

MONTHLY NEWS AND UPDATES FROM PIEDMONT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

PIEDMONT

FOCUS



SCHOOL SITE UPDATES

PIEDMONT EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER



Our first graders are kicking off the ECC's very first Game Club! Once a month, they'll stay after school to learn and play board games while practicing important skills like cooperation, sharing, taking turns, being gracious winners, and being good sports when things don't go their way.



PIEDMONT ELEMENTARY

Third graders traveled to the Oklahoma State Fair for a fun, hands-on day of learning about agriculture, animals, and the many resources that make Oklahoma a great place to call home!



MIDDLE SCHOOL OF PIEDMONT

At the Middle School of Piedmont, we focused on helping our incoming 7th graders transition to middle school by introducing them to the secondary academic structure through our 7th Grade Bootcamp in September. 7th Grade core teachers taught daily 'Bootcamp lessons' that covered essential middle school behaviors, basic organizational and study skills, how to use our new student agendas, self-advocacy, how to check their grades, and how to email their teachers. They also taught students about our new building-wide 'PROWL' behavior expectations. The rest of the semester, our Wildcats 101 teachers will continue to teach and reinforce study and organizational skills that will help all students succeed in 7th grade and beyond.

In addition to the support we provided to students through our 7th Grade Bootcamp, we created 'Parent University' videos to provide parents with important information about academics, attendance, day-to-day school life, and how to set their students up for success. One video provided parents with detailed instructions on how to use PowerSchool to monitor their students' assignments and grades. We also provided parents with questions they can use to check in with their students and help them stay on track with their work. Feedback on both Parent University and 7th Grade Bootcamp has been positive from parents, students, and staff, reflecting a smooth transition for incoming 7th graders.

SCHOOL SITE UPDATES



STONE RIDGE ELEMENTARY

Stone Ridge Elementary is overflowing with talent! Some of our students, under the direction of Mrs. Bayer, helped to create an art installation in the hallway. In art class, our students created a large school-wide tessellation inspired by the famous artist M.C. Escher. Each student was challenged to design a single puzzle piece focusing on monochromatic color schemes. They selected one color from the color wheel—using any of its tints and shades—along with neutrals like gray, brown, black, and white. Students in 1st and 2nd grade brought their pieces to life using markers and crayons, while 3rd and 4th graders incorporated paint and collage paper. Finally, we arranged all the finished pieces in color wheel order to create a seamless, visually stunning flow across the display.



PIEDMONT INTERMEDIATE

Our 5th grade LEAP students have been immersed in the fascinating world of Ancient Egypt through hands-on, interdisciplinary learning. Students explored the geography of Egypt by creating edible maps using Rice Krispies as the landscape, blue frosting to represent the Nile River, and mini chocolate chips to mark the locations of pyramids. They also learned about the importance of hieroglyphics and created their own papyrus while exploring how ancient Egyptians communicated and recorded information. These engaging activities allowed students to combine history, geography, creativity, and critical thinking while bringing Ancient Egypt to life in the classroom.



STONE RIDGE INTERMEDIATE

At Stone Ridge Intermediate, we celebrate student success through our Stellar Students of the Week program. Each week, students who demonstrate outstanding character and make positive contributions in and out of the classroom are recognized and featured in our trophy case. This visible celebration allows students, staff, and families to see and celebrate the Wildcats who are making a difference at SRI!



SCHOOL SITE UPDATES



NORTHWOOD ELEMENTARY

Northwood Wildcats are excited about new additions to their playground! Last fall, Northwood's pre-k and kindergarten teachers collaborated to write a grant through the Piedmont Public Schools Education Foundation for developmentally appropriate playground equipment designed with our youngest Wildcats in mind.

After months of planning, the new equipment has been installed and is finally ready for playtime! We are grateful to the Piedmont Public Schools Education Foundation for providing the grant funding that made this new playground addition possible. Our Wildcats are already loving their new space to play and have fun together!



PIEDMONT HIGH SCHOOL

Two days of professional development quickly turned into action at Piedmont High School. Teachers returned from Capturing Kids' Hearts training and immediately began putting their new tools to work.

PHS teachers are already creating social contracts with their classes, giving students and teachers a shared voice in establishing expectations for how they want to treat one another. Affirmations are also making their way through the halls as staff works together with our students to build a culture centered on encouragement and connection.

Teachers are taking what they learned and running with it, creating stronger connections and more supportive classrooms for our students.



Mrs. Lau and her accelerated biology students put a fun twist on learning about animal and plant cells by creating edible cell models. This hands-on activity gave students a creative way to apply what they learned while reinforcing essential standards.

DISTRICT UPDATES



CAPTURING KIDS' HEARTS

PIEDMONT SCHOOLS EMPLOYEES PARTICIPATE IN DISTRICT-WIDE TRAINING

On September 24th and 25th, Piedmont Schools brought Capturing Kids' Hearts training to the entire district! Our administrators, educators, paraprofessionals, teaching assistants, and office teams spent these professional development days working with certified Flippen Group trainers through new training, refresher courses, and immersive sessions.

District leaders feel it is important for our entire team to share a common understanding of the Capturing Kids' Hearts approach. We believe every person in our schools plays an important role in serving students and families well. Schools that had previously completed the training worked together on refresher courses to revisit key concepts, strengthen strategies, and ensure staff feel confident and up to speed in CKH practices.

Capturing Kids' Hearts training is focused on strengthening relationships, building trust, and creating meaningful connections with students and colleagues through the Capturing Kids' Hearts EXCEL Model™, which stands for Engage, Explore, Communicate, Empower, and Launch. Staff practiced communication strategies, conflict resolution, and tools for building a collaborative culture where students feel known, valued, and supported.

By bringing this training to every corner of our district, we are working to create a shared approach to building positive relationships and positive culture across all Piedmont school sites. Most importantly, we want every member of our team to have the knowledge, strategies, and support needed to serve our students and families the Piedmont way!



Wow. What an impactful training. It was emotional and deepened my relationships with my coworkers. But it also gave me incredibly realistic and replicable tools for the classroom. I feel inspired to look beyond the impact I have with the students I directly serve and find ways to make a meaningful difference for all students in my orbit. I thought it was phenomenal...I feel incredibly grateful for the last two days.

-Mary Lauren Smith, Stone Ridge Elem. SLP



DISTRICT UPDATES

ENROLLMENT

SCHOOL SITE	SEPTEMBER 2026	OCTOBER 2026
Piedmont ECC	513	514
Northwood Elementary	591	589
Piedmont Elementary	487	486
Stone Ridge Elementary	641	644
Piedmont Intermediate	459	458
Stone Ridge Intermediate	393	392
Middle School of Piedmont	912	910
Piedmont High School	1622	1619
TOTAL	5618	5613



ACADEMIC SERVICES

We are excited to share that Piedmont's first LETRS cohorts, led by Amy Bixler, Assistant Director of Academic Services, and Jennifer Wilcox, PPS Instructional Coach, began in late September. LETRS, Language Essentials for Teaching Reading and Spelling, is a two-year Science of Reading professional learning program that strengthens teachers' knowledge of how students learn to read and provides the knowledge and tools for effective literacy instruction.

We are excited to provide this training right here at PPS, building the capacity of our Piedmont teachers and investing in lasting literacy growth!



TRANSPORTATION

Piedmont Schools Transportation is putting a new vehicle lift to work in the shop! This addition gives our team the ability to complete more maintenance and repairs in-house, helping us keep our fleet in service and ready to meet the needs of our students.

Investing in our transportation operations helps ensure our students have reliable transportation to and from school, activities, and events for years to come.



OPERATIONS

PPS Operations has completed the installation of a new packaged HVAC unit dedicated to the varsity football locker room. This is a huge addition that delivers enhanced ventilation, temperature control, and energy efficiency to support our student athletes and staff.

DISTRICT UPDATES



PIEDMONT ATHLETICS

Football:

The Wildcats earned their first district victory of the season, defeating Putnam City 43-22 in front of a Homecoming crowd.

Cross Country:

Piedmont hosted its second annual Cross Country Meet, bringing teams together for a competitive day on our home course. Both the boys and girls teams finished FIRST!

Softball:

Our Wildcats picked up a HUGE district win over Southmoore, adding another victory as the team continues district play.

Volleyball:

Lady Wildcats came away as champions of the Enid Tournament!



PIEDMONT FINE ARTS

Band:

The Pride of Piedmont continued its marching season with a strong performance at the Owasso Marching Contest. We are so appreciative of our Band Boosters as they provided tremendous support to students and staff throughout the weekend! Our band students are gearing up for their busiest marching month, affectionately referred to by many band families as "Bandtober."

Visual Arts:

Piedmont students were represented at the Oklahoma Student Art Exhibition at the Oklahoma State Fair, with students receiving state-level recognition for their artwork. Students also participated in the Piedmont Founder's Day Youth Art Show, providing another opportunity to showcase their creativity within our community.

Choir:

Our High School Honor Choir was selected as a finalist for the opportunity to perform with Foreigner. Additionally, several Piedmont vocal students auditioned for the Central Oklahoma Choral Directors Association (COCDA) Honor Choir, with nine Piedmont students selected for this honor.

