DISTRICT
Administrators Align Expectations
Just as each building staff throughout the district has been working on and discussing the Network for Educator Effectiveness, NEE, the district administrators, as a group, have been doing the same. At last Thursday meeting, we spent our time watching and scoring two different video clips using the scoring guides for standards 1.1, 1.2, and 5.3b. After watching and scoring, there was worthwhile discussion regarding each standard. This work is important to keep us on the same page and calibrated in our observation of teaching and learning. The process of reviewing and scoring to ensure consistency across the district will continue throughout the year.

PRIMARY SCHOOL
PS students are excited about Spirit Week with a theme for each day and the parade on Friday. They have made pennants and other projects in art classes to celebrate the Roosters. Our main focus recently is on ELA, with Rooster Reading Time starting last week and Wonders training on our early release day. Teachers used the online component of Wonders to explore resources, determine critical content, and set up their home to school connections. 1st and 2nd graders have started their choir practices with Ms. Oparnico, preparing for a November performance. Our first all-school assembly of the year will be the morning of September 25, using a new schedule this year that will protect more instructional time. Cass County Career Center students are working with our nurse, Shiela Ross, to host a “health fair” with various screenings and information this week.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Recently we honored fourth graders for their accomplishments on the state assessment last spring. Board Members distributed 120 Trackmaker certificates to our fourth graders. Congratulations to those students, parents and teachers. Problem Based Learning activities can be seen throughout the building at PHES! Students are applying their math, reading and reasoning skills in a simulated restaurant setting, Lego construction activity, home design opportunity, and budgeting challenges. The Math/Science and Reading/Writing Committees are collaborating to create a building-wide PBL opportunity for students. This PBL will be focused on our theme of “The Great Outdoors” and will last for several days in November; stay tuned! The PHES Outdoor Learning Lab is being used daily. Classrooms are researching types of seeds and bulbs to plant; while other classes are transplanting fall flowers to observe and tend. The after school Garden Club is busy assembling compost worm bins and constructing rain gauges. The Outdoor Learning Lab has added a new layer of instruction that truly enriches the learning experience for our students. Thank you to Sutherland’s in Harrisonville and MidWest Lumber in Pleasant Hill; both stores donated tools and items to help us maintain the Outdoor Lab.
Again this year at PHIS we will recognize “Students of the Week”. Students are recognized by teacher teams for a variety of reasons including, but not limited to: showing and giving respect, being kind and thoughtful, being responsible and persevering. Our students of the week are introduced every Friday in the Morning Motivator for the following week. Our students of the week this week are: Duncan Perkins, Avery Lawrence, Korbin Thaller, Carissa Smith-Neely, Emma Miller Fox and Emmy Duncan. We congratulate each of them!

Spoontember:
There is a national awareness campaign by Feeding America that is taking place in September (Hunger Action Month). It is called Spoontember. The campaign encourages people to balance an orange spoon on their nose, take a “spoon selfie” and post it on social media (much like the ice bucket challenge). The goal is to bring awareness to hunger in the United States. The color orange symbolizes hunger and is meant to be a conversation starter to bring awareness to the growing need in communities across the country. Our students have been challenged to bring a can of food to donate to a local food pantry; there is a competition between grade levels. What a great act of kindness the donation is and a way to support our community. Our “selfie” will be coming soon.....

Students in 6th grade technology class spent part of last week learning about Ireland. After studying about the country, they used the technology of Skype to communicate with a family that lives in Ireland. The students learned about the currency of Ireland, some of
their customs and activities, popular Irish foods, and even how to say "goodbye" in Irish. The class plans on reconnecting throughout the year.

September 18th was an early release for teacher professional development. Our ELA (English Language Arts) teachers spent the afternoon with a rep from McGraw Hill regarding our new reading series, Wonders. Elective teachers connected with other elective teachers from other buildings in our district to align, plan and write curriculum. Math, science/social studies teachers analyzed data and identified students in need of Response to Intervention (extra support) and worked on their Unit of Instruction.

We are celebrating spirit week this week. Our daily themes are:

- Monday- Sports Day
- Tuesday- Neon and Bling Day
- Wednesday- Super Hero Day
- Thursday- Fake an Injury Day
- Friday- Purple and Gold Day

We look forward to sharing pictures from this week! Go Roosters!

**MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Math news…*Math 7 and Introduction to Algebra:*

Proportional reasoning is a unifying theme in mathematics and is at the core of future mathematics concepts such as trigonometric ratios, probability, relative frequency and inverse variations.

Math 7 has been perfecting and extending their proportional reasoning and thinking through activities and experiences involving comparing and determining the equivalence of ratios. The experiences include but not limited to story problems, tables, graphs and puzzles.

Students relate two quantities within a given situation in a multiplicative relationship. They have been comparing and discussing whether the comparisons represent a proportional or nonproportional situation. One strategy students have been utilizing is unit rate or composed unit, while another is to find a constant between the ratios.
Exponential notation is more effective for conveying numeric or quantitative information about very small or very large numbers. Introduction to Algebra have been extending their current knowledge of exponent to include integer exponents and soon to scientific notation to describe very large and very small numbers.

Students can identify that exponential notation represents repeated multiplication and discuss the approach they chose to arrive at an equivalent expression using the Laws of Exponents. Students have also learned to determine equivalent expressions using unique prime numbers.

In Algebra 1, 8th grade, we are currently working on solving multi-step story problems using graphs, equations, tables, and words. This picture to the right shows this type of problem. Students were working in groups to do this activity. These skills will help to do the next concepts which are solving inequalities and story problems involving inequalities. We also will cover compound inequalities. Later we will use a quiz type website to review the skills we have learned.

Happy Homecoming!

Pleasant Hill Middle School's Student Council is off and running with Homecoming Spirit Week and Election Results. The votes have been casted and tallied, and our new StuCo members will report for duty at our first meeting 7am Wednesday morning September 30 in Ms. Martin's room. Our new President is 8th grade student Logan Bailey and our Vice President is seventh grade student Evan Miller. Our other student representatives are Ethan Campbell, Catie Davis, Lindsey Dobson, Madalynne Ohler, Jayden Reyes, Dawson Sivils, and Nicole South. Thank you to all who ran for office this year: the results were close and every vote counted!

Students voted and this year's spirit begins today Monday 9/21 with Mundane Monday PJ day. Tuesday will be Twin Tuesday and Wednesday will be Wednesday Wacky Hat/Hair Day. We will end
our week on Thursday with Superheroes roaming the halls and Friday with Rooster Fandom Friday. We are looking forward to a fun spirit filled week. Support our team and have a blast.

Go ROOSTERS!

*Middle school homecoming plans for Friday, Sept. 25...*

**7:30-8:15**     Track Maker Awards*

*Dismissal to Advisory Class at conclusion of morning awards.*

**HIGH SCHOOL**

Students in Mrs. Carter's fine arts classes are involved in many projects. The students in the drawing class are using the flowers and plant in the front of the building, planted by Ed Norvell, to create observational drawings.

Drawing students are working on gesture drawings along with constructing “Tape Man Sculptures”. In these projects, students are reviewing human body structure in a three dimensional way. Packing tape is used to create a shell around a student. Eventually, the groups of students will assemble the shells to create one complete figure. Many of these creations will be used for homecoming decorations of fairy tale characters.

Photography students are enjoying the new room arrangement and are in the process of editing the many pictures that they have taken this semester.
**TECHNOLOGY**

Cooperation - that's what it takes to get technology projects accomplished. The technology department relies on the maintenance department to help get many of our district classrooms ready. Coordinating schedules between the departments can be difficult but what great results! The art lab was recently outfitted with a wall mounted short-throw projector installed near the Apple computers along with a large screen that can be viewed by students from anywhere in the very large room. Students will be using the computers to process the photos they take for their art courses. It will be exciting to see the great work the art students will produce!

**Special Services**

Primary  
Underwood/Jones

Objective: I can understand that the three digits of a three-digit number represent amounts of hundreds, tens, and ones.

Second grade students in Ms. Jones' and Ms. Underwood's co-teaching class are playing “Race to 100” in groups of three. They are practicing trading out 10 “ones” for 1 “ten” and eventually trading out 10 “tens” for 1 “hundred” by rolling dice to increase their number.
This month in Mr. Wood's Speech-Language class - students are working hard on sequencing events in stories. The activity pictured can be adapted for speech AND language students. Speech students practice telling all the main events of a story in a structured way while using their targeted speech sounds correctly and intelligibly. Language students can identify and answer "wh" questions, identify main idea, identify and correctly use grade-level vocabulary words, and follow sequential directions.

Elementary
Carey Armstrong/Erica Smothers

This past summer, Evan Williams, an Eagle Scout candidate and PHHS student, organized and constructed an outdoor learning lab at PHES. Many of our classes have gotten right to work. Mrs. Smothers and Mrs. Armstrong's co-teaching class did research to find out what vegetable crops were suitable to plant in the fall. They decided upon lettuce, beets, spinach and swiss chard. The class then had to figure out a way to divide the planter so that small groups were able to have their own garden plot. The tub was divided into six equal spaces using string and toothpicks.

Objectives:
I can use accountable talk when working to solve a problem in small groups.
I can use appropriate questions to find answers when conducting research.
I can use math skills of area and perimeter to design a garden plot so that each small group has an area to plant.

CCSS
4.MD.A.3 Apply the area and perimeter formulas for rectangles in real world and mathematical problems.

ELA-LITERACY.W.4.7
Conduct short research projects that build knowledge through investigation of different aspects of a topic.

Intermediate
Kayla Heishman/

This lesson was taught in a co-teaching 6th grade math class. The unit of study was mean and statistics, meeting CCSS.Math.Content.6.SP.B.5.c. The objective of the lesson was “I can understand what a SMART goal is and set them for myself.” The why of the lesson was “So I can be accountable for my own learning.” This lesson was taught in both small and whole group, using graded student work as resources. The focused instruction was I modeled setting a SMART goal on the whiteboard for the students. Following setting his/her SMART goal I modeled how to find the mean of graded assignments, so the student could calculate his/her grade percentage in the class. Guided instruction that was provided during the lesson was I having the students work in partners/ small group to discuss our goal and how we are going to reach it. Collaboratively, the students and I discussed action steps to do in order to reach our goal. If a student did not reach his/her goal, we as a small group discussed possible reasons for why goal was not met. Independently, the students wrote his/her SMART goal using the prompts “I graded a ______ on the post test” and “On the Unit 1B pretest I scored a ______. My goal for this unit is to score __________ or better on the posttest.” Next, the students recorded graded scores into a teacher provided table in their portfolio folders. Also, the students calculated the mean of his/her grade percentage in the class. The strategic teacher questions were what is a SMART goal and what did you do to accomplish your goal? Reviewing student SMART goals for understanding and calculations of mean are two ways to formatively assess the students.
Middle
Jessica Parsons/ Mary Jo Fender
Special Education Co-Teaching Math 7th and 8th Grade

7th grade has been working with proportional relationships. They have been finding equivalent ratios as well as comparing different types of data. This includes story problems, tables, and graphs. One activity that the students really enjoyed was an octagon puzzle activity. For this activity, they had to create a table to show whether or not a regular octagon side length was proportional to its perimeter. They also had to create a regular octagon with the side length of 20 inches out of string. They had to figure out how much string they needed to make it and how to put it together.
In Mr. Schoenherr’s American history class the students are learning about the civil war. The students are split into groups and are given a side, either North or South. Based on the side that they are given, they must take a stance about scenarios regarding the war and be able to defend their position with facts about what they have learned over the last couple of weeks. This has been a fun project for the students to get them into groups, and has provided meaningful discussions amongst the students and teachers.

PLEASANT HILL ACTIVITIES… “IT’S A GREAT DAY TO BE A ROOSTER/CHICK!”

Homecoming September 25th, 2015 vs. Oak Grove

Highlights:

1. It’s HOMECOMING WEEK! Take part in all the activities surrounding homecoming. This year’s parade will be Friday afternoon at 1:30pm beginning at the High School, down Myrtle to Lake St. into downtown. The football game vs. Oak Grove will begin at 7pm.

2. Football: The Roosters had an exciting evening this past Friday getting a win over the Grain Valley Eagles! The game began an 1½ late due to inclement weather in the area. Kudos to the administrative staff for helping keep our kids safe and secure during the weather event. The game was a fun one to watch as the Roosters proved to be resilient to adversity and come through for the victory.
3. **Softball:** Don't look now, but the Chicks are on a roll. They've had a very strong two week period completing two tournaments with strong finishes along with four straight MRVC West victories! They have two home games this week (Monday v Sion & Tuesday v Oak Grove). They will also play on Thursday vs MRVC West rival Harrisonville. All games begin at 5pm.

4. **Cross Country:** The Roosters and Chicks have steadily made their way through the season. They travelled to Joplin this past weekend to compete in the Joplin Stampede. We had 23 athletes run personal record times and Jake Watson ran a 16:49 which is the second fastest in school history. The roosters have won meets at Oak Grove and Holden the past couple of weeks. The Chicks are building behind them with 3rd & 4th place finishes respectively.

5. **Volleyball:** The Chicks continue their winning ways as they collect four wins in since the last publication starting the MRVC West season 2-0 with wins over Oak Grove and Harrisonville. The Chicks made it to the top bracket at the LS North Tournament this weekend defeating Liberty North and Park Hill, while splitting with a tough LS West team in pool play. They dropped a highly contested three game match vs. LS North in bracket play. They will take on Grain Valley at home on Tuesday and Excelsior Springs at home on Thursday this week. They will play in the Warrensburg Tournament this Saturday.

6. **Boys Soccer:** The Roosters had a strong showing in the Van Horn tournament. They are improving as a team and look forward to some tough matches coming up. The Roosters have home matches on Tuesday (Harrisonville) and Thursday (Excelsior Springs) this week. Come out and check out some Rooster soccer!

7. **Girls Golf:** The Chicks golf team continues to grow and get better. The MRVC tournament takes place our at Richmond on Monday. The ladies take on O'Hara and Warrensburg on Tuesday at Country Creek. Best of luck at the conference tournament!

8. **Pride of the Hill:** The band begins competition October 3rd in Blue Springs. They will be a part of the homecoming festivities Friday afternoon and evening. Be sure to catch their show!

9. **Check out the Sonic Locker Room Show on Wednesday afternoons at 4:20pm on 1030 KCWJ The Light. You can also hear the shows archived on [www.soniclockerroom.com](http://www.soniclockerroom.com) Last weeks show with Head Coach Paul Stahl and the previous week’s show with volleyball Head Coach George Creason is archived there now. Just click on the Rooter's logo once at the website.**

Help us inform you by checking in on our website… [www.pleasanthillactivities.org](http://www.pleasanthillactivities.org). Advertising opportunities are available which will assist our activities department. Thank you for your support and Have a great week! (Twitter…@phhsactivities)

**FACILITIES**

The facilities staff has been busy with mowing and working on flower beds as well as general maintenance and cleaning of the facilities. Kelly Hart has been working after his normal shift on catching up some of the exterior painting normally done during the summer maintenance. The crosswalks have been freshened up along with playground markings throughout the district. Still on the horizon are some of the lane markings as well as parking lot lines.

Mulch was delivered on Friday in the afternoon for the Primary School and Intermediate School playgrounds just in time for the rains to come down. As a result, not all of the mulch was spread over the weekend as most of the work had to be done by hand due to the wet ground. Please be patient as this project may take a few days as we are short handed with one grounds person having recent surgery, a second filling in for custodians on leave and a third grounds person on vacation.