NEW TEACHER TRAINING AND CURRICULUM WRITING PROGRESS UPDATE
Each year, beginning teachers in the district participate in three half-day trainings to fulfill certification requirements for the State of Missouri. Each session is led by one of the officers of the District Professional Development Committee: Angie Davis Chair, Brian McDavitt Vice Chair, and Laura Case Secretary. The final session for this school year took place on the morning of March 13th. This year's trainings have focused on the work of Doug Lemov and the Teach Like a Champion book. The DPDC representatives have done an outstanding job of leading meaningful sessions and discussion throughout the year to help ensure the beginning teachers’ success in the classroom!

In the afternoon of March 13th, the district's visual arts teachers met at Central Office to continue their work on their curriculum. This session's work focused on artists and vocabulary taught at each grade level. The discussion and work will help build a continuum for students to ensure consistency in the visual arts program K12. After the discussion, the art teachers are finalizing the K12 curriculum map and the pacing guide for each course. The next step in the process will be assessments and daily lesson plans, which will begin on the next early release day.

FACILITIES
The facilities department has been moving forward with many of the projects approved by the Board. The bleachers for Skyline Field, Eklund Field and Middle School Gym have all been ordered. The district is currently in discussions with the engineering firm selected to work on the projects involving the Middle School Bus Lanes, Primary and High School Sanitary Sewers and Primary School Parent Drop Off and Parking. I am in the process of checking references on the low bid in regards to repairs at the High School parking lot. The paperwork is in the process of being finalized in regards to the roof repairs at the High School. Pre-bid meetings for Primary School chiller and boiler replacement and controls have been held and we are awaiting bids. We have also held pre-bid meetings for fence replacement and irrigation on Skyline Field and we are awaiting bids to come in. Work has begun with the City on the drainage project at the Sports Complex to improve playing conditions on the baseball field.

The maintenance department will be painting Fire Lanes on Rooster Way as soon as the weather is conducive to paint sticking to the road way. This decision was made late last fall after continuing concerns were raised over the safety of individuals on Rooster Way created by parking on Rooster Way during Little League games and practice sessions. The decision to designate Rooster Way as a Fire Lane was derived through meetings and discussions with officials from the Pleasant Hill Fire Protection District and the Pleasant Hill Police Department.

PRIMARY SCHOOL
PS students are celebrating the success of our annual Dollars and Donuts with Dads event: $498.31 raised to donate to our Lay Clergy. Our “culture of math” emphasis continues with units on graphing, geometry, and number sense. On Missouri Read-In Day, there were 35 doors decorated with book themes, and students enjoyed
“building tours” and voting with individual ballots. Mrs. Pickett’s second grade class received the most votes with their Charlotte’s Web theme. Now classes are using the results to tabulate votes and analyze the results by class and grade level. This past week, 2nd graders had creative leprechaun traps on display. This week, 1st graders welcomed grandparents with a short program of songs and jokes and refreshments. Kindergarten screenings continue through March 25 with 162 children scheduled. Andrea Abbott is hosting third quarter conferences with parents of children in her program this year to make recommendations about promotion to kindergarten.

Professional development has been ongoing the past two weeks for all staff. On an early release day, the PS staff worked through a table top tornado drill. Encore and speech teachers met together to plan curriculum and alignment of instruction. PS and ES classroom, special education, and Title I teachers met together in vertical teams to review understanding of our writing rubric and check for calibration. At the end of the session, we agreed that our proficient scores show appropriate development in grades K-4, and that we will start writing portfolios that will follow students from grade to grade. I attended the annual Missouri Association of Elementary School Principals’ conference with sessions on assisting new principals, differentiated instruction, foundational reading skills, strategies for staff motivation and collaboration, and heard keynote speakers and authors Will Bowden and Erin Gruwell. Professional development is being planned for the next two weeks for co-teaching, teacher standards, and alignment of writing instruction.

**Elementary School**

We recognized 3rd Quarter accomplishments last Friday during our Celebration Assembly. Close to 200 students were honored for their achievements in art, music, citizenship, academics, perseverance and PE. During the assembly, we let parents, students and guests know that we have received exciting news in regards to our work with the Crayola Grant. A representative from Crayola will be visiting PHES on April 8th to conduct interviews with staff, take pictures and tour the building. We have been chosen along with a school from Chicago to be featured in a national publication. Everyone is very excited and proud; we know this would not be possible without the cross-collaborative work done between teaching teams and the specials teachers.

Our Student Leadership group has been busy collecting, cutting and counting donated Box Tops all year… Mrs. Voorhees submitted our Box Tops for Education bundle and received notice that our Student Leadership has earned $1062.00 for our school! We hope to put this money towards the outdoor lab that Eagle Scout, Evan Williams is creating for us this summer. Bravo to Mrs. Brundage, Mrs. Voorhees and all our student leaders.

This week Mr. McDavitt and Mrs. Pickett’s classes will host a Problem Based Learning event on Tuesday evening at 6:30. At this event parents are invited to experience a daily math lesson with their child. Families will work together to design their own windmill and try to produce the most energy possible. Families will then represent their data with a variety of graphs. Also this week, our spring book fair has arrived! On Thursday evening, Mrs. Halfmann will host a family night from 4:00-7:00 so that parents and students can enjoy the book fair after school. That same evening, Mrs. Albin will host a “Family Art Night” from 6:30-7:30. In conjunction with our Crayola Grant, families can create sculptures together. There are several great opportunities for PHES families to spend time at school together this week.
We will conclude our week with a March Madness Basketball Game organized by Mrs. Reeves. It will be held on Friday at 2:15 between our fourth graders and the PHES staff. Corporal Tieman has graciously volunteered to referee; it is going to be outstanding!

**INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL**

“Students of the Week” are: Gracie Reynolds, Harlee Fenton, Alyssa Ziegelbein, Jacob Baker, Grace McKee and Brenna Markham. We congratulate these students for their outstanding character and deeds.

Teachers and paraprofessionals participated in professional development on March 13th. Our PD was divided into two topics. Our first PD session was present by Jane Bermel, our counselor. Mrs. Bermel presented information regarding the Missouri Assessment Program. This essential information included training for test examiners and valuable discussions regarding all aspects of the assessment process. This learning session was vital as we embark upon MAP testing as students demonstrate progress toward mastery of educational standards. Secondly, teachers also participated in vertical professional learning communities. This PLC PD included data discussions and curriculum writing. Teachers used data to help with intentional planning and to meet the needs of their students. Curriculum writing included embedding research-based strategies into lessons. This was an essential learning day for staff.

PHIS Students celebrate STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) the first week of March. Students participated in engaging, hands-on activities that mostly centered on science and math. Skills from these disciplines are essential for our students now and in their future. You can check out their activities at the following link:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLsQffVMtfXifnDbPXp3CMuT2k1QbMH9b7&feature=em-share_playlist_user

**MIDDLE SCHOOL**

The Pleasant Hill Middle School is getting geared up to enroll incoming 7th and 8th graders for the 2015-2016 school year. Beginning this week, our incoming students start meeting with the principal, counselor, and a special education teacher to begin the course selection process in order to build student schedules for next fall.

A middle school student has four core hours, two elective hours, and one Advisory class per semester. A host of efforts are put into making sure students have the elective classes he/she desires. The first step we take is to send a flyer home to all parents in both grade levels. The flyer gives a detailed description of all elective classes including prerequisites and grade level required for the courses being offered. Parents are asked to fill out the form indicating their child’s top five elective choices. Students have the option of taking three semesters of different elective courses over the course of the school year. To complete the course enrollment process for a middle school student, math, ELA, social studies, science and PE are added as required middle school courses.

This week we begin meeting with students to go over the information which was sent home to their parents about next year’s course offerings. After students meet with the middle school staff and enter their course requests into our school information system (SIS), the
building of the actual schedules begins based on the number of students requesting courses and staff availability to teach desired courses. As schedules are generated, if there are any irreconcilable schedules (schedules that won't run based on hourly conflicts or course load sizes), we utilize the forms turned in by the parents in order to provide the student with his/her alternative elective choice for the next available open elective course based on student ranking of their top five elective choices.

Anticipated course offerings for 2015-16...

**FACS I:** The FACS room is made up of modules. Concepts and topics are broken down between Facs I and Facs II. The following topics are covered: baking and measurement, basic sewing, breakfast nutrition, careers, clothing care, confident consumer, entrepreneurship, child care, families, fashion and textiles, food science, interior design, life skills, microwave cooking and nutrition, sewing and design, snack nutrition.

**FACS II** (prerequisite is FACS I)

**Theater I:** This is a great class for anyone new to theater. Students learn fun group games, practice improvisation and learn to act and move on the stage

**Theater II** (prerequisite is Theater I): This class is for students who have had some theater background, especially in a school setting. Students will learn advanced improvisation games, act out full length scripts and learn about the backstage aspects of theater. This class has something for those who want to be on stage or behind it.

**Choir:** Choir is a fun class where you get to work with other students to create exciting and inspiring music! Classroom experiences will include singing and performing quality music from all different historical time periods-middle ages to now; practice reading music through rhythm and sight reading; theory lessons; develop proper vocal technique through warm-ups and rehearsal of songs; actively listen to and evaluate music; learn about composers, time, periods, and styles; and connect music experiences to everyday life. Each choir is an important part of our music tradition at PHMS. You will need to do a quick and easy audition in order to participate in Select or Chamber Choir. Each section of choir is a yearlong elective.

**Women’s Choir:** This group is open to all girls who want to sing. The focus of this choir is to work on beginning vocal technique. Students begin learning one voice part per song and progress to two parts throughout the year.

**Select Choir:** This choir is for boys and girls. The focus of this choir is to develop solid vocal technique and sing three and four part music.

**Chamber Choir:** This choir is for boys and girls. The focus of this choir is to develop solid vocal technique and sing mostly four part music.

**General Music:** If you enjoy playing instruments and studying different cultures, this is the class for you! This general music course is centered on three major instrument units including: A world drumming unit, a guitar unit, and a mountain dulcimer unit. Classroom experiences will include learning to play instruments successfully; learning to read music through rhythm practice, theory lessons, and instrument practice; studying the history and culture of each instrument; creating your own music, creating technology projects (glogs, windows movie maker and more); listening to and evaluating music; and self reflection.

**Band:** Each section of band is a yearlong elective.
7th grade Woodwinds

7th grade Brass/Percussion

8th grade Band (combined all instrumentation)

Art I: This class concentrates on the elements and principles of art. Students will make an element and principles notebook. Students will also create both two-dimensional and three-dimensional projects with the use of elements (line, shape, color, texture, value, space and form) and principles (balance, contrast, emphasis, pattern, rhythm and unity). Students will work with a variety of paints and drawing materials along with clay, wood, wire, paper Mache, cloth and recycled materials.

Art II: (prerequisite is Art I) This class will incorporate the skills acquired in Art I. Students will do many hands-on projects with a variety of paints and drawing materials along with clay, wood, wire, paper Mache, and fibers. The second half of this class will concentrate on “Art and Your Environment.” This will consist of environmental art, trash art and found object art as well as the study of popular artists in each area.

Special projects in art (prerequisite is Art 1 & Art 2, 8th graders only)

This is an application-only art class for 8th graders only. A student must complete Art I and Art II and must show a positive attitude and talent in art. Students who meet these criteria must apply with Mrs. McManis to be in the class.

Technology Applications: Students will, on a weekly basis, be improving upon keyboarding skills to increase speed and accuracy. Students will develop a proficiency in using Google Drive applications such as Docs, Sheets, and Slides. Microsoft Office applications will also be introduced. In addition, students will become familiar with multimedia applications such as Adobe Photoshop (images), Audacity (audio), and MovieMaker (video). With multimedia applications comes the responsibility of digital citizenship which will be addressed throughout the semester.

Exploratory Agriculture (8th graders only): Students will have the opportunity to grow plants, explore animal life, learn about the FFA and explore jobs related to agriculture.

On the professional development front, our staff worked diligently during part of our last PD day (March 20) to prepare for all the changes in this year’s MAP testing schedule. This year brings the first ever district-wide testing that will have each student testing on a computer. Thus, our MAP schedule will look very different, in order to facilitate all sections of the test while utilizing all available computers and Chromebooks. We anticipate a block type of schedule for an 8 day period, which means moving staff/classrooms/students to a different schedule and areas of coverage for all. We spent time pouring over a complex block schedule (draft #6!) to hand place each staff member, student, and room location/computer. We will continue this endeavor, as well as the proctor/teacher training regarding test administration on our next PD day on April 2. We still have about a month before testing begins in our building and we are using that time to be as prepared and proactive as possible related to the testing changes for this year’ MAP administration. The second part of our PD on March 20 was spent in focus group time, exploring questions for our technology department. Each group discussed the following questions and shared out ideas/opinions for growth and technology development. The results of these conversations will be presented at our next BIT team meeting in May. What needs of technology do we have for
supporting our building CSIP? Is technology a barrier/or has it created any barriers? Ideas for technology PD presentation/online/personal/webinar/flipped classroom PD/plan time PD?

**HIGH SCHOOL**

The Business and Marketing Departments, along with Family and Consumer Sciences and Agricultural Education, at the high school are in full swing in preparing for the upcoming technical skill assessments (TSA). These exams measure skill proficiency of Career and Technical Education (CTE) students whom have earned three or more sequential credits in any state-approved CTE program grades 9-12) and has completed an approved CTE program. This testing will be conducted on March 26, 2015 for Business and Marketing.

DECA and FBLA are in competition mode for state level leadership conferences. PHHS DECA was represented by seven high school students. Sophomore, Robin Brundage was selected to be a Leadership Delegate for District 4 and will represent Missouri and PHHS at the International Career Development Conference in Orlando, FL April 24th-29th. FBLA will participate in their State Leadership Conference in Springfield, MO on April 12th-14th with six students representing the high school.

Supervised Work Release students are currently building their Senior Portfolios which consist of student work that illustrates their talents and abilities they have gained through their education and work experiences. Students will be able to use their professional portfolios as an interview tool in order to help them secure future employment opportunities.

The Multimedia class has recently finished one of two SketchUp projects. They were to create an office building that encompasses scale and esthetics while still incorporating a bit of creativity using technology. Other projects they have completed range from editing audio tracks to creating stop motion videos and tribute videos.

Entrepreneurship students are creating mini businesses which will be showcased during the high school lunch hours on April 7, 9, 14 and 16. Each business owner has written a business plan, obtained financing, created and
organized a promotion plan, set desired profit margins, worked on product development, distribution and risk management. Products being offered vary from atomic bath bombs, to custom cookies and lanyards. This is a great opportunity for the students to experience owning and operating a business first hand.

Marketing students have been learning about visual merchandise and displays. One of the assignments completed during this unit was to create window displays using various artistic elements.

**SPECIAL SERVICES**

**In The Office:**
March 11th and 23rd we completed our 2nd district lead Co Teaching Professional Development Day. We focused on Teaching Models being used in the classrooms, Team Building and planning for the rest of the year and into next year. The teachers worked hard all day and accomplished a lot.

Mrs. Maxey and I recently attended a monitoring workshop in Warrensburg to help us prepare for next year’s file review and timeline requirements.

**Primary School:**

1.G.1 - I know the difference between attributes that define a shape and attributes that describe a shape. I can build and draw shapes with certain attributes.

Ms. Kay, Mrs. Harrald, and Ms. Schreck's 1st grade students have been learning Geometry. The last couple of weeks they have been learning about 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional shapes. Recently, students worked in groups to make posters about 3-dimensional shapes. Students had to research their shape and find 5 facts to include on their posters. These posters were then shared with the rest of the class. These posters are currently on display in the hallway outside the classroom. If you want to learn more about spheres, Perfect Pyramids, Epic Cubes, Amazing Cylinders or Amazing Cones, please stop by. To reinforce the concept of 3D shapes, students practiced making the shapes with clay after they finished their posters.
Elementary School:

After writing an argumentative paper, students in Mrs. Pickett and Mrs. Denish's class stepped in front of the green screen! They were recorded addressing President Obama on the topic of needing more money to develop technologies in areas they thought were vital to improving life. Some areas the students researched and talked about were in education, medical research and developing sustainable fuel supplies.

Middle School:

Ms. Heineck's ELA Class

Learning Objectives:

· Students will locate specific information while reading a historical fiction text.
· Students will apply reading strategies to improve reading comprehension.

During 3rd quarter, our class had the opportunity to read a historical fiction chapter book Byrd and Igloo: A Polar Adventure by Samantha Seiple. Students got to live the life of famous polar explorer, Admiral Richard E. Byrd, as he fulfilled his dream of flying over the South Pole. While reading, students were given opportunities to make predictions, analyze vocabulary, build their comprehension and participate in several class discussions. All students were fully engaged and very excited about reading this book.

High School:

The students at PHHS are gearing up for Job Olympics, which will be on April 10th, at the Blue High Wellness Center in Belton. Job Olympics is a competition where students perform specific tasks which exist in a real job setting. Fifteen different competitions are
available for students. A task analysis is used to describe each job used in the competition. Students are evaluated following the task analysis, and rated according to a rubric. An employer from the community who specializes in each job acts as a judge at that work station. The top three competitors receive medals.

We have 8 student athletes this year. They are competing in a wide variety of events...Silverware Rolling, Computer Skills, Car Detailing, Custodial, First Aid, and much more.

**TECHNOLOGY**

The technology department has been working very closely with each building leadership team to address technology needs at each school. Time at each monthly meeting has been spent discussing how technology can address student achievement goals and what barriers may be in place to using technology in the classroom. Professional development is another area being addressed through technology. Ideas for topics and format have been discussed so that staff development can more personalized for each teacher and their content area. These discussions will be the basis for writing technology plan goals and objectives that will assist teachers in reaching academic goals for students.

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

It's springtime for Pleasant Hill Activities!

Highlights:

1. **Baseball:** The Roosters opened their season this past Saturday on the road at Marshall, MO. The varsity team left Marshall with a 1-0 victory over the Owls. The team travels to Harrison, Arkansas this coming weekend for a tournament. The first home game is scheduled for Tuesday March 31st vs. Harrisonville.

2. **Winter Cheer:** The ladies were granted the opportunity to perform this past Thursday at the MSHSAA Basketball Championships. The experience was a positive one as Mrs. Franklin was very proud of their cheerleaders' performances.
They were able to perform their routine four times for the crowds at the Mizzou Arena. The girls will be performing the routine this Thursday at our pep rally; 2pm.

3. Band: The Pride of the Hill recently travelled to Orlando, Florida to compete at the Music USA competition at Universal Studios Resort. They came away from the competition with a 1st place trophy in their class and a GRAND CHAMPION trophy! The kids were excited and performed beautifully! The trip was very smooth. A special thank you goes out to Mr. Twenter and Mr. Neill for making this trip happen, along with all the chaperones who endured long hours to make this a memorable event for our kids! State large groups perform on Thursday this week at the Paseo Academy; TBA.

4. Boy’s Golf: The Rooster golf team starts their season with a dual match vs. Harrisonville at Country Creek GC this Tuesday March 24th. Matches begin at 4pm. They play again at Adam’s Pointe in the Oak Grove Tourney this Thursday the 26th!

5. Girl’s Soccer: The Chicks soccer team begins the season quickly out of the shoot with two games this week. They play at home on Tuesday (JV at 5pm and Varsity to follow) vs Clinton. They are then on the road at Excelsior Springs on Wednesday...same times. Come out an check out the strength of our Chicks soccer program!

6. Choir: The vocal musicians participated in solo & ensemble district contest this past week in Grain Valley. The large groups will be performing at the Paseo Academy on Saturday for state contest. Performances begin early and continue through 2pm. Drive down and support our choral groups this Saturday!

7. Speech & Debate: These kids are young and getting better every week. The S & D team participated in their state competition this past weekend at Rockhurst with five students qualifying for finals!

8. Track & Field: The Roosters and Chicks start their seasons this week with a JV meet at Shenwood on Thursday and a varsity meet in Harrisonville on Friday. Participation numbers are up for the two teams so come out to Harrisonville and root on our kids!

9. NHS: NHS inductions were outstanding this past week. The ceremony went very smoothly as 39 of Pleasant Hill’s best kids were inducted!

A special thanks to all our parents and patrons who consistently provide strength and support for our programs! Help us inform you by checking in on our website… www.pleasanthillactivities.org