DISTRICT
This semester seven University of Central Missouri students are partnering with Pleasant Hill teachers at the Primary, Elementary and Intermediate schools in a new program which better prepares elementary education students for the classroom. The district was selected by UCM to be a part of the Clinical Pathway for elementary and early childhood education majors. The UCM students who have selected this pathway for their program of study spend three full days each week of the first semester of their senior year in classrooms. During their junior year they were in other districts multiple days per week working with small group instruction. This semester the UCM students will rotate through three different Pleasant Hill classrooms at a variety of elementary grade levels for approximately 6 weeks each. They will teach whole group lessons and co-teach with Pleasant Hill teachers. During their final senior semester the UCM students will do their student teaching in one of the three classrooms in which they spent time the previous semester. We are honored to be selected to partner with UCM on this progressive version of student teaching!

UCM student, Ms. Taylor Hernandez, works with students in Mr. Caleb Clawson’s 6th grade classroom.

Mrs. Tiffany Sullivan’s 3rd grade class enjoys the instruction of UCM student, Ms. Kelsie Howe.

UCM student, Ms. Morgan Boley, enjoys working with Mrs. Monica Pickett in 1st grade.

Former PHHS graduate and UCM student, Mrs. Kala Cleveland Randol, is working with Mrs. Tina Bailey and her 2nd graders.
Learning starts early at the Primary School! Georgette Harrald, Brenda Koval, and our team of special education teachers are coordinating student services with First Steps, as children turn three and may be eligible for our ECSE program. All teachers have completed their Units of Instruction for NEE’s student data component, and I am reviewing, scoring, and meeting with them as we already look toward revisions next year. Students are getting excited about our 100th day of school, fast approaching on February 1. We decorate the cafeteria as our “100 Walk of Fame”, have a song-filled assembly, and plan numerous activities for counting, patterns, using money, etc. in the classrooms. Teachers have discovered numerous free and useful classroom apps for their new iPads. Janis Yokley, Tricia Beaman, and our iPad classroom teachers are providing training sessions on various apps at our PD day on Jan. 29.

**Elementary School**

Here’s what is happening at Pleasant Hill Elementary School:

- **The Coding Club** has begun led by Mrs. Michelle Humphrey and Mr. Brian McDavitt, this club meets before school. Students are learning that Code is the language computers, games, and robots speak.

- **Fitness Club** led by Physical Education instructor, Mrs. Christy Reeves, is also in full swing. Students start their day with exercise and enthusiasm improving their coordination and endurance.

- **Family Art Night** was hosted by our art teacher, Mrs. Nicole Albin, on January 20th. Our 45 guests enjoyed creating winter art scenes as a family.

- **Maker Space** materials were introduced to students in the library this week. Our librarian, Ms. Mindy Halfmann, engaged students with “Makey Makeys”, Little Bits, K’Nex, Legos, and craft items.

- **Interim Testing** has begun. All students are taking the interim grade level assessments provided by the state of Missouri. This computer adaptive test provides teachers with a report highlighting standards that have been met by each student. The information gained from these reports will serve as a roadmap for the coming months.

- **Teachers visited Hillcrest STEAM Academy** on the 22nd of this month. This field trip provided staff with opportunity to visit a school in a neighboring district who has already embraced the STEAM philosophy. Teachers were able to meet with the assistant principal, talk with teachers, view student work displays, observe in the library and visit classrooms.
• **PIE Night and Coffee with the Counselor** will be held this Thursday, January 28th at 6:30 in the PHES library. Parents will gain information about the STEAM initiative for the 2016-17 school year and will have the opportunity to ask questions about a variety of topics and engage in conversation with Mrs. Herrera and Mrs. Zimmerschied.

**INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL**
We would like to congratulate the PHIS Students of the Week: Anna Morrison, Jackson Hunt, Dharma Gilsdorf, Abby Shipley, Ella Bears and Nathan Swilley! They have done a great job exhibiting character traits and doing good deeds!

Our students were challenged by our library media specialist, Mrs. Arenson, in December to read twelve books over our holiday break. This challenge was titled **12 Days of Bookmas**! Books flew off the shelves and were bagged up for holiday entertainment. Students that met the challenge earned their reward party recently that consisted of a pizza lunch and activities. Meeting the challenge was for fun, but we are proud of their achievement of growing as a reader! Students will set a New Year’s resolution deciding what they will read next—how to play soccer, learn to cook, know my history, read more poetry...The possibilities are endless!

Mrs. Bermel, our counselor, engaged our 6th graders in a lesson on tolerance. In this lesson, students searched for the most positive aspects of some unusual “people”. The activity reinforces the idea that one can't always judge the quality of a person by his or her appearance; people can be appreciated for their differences. The hands-on activity included each student creating their unique person in three sections which were then collected and disbursed randomly to students who formed a “new person”. Students then shared what special qualities their unique person possessed and what they may have in common with their new buddy. The lesson concluded with a video titled “Don’t Laugh at Me” by Peter Yarrow. Fifth graders will engage in a similar lesson centered on the book **Wings** by Christopher Myers. Students will create their own wings which outline the special qualities about them that make them unique.

PHIS teachers engage in three different professional learning communities (PLCs) on a regular basis. Each of the three PLCs has a very specific purpose. During today’s PLC, teachers within the same content area spent time in collaborative conversations debriefing about their last session and the goal(s) they had established. There was rich dialogue about teaching and learning as they reflected to improve instruction. This PLC concludes by establishing a new goal or deciding to continue the current one. This is one example of how teachers are continuing to learn and striving to improve their practice.
Middle School

Our upcoming district-wide spelling bee will be held this Tuesday, January 26 at 5:00 pm in the Performing Arts Center at the high school. This year our seventh and grade students eligible to compete in our local district competition are the following: (7th Grade) Morgan Corbin, Aislee Gonzalez, Paige Gustin, Logan Pickering, Aby Teitelbaum, Maddy Zvacek, and (8th Grade) Haley Comegys, Victor Leiker, Wesley Tibai, Morgan Wilhite-Smith, Rachel Wilhoit

Our next dance is right around the corner and Student Council is working hard to prepare for this festive school activity too! The Winter Dance will be Friday, February 5 from 6pm - 8pm in the middle school gym. Cost is $5 at the door (correct change is appreciated) and school dress code will be enforced. Some students choose to dress up a bit more than normal for this dance, but it is not a formal dance and anything students would wear to school is considered acceptable attire for the dance. Student Council will be accepting food and drink donations for the dance. If you would like to help by donating boxed drinks and/or treats please email Janice Martin, student council advisor, at jmartin@pleasanthillschools.com or call her at 540-2149 x4121 by Tuesday, February 2 with what you would like to donate or for additional information. As always, we welcome parents and guardians to stick around and join in the fun as chaperons.

Special Announcement...

“A Night on Broadway”

Pleasant Hill Middle School Variety Show Information

Our very first PHMS Variety Show is coming up on Friday, March 4th and Saturday, March 5th, 2016! Our theme this year is “A Night on Broadway.” All of the songs in the variety show will be centered around Broadway musicals.

Special choreography video link...

https://drive.google.com/a/pleasanthillschools.com/file/d/0B_57NklVwHYdtdU1IN0N5yWTZ5RFk/view

Please also check our variety show blog at phmsvarietyshow.blogspot.com for updates.
Taylor Markham, a freshman at PHHS, has been named the local winner for the Veterans of Foreign War (VFW) Voice of Democracy audio essay contest. The theme of 2015-16 Voice of Democracy Program is: My Vision for America. The VFW established the Voice of Democracy program in 1947 to provide opportunity for students to express themselves in regards democratic ideas and principles. Markham will receive a cash prize at the Commander’s Dinner at VFW Post 3118 on January 29, 2016. Taylor’s audio essay also advanced to the district level for competition. Congratulations Taylor.

The PHHS Culinary Careers class is gearing up for the Valentine’s day cake pop sales that will begin February 10th and end February 19th. Details on placing your orders are coming February 1, 2016! Students in this class plan the production, marketing, and delivery of these tasty treats! The money raised will be utilized in future semester projects and the annual “Chopped” contest.

Child Development II students are learning about “what teachers do”. We will begin our childcare rotations February 4th and each student will rotate through lesson design and implementation, observation of children and child interaction time.

The Pleasant Hill High School SADD Chapter will be hosting a blood drive at PHHS on Monday, February 22, 2016 from 8:00 AM until 1:00 PM in the auditorium. Students age 16 or older, staff, parents, and community members are invited to donate. A link to make appointments online, will be available soon.

**Technology**

The Technology Department staff is very excited about the implementation of 1:1 Chromebooks and Project Lead the Way in our district. Much planning and coordination of upgrades already planned will complement the initiatives and help with the success of the technology integration required of these initiatives. The recent issues regarding our phone system and circuit with MoreNet continue to be a hurdle but the department is working with the companies to speed the repairs along as quickly as possible. The next phases of upgrades include upgrading the fiber optic loop between buildings once the circuit upgrade with MoreNet is complete and doubling the wireless access points in all school buildings.

**Special Services**

**Primary**

Mrs. Pickett and Miss Woodson
1st Grade

Students in Mrs. Diederich’s and Miss Woodson’s co-taught 1st grade classroom have been developing their problem solving skills and building community through the Makerspace program. Students were challenged to work together in groups to build a structure with tape, spaghetti noodles, and ribbon. The final structure had to be able to
support the weight of a marshmallow. After twenty minutes of building, the structure's height was measured and its strength was tested. Each week, students are assigned a new activity that requires critical thinking, cooperation, and problem solving skills.

Students in Mrs. Pickett’s and Miss Woodson’s co-taught 1st grade classroom visualize what the word “winter” means to them. The students made collages with magazine pictures to show what they visualize when thinking about winter. (SL.1.4 Describe people, places, things, and events with relevant details, expressing ideas and feelings clearly.) Visualizing is an important reading comprehension skill taught during reader’s workshop. Students then presented their collages in a share-out and described what each picture represented. The audience could ask questions regarding the presenter’s collage. The presenter had to explain why they picked each picture. (SL.1.3 Ask and answer questions about what a speaker says in order to gather additional information or clarify something that is not understood.) Students have been applying this skill when listening to reading and reading independently.

**Elementary**
Cooking up a Great New Year!
Mrs. White and Mrs. Lloyd

- I can compare and contrast the point of view from which different stories are narrated.
- I can sequence a set of directions to produce a recipe.

Our students sequenced the directions of a recipe to make Rice Krispie Treats! Following this event, the same students had to switch roles and write from their partner’s point of view about how they thought the event happened. We had a lot of fun!!
In these images, students are working diligently in Google documents to complete a Cold Write. Students were given the following writing prompt and asked to respond. “Think about a difficult challenge of problem someone your age might face. What is the challenge, and how does the person handle it?” Students were encouraged to develop their writing piece. Not to be afraid to include dialogue. Students were immersed in the assignment. In the past, students were asked to complete an assignment similar to this using pen and paper. Often, the quality and quantity of the work was not up to expectation. My goal for these students was to complete a cold write which would result in a Basic to Proficient paper. They met that goal in part due to the current curriculum we use, Wonders but also because they have access to technology. It was amazing watching their commitment to the assignment. KUDDO’s to these 6th graders

High School
Language Arts II - Mrs. Book and Mrs. Felden

The students in Language Arts II recently finished presentations on their independent reading books, an assessment which met a number of Missouri Learning Standards in English Language Arts for reading, writing, language, and speaking and listening. During the presentation, students had to first summarize the plot of their books. Then, they had to discuss all aspects of the setting, which required them to make inferences and draw conclusions since many times the author does not directly state the actual setting. After discussing plot elements, students described their favorite scene and explained why the particular scene they chose was their favorite. Next, students shared a meaningful quote from the text and had to explain its meaning in the context of the novel. Finally, students shared their own personal connections to the story and how the story connects to the actual world. At the conclusion of presentations, students
had to field questions from the audience concerning their presentation and their reading book. Students not only received feedback from the teachers but also from their peers as audience members were required to complete evaluation sheets on others’ presentations. Finally, students completed a self-reflection sheet on their own project, evaluating its strengths and weaknesses. To assist all students and differentiate instruction, several accommodations were offered to students. Teachers modeled the presentation while students used the scoring guide for the project to actually grade the teachers’ presentations. Then, in cooperative groups students discussed how they scored the project and justified to their peers the reasoning behind the scores. Models of the powerpoint itself were provided to students in print and electronic form, so they could use the models as they created their own powerpoint. Students created organizers prior to creating the powerpoint itself, and they got feedback from both teachers and peers on the contents of the organizer. Students practiced presentations with one another. While practicing, students were required to provide feedback to the presenter to help the presenter improve the presentation.
PLEASANT HILL ACTIVITIES… “IT’S A GREAT DAY TO BE A ROOSTER/CHICK!”

Highlights:

1. Rooster Wrestling: The Roosters travelled to MICDS in St. Charles, Mo. this past weekend. The team took 10 wrestlers and came home with 5 champions, 2 runner ups, 2 3rd place finishers and 2nd place as a team! A great team effort! The Roosters have a dual in Harrisonville on Tuesday (26th) and a tri-meet in Cameron (28th) on Thursday. Follow the Rooster wrestlers on twitter at @roosterwrestle

2. Rooster Basketball: The Roosters head into this week taking on Oak Grove in the first night of the Grain Valley Sonic Showdown. That game will be played at the Grain Valley North Middle School at 7:30pm Tuesday night (26th). Thursday’s game will be at 6pm at a location to be determined in Grain Valley. Wish the Roosters good luck!

3. Chicks Basketball: The Chicks head into this week taking on the O’Hara Lady Celtics in their first night of the Grain Valley Sonic Showdown. That game will be played at Grain Valley North Middle School at 6pm Monday night (25th). Wednesday’s game will be at 6pm on Wednesday at a location to be determined in Grain Valley. Wish the Chicks good luck!

4. Speech & Debate: The speech and debate team took a small squad to Warrensburg. The debate team had a combined record of 11-5 bringing home 3rd place in Lincoln Douglas debate and 1st place in Public Forum. On the speech side PHHS finished 8th in Extemporaneous Speaking and Champions division of Prose Reading, 4th in Original Oratory and 1st in the varsity division of prose reading Follow the Speech & Debate team on twitter at @roosterdebate

5. Choir: Hillside brought home a Grand Champion finish last weekend. They hosted the annual “Battle of the Best” competition this past weekend. Many compliments came from competing directors and parents during this day. Much appreciation to all the parent volunteers and school staff in making this event such a successful one! Outstanding day!

FACILITIES

The Pleasant Hill District Safety Committee met January 21, 2016. During the meeting, Dr. Janis Yokley gave an update on the phone system and internet circuit. Lora Watson, Nurse Supervisor, reported that the district has seen only a small amount of Influenza B so far this year. Lieutenant Mark Largent of the Pleasant Hill Police Department had positive comments on the search and rescue training the district undertook on January 4, 2016. A review of the District response to a bomb threat took place with the committee. It was recommended that each building level team perform a tornado table top and the District Committee would once again work through the same scenario during the upcoming March meeting. Committee members Nicole Albin and Christy Reeves discussed the January Search and Rescue training session performed at the High School. Discussion about next year’s staff safety training took place and options for consideration were presented. Dates of Active Shooter training for staff in each building were presented. The meeting concluded with reports from Nicole Albin and Lieutenant Largent on a community centered active shooter presentation they attended in Harrisonville recently.