DISTRICT
Pleasant Hill R-III STEAM Team Attend Planning Meeting
Recently the District sent representatives from each building to attend the Carnegie STEM Excellence Pathway Workshop. Pleasant Hill was one of 23 area schools invited to attend the event, which was organized by KC STEM Alliance. At this meeting, the District’s STEAM Team learned more about STEM/STEAM education, conducted a self-assessment of the current STEAM work in the district, and heard from business partners in the Greater KC area who have outreach programs for schools. During the self-assessment portion of the day, district staff members collaborated on the events, processes, and instructional practices taking place in each of the buildings in the district which support STEAM education at that level. We learned that each building already has practices and processes in place which supports a STEAM focus; however, we had not always thought of them through that lens in the past. The district-wide work we have been doing on project-based learning, inquiry, problem solving, and critical thinking all fall into the practices which make up STEAM education. We were all excited to see how our instructional journey over the past several years has laid some foundational work and support for STEAM!

The team then decided upon one area to focus work over the next calendar year. Mrs. Emily Allsop, high school assistant principal, and Miss Rachel Breslin, 4th grade teacher, will be presenting to the Board of Education at this month's meeting giving an overview of the day. The work of the STEAM team on September 27th, as well as the follow-up work, is greatly appreciated. Their dedication to what is best for students continues to be evident!

Primary School Highlights at the Primary School include:
- Good attendance at Curriculum Nights for 1st. and 2nd. grade parents, and discussions to improve presentations in the future, including students and more technology
- PS choir students joining other building choirs to sing the National Anthem at the last home varsity football game
- Upcoming visits from the PH Fire Dept. for National Fire Prevention Week
- Pink and Bling Day for staff to raise funds for
cancer research
- The start of the Pizza Hut Book-It program
- National Custodians’ Day on Oct. 2
- 1st. grade vision screenings
- AND THE NEW SUPPLIES! Mrs. Janet Anderson shows off new Drum Kit curriculum, purchased with Boxtops donations and PTO funds, for PE classes, and Ms. Kerri Kay's 1st. grade students exchanged their android tablets for a chromebook cart, thanks to our technology department.

**Elementary School**

**Spotlight on Mrs. Smother’s Fourth Grade Class**

As a culminating project on force and motion, Mrs. Smother's students created a Marble Run with recycled materials. They had to demonstrate the following:

- Force
- Change in speed
- Gravity
- Acceleration
- Friction
- Incline plane
- Inertia

- With bonus points given if the marble stayed in motion for 2 seconds or longer

The final projects were impressive and when combined made an amazingly MASSIVE MARBLE RUN!

Also: PHES Staff helped to unpack the 49 Vex Kits during professional development recently. The parts had to be opened, organized and stored for future use. Great teamwork made a large job go much easier.
In each homeroom, students nominate one peer for Student of the Month. It is quite an honor to have one’s peers recognize important character traits and qualities about them such as being kind and respectful as well as being responsible and persevering. The following students have been nominated for the month of October: Westyn Jensen, Camden Anderson, Kayla Mason, Grayson Sudduth, Jack Ailshire, Ryan Ervin, Katie Meiries, Shannon Ruckman, Madison Franklin, Chase Underwood, Hannah South, and Lydia Mannino. We congratulate each of them!

Congratulations to this week’s Students of the Week! They are: Skylar Poss, Cooper Sullivan, Stephanie Cornwell, Colin Kiger, Linus (Oswaldo) Gomez, and Cheyenne Maasen. They were recognized by their teachers for exhibiting outstanding character traits and deeds!

The entire PHIS student body is reading *Escape from Mr. Lemoncello’s Library* and completing a variety of activities centered on the book during Rooster Time. The following write-up has been taken from www.chrisgrabenstein.com:

Can twelve 12-year-olds escape from the most ridiculously brilliant library ever created? *Escape from Mr. Lemoncello’s Library* plunks a dozen sixth-graders into the middle of a futuristic library for a night of nonstop fun and adventure.

In a nod to Roald Dahl’s *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, this fast-paced new novel features an eccentric billionaire who welcomes a group of children into a fantasy setting full of weird, wondrous touches.
**MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**Left:** Eighth-grade band students are marching to Mr. Twenter and Ms. Langemach’s instructions.  **Right:** Students in Pierce’s science class must identify the minerals in the bag using the characteristics they have studied.

Pleasant Hill Middle School is finishing first quarter with a lot happening in the building. The PLTW laptops are up and running, leading to some new and engaging additions to the science curriculum. Many classes are utilizing hands-on projects and labs now that base knowledge has been established. We are setting up for two conference styles during the final week in October so that parents and students can choose student-led or traditional to track first-quarter’s achievement. After school clubs are now meeting regularly as fall sports finish this month. Mrs. Pate has developed a career fair for November that attempts to enhance the relevance of student learning by having professionals share their experiences and training.

**Left:** Mrs. Mosier works with students on a module for Family and Consumer Sciences.  **Center:** Another FACS student works on a life skill after the lab.  **Right:** Mrs. Myler guides students in ELA while one chooses the balance ball instead of a chair.

**HIGH SCHOOL**

Pleasant Hill High School is preparing to host the Academic Letter Assembly. This will be the thirtieth annual ceremony to recognize our students that excel in the classroom. To be eligible for an academic letter, students must maintain a 3.5 GPA while enrolled in a minimum of six graded classes. This event is one of the highlights of the school year as we welcome back a distinguished alumnus to address the students. This year Dr. Christopher Veit will speak to the students about the value of setting goals, hard work, and determination. We will recognize 194 students on Wednesday, October 12, 2016 for their outstanding achievement in the classroom.
The Little Rooster Learning Center is off to a great start. We have been busy getting to know one another, practicing our manners, and having fun! We begin our afternoons with some fine motor work by doing puzzles, learning to write our names, playing with Play-doh, or a variety of other options. At circle time we count the numbers on the calendar, talk about the days of the week, the weather, and the season. We also get up and move to some of our favorite songs and then settle back down to learn about the letter of the week, colors, numbers, and shapes. During centers, we get to share, explore, and use our social skills by playing in one of 8 centers: art, construction, dramatic play, literacy, math & science, sensory, transportation, and iPads. We work on communication and table manners during snack and finish our indoor time with quiet reading and a read-aloud. Then we head out to recess before going home.

Mrs. Boden and Mrs. Lubke–ELA 1

Mrs. Boden's and Mrs. Lubke's freshman co-teaching class has been diligently working on writing personal narratives. In the narrative they have focused on writing a strong lead, using dialogue to move the plot, descriptive language, and including a theme. Throughout mini-lessons the students were able to engage in using dry erase table tops to work on plot points for stories. Next week they will begin reading To Kill A Mockingbird.

Students recently took a trip to the library to participate in a book tasting. A variety of books were laid out on tables and students were given a few minutes at each table to quickly view the variety of books. While they viewed the books at each table they were able to enjoy some snacks that were provided. This activity allowed the students to sample books in a different aspect. During the book tasting they ranked the books and were able to place holds on books they were interested in reading.
Pleasant Hill Activities… “It’s a GREAT Day to be a Rooster/Chick!”

Highlights:

1. Rooster Soccer: The Rooster soccer team completes their senior night game Monday night vs. Harrisonville; 5pm first kick! The Roosters travel to Van Horn on Tuesday and then to Excelsior Springs on Thursday. They will participate in the District Tournament next week in Clinton.

2. Rooster Football: The football team got a victory last Friday evening vs. Odessa! The Roosters have given themselves a strong chance to host the first district game to be held on October 21st regardless of next week’s outcome by defeating both Odessa and Oak Grove this season who are both in their district. This week the team travels to Excelsior Springs to take on the Tigers; 7pm kick-off.

3. Chicks Volleyball: The Volleyball team keeps rolling on! They got a tournament championship this past weekend in the Grain Valley Tournament. They secured MRVC wins vs. Grain Valley and Harrisonville last week. The Chicks host Excelsior Springs Tuesday and travel to Odessa Thursday to round out their regular season. The Chicks will host this year’s Class 3 District 13 tournament on Monday October 17th and Wednesday October 19th as the #1 seed. The Chicks will play on Wednesday of October 17th at 6pm.

4. Chicks Golf: The Chicks have sent Madison Roach to the state golf tournament Monday and Tuesday this week. We are excited to hear the results of her rounds as she represents Pleasant Hill in Jefferson City.

5. Cross Country: The cross country team is working to build success toward the district meet at the end of this month. This week the team travels to Warrensburg; Thursday and then they participate in the MRVC meet in Richmond next Wednesday.

6. Chicks Softball: The Chicks wrapped up their season this past weekend at home in the Class 3 District 14 tournament. They suffered a semi-final loss to Warrensburg; 4-1. The ladies had a strong season and played very well defeating a strong Smithville squad this past Monday.

7. The Pride of the Hill: The Pride travels once again to Blue Springs to participate in the Blue Springs South marching band competition. Their performance is scheduled for 4:15pm at Blue Springs South high school. Drop by and enjoy an outstanding performance and root on your Roosters!

8. A special thank you to all the teams/students/parents/staff and patrons for helping in last week’s Gold Out initiative. In our first year we were able to bring awareness to the entire Kansas City area as Fox 4 elected to run our story! We are able to donate a modest total of approximately $2,200 to area charities benefitting childhood cancer because of this event. A special thank you as well to our rivals to the south who participated in the event. I’m sure there were some scrunched foreheads when the two student bodies met at mid-field for a group hug…it was an awesome sight! A shout out to the Werners and the Jellison’s for assisting with the endeavor. Finally a big thank you goes to Mrs. Vickie Carter, for without her involvement, the event wouldn’t have been so successful.

9. Have an outstanding week! It's a great day to be a Rooster/Chick!

TECHNOLOGY

Work was recently completed by the Technology Department to place mobile computer labs in Project Lead the Way Gateway rooms. Gateway is the Middle School level Project Lead the Way curriculum that is being implemented in science classrooms, by Mrs. Davis, Mrs. Pierce and Mr. Campbell in seventh and eighth grades. Mr. Clawson and Ms. Ludlam will be implementing Gateway curriculum in Sixth Grade. All of the classrooms are equipped with Windows PCs which will be used with Project Lead the Way curriculum access through Canvas, an online learning management system, and Google Apps for Education.
Facilities

Maintenance and custodial personnel delivered water to the school buildings during the recent boil order. Ed Norvell and Wayne Wolff unloaded the water and delivered the cases of water to the students at the Elementary School. Students, staff and administrators worked hand in hand to make the situation run as smoothly as possible minimizing the disruption to the educational process.