CURRICULUM WRITING PROGRESS UPDATE
On the January 30th PD Early Release, the district's visual arts teachers met at Central Office to work on their curriculum. It was a very productive day which began with a conversation outlining the curriculum writing process, then moved to vertical alignment of concepts and skills taught K-12, and ended with the teachers beginning to fill out their curriculum maps and pacing guides for each course. The conversation was rich and powerful. It was another great reminder of the strong academic program we have in place in the Pleasant Hill R-III School District.

FACILITIES
This time of year becomes very busy with planning summer clean-up schedules and projects. The Board approved several projects for fiscal year 2015-16. The preliminary process has begun on: parking lot repairs at the High School (both main teacher and main student areas); reconfiguring the drive and parking area in front of the Primary School; creating a drive lane at the Middle School entrance; replacing visitor side bleachers at Eklund Field; connecting the Primary School and High School to city sewer; installing new bleachers at the Middle School gym; improvements to Skyline Field; and roof repairs and tuck pointing at the High School. The District is also currently in a joint effort with the City to correct the drainage issue at the Broadway Sports Complex. The City is providing materials and labor for the project and the District is providing labor as well.

PRIMARY SCHOOL
The 100th day of school was a big celebration for us at the Primary School. Every class made a display for our “100 Walk of Fame” in the cafeteria: 100 pond animals, 100 silly faces, 100 adjectives, 100 words of encouragement, 100 math facts, and so on. We ended the day with an assembly, songs, and $100 bill notepaper. Our next big day of excitement will be Feb. 13, when our PTO volunteers are planning class Valentine parties in the afternoon. We will celebrate Dr. Seuss Week beginning Feb. 23, with special colors and book themes every day. Our focuses for professional development this month will be the new state testing grades 3-8, continued math curriculum development, language and vocabulary development with speech teacher Kathy Boegl, iPad classrooms, and peer observations. I am meeting with teachers throughout this month that are participating in the Missouri Educator Evaluation System to review professional growth plans for summatives.
Last week we celebrated National School Counselor’s Week. On Wednesday, we all wore pink for our counselor, Terri Zimmerschied, since it is her favorite color. Students and staff honored her with cards and kind words all week. We appreciate all she does to meet the needs of staff, parents and students at the E.S.

We will kick off this week with our 3rd Grade Dance and Jump Rope Club Program Monday night at 7:00 pm in the PHHS Gym. The program will feature our 3rd grade students performing a Greek dance, the Sirtaki, folk dances, the Virginia Reel and a few line dances. Our Jump Rope Club students will demonstrate their skills as well. Special thanks to Christy Reeves for all of the time, effort and talent she dedicated to ensuring that our students are performance-ready! On Wednesday, the Crayola Grant Committee will reconvene to complete the interim report. We are pleased to show how our school has built the creative capacity of faculty and embedded the use of Arts-Infused Education throughout the school. Art infusion and hands on learning can be seen everywhere in the building. Special recognition goes to Nicole Albin, Ebony Shaffer, Mindy Halfmann and Christy Reeves for their collaboration with teachers.

Here are some examples:

Fourth graders are using Model Magic to learn about multiplying fractions. Third graders are putting the finishing touches on their Civil Rights research and Build-a Town Projects. Fourth graders are researching famous Missourians. Third Graders use the iPad app, Skitch, to make visual representations of shapes and calculate area and perimeter. Fourth graders are designing and creating authentic Greek goods and services to sell in their Greek Marketplace next month. They are busy earning drachmas to spend. Third and fourth graders are exploring how much drinkable water is on Earth and then will infer what this means for our water usage. This activity will launch a research project in ELA.
The “Show your Love for Reading Challenge” begins this week as well! We will conclude our week with Valentine’s Parties sponsored by our amazing PTO parents; it is sure to be a great celebration.

**INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL**

“Students of the Week” are: Noah Couch, Darren Byrd, Jayda Whitaker, Paige Gustin, Gavin Rogers and Jayden Wilburn. We congratulate these students for their outstanding character and deeds. Congratulations to the PHIS Students of the Month: David Vaughan, Riley Cole, Caitlyn Allen, Molli Johnson, Emmy Duncan, Paige Ruckdeschel, Jacob Vanderwerf, Landon Fatino, Silas Gray, Regan Shouse, Ali Redwine, Jenna Avery, Kale Bakken and Chance Milbrandt! They were selected by their peers for exhibiting the character trait, responsibility!

Pleasant Hill R-III’s spelling bee champion is 6th grader, Abby Teitelbaum! Abby, along with many other students, participated in the District Spelling Bee on January 27 at the HS PAC. Fifth and sixth grade students participated in grade level spelling bees earlier this school year and had the opportunity to represent PHIS. Our champs from these spelling bees are (in no particular order): Jayden Wilburn, MadaLynn Fatino, Seth Moreno, Liam McColl, Delaney Schuller, Kylie Lloyd, Gabrielle Lopez, Riley Vaughn, Drake Beaman and Keagon Madison. The District Spelling Bee was a great success; it is a wonderful event that allows students to be involved and excel academically. We congratulate Abby and wish her the best of luck as she moves on to the Cass County Spelling Bee on March 4. We would also like to congratulate Fourth grader, Weston Hemmerling who was our runner-up. Way to go to all our spellers!
Calling all writers! The Young Author’s Conference competition has been underway at the Intermediate school. The Young Author’s Conference will take place on April 25, 2015, at the University of Central Missouri. Students could either use an original story already created this year or they could write a new one! Student work has been submitted and reviewed. Young Author Winners are: Ryan Perisho, Jenna Marconett, Paige Ruckdeschel, Connor Hardin, Grace McKee, Madison Blevins, Cara Faherty, CheyAnn Johnson, Ashton Morris, Landon Fatino and Zion Patterson. While at UCM, these students will spend the day listening to well-known authors (and illustrators). They will learn what it takes to be an author of published books and how authors go about their own writing process. This is another great opportunity for our students! We congratulate our students and encourage them to keep up the great work!

PHIS celebrated the 100th Day of School. STUCO created banners and invited students and staff to wear PJs to school. During lunch students received popcorn; everyone loved the yummy treat. Positive School Climate/Friends of Rachel (PSC/FOR) used Box Tops to get another microwave and cart for our cafeteria. Students love having this amenity available for lunches brought from home. PSC/FOR also created a short video of memorable moments from our year that was shared in our Morning Motivator. You can check out the video at: http://youtu.be/aOdSxiU2rBM

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Our positive school climate committee is hosting a February spirit activity this week. In an effort to break up the winter blahs, we are having a spirit week February 9-13th. The students submitted their ideas for fun spirit filled days and the top five choices are the following for each designated day:

Monday - Formal Day (Wear your fanciest clothes, but don't forget to stay within dress code!)
Tuesday - Super Hero day
Wednesday - Hats and Shades Day
Thursday - Lazy clothes day (This can be pajamas or your favorite sweats... your choice.)
Friday - Red, pink and heart day.

Our middle school student council sponsored winter dance is this Friday, February 13, beginning at 6:00pm and ending at 8:00pm. In order for students to be eligible to attend the dance, they must be a PHMS 7th or 8th grade student who attended school that day and did not demonstrate any major discipline problems for the previous week of school. Admission is $5, payable at the door. Pictures can
be purchased for an additional $2. Parents are encouraged to help chaperone the festivities and/or send treats. For those wishing to volunteer their assistance, please arrive at the school at 5:45 p.m. for a brief meeting with the principal.

On Tuesday, February 17 our middle school staff will be using our professional development time meeting with John Antonetti. He will spend the morning hours observing in our school as our teachers work with our students during regular morning classes. Once students depart for their “1/2 day off”, Antonetti will share out with our teachers his observations based on what he noticed during walk-throughs that morning. This will continue our work towards building lessons for students which are highly engaging, utilize effective instructional strategies, and reach a higher level of cognition. Our district has been working on professional development with Mr. Antonetti for the past few years, and we are excited to host him in our building in February.

**HIGH SCHOOL**

This week at Pleasant Hill High School, ninth grade American History students were involved in a project where they created an electronic media project within cooperative groups. Students were asked to research and argue a strategic decision made by the United States during World War II. Topics included:

1) Dropping the Atomic Bomb on Japan
2) Internment Camps for Japanese Americans
3) Segregating the United States military by race.

Students were given the task of using the app, Book Creator, as their format to create a presentation that would argue or defend the decision made by the United States. Students added primary source quotes & poems, along with short video clips to add credence to their positions. The final projects presented during class were very creative and exceeded the expectations of Mr. Reese and Mr. Schoenherr. The main objective of this project was to teach students how to consider multiple positions to an argument and clearly defend and support their stance.

With Valentine's Day quickly approaching, Mrs. Smith's culinary careers class kicked off their annual cake pop sales. The students in this class are offering a variety of cake pop flavor and design for $1 each or a baker's dozen for $10. Proceeds from this project benefit the upcoming projects in the class such as the Chopped Challenge Competition and the Restaurant Design project. Students are learning valuable entrepreneurship skills relating to the food service industry.

Students in Mrs. Smith's child development class are completing their final rotation of off-site observations. The focus of the off-site visits have been to complete observation forms correctly, teach group lessons to children and to improve their interaction skills with pre-school aged children.

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

What a time for Pleasant Hill Activities!

Highlights:
We are heading into the final stretch of our winter sports regular season. It’s hard to believe there are only three weeks left of basketball season and two weeks remaining for our wrestlers.

1. Matwarming/Courtwarming: Congratulations to Madison Barker, our 2015 Matwarming queen and Miss Olivia Woodruff, our 2015 Courtwarming queen!

2. The Boys Basketball team continues to battle tough competition this month. The guys have recently won a decisive MRVC West contest against Oak Grove while dropping two difficult games this past weekend. The Roosters will be home to Grain Valley Tuesday and on the road to Odessa this Friday. The games promise to be outstanding match-ups and very entertaining.

3. The Rooster Wrestling team has performed very well the past two weeks. They rocked the mat last Tuesday defeating Grain Valley at Matwarming. They competed at the Marshfield Duals this past weekend and dominated by winning all 5 duels as a team. Outstanding team effort. Wrestling districts are this coming weekend in Monett and the state tournament is the next week (Feb. 19th-21st).

4. The Chicks Basketball team won twice last week; vs. Oak Grove and Harrisonville. They play at Grain Valley Tuesday night this week and then Home to Odessa on Thursday night. With two weeks left in the regular season there will be many opportunities to come out and see the Chicks play!

5. Congratulations to the PHHS student council and Mrs. Orthel for an outstanding spirit week last week. The kids had a great time with their spirit dress each day, the queen candidates looked stunning in their gowns and their escorts looked rather dapper as well. The blacklight dance was a hit! All the traditions of Pleasant Hill High School came alive last week!

6. The choral program had an eventful couple of weeks! Hillside Singers performed at the annual MMEA convention on Jan. 29th to a packed house and a standing ovation. The kids represented Pleasant Hill with professionalism and class. The choir performed well at the Joplin competition this past weekend bringing home a first place trophy in their class and a “best choreography” prize. The choirs travel to Harrisonville next weekend for a competition. Head on down and catch a show or two!

7. Mr. Berry has the Speech & Debate travel this week to compete in the MRVC Individual Events at Oak Grove High School. They will be competing on Feb 16th in Excelsior Springs for the One Acts competition.

8. The Scholar Bowl team is ramping up. They had a great quad in Lexington bringing home their first 3-0 performance of the season! They will be hosting a quad at a date TBA as the original was postponed due to weather. The team will travel to Blue River for the MRVC competition on March 10th. They can be caught in a podcast interview at www.soniclockerroom.com Click on the February 3rd broadcast!

Check out the new webpage at www.pleasanthillactivities.org Currently a work in progress as we discover what works best in communicating with our patrons, parents and community on the webpage
SPECIAL SERVICES

The Office
We continue to work on referrals, staffings and evaluation reports.
We are preparing for MAP testing and aligning all accommodations for each building and trying to set up testing schedules with those accommodations. This year is a trial due to all of the changes in universal accommodations.
We have already started on preparing for next year's staff. We have posted openings and we will start the interviews February 9th. Our schedules are getting full quickly with interview days, placement days, ECSE school visits and Professional Development.

Primary School

The ECSE class just finished a week long unit on birds and the class has been working on naming colors. To combine the two areas of study, the students chose two colors of paint to blend and then made the new color into birds!

Nathan Wood

This week in the Speech/Language Therapy room, the kindergarten students played a game called "Guess What I Am." The students take turns holding the animal placards to their faces and giving clues to figure out the animal they are holding. This activity targets several skills. The students are learning to express a variety of adjectives to describe various nouns (playful, heavy, dirty, soft, tall, slimy, etc.). These students pictured below are addressing various speech sounds in structured describing activities and are working to self-monitor their own sound productions while playing the game. In addition, they are using pacing strategies to fluently express their ideas during the activity.

Intermediate School

Mrs. Liautaud/Mrs. Cochran

6th Grade Math

Pattern Tiles Activity

Objective: 6NS.2: Compute fluently with multi-digit numbers and find common factors and multiples.

Lesson: Students were expected to use the numbers 0-9 to create and solve mathematical problems. Each student was given a tile card and ten foam numbers from 0-9. The teacher chose a number to be excluded then asked the students to create and solve three-
digit addition problems and two-digit multiplication problems with the remaining nine numbers. All nine numbers had to be used in the problem. The students were asked to record the problems they created on sticky notes. At the end of the block, the students had to turn the sticky notes into the teacher.

**Note:** This activity allows students to apply the strategies they have been taught while requiring them to utilize critical thinking skills in order to create and solve mathematical problems.

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Middle School
Jessica Parson/Ryan Bird

In 7th grade Math Co-teaching classrooms we have been working on one-step and two-step equations. They have learned several different ways to work the problems especially when dealing with fractions. We had to go back and hit adding and subtracting integers and review that so they would remember their positives and negatives. We used algebra tiles to help them visualize the positive and negatives. This really helped them grasp the concept and they are doing much better on that now. So far the students are saying the two-step equations are pretty easy. They will be taking a test over it soon to determine how well they understand the topic. We have also gone over combining like terms and the distributive property.

In 8th grade Math Co-teaching classrooms we have been working on The Pythagorean Theorem. The students have learned how to proof it a triangle is a right triangle or not and how to find the missing sides of a right triangle. They have also learned how to solve word problems with situations they may encounter in their everyday life. Finally they learned how to find the distance between two points on a coordinate plane using the Pythagorean Theorem. They just took a test and did very well. 68% scored an A, 7% scored a B, 9% scored a C, 2% scored a D, 14% scored an F. Overall they did fantastic on this test.

Congratulations to this team: Ms. Higgins from the RPDC came and observed their Co Teaching. She said it was an exemplary lesson carried out by masterful teaching!

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High School
Mrs. Monath and Mrs. Felden

Language Arts I Lesson Plan

The students in Language Arts I are creating a writer's notebook. We created the notebook as a resource that the students can access independently. This notebook contains: apostrophe notes, capitalization rules, comma rules, subject-verb agreement notes, and colon/semi-colon rules, and other writing resources. The concept behind the notebook is for the students to use their own resources to
answer their own grammar questions. In their notebook's we have supplied the student with basic rules and examples. The notebooks assist both our special and regular education students. The students receive four questions daily, and they are to use the rules and examples in their notebook to help them complete their work. We have seen many benefits from using these writer's notebooks. The student's can work more independently and are able to answer questions and make more intelligible responses. The quality of their table discussions have increased because the students are talking to their partners and asking each other about why a certain rule might or might not work. We use this daily lesson as a formative assessment to see how the students are progressing with their grammar. This is a lesson that we teach three days a week and we are focusing on one area (capitalization, commas, apostrophes, etc) per month. We have taught and completed capitalization rules and are currently working on comma rules. The students took a summative assessment over capitalization rules and the class average was 81%. Accommodations for Co-teaching: individual notebook with written rules and examples that the students can use as a guide, teacher modeling, group discussion, partner discussion, individual daily formative assessment, and a summative assessment.

TECHNOLOGY

iPad classroom teachers from the Middle School and High School recently attended a professional development session learning about the use of green screens for video production. Teachers explored apps that can be used with green screens and explored ideas for classroom use. Teachers then created videos to share implementing green screens to demonstrate the use of the apps.