DISTRICT
District Begins Benchmarks in Illuminate-DnA

On Tuesday, August 22, 2017 many students began benchmark testing in the online DnA system in Illuminate. Teachers at the Intermediate School, as well as teachers at the High School, utilized the system with students. Prior to today, much work has been put into the system by Mrs. Jakqualyn Boden and Mr. Andrew Guyer to automate the upload of data nightly from our Student Information System to Illuminate. This automation will allow students to be rostered to courses after a nightly refresh of the system when schedule changes are made. The use of benchmarks will allow teachers to become familiar with student strengths and weaknesses to better design lessons as well as planning interventions and enrichment for students. We look forward to having more information at the fingertips of teachers and content/grade-level teams this school year.

Mrs. Lyndsey Martin’s first hour 6th grade math class starts the day with Illuminate DnA!

PRIMARY SCHOOL
We had an exciting first week of school at Pleasant Hill Primary! We welcomed 42 new students and 6 new staff. Teachers led fun ‘get to know you activities’ and students learned the procedures and expectations for drop-off, pick-up, and buses, the classroom, Encore rooms, lunchroom, playground, and hallways. Two hundred eighty-two students witnessed the eclipse on August 22. Students learned about solar eclipses through many activities and projects led by the classroom and Encore teachers. They also were instructed on the proper use of the solar eclipse glasses provided by the Cass County Health Department. Students were then escorted to the playground by staff to witness this special event. Students who “opted out” were able to see the eclipse through live streaming in the gym and in classrooms. In addition to our staff, we had 52 volunteers help with the supervision of this experience. Morning preschool classes began on August 22, and all preschool students started on Aug. 23. Over the next few weeks students will begin taking Gates/MacGinitie Reading tests and FastBridge online reading and math assessments to help determine their placement for our initial RtI (Response to Intervention) groups. Our APEX fundraiser activities will begin Aug. 29, and all classes will have 7 fun 8-minute lessons brought to their classrooms.

Mrs. Harrald, Mrs. Glass and Mrs. Echeita are looking forward to welcoming new students on Monday and beginning a new curriculum with preschoolers. We are also excited to continue our peer model program for the third year. The new curriculum, The Emerging Language & Literacy Curriculum (ELLC) prepares preschoolers for success in kindergarten and gives them a strong foundation in oral language and literacy. This theme-based unit program addresses all developmental domains using children's literature, multisensory activities, scaffolded instruction, and parental involvement. Each unit focuses on a main and related book with language targets (vocabulary). The 11 centers in the curriculum create an engaging environment with activities and play-based learning. Our first unit, Same/Different and Feelings will include a “hair salon/spa” in the dramatic play center. Stop by and get a free ‘haircut’!
The students and staff enjoyed the first week of school by building a solid classroom environment that celebrates each child’s unique abilities and talents. Children discovered similarities with others, while also learning what makes each one of us an asset to our class. Teacher spent time building relationships with their students and sharing personal information about themselves.
PHES IS LOOKING SHINY AND BRIGHT!

The custodial crew cleaned our building so that every nook and cranny is clean. We also made some improvements to the front office and added signage throughout the school. Ed also keeps the exterior of our school crisp and tidy. Come see us and check it out yourself!

PHES GOES TO ODESSA TO SEE THE ECLIPSE IN TOTALITY!

Students and staff - the whole school - headed north to see the eclipse. After a bit of rain the skies cleared and we had a perfect view. The mayor even came out and made a proclamation. It was a "once in a lifetime" event! Thanks to everyone that helped make it possible.
**INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL**

The Intermediate school is off to a great start! Students have been engaging in “get to know you” activities and team builders in their classes. We are striving to build positive relationships with students; this is a top priority. The more we know about our students, the better we can meet their needs and help them achieve. Our first day consisted of a “red carpet” welcome to our star scholars.

Students have also been learning about routines, procedures and expectations. This is another priority for us. Once we have mastered these, it will help us focus on learning. Time has also been spent on learning where classes are and how to open lockers. This is always a biggie! We are making great strides!

PHIS scientists geared up for the solar eclipse through a variety of activities. They built background knowledge through researching, viewing video clips, completing graphic organizers, summarizing, and predicting. Students drew stages of the sun and documented their observations throughout the event. We appreciate the parents and guests that joined us for this experience! You could hear students’ “ooohs and ahhhs” as they viewed the eclipse through their protective glasses.

We thank the Cass County Health Department for donating them!
MIDDLE SCHOOL

Above left: Students in Mr. Mounce’s Computer Science class prepare for the first lesson. Above right: PHMS recognizes positive contributions of its students and staff through positive referrals.

Pleasant Hill Middle School
Welcome back to all students. Our first week went by fast learning new routines, new names, and new locker combinations. This year started off with a highlight on our first Monday--the solar eclipse. Our students first conducted a fire drill and then from their rendezvous location, the home stands at Eklund Field, they watched the moon eclipse the sun. A special thanks to Cass County Health Department who donated viewing glasses for our students. Our own STA sold t-shirts to commemorate this unique occasion. The fall sport seasons are underway and PHMS will host Purple and Gold Night on Thursday, August 24 at 6:00 to introduce our cross country runners, volleyball players, and football players. Teachers jump right into collecting data by assessing students in math and ELA during the first few weeks of school. The school will then use the testing data to drive instruction during the school year. DnA is the acronym for data and assessment, which will provide immediate feedback to teachers of students’ strengths and their weaknesses.

Above left: Mrs. Humphrey’s north wall was reconfigured for an Eagle Scout Project. Above center: Mr. Campbell’s science students begin their PLTW curriculum. Above right: PHMS enjoys the solar eclipse at Eklund Stadium thanks in part to Cass County Health Department who donated viewing glasses.
HIGH SCHOOL
On Monday, August 21, 2017 Pleasant Hill High School participated in activities leading up to, during, and after the solar eclipse. Members of our science department prepared a set of short activities that were completed during Connections prior to the solar eclipse.

Students and teachers exited the building during 6th hour and moved to various locations around the exterior of the building. In order to view the solar eclipse, up to and after, it reached its maximum at 1:09pm.

Our teachers made student safety a top priority before and during the viewing of the eclipse. Every student and staff member at PHHS in attendance on August 21st received a pair of glasses provided by Cass County Health Department. Furthermore, every teacher reviewed safety instructions with each student prior to viewing the eclipse. Students also viewed a short safety video to prepare them to view the eclipse in a safe manner. (https://www.nasa.gov/content/eclipse-and-transit-videos)

Many people helped to put together a valuable learning experience during this event. Several pictures of our students are included. Our students had this to say about the experience:

“I was really surprised how dark it got. It was interesting to see it.” - Noah M.
“It was a unique event that I’m very happy I got to experience.” - Madison H.
“It was an amazing once in a lifetime experience.” - Sandy A.
“I am glad I got to experience it at school so I could learn more.” - Summer R.
Pleasant Hill Activities… “It’s a GREAT Day to be a Rooster/Chick!”

Highlights:

1. **Back to School:** Welcome back! The fall sports season began on July 31st, 2017 this year welcoming a number of young student-athletes excited for the new season! With six fall sports, the Rooster Cheerleaders and the Pride of the Hill Marching band going on, our facilities are at full tilt when it comes to usage! A special thank you to our custodial staff for accommodating our kids and helping to keep things moving in a positive direction! Professionalism and Class!

2. **Rooster Cheer:** Say hello to our new fall sponsors Morgan Boley & Katie Coleman. The cheerleaders are bigger and better than ever as a group and look forward to performing at every home football game this year. They’ve completed two cheer camps this past summer and recently held a very successful car wash to help them raise funds for the program.

3. **Pride of the Hill:** Mr. Twenter, Ms. Langemach and the drum majors are doing an excellent job leading this group into what will prove to be a successful competition season. The students are working hard on their show in preparation for the home football games coming up. Scores of parents have been involved with assisting with camp and prop building for the show. It is cool to see all the excitement this 90 piece group can bring to a school! They will participate in four competition through the year with a bulk of those being through October. Take some time to catch a show this year. You won’t want to miss it!

4. **Rooster Football:** The football program already has week #1 under their belts. The varsity squad had a tough fought loss in Smithville last Friday, however the freshmen and JV squads sealed the deal with victories this past Monday at Eklund Field! The varsity will head to Moberly Friday night to take on the Spartans!

5. **Cross Country:** The numbers of this group keep growing every year! Coach Stahl and Coach Scott don’t have to inspire our athletes to compete as their intrinsic motivation to do so is very strong. That is what Coach Stahl has brought to this team. A sense of a strong work ethic and solid mental toughness promise success for our cross country teams this fall. Their first competition is this Thursday at Warrensburg.

6. **Chicks Golf:** The Chicks have enjoyed success already this season. The varsity program took 4th out of 17 teams last Friday in the Ray-Pec Tournament. The girls are looking forward to getting their regular season started next week with three matches.

7. **Rooster Soccer:** The Roosters host two game at the end of this week. They host Warrensburg Thursday and Clinton on Friday! All events will begin at 5pm. Come out and see the Roosters as they vie for a Conference Championship!

8. **Chicks Volleyball:** The Chicks earned their first varsity win of the season Monday evening vs. Liberty. They travel to Ray-Pec on Tuesday this week and their first home match is August 28th vs. St. Michaels Archangel (Formerly O’Hara HS).

9. **Chicks Softball:** The Chicks are enjoying two tournaments to start their seasons. The varsity earned a spot in the Silver bracket of the Greater Kansas City softball tournament this past weekend and will play two bracket play games on Tuesday this week. The JV started the Legacy Tournament in Lee’s Summit as well. They’ve worked their way into the silver bracket as well. The will play Wednesday evening this week; TBD. The Chicks begin their conference schedule this next week vs. Grain Valley at Skyline on Tuesday August 29th; 5pm 1st pitch!

10. **Something new:** The Pleasant Hill Booster Club is reinventing themselves, establishing multiple committees and increased membership driving funds to assist our programs! This year they’ve purchased a new radio experience for our home events. Introducing “GameTime” which will entertain at pre-game and provide helpful information and promotional dialogue for our patrons. The music presented on GameTime is properly vetted for inappropriate material and provides a positive push toward sportsmanship within our venues.