre el progreso de su estudiante, las evaluaciones estatales proveen a los educadores y administradores de Oregón con una fuente de información sobre qué enfoques educativos están funcionando y dónde podrían necesitarse recursos adicionales. La participación de su estudiante es importante para asegurar que las escuelas y distritos identifiquen las áreas donde están satisfaciéndose las necesidades generales de los estudiantes, así como también identificar las áreas de crecimiento.

¿Cuándo tomará mi estudiante las evaluaciones?
La escuela de su estudiante determinará las fechas específicas en que su estudiante tomará las evaluaciones dentro de la ventana de evaluaciones estatales.

VENTANA DE EVALUACIONES ESTATALES

Las ventanas de evaluaciones estatales para Artes del Lenguaje Inglés y Matemáticas se aplican a las evaluaciones sumativas estatales generales y alternativas.

Grados 3-8	Grado 11
03/31/2026 — 06/12/2026	02/03/2026 — 06/12/2026

MANTÉNGASE INFORMADO

Visite la página web de Starting Smarter de Oregón (https://or.startingsmarter.org/) para aprender más sobre lo que su estudiante debería conocer y poder hacer en Artes del Lenguaje Inglés y Matemáticas, ver muestras de las preguntas de evaluación y leer más sobre los resultados de evaluaciones de su estudiante. Contacte al maestro o director de la escuela de su estudiante si tiene preguntas.

Pleasant Hill Elementary

LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome to a new school year! As your principal, I couldn't be more excited to see our hallways and classrooms filled with the energy of our wonderful students. The start of a new school year is always full of possibilities, and I'm confident this will be a wonderful year.

This year, our school will have a strong focus on literacy instruction. Our dedicated teachers will be implementing new strategies to ensure every student is a strong reader, writer and critical thinker. We know that literacy is the foundation for all learning, and we are committed to helping our students build the skills they need to succeed in school and beyond.

A vital part of this journey is the partnership between our school and you—our families and community. We believe that a child's education is a collaborative effort. We encourage you to be involved in your child's learning by reading with them at home, asking them about their school day and attending school events. Speaking of partnerships, regular attendance is one of the most important ways you can support your child's success. Showing up on time every day helps students feel connected to their classmates and teachers, builds a routine and ensures they don't miss out on important classroom instruction. Even a few missed days can add up quickly, so we ask for your help in making attendance a top priority.

I was able to connect with, and meet many of you last year. I look forward to continuing to meet more of you and connecting deeper with our community. Please email, call or stop by my office any time. My door is always open and I am always willing to sit down and have a conversation, answer questions and connect.

We look forward to another exciting year of learning and growing together.

Gratefully,

Brenna Fairchild

Principal

MUSIC PROGRAM

We had such a successfully musical 2024-2025 school year! Pleasant Hill Elementary students produced eight music concerts ranging from grade level concerts, musicals, talent shows and the Billie's Xylophone Crew! Thank you to everyone who made it possible.

For the 2025-2026 school year, students will each perform in grade level concerts using a range of instruments, music genres and music skills we build throughout the year. Also, get ready for the return of Billie's Got Talent and Billie's Xylophone Crew! Keep an eye out for the elementary music concert dates announcement.

This year, we are working towards purchasing a new stage for current and future elementary students to use. From at least three tedious and difficult set-ups a year, breaking parts and unreliable hardware, our current set-up is not sustainable. If you are interested in donating, please talk to Mr. Strong.

This is going to be an educational, fun, whimsically musical year! Go Billies!

With a Song,

Ryan Strong

PHES Music Teacher

WELCOME TO PHES!

This year we have the pleasure of welcoming new staff to our building! It is always exciting welcoming new people to our Pleasant Hill Elementary Community:

- **MacKenzie Durham** - 5th Grade Teacher
- **Stephanie Lovdokken** - Instructional Coach
- **Valerie Jarrell** - Kindergarten EA
- **Madeline Ondez** - Special Education EA
- Jennifer Stutesman- Kitchen Staff

A Message from the PTO

On behalf of the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO), we extend a warm welcome back to school for the 2025-2026 academic year! The PTO is a dedicated group of parent volunteers, teachers, and staff who provide resources and support that enhances the educational experience for all students at PHES. Our primary goal is to foster a strong sense of community within the school.

What Does the PTO Do?

The PTO plays a vital role in our school community by:

- Organizing community events: We host events like BINGO night, Book Fairs, Jog-a-thon and organize teacher appreciation week to bring our school community closer together.
- Supporting our teachers and staff: We provide assistance and resources to help our dedicated educators create the best learning environment possible. This can include funding: field trips, classroom upgrades, and special events/parties.
- Facilitating communication: At times, we serve as a liaison between parent volunteers and the school administration, ensuring open and effective communication.
- Involving volunteers: We encourage parents to get involved and volunteer their time and talents to support school activities.

We are excited about the year ahead and look forward to partnering with you to make this a successful and memorable school year for all our students.

Sincerely,
The PHES PTO Board:

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

HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED WITH THE PTO?

We believe that parental involvement is crucial to the success of our students and our school. Please scan the QR code below to fill out our volunteer questionnaire. All volunteers must have an approved background check on file with the district office. There are many ways you can contribute to the PTO:

- Attend our meetings: Participating with the PTO is a great way to stay informed about school activities and have a voice in important decisions. We meet once a month. These meetings are open to everyone. The topics of the meeting will largely be based on the time of year and the projects and requests we are reviewing. You are always welcome to bring your child(ren) with you to play while we chat. You are encouraged to share your perspective! There is no formal process to be included.
- Volunteer your time: Whether you have an hour a week or an hour a month, any amount of time you can spare makes a difference. We have a variety of volunteer opportunities available, from helping with events to assisting in classrooms.
- Participate in fundraising efforts: Support our fundraising campaigns throughout the year, which directly benefit our students and school.

JOIN US!

Pleasant Hill Middle & High

LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

I am excited to welcome both new and returning students and families to the 2025-2026 school year at Pleasant Hill Middle/High School. Serving as principal is a true honor, and I look forward to this year and all it has in store for us.

Pleasant Hill is a special place. Our community's history, traditions, and dedication to students is inspiring. We too, are devoted to truly seeing each student and building strong relationships through authentic interactions. Your student's success is our top priority, and we will support them every step of the way. Please reach out to teachers, staff, or administration if there's anything we can do to help your student thrive.

New Assistant Principal and Athletic Director
While it's always hard to say goodbye to staff, it's equally exciting to welcome new members to the Billie family. This year, we are fortunate to add a highly qualified, student-centered educator to our administrative team. Please welcome Alan Stearns as our new Assistant Principal and Athletic Director. Alan comes to Pleasant Hill with over 18 years of experience leading, teaching and coaching. Most recently, he served as Principal at South Albany High, where he led instructional initiatives, implemented a block schedule, improved graduation and freshman on-track rates and expanded academic opportunities. Prior to that, Alan was an Assistant Principal at Willamette High, where he oversaw multiple departments, advanced inclusive education practices, developed new courses to close opportunity gaps and strengthened school culture. He served as Assistant Principal and Athletic Director at Creswell High, where he increased graduation and attendance rates, built Professional Learning Communities and established a Special Olympics program. Alan holds an MA in Teaching and brings a proven record of fostering equity, building strong relationships and implementing systems to improve student success.

Let's work together to make this year the best one yet. We all look forward to seeing you soon and are excited for the memories we can make this year.

Go Billies!
Chris Reiersgaard
Principal

BAND PROGRAM

The school year is here and the band program is ready! I'm excited to get back to the rhythm of rehearsing and performing this year. We have a busy calendar so please be on the lookout for a band performance.

The Pep Band will be performing at various home varsity football, basketball and volleyball games this year. Along with our experienced musicians, this fall will be the first time that many students experience Pep Band and all the fun it provides at our athletic events. We are excited to get out there and help bring the crowd alive to cheer on our Billies!

I already know many band students going into the school year, but it's always a delight to meet the new group of 6th graders. This will be their first time seeing what band is all about and I'm looking forward to getting to know them. The rest of the middle school, 7th, and 8th grade, will be busy trying new instruments, learning new music and getting their first taste of jazz band.

Speaking of jazz band, we are all set to go for another great year with our jazz program. Two jazz bands and a jazz combo will be traveling all over Oregon (and possibly Canada!) to perform, compete and grow in their love for music. It's a full school year of concerts and jazz festivals, including our very own Pleasant Hill Jazz Festival on April 11th, 2026.

Thank you, and we hope to see you at a performance this school year.

Thank you,
Zac Terdick
PHHS Band Director

CTE, FFA and Agriculture News and Updates

STUDENTS EXCEL IN SUMMER & LOOK FORWARD TO FALL

Pleasant Hill High School is proud to offer a robust Career and Technical Education (CTE) program, supported by four dedicated CTE teachers and one educational assistant. Students have access to well-equipped labs, workshops and classrooms, made possible through community grants, Lane ESD, Perkins and Pathways funding, PHHS FFA Alumni and Supporters, private contributions and generous financial gifts.

With more than 30 dedicated middle and high school CTE courses, Pleasant Hill offers a variety of trade-preparation pathways, certifications, and college-aligned credit opportunities. Students benefit from relevant, hands-on learning in fields ranging from agriculture to health sciences, gaining direct industry connections, internship experiences and school-based service learning projects. These opportunities prepare students for both college and careers while allowing them to explore their passions in meaningful ways.

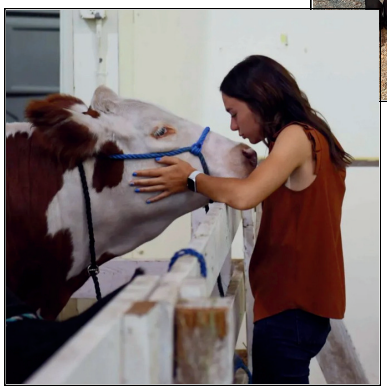
Scan the QR code for a short video showcasing PHHS CTE in action!

FFA SUCCESS AT THE LANE COUNTY FAIR

This summer, Pleasant Hill's FFA chapter once again demonstrated excellence at the Lane County Fair. More than 46 middle and high school students, along with several elementary participants, showed a wide variety of projects, including market and breeding animals, horticulture, art, publications, animal byproducts and hay production. Several students earned top honors in static exhibits.

Most participants also sold their animals in the Saturday auction, raising funds for college, future projects and savings. These projects are part of the Superior Ag Experiences program, which requires students to take responsibility for planning, budgeting, animal care and promotion throughout the year. During the fair, students showcased the advanced skills needed to train and prepare animals at a premier level. These experiences connect directly to CTE study requirements, teaching leadership, communication, critical thinking and character development.











CTE, FFA and Agriculture News and Updates

FFA SUCCESS, CONTINUED

Fair Awards and Recognition
PHHS FFA students earned numerous championships and top placements this summer, including:

FFA Advanced Division highlights:

- Cora Arney – Grand Champion Swine Showman, Champion Swine Showman, Overall Supreme Reserve Breeding Female Swine
- Regan Dockery – Reserve Champion Swine Showman
- Peyton White – Overall FFA Lane County Master Showman, Champion Rabbit Showman, Champion Static Exhibit
- Katie Dutton – Champion Goat Showman, Reserve Market Goat
- Wylie Blake – Champion Performance Horse, Reserve Champion Gaming
- Wyatt Blake – Champion Gaming, Reserve Champion Performance Horse
- Charlie Shantz – Grand Champion Market Sheep

FFA Novice Division highlights:

- Lawson Halstad – Champion Swine Showman
- Genna Sheeva – Champion Rabbit Showman
- Arriana Bowman – Champion Dairy Goat Showman
- Archer Ferguson – Reserve Champion Swine Showman

Many more students also brought home blue-ribbon class awards, capping off a very successful fair season.





LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND STATE FAIR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In August, the FFA Leadership Team hosted a two-day planning event. Students worked together to plan year-long activities, fundraising, student focus initiatives and community service projects. They also practiced grant writing and identified ways to improve current programs, including "Elementary Ag in the Classroom," the Fall Carnival, greenhouse sales and a new concessions trailer project.

Two students also competed at the Oregon State Fair, where they earned awards and the opportunity to apply for the prestigious FFA American Degree. They also brought home a second-place Herdsmanship banner, recognizing their professionalism, cleanliness and ability to engage the public while promoting livestock and agriculture.

Upcoming FFA Events
Sept 22, 6:30 p.m. – First Official FFA Meeting, PHHS Student Center, All Welcome



CTE, FFA and Agriculture News and Updates

HEALTH SCIENCE PATHWAY EXPANDS

CTE at Pleasant Hill extends beyond agriculture. The Health Science pathway continues to grow and provide opportunities for students interested in medical careers.

The PHHS Medical Club offers leadership opportunities, healthcare-focused tours, and activities designed to deepen students' understanding of the medical field. The first meeting will take place in September. Students interested in participating should see Mrs. Vough for details.

Meanwhile, middle school students are engaging in a Health Occupations Survey Class that uses STEM-based challenges to build problem-solving and critical thinking skills. This format introduces students to multiple CTE areas in an interactive, hands-on way. In addition, new courses—including Nutrition and Child Development—will soon be incorporated into the Health Science pathway, giving students even more opportunities to prepare for future health-related careers.

LOOKING AHEAD

From grand champion showmanship to hands-on STEM challenges, Pleasant Hill's CTE and FFA programs are helping students build valuable skills, earn recognition, and prepare for bright futures. Congratulations to all students for their accomplishments this summer, and best wishes as they carry that momentum into the school year ahead.

For more information about the PHHS CTE program or student activities, contact Angela White at awhite@pleasanthill.k12.or.us.

TO READ MORE, SCAN HERE:

ANGELA WHITE RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION

INDIANAPOLIS (Monday, August 1, 2025/National FFA Organization) – Angela White of Creswell, Oregon was selected to receive the Honorary American FFA Degree.

This award is given to those who advance agricultural education and FFA through outstanding personal commitment. The National FFA Organization works to enhance the lives of youth through agricultural education. Without the efforts of highly dedicated individuals, thousands of young people would not be able to achieve the success that, in turn, contributes directly to the overall well-being of the nation.

The Honorary American FFA Degree is an opportunity to recognize those who have gone beyond valuable daily contributions to make an extraordinary long-term difference in the lives of students, inspiring confidence in a new generation of agriculturists. Members of the National FFA Organization's board of directors approved the nomination.

White will receive the award during the 98th National FFA Convention & Expo in Indianapolis on Friday, October 31, 2025. All recipients will receive a plaque and medal, and their names will be permanently recorded as recipients of the highest FFA honor.

FFA STUDENTS MAKE THE NEWS

PHHS FFA Executive Officers and their animal science journey to the Lane County Fair were featured in the July 25 and July 28 editions of Lookout Eugene-Springfield. Also featured were several other of our PHHS Ag/FFA/4-H members from the community, including Sienna Shaddon, Genna Sheava and Peyton White. Read more by following the QR codes at left.

Pleasant Hill School District
36386 Highway 58, Pleasant Hill, OR 97455-9614
Phone (541)746-9646, FAX (541)746-2537
www.pleasanthill.k12.or.us

Commitment, Excellence, Community

September 2025

Student Safety Notice – Harm Reduction

Dear Parents and Guardians of Pleasant Hill Students,

Short-acting opioid antagonists such as naloxone (commercial name Narcan) are medications designed to quickly reverse the effects of opioids in the body. They bind to the opioid receptors in the brain, displacing any opioids present and blocking their effects. These antagonists are typically used in emergency situations, such as opioid overdose, to rapidly restore normal breathing and consciousness. The purpose of short-acting opioid antagonists include:

1. **Overdose Reversal:** The primary purpose of short-acting opioid antagonists is to reverse the life-threatening effects of opioid overdose. Opioids, such as heroin, fentanyl, or prescription painkillers, can suppress breathing and lead to respiratory failure, coma, or death. Administering an opioid antagonist promptly can counteract these effects and restore normal breathing, potentially saving the person's life.
2. **Emergency Treatment:** Short-acting opioid antagonists are used in emergency medical settings, such as hospitals and ambulance services, to treat opioid overdose quickly and effectively. Time is crucial in such situations, and these antagonists provide a rapid response to counteract the overdose effects.
3. **Preventive Measures:** In some cases, short-acting opioid antagonists may be prescribed as a preventive measure in high-risk situations, such as when individuals with a history of opioid abuse are prescribed opioid painkillers. Providing access to these antagonists alongside opioids can help mitigate the risk of overdose.
4. **Research and Clinical Studies:** Short-acting opioid antagonists are also used in research settings to study opioid addiction, overdose, and potential treatments. Clinical studies may investigate the efficacy and safety of different antagonist formulations or delivery methods.

Examples of short-acting opioid antagonists include naloxone (Narcan) and naltrexone. Naloxone is particularly well-known for its ability to rapidly reverse opioid overdose effects and is commonly used by emergency medical personnel, law enforcement officers, and bystanders trained in opioid overdose response. Naltrexone is also used in the treatment of opioid addiction but has a longer duration of action compared to naloxone. These medications play a crucial role in addressing the opioid crisis and saving lives threatened by opioid overdose.

In an emergency involving a suspected opioid overdose, the risks of administering a short-acting opioid antagonist, such as naloxone, to an individual must be weighed against the risks of not administering it.

The risks of administering a short-acting opioid antagonist include:

1. **Precipitating Withdrawal Symptoms:** Administration of naloxone can rapidly reverse the effects of opioids, potentially causing the individual to experience withdrawal symptoms such as agitation, nausea, vomiting, sweating, and increased heart rate. While withdrawal symptoms are uncomfortable, they are generally not life-threatening.
2. **Potential for Agitation or Violence:** Some individuals may become agitated or hostile upon awakening from opioid overdose reversal, particularly if they were using opioids in combination with other substances. This could pose risks to both the individual and bystanders.

Underlying Medical Conditions: There may be underlying medical conditions or complications that are not immediately apparent, and administering naloxone could exacerbate these conditions or complicate subsequent medical treatment.

On the other hand, the risks of not administering a short-acting opioid antagonist are far more severe and may include:

1. **Respiratory Depression and Respiratory Arrest:** Opioids can cause severe respiratory depression, leading to respiratory arrest and ultimately death if left untreated. Naloxone rapidly reverses opioid-induced respiratory depression, restoring normal breathing and preventing fatal outcomes.
2. **Loss of Consciousness:** Opioid overdose can result in loss of consciousness and coma, which can lead to aspiration, airway obstruction, and other complications. Administering naloxone can rapidly restore consciousness, allowing for proper airway management and medical assessment.
3. **Brain Damage or Death:** Prolonged lack of oxygen due to opioid-induced respiratory depression can result in brain damage or death. Time is critical in such situations, and delaying administration of naloxone increases the risk of irreversible harm.

In summary, while there are potential risks associated with administering a short-acting opioid antagonist in an emergency situation, the immediate dangers of untreated opioid overdose far outweigh these risks.

Administering naloxone promptly can save lives by reversing respiratory depression and preventing potentially fatal outcomes.

In our school district, Pleasant Hill Elementary, Pleasant Hill Middle and Pleasant Hill High School are equipped with short-acting opioid antagonists, such as naloxone, and have access to the necessary medical supplies and training to administer these medications on site in the event of an opioid overdose emergency. This proactive measure ensures the safety and well-being of students, staff, and visitors by providing prompt and potentially life-saving intervention in cases of opioid overdose within designated school premises.

In the event of an emergency where a student appears to be unconscious and experiencing symptoms consistent with an opioid overdose, a representative of the school, such as a trained staff member or school nurse, is authorized to administer a short-acting opioid antagonist, such as naloxone. This proactive measure is in place to ensure the safety and well-being of students, providing immediate intervention to potentially reverse the effects of opioid overdose and prevent further harm.

Resources for further information:

- Lane County Public Health: fentanylaware.com
- Oregon Health Authority: savelivesoregon.org
- Song for Charlie: songforcharlie.org

Jim Crist, Superintendent
Pleasant Hill School District #1

Middle School & High School Choir Updates

It's hard to believe that a new school year is already upon us! We have an incredibly exciting, and busy year ahead of us in the choir program! Ascensions, our high school vocal jazz ensemble will be singing the National Anthem at the majority of our home football games.

Our middle school choir program consists of two choirs: Beginning Choir, which is made up of 6th graders, and Variations, our more select middle school choir, which is made up of 7th and 8th graders. Both of these choirs get to participate in choir festivals throughout the course of the school year. Additionally, Variations took 2nd place in the Middle School Choir Division of the 48th annual Pleasant Hill Jazz Festival last school year.

Currently, we have one high school choir, which is Ascensions. Ascensions is an audition only ensemble that has been a staple at Pleasant Hill for 50-plus years. Last year, Ascensions traveled to the University of the Pacific Jazz Festival with both of our Jazz Bands. We had an incredible time on this trip, and learned many valuable musical concepts that we are excited to continue to incorporate into our music making this year! Ascensions also took 2nd place last year in their division at the 48th annual Pleasant Hill Jazz Festival. Additionally, we added a new division to the vocal jazz side of the Pleasant Hill Jazz Festival, which is the Vocal Solo Division. I am thrilled to say that we had 12 singers compete in this category at the festival last year, and I am hopeful that we will have even more singers compete this year!

I am really excited about all of the opportunities before us this school year in the choir program! I'm even more excited to reconnect with our choir students, new and returning! Please mark your calendars for the 49th Annual Pleasant Hill Jazz Festival in April 2026.

Here's to a great fall season! We hope to see you at a performance this year!

Sincerely,

Ryan Dixon

Choir Director

CATCH OUR PERFORMANCES!

In addition to seasonal choral concerts that will be performed this year, you can find our students performing at several community events throughout the school year.

Home Football Games

Please be sure to say hello on Friday nights out on the field! Our singers love the energy and excitement that singing at our home football games bring! Go Billies!

Middle School Choirs

Beginning Choir will participate in the Just Sing It Choral Festival in February 2026.

Variations will be competing in the 49th Pleasant Hill Jazz Festival, and they will also join forces with Ascensions to create a larger concert choir to attempt to qualify for the OSAA State Choir Finals in May 2026.

High School Choirs

Ascensions will compete in the Vocal Solo Division of the Pleasant Hill Jazz Festival, which will take place on Saturday, April 11, 2026.

Pleasant Hill School District

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PLEASANT HILL
ATHLETICS

SUPPORT OUR STUDENT ATHLETES

Be sure to visit our athletics website at **https://www.osaa.org/schools/183** for schedule updates and more information about Billie teams and sporting events