

MONTHLY NEWS AND UPDATES FROM PIEDMONT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

PIEDMONT

FOCUS



SITE TEACHER OF THE YEAR HONOREES



Piedmont ECC, Charity Lane

"Mrs. Lane makes a positive impact daily on her students and on the ECC. She provides an engaging, supportive, and fun learning environment for her students. She leads and collaborates with her team to create, instruct, assess, and ensure student progress for all students. At the site level she coordinates the "Positive Notes" activity to ensure all staff members feel acknowledged and supported. She provides guidance and assistance as the site tech for IT. As a member of the Guiding Coalition she seeks to ensure student outcomes by supporting the TCM process, creating tracking spreadsheets, and sharing intervention processes and activities. She pursues personal professional development as part of a LETRS cohort, and as a participant in the district leadership development group. Mrs. Lane always has a smile on her face, a kind word for others, and an idea to share ---she helps make ECC a great place to learn and work."



Northwood Elementary, Misti Moon

"Mrs. Moon is an incredible Speech Pathologist. She makes a difference daily. She is determined to see change in each child and always finds a way to make it happen. Misti makes every child feel valued and loved. She is very knowledgeable and constantly shares ideas with parents and colleagues on how to help a student. She addresses speech challenges that might otherwise feel embarrassing with such kindness and confidence that students feel safe, supported, and excited to grow. Misti works incredibly hard and equips each student with the tools they need to improve their speech in the classroom and in everyday life. She is a phenomenal teammate and teacher. She is constantly collaborating with teachers to do what is best for their students."



Piedmont Elementary, Jennifer Shipley

"Mrs. Shipley believes that every student can achieve success and will go above and beyond to troubleshoot interventions to ensure that students understand the material being presented. She works tirelessly to meet the diverse academic, social, and emotional needs of every child in her room, ensuring that each one feels valued, supported, and capable of success. She also cares about the social and emotional well-being of every student in her classroom. She embodies the core values of Capturing Kids' Hearts, and they are evident in every interaction she has with students and fellow staff members. She cares deeply for each of her students and individualizes her teaching to help meet their needs. Jennifer demonstrates her love of teaching and talents every day in the classroom. Jennifer is simply the best. Her kindness, positivity, and commitment to her students make her an invaluable member of our school. She lifts others up, leads by example, and brings out the best in both students and colleagues."



Stone Ridge Elementary, Shannon Elliott

"Mrs. Elliott is an amazing educator. Every child in her classroom is a priority and receives the utmost attention and care. She instills a love of reading and learning in all the children she teaches. When moving on to third grade, all of Shannon's students have the confidence and tools they need to be successful. She is also an important leader and member of her 2nd grade team. She is always willing to lend a helping hand to students and fellow staff members."

SITE TEACHER OF THE YEAR HONOREES



Piedmont Intermediate, Keith Hatchett

“Coach Hatchett is truly part of the glue that holds our school together. Even though he teaches a specialized subject and does not belong to any single academic “team,” he somehow manages to know everyone. He makes genuine connections with students and staff every day, and those relationships strengthen the sense of community that makes Piedmont special. Coach Hatchett approaches each day with positivity, kindness, and a calm presence. In a profession where the challenges can easily weigh us down, he is the person who always chooses optimism. His influence helps set the tone for our building, and his outlook reminds others of why we do this work. He consistently shows up wherever he

is needed. When teachers are out, he willingly takes on additional classes without hesitation. Throughout the entire school day he ensures that students have what they need to feel successful, supported, and prepared, whether that is during class, at lunch, or out at recess. His dedication is never limited to his own classroom. He helps everywhere, at any time, simply because he cares.”



Middle School of Piedmont, Traci North

“Mrs. Traci North is a true ambassador of Piedmont educators, consistently leading with integrity, compassion, and purpose. She is deeply committed to doing what is best for students, ensuring every learner feels valued, supported, and capable of success. Traci is a model of professionalism—collaborative, dependable, and fully invested in the success of both her classroom and the wider school community. Colleagues often seek her out for guidance because she listens with care and offers solutions grounded in experience and sound judgement. She embraces change, contributes meaningfully to school initiatives, and holds herself and others to high standards of excellence. She continually goes above

and beyond, taking on additional responsibilities to support our 7th grade students academically and personally. Her strong instructional practices, meaningful relationships, and active engagement in school wide efforts reflect her dedication to the profession and the Piedmont community. Mrs. North embodies the values and spirit of our district. For these reasons, she is a proud and deserving representative of Piedmont educators.”



Piedmont High School, Shelly Thomas

“Mrs. Thomas has been teaching at Piedmont High School for 28 years and while very deserving, she has never won a Teacher of the Year Award. Shelly taught English 9-12, ACT Prep, and Personal Finance in person and is now teaching English, ACT Reading, ACT English, and Personal Finance virtually. In addition to teaching, she has coached basketball and soccer in Piedmont. Shelly has served on the leadership committee, served on the hospitality committee, and has been a mentor teacher. Finally, Shelly carries one of the most important yet frequently unrecognized responsibilities as the senior class sponsor.

She is in constant communication with seniors and their families about everything that is going on in the year (ex. field trips, senior shirts, etc.) and is in charge of all things graduation. Watching her do this job over the last three years has given me a better insight and appreciation of what the senior class sponsor does. It has also made me realize it is something I would never want to do. It takes a special person to do that job and Shelly is the right one. Shelly Thomas is one of a kind and a dying breed. Most people can't say that they have only been in one district their entire teaching career, she can. She has seen this district go from 3A/4A to 6A over her time. Shelly is one of the sweetest people I know. She always has a smile on her face and is willing to help out her coworkers with whatever they need. Shelly's hard work, dedication, and loyalty has been under appreciated to this point and it is time to give her the recognition she deserves.”

SCHOOL SITE UPDATES

STONE RIDGE

Stone Ridge Elementary welcomed many parent volunteers into the building this December. Volunteer opportunities included our Watch D.O.G.S. program, the Christmas Store, popcorn popping, holiday party hosts, and more! We are always grateful for our parent volunteers and the community that makes Stone Ridge an amazing place to learn and grow!



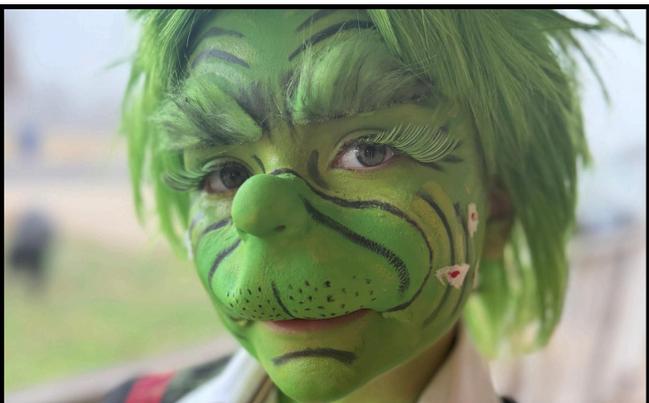
PIEDMONT INTERMEDIATE

6th Grade LEAP students recently completed an engaging Mock Trial unit. Each class explored a classic fairy tale with a twist, putting characters such as Goldilocks, the Big Bad Wolf, and Cinderella's stepmother on trial. Students assumed the roles of attorneys, defendants, and witnesses, preparing opening and closing statements, as well as direct and cross-examination questions. They also created evidence and learned about the discovery process. In addition, students served as jurors for trials conducted by other classes.

As a culminating experience, students will visit the Oklahoma Supreme Court, where they have an appointment with Justice James Winchester to tour the court and learn more about the judicial system.

PIEDMONT ELEMENTARY

December was filled with holiday spirit and joy throughout PES. Every teacher had a tree outside their classroom, decorated to match their classroom. Some trees had ornaments made by previous or current students, while others represented the classroom theme. The hallways were transformed into a winter wonderland, and third grade featured silhouettes of all their students on the Polar Express train! We also enjoyed 10 days of dress-up fun, including Frosty Blue Day, Grinch Day, Ugly Sweater Day, and, of course, the favorite—Polar Express Pajama Day! We loved having our parents in the building for the winter parties!



SCHOOL SITE UPDATES

MIDDLE SCHOOL OF PIEDMONT



MSP rang in the holiday season before Winter Break by hosting lunchtime karaoke! Students grabbed the mic and sang their hearts out to all sorts of holiday favorites! We always have fun at MSP!

NORTHWOOD ELEMENTARY



Our Northwood Sound Choir rocked their winter performance absolutely WOWED the audience! Made up of talented 3rd- and 4th-grade students, the choir practices before school twice a week, and their hard work truly paid off. This year's performance featured several songs from The Polar Express, but the show-stopping favorite was the fun and creative mashup of "Do You Want to Build a Snowman?" and "Ice, Ice Baby." Students loved blending the two songs together and confidently took the stage to show off their skills.

Northwood Sound also performed at the Piedmont Christmas Tree Lighting, where they rocked the stage once again. Decked out in festive holiday attire, students sang loudly and proudly, spreading holiday cheer.

PIEDMONT ECC

We jingled our way into the last week before break with a whole-school Winter Sing-Along! Smiles were everywhere as students showed off their festive holiday headbands, generously gifted by our PTO. The building was filled with joyful voices, making it a meaningful and memorable way to come together before the break.



PIEDMONT HIGH SCHOOL



Piedmont High School Senior Justin Woorley was awarded a \$180,000 scholarship from the United States Marine Corps. Justin has also earned service academy nominations from Senator James Lankford and Congresswoman Stephanie Bice, received an acceptance letter to West Point, and secured a nomination to the Naval Academy.

DISTRICT UPDATES

ENROLLMENT

	DECEMBER 2025	JANUARY 2026
Piedmont ECC	488	491
Northwood Elementary	610	614
Piedmont Elementary	424	424
Stone Ridge Elementary	710	708
Piedmont Intermediate	803	802
Middle School of Piedmont	866	869
Piedmont High School	1618	1616
TOTAL	5520	5525



CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

The Academic Services team is excited to welcome new books for first grade, second grade, and elementary special education classrooms. Teachers are receiving sets of decodable readers to strengthen reading instruction and support developing literacy skills. New books bring fresh energy to classrooms and students feel that excitement right away.

PHS REPRESENTATIVES ARE HEADED TO CAPITOL HILL

Special Olympics Coach Katie Baker, along with PHS students Eden Humphries and Lauren Wells, will join Special Olympics Oklahoma Program Initiatives Director Josie Cox and Special Olympics Oklahoma Chief Executive Officer Derek Cain in Washington, D.C. this February to spotlight how inclusion is reshaping education across the state.

This year, Piedmont High School was selected to represent Oklahoma after earning National Banner status through the Unified Champion School program.



CHILD NUTRITION

December focused on warmth, comfort, and smart choices in child nutrition. Bite Science promotions highlighted seasonal flavors while keeping balance at the center of each meal. Students enjoyed offerings inspired by cozy winter favorites, from Pizza Bianca to a festive Sesame Ginger Noodle Salad. Each site also hosted a special Holiday Meal, giving students a chance to celebrate together while reinforcing the importance of nourishing, well-rounded food.



DISTRICT UPDATES

TRANSPORTATION



December was a positive and productive month for Transportation, focused on kindness, connection, and professional growth. Training centered on behavior management, with drivers and monitors working through scenarios in mixed groups of experienced and newer staff. The month also included a Christmas dinner and small tokens of appreciation from the office staff. It was a meaningful way to close out 2025 with professionalism and good cheer.

PIEDMONT ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES

Leadership

- Matt Shellenberger nominated for the Gipper Athletic Directors Hall of Fame
- Piedmont coaches participated in Hope Driven Coaching professional development

Boys Basketball

- Bixby Tournament Champions, with Hudson Hite named Tournament MVP
- Upset Norman
- Defeated Deer Creek

Girls Basketball

- Finished third at the Bixby Tournament
- Defeated Deer Creek

Wrestling

- Makylee Cannon: Outstanding Wrestler at Putnam City Tournament
- Defeated Shawnee in the program's first home dual
- Secured a road win against Choctaw
- Competed at the prestigious Kansas City Stampede Tournament

Cross Country

- Tayten Childers placed in the top 20 at RunningLane Nationals

Swimming

- Boys placed ninth and girls placed twelfth at Best of the West Meet

Football

- Five players were named 6A-2 All-District

E-Sports

- OSSAA State Runner-up

PHS STUDENTS EARN OKLAHOMA SEAL OF BILITERACY



A big congratulations to Piedmont's first-ever Oklahoma Seal of Biliteracy recipients: April Valtierrez-Basio, Class of 2026, and Goretty Velasco and Jorge Velasco, Class of 2025.

The Oklahoma Seal of Biliteracy is an official transcript credential and certificate from the Oklahoma State Department of Education. It is awarded to students who demonstrate proficiency in reading, writing, listening, and speaking in English and at least one additional language.

This recognition sets these students apart and provides a meaningful advantage as they pursue college, career, or military opportunities.

DISTRICT UPDATES

WATCH D.O.G.S. SUCCESS AT PPS

WATCH D.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students) has returned to Piedmont Schools at all elementary sites and Piedmont Intermediate! This program invites positive male influences, such as fathers, grandfathers, brothers, uncles, and mentors, to volunteer on campus and serve as role models for our students.

Volunteers follow a rotating schedule that may include recess duty, car line support, hallway monitoring, reading with students, and basic security checks. The experience offers meaningful support to staff while giving students visible encouragement from the men in their lives. It also provides volunteers a firsthand look at the daily rhythm of school!

TESTIMONIAL

I had the privilege and honor of spending the day in the WATCH D.O.G.S. program, where we helped monitor the halls, read stories to the children, and observed a wonderful staff of truly committed professionals who do an exceptional job.

As a retired healthcare professional who has led large organizations, I am totally amazed by the clockwork-like discipline your staff demonstrated - paired with humor, heart, and genuine love for the children.

I am so grateful that my granddaughters attend Piedmont. I am impressed by the care and attention shown to each student. It is clear that the staff genuinely love these children.

Thank you for this opportunity.

- Paul Evans, WATCH D.O.G.S. Volunteer & Stone Ridge grandfather

WATCH D.O.G.S. is a nationally recognized school, family, and community engagement program that supports both student success and campus safety.

The program has two primary goals: Provide students with positive male role models and additional eyes and ears on campus, enhancing school security and helping reduce bullying.

