

# Pleasant Hill Intermediate School

1204 E. 163rd Street  
Pleasant Hill, MO 64080

816-540-3156

November 2022

## Important Dates

11/6/22 - Daylight Savings Time Ends

11/9/22 - 2 Hour Late Start

11/23-25/22 - No School-Thanksgiving  
Break

11/28/22 - No School - Staff Development

## 6th Grade NEWSLETTER



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## Contact Information

Mrs. Price	ELA	<a href="mailto:jprice@phr3.org">jprice@phr3.org</a>	816-540-3156 Ext 3607
Ms. Murray	Co-Teacher	<a href="mailto:rmurray@phr3.org">rmurray@phr3.org</a>	816-540-3156 Ext. 3610
Mrs. Peters	Co-Teacher	<a href="mailto:lpeters@phr3.org">lpeters@phr3.org</a>	816-540-3156 Ext. 3503
Mrs. Russell	Math	<a href="mailto:brussell@phr3.org">brussell@phr3.org</a>	816-540-3156 Ext 3609
Miss Hammond	ELA/Soc. Studies	<a href="mailto:khammond@phr3.org">khammond@phr3.org</a>	816-540-3156 Ext. 3602
Mr. VanSlyke	Math/Sci.	<a href="mailto:jvanslyke@phr3.org">jvanslyke@phr3.org</a>	816-540-3156 Ext. 3601

Ms. Crowe	ELA/Social Studies	<a href="mailto:mcrowe@phr3.org">mcrowe@phr3.org</a>	816-540-3156 Ext 3603
Mrs. Sullivan	Math/Science	<a href="mailto:tsullivan@phr3.org">tsullivan@phr3.org</a>	816-540-3156 Ext 3605

The Pleasant Hill PTO would like to let our parents know that they have been added to the AmazonSmile network of organizations that you as an Amazon shopper can support. Please consider adding AmazonSmile to your account as a way to support the Pleasant Hill PTO at no cost to you. Amazon will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the Pleasant Hill Parent-Teachers Organization. AmazonSmile is available at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) on your web browser and can be activated in the Amazon Shopping app as well.

## *ELA:*

In November, we will continue to work on our first writing unit "Personal Narrative." The students will write true stories, learn strategies to generate meaningful story ideas, manage pace, elaborate on important scenes, and deepen insights. The students will display work through their journals, essays, presentations, and more. We are excited to see our students shine during his unit, while getting to know them better through their personal narratives.

## *Math:*

In November, we will continue with our 2nd Module, Operations with Fractions and Multi-Digit Numbers. Students begin module 2 by using visual models and an understanding of divisibility to find the greatest common factor and least common multiple of pairs of numbers. Then, students apply their previous understanding of multiplication and division to divide fractions by fractions. They model fraction division expressions with tape diagrams and double number

lines, use common denominators to divide fractions by fractions, and then develop and apply the invert and multiply strategy. Students use standard algorithms to fluently add, subtract, and multiply decimals, and apply those skills in real-world applications. They extend their understanding of division from prior grades to use the standard division algorithm to divide multi-digit numbers and decimals.

## *Social Studies:*

In November, we will continue with our second unit "The Four Great Valley Civilizations." The students receive a broad scope of world history involving ancient Mesopotamia, Egypt, China, and the Indus River Valley. We will focus on the societal differences of these civilizations and explore the world through different cultural lenses. The students will have an opportunity to learn these topics through projects, research, reading, and so much more. We are looking forward to watching the students expand their knowledge of global history.

## *Science:*

Currently we are working through our Project Lead the Way unit, Engineering and Design. Students have used the engineering design process to create an Ankle-Foot Orthosis to meet the requirements of a student that has cerebral palsy. From this project, we learned about creating multi-view sketches and using a ruler to measure accurately. We will continue learning about the engineering process and attempt to create a toy design for students in need.

After we come back from Thanksgiving Break, we will begin a new unit on Cells. We will discuss the parts of plant and animal cells, and students will have the opportunity to build models of the cells as well.

**Standards Based Reporting:**

As a reminder we are transitioning to a new grading and reporting system in the Pleasant Hill R-3 School District, during the 2019-2020 school year for grades kindergarten through grade six in the subjects of reading, writing and mathematics. At the end of the first quarter your child's learning progress will be reported via a new progress report template for reading, writing, and mathematics. Your child's teacher will be reporting about your scholar's learning as it is associated with curriculum standards identified for each subject at each grade level. Watch an overview of Standards-Based Reporting (also known as Standards-Based Grading) on this video linked here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E7m4762pjH8>

We want to continue to communicate our process with this new reporting system, therefore, we will include various facts in the form of weekly news blasts to help keep you informed during the stages of implementation. Be looking for more information on Standards-Based Reporting and Curriculum Information.

ELA and Math teachers will not report proficiency via percentages at any grade level. Pure mathematical averages do not accurately report a child's true level of proficiency with a standard. In fact, percentages can actually penalize a child for what he/she did not already know at the start of a unit of study. A variety of learning evidence over time, in conjunction with teacher professional judgment, and a child's performance on the summative assessment more strongly correlates to an accurate depiction of scholar learning. Teachers at our intermediate level, particularly sixth grade, will work with scholars to help them understand the range of Academic Indicators and how those will relate to the percentage grading system found in our middle school. The transition to Standards Based Reporting is often most appropriate at the elementary level first where a foundation of learning is being built which requires measurement of self to learning targets without the need to translate that data to grade point averages, class ranks, etc.

**Health Room Reminders:** We have stock Ibuprofen, Tylenol, Tums, and Cough Drops in the Health Room for those who have signed permission for us to give. Please do not send any medication to school with your child as this is a safety concern due to having

loose medication floating around the school. If children are on antibiotics or any other medication that needs to be given at school, please check them in with the nurse.

### **Mrs Peter's Special Education Classroom**

I have informed scholars of the importance of practicing reading and math skills at home on days that they do not have me in those subjects. I ask that scholars complete a reading activity for 20 minutes outside of class, through the use of EPIC, Raz-Kids or by reading their own book and logging it in their reader's journal. These activities will be beneficial in allowing them to increase their reading fluency and comprehension skills. These programs allow scholars to read at their individualized reading level and offer many high interest books of various genres. I have shared login and class codes for these programs with your scholars and they should be able to access them on their chromebook.

Scholars should also be logging reading minutes in their intervention reading programs. These programs are called **Power-up** for 6th grade scholars and **Core 5** for 5th grade scholars and both programs are designed by Lexia. scholars can complete these activities both at home or at school. They are designed to enhance scholar learning in all areas of reading that scholars need support in order to advance their overall reading performance. When your scholar logs in there will be the areas and the number of minutes that they need to complete for the week. Thank you for all of your help!

EPIC Login: <a href="http://www.getepic.com">www.getepic.com</a>	My Class Code: <b>nms8398</b>
Raz-Kids Login: <a href="http://www.raz-kids.com">www.raz-kids.com</a> (click on kids login)	Username: <b>Roosters2020</b>
Splash Math (math skill review) <a href="http://www.splashlearn.com">www.splashlearn.com</a>	Username: <b>JQCDSM</b> Password: <b>board48</b>

Feel free to email me if you have any questions or concerns or if your scholar is not able to access these programs at home.

[lpeters@pleasanthillschools.com](mailto:lpeters@pleasanthillschools.com)

THANK YOU!