

# 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

## ELECTIVE TEAM NEWSLETTER



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.

### **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. Thank you.

## **The Principal's Page**

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Dear Parent,

Our first quarter flew by! Our students have been engaged in meaningful, authentic academic work. We would like to commend them for their dedication to learning. Their hard work is evident. Partnering with families regarding this is vital. Please let us know, as the year progresses, if you have any questions or concerns. We are always available to meet with you.

Our PTO support is wonderful! We would like to thank PTO for organizing events, raising money for our building and students, and supporting and helping us in our day-to-day activities and events. We also want to thank parents that have participated in the various hospitality events including the dinner that was provided during parent-teacher conferences. Teachers and staff greatly appreciate it. Thank you!

Late Start--we will have a Late Start day on Wednesday, November 9. The doors will open at 9:55 am. Our first class will start at 10:12 am. We will dismiss at our normal time, 3:22.

No School--there is no school November 23-28 for Thanksgiving break. We wish you and your family a relaxing Thanksgiving. School will resume Tuesday, November 29 as there is no school on Monday, November 28 for teacher professional development.

Sincerely,

Chandra Arbuckle

### **District Website and App:**

The District website is [www.phr3.org](http://www.phr3.org). The Pleasant Hill R-3 School District also offers an app (found on both the Apple and Android app stores). The app includes a Push Notification feature that PHSD utilizes to get information out to students, staff, and families.

Should you need it, below is a link to a Google Slides presentation that introduces the app and some key features. We encourage you to download the app and begin using this means of communication. It will be the best and easiest way to communicate school closures due to inclement weather.

### [PHSD App / Notifier Intro and Instructions](#)

**Mission: The mission of PHIS is to provide a comprehensive system of support to develop 21st century, life-long learners who master objectives through displaying character traits and work ethic necessary to collaborate, create, and communicate in and beyond the classroom.**

**Vision: At PHIS, we believe we can and will reach our potential.**

**District Mission:  
Every Student Every Day**

## The Counselor's Corner

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### **IS Kindness Week 2022 October 31 - November 4, 2022**

This year, we will be celebrating Kindness Week to practice the many ways that we can be kind. We will have a different focus for each day of the week, we hope it is a time to increase our kindness as a school!

#### **Monday - Kindness Checklist**

- Students will receive a kindness checklist with lots of ideas on how to spread kindness

#### **Tuesday - Kindness Art**

- Students will receive a kindness coloring sheet of their choice

#### **Wednesday - Positive Post-Its**

- Students and staff will receive post-its during Rooster Time and write positive notes on the post-its they will give to students and staff

#### Thursday - Be Kind to Yourself & Others

- Students will be encouraged to do two intentional acts of kindness - one for themselves and one for another person (the checklist from Monday has lots of great ideas!)

#### Friday - Kindness Bookmarks

- Students will receive a kindness bookmark that they can decorate as a reminder to be kind to themselves and others

Mrs. Cole ([rcole@pleasanthillschools.com](mailto:rcole@pleasanthillschools.com))

## **ART**

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### **5th Grade Art:**

Students are in the middle of finishing their first, large project: a self-portrait. Students are beginning to use the language of the classroom, and are sharing how their works reflect one style or another. Once the portraits are complete, they will be displayed for a short while and then students may take their artworks home.

Here is a tip, and a request, to help promote an academic conversation surrounding their work: Ask them questions about their artwork and hang their work up (temporarily or permanently). This helps develop pride in their work, show them how their persistence and effort is seen and appreciated by others, and to help show the importance of visual arts. Some questions you can ask: 1. What was the project about? 2. Can you tell me about your experience making it? 3. What style of portraiture did you choose? 4. What are you proud of?

### **6th Grade 3D/2D:**

Students finished their first, major project! We are transitioning away from the theme of "identity" to guide us, and are moving to a new concept: sculpture. We will be moving quicker through the rest of the quarter, starting with toilet paper sculptures. Students will need one, new roll of toilet paper. Through toilet paper sculptures, we will learn about pop art, common themes seen through the movement, and will allow us a chance to practice form-making before the clay unit.

### **6th Grade Paint/Draw:**

Gem painting is coming to a close! The project title is "My Many Facets," addressing ourselves as prized and precious creations much like gems. Students developed their painting technique, worked to create tints and shades on their own, applied the pigments in a way to recreate reality and create the illusion of form, and finally did a questionnaire about their own "facets." We will end the unit addressing how we can take artwork with seemingly little depth, and try to understand it beyond its surface.

Students will also get a chance to read the feedback they received from their classmates over their artwork, as we did peer critiques and not all students read their feedback.

Once our conversations are over, the students will learn to work with chalk, charcoal, and construction paper crayons/colored pencils to replicate reality; Still life drawings will be created. Learning about proper observational techniques and techniques for the mediums will help them be successful. This project should be about two weeks long. If your child has an aversion to chalk or charcoal, please let me know via e-mail.

**Art Club:** The art club schedule is made up and will be followed as closely as possible. The descriptions for each week will be communicated to students the week prior, so they can prepare for that schedule. Vehicles for pick-up should be in the **bus** line at 4:20 pm so that students may be prepared to leave the building at **4:30** pm. If your student shares that you are expecting to pick them up at the front, they will wait with the rest of the students on the other side of the building until pick-ups in the correct location have been addressed.

**Yearbook:** Want to help personalize the yearbook? Families will be able to submit images for consideration for the yearbook soon. Please look for a future e-mail explaining how to access the link to upload images to a platform specifically for PHIS.

## **Music**

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**Ms. Barry** ([sbarry@pleasanthillschools.com](mailto:sbarry@pleasanthillschools.com))

### **5th Grade Music:**

Students will continue with solfege patterns and will be putting both solfege and rhythmic patterns to use through instruments and singing. Students are learning new musical concepts and will be singing Patriotic songs. Students will continue to learn more about different musicians through highlights.

### **6th Grade Singers:**

### **6th Exploring Music:**

Students will be finishing up with the Ukulele and then transitioning to some music projects! Students will be utilizing their creative and innovative sides in making song parodies, musician slides and more! Students will be learning more about different musicians through our musician of the week.

### **Clubs:**

#### **5th & 6th Grade Choir**

**Sponsor: Ms. Barry -Rm #400**

**Begins 9/12**

**1st Semester only**

### **PHIS Rockin' Roosters**

**Sponsor: Ms. Barry -Rm #400**

**2nd Semester only**

## **Computer**

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**Miss Greve ([Igreve@pleasanthillschools.com](mailto:Igreve@pleasanthillschools.com))**

### **Computer Club**

**Sponsor: Miss Greve**

**Tuesday 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM**

**Wednesday 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM**

The Computer Club will be held in Ms. Greve's computer lab. All students are welcome. Some activities will be creating videos, using green screens, coding, and creating fun digital puzzles. Students are also welcome to work independently to finish digital projects for any PHIS class. Students need to be picked up at the front of the school by the flagpole.

### **5th Grade:**

Students are in the middle of the Google Docs unit. They have learned various ways to move around a document, cut and paste text, as well as select text and format text. Next students will learn to add word art, images, tables and bulleted lists.

If a student is absent or needs additional time to complete any assignment, students are encouraged to attend the computer club. This is an excellent opportunity to get tutoring or practice computer skills. But if the student cannot attend the computer club, there is a video explaining the skills for each assignment in the Google classroom. The video will demonstrate each of the computer skills required to complete the assignment. Absent students are responsible for completing any missed assignments. Due to the nature of the class, there will not be time during class to make up missed work.

### **6th Grade Computer Applications:**

Students spent October learning about social media. They concluded the unit by creating an interactive slide presentation about the consequences of posting inappropriate things on social media.

Next will be a short unit on Google Sheets. Students will learn to create some basic formulas to solve math problems, as well as how to create and format charts from data. Once they have the basics down, they will put their Google Sheets knowledge into practice by conducting a research project about cars. Following the steps of the scientific method, each student will create a short

report. After researching national trends about cars, they will create a hypothesis about what they believe they will find in our PHIS parking lot. Then the class will go outside to collect data from the school parking lot. Next, the students will enter their data into a Google sheet and create a chart that explains the findings of the data. Was their hypothesis correct? The data will tell.

REMEMBER: If a student is absent or needs additional time to complete any assignment, students are encouraged to attend the computer club. This is an excellent opportunity to get tutoring or practice computer skills. But if the student cannot attend the computer club, there is a video explaining the skills for each assignment in the Google classroom. Absent students are responsible for completing any missed assignments. Due to the nature of the class, there will not be time during class to make up missed work during class.

### **6th Grade PHIS Broadcast News:**

Students have been busy creating special reports to add to the weekly announcements. The month of October was filled with stories about Halloween, and Autumn. Even the video jokes and the words of the week were autumn based. It is great to see the creativity of the students.

Now that November is here, the focus will be on Thanksgiving and more fall happenings. Your child will create 2 short videos about Thanksgiving (trivia facts and personal traditions) which might be used in the announcements. More jokes will be created, as well as words of the week videos. The videos created might be selected to be part of the Wednesday announcements. Additionally, students will continue to share their technology skills by creating "tech tip" videos. Students from all three 6th grade teams are rotating to take on the role of anchor.

Each term, students will create special videos. Some of these video reports will become part of the Wednesday announcements. For example, all students recorded an interview with an adult about a job. They also created a special report about a fall event. During term 2, students will pick a country and research how Christmas is celebrated in that country. This information will be used to create a "Christmas Around the World" video that may be used in the weekly announcements beginning in December..

Here are links to the announcements created in October. If your child has not been featured yet, they will be in the future.

[October 5 Announcements](#)

[October 12 Announcements](#)

[October 19 Announcements](#)

[October 26 Announcements](#)

## **Library/STUCO News**

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### **Library:**

The Missouri State book awards challenge has begun. Due to my limited supply, students may find it more efficient to get these books from the Mid-Continent Public Library in Lee's Summit or at the Cass County library. No matter where they get the books, they will be able to count them for the challenge. A list of the titles can be found [here](#). Only this year's nominees will count for this challenge.

In the library this month, 5th graders will be discovering their reading personalities to help pair them with books while 6th graders will be learning about source credibility and honing their research skills.

### **STUCO:**

The PHIS student council is holding penny wars to raise money to purchase meals for the homeless this November. Each day, I will ask for donations while attendance is taken during the morning meeting.

On 11/16 (in 2 weeks), Mrs. Arenson will count up the donations and the class with the most money will get a hot chocolate bar on 11/22 with special toppings to choose from! You can donate loose change or dollar bills. All money (even pennies!) counts and the total will all go to help feed those who are homeless and cannot afford basic food.

This month is discussing plans for a school supply store and preparing for the winter assembly!

Now that the weather is cooling off, STUCO will be hosting the annual hot chocolate store again! Drinks must be preordered. Ordering happens every Wednesday in rooster time or at any time at the library. Drinks will be delivered every Monday at lunch. Plain cups are \$1 and toppings are an additional .50/each.

Our next meeting is on 11/14 until 4:15. Pick-up will be at the main entrance.

Any questions should be directed to Melissa Arenson at [marensen@phr3.org](mailto:marensen@phr3.org)

### **P.E.**

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Chris Stilwell [cstilwell@pleasanthillschools.com](mailto:cstilwell@pleasanthillschools.com)

### **5th grade PE:**

November brings more new games for our 5th graders! We will begin to explore the 5 fitness components using activities involving scooters, fitness dice, and a version of real life Mario Kart!



### **6th grade Non-Traditional Games:**

Our non-traditional games class will play more outdoor games including Roundnet, Croquet, and a frisbee target game!

### **6th Grade Traditional Sports:**

Our traditional sports class will be learning the European sport of team Handball first. We will then transition to speedminton, a fast paced net game combining pickleball and badminton!

\*If you need any more details from Coach Stilwell, feel free to email [cstilwell@pleasanthillschools.com](mailto:cstilwell@pleasanthillschools.com)

### **Morning Intramurals**

**Sponsor: Coach Stilwell and Linda Greve**

**Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings from 7:25-7:55 am**