District News

Teachers across the district had the opportunity to attend an after-school professional development session with AAIS Consultant, Dave Holden, on October 10, 2017. Mr. Holden presented to all district staff members prior to the school year starting, and offered this after-school session as a follow-up covering critical thinking strategies which could be immediately implemented into daily lessons. Teachers from all buildings attended the session to learn more about CSI: Color, Symbol, Image and Question Starts. Mr. Holden also spent time last week working with teachers during the day in the Elementary School and the Middle School modeling lessons in classrooms and debriefing with teachers. This week Mr. Holden will be spending a day with the Intermediate School teachers.

Primary School

In Mrs. Roach’s kindergarten class the children used problem solving and cooperative learning in order to create and present the five 2-D shapes they have studied. After planning who would make each shape, the groups set out to attempt to make a circle, square, rectangle, triangle, and hexagon with mini-marshmallows, toothpicks, and craft sticks. As they worked, they found out revisions had to be made.

Students at PHPS have a lot of access to technology. During library class 2nd graders wrapped up a unit on alphabetizing by testing their knowledge on Kahoots.

On Friday, Oct. 13, Mrs. Fenton’s 2nd graders led the all-school assembly. Scarlet Young, recipient of a “BUG” (Being Utterly Good) award, was selected to lead students and staff in The Pledge of Allegiance. During the assembly almost 200 students were recognized for having perfect attendance in September. Students and staff sang “Happy Birthday” to our October birthdays. We also drew a name from all our BUG recipients. Asher Odle, kindergarten student, won a $5 Sonic gift card. Mrs. Doutt, our counselor, won a Sonic gift card for the Purple Pat Award, which is given to an outstanding staff member. The Shelf Elf Awards went to Mrs. Buchanan’s, Mrs. English’s, and Mrs. Bailey’s classrooms. Congratulations! It’s a great day to be a Rooster.
**Jump Rope for Heart at the Elementary School**

PHES students are jumping at the chance to fight heart disease and stroke, our nation’s No. 1 and No. 4 killers. During the week of October 23rd, Elementary School will host its 14th annual Jump Rope For Heart event to raise money for the American Heart Association, which funds lifesaving heart and stroke research and community and educational programs for our youth. Jump Rope For Heart teaches students how physical fitness benefits the heart. By teaching students to include physical activity into their daily routines, they can significantly reduce the onset and burden of heart disease. Our fundraising efforts for Jump Rope For Heart, will help prevent heart disease and obesity for the next generation of Americans.

Donation packets and a detailed informational letter went home last week. Students will be collecting donations starting October 10th through November 3rd. Our official Jump Rope for Heart Event will take place during your child’s P.E. class time during the week of October 23rd.

---

**Literacy Night**

PHES hosted a Literacy Night on October 5th in conjunction with the Book Fair. We “Chilled out with Good Books” and families shopped, but also participated in different activities. Doing Mad Libs, creating collaborative stories, reading in an igloo and a snack of ice cream was a good time for all.

---

**Intermediate School**

**Students of the Month**

PHIS is pleased to share that Students of the Month has begun! During homeroom, each month, students nominate a peer based on selected criteria—often the character trait focus for the quarter. It is an honor for students to be recognized in this manner by their peers! We congratulate the Students of the Month for October! Way to go!

**Week of October 9-13**

**Week of October 16-20**

Congratulations to our Students of the Week! These students were selected by teachers for exhibiting character traits, especially respect! We are so proud of them!

Mrs. Williamson’s 5th grade students engaged in a mini-lesson on the 6 Traits of Writing. She read children’s books and students participated in 4 Corners, where they had to identify the strong trait in the children’s books and justify their thoughts. Students are engaging in their own writing prompt through Wonders Writing Workshop using Chromebooks. Students will develop this piece of writing for weeks as they concentrate on traits and revise their writing a trait at a time.
Students in three classes had a unique experience on October 11. AAIS Consultant David Holden taught or co-taught lessons in Science 8, Geography 7, and Introduction to Algebra 7. Students participated in strategies to improve their use of academic language in the classroom while middle school teachers observed the lesson and debriefed with Mr. Holden afterward. Mrs. Zrust’s choir students sang the National Anthem at last Friday’s football game. They are preparing for their Fall concert this Thursday at the high school PAC at 6:30. Mrs. Wingard’s Introduction to Agriculture just completed a plant science lab that included a photosynthesis lab, as students learned what makes plants flourish. To prepare for Red Ribbon Week, the middle school will have a ThinkFirst assembly to emphasize the potential consequences of destructive decisions on young people. Additionally, the fall middle school dance will be held on November 3.

**Middle School**

From left to right: Students in science create and test electric current using batteries, wire, and a nail and the knowledge from their PLTW unit. Mr. Mounce’s students learn code-writing programs to command the computer to execute simple tasks.

Deputy Eddleman with the Cass County Sheriff’s Department worked diligently with surrounding school districts in order to bring Retro Bill to our school. This assembly took place on Thursday, October 12. It evoked many emotions! Retro Bill made us laugh, smile, reflect, and more! He brought a powerful message to our students about dreaming and working toward those dreams. He spoke of kindness, respect, responsibility and more. We also want to acknowledge our PTO who helped fund the assembly. Feel free to check out Retro Bill’s website at Retrobill.com.

In 5th grade co-teaching Math classroom, we are working on increasing our math vocabulary. The students worked on filling in the definitions. Then, they had two choices: they could cut the pieces apart or they could make their own flashcards. After cutting them apart, the students played matching with a partner. The students enjoyed this activity because it helped increase their awareness of math vocabulary and they could collaborate with their partner on words they didn’t understand.

Students in three classes had a unique experience on October 11. AAIS Consultant David Holden taught or co-taught lessons in Science 8, Geography 7, and Introduction to Algebra 7. Students participated in strategies to improve their use of academic language in the classroom while middle school teachers observed the lesson and debriefed with Mr. Holden afterward. Mrs. Zrust’s choir students sang the National Anthem at last Friday’s football game. They are preparing for their Fall concert this Thursday at the high school PAC at 6:30. Mrs. Wingard’s Introduction to Agriculture just completed a plant science lab that included a photosynthesis lab, as students learned what makes plants flourish. To prepare for Red Ribbon Week, the middle school will have a ThinkFirst assembly to emphasize the potential consequences of destructive decisions on young people. Additionally, the fall middle school dance will be held on November 3.

**Upper left:** David Holden works with students in Mrs. Campbell’s Geography class to learn to use academic language in classroom discourse. **Upper right:** FACS students have to break a few eggs but not to make an omelet. **Lower left:** Mrs. Dowdy’s PE class is stretching for a yoga unit. **Lower right:** The middle school football team finally played at home-- two more coming (Monday 10/16 and next Tuesday 10/24).
A foreign language club meeting was hosted recently by Mr. Wickman. In this meeting, students sampled German Tafel Schokolade, Knopper wafer bars (pronounce the KN!), and German butter cookies. French carbonated lemonade washed it all down. FLC watched videos on the making of German milk chocolate and how the French lemonade is produced.

On October 11th, thirty-four students took the PSAT/NMSQT. The PSAT is a standardized test that is cosponsored by the College Board and National Merit Scholarship Corporation. This test targets 11th graders and is treated as a precursor to the SAT. Students that score well on the PSAT/NMSQT could be eligible for a $2500 scholarship along with a prestigious distinction of National Merit Scholar.

Tammy Vogler and Chris Purnell hosted FAFSA night on October 11, 2017. The FAFSA is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Two representatives from the University of Central Missouri were also on hand to answer questions and provide assistance. Current and prospective students can fill out this form annually. Multiple families of PHHS seniors attended this event to begin the process to financing a college education.

Co-Teaching ELA II
Sophomore students have began reading Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde by Robert Louis Stevenson. Throughout their reading, students identify textual evidence to support the notion that Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde are the same person. Once evidence is located, students write a P.E.E.L (Point-Evidence-Explanation-Link) response stating the textual evidence which supports their findings. At the end of each chapter, students collaborate and construct a summary with their table groups to process and understand the book. Summaries are constructed with only a limited number of words. The summary activity challenges students as they have to determine the important words and necessary details to include.

Co-Teaching ELA I
Freshmen students are finishing their narrative writing unit. Through co-teaching, students have been able to divide into different rooms to allow for more concentration and focus while constructing their essays. Mini lessons on descriptive language, dialogue, effective leads, and conclusions have taken students through the revision process, giving them the chance to make improvement in their initial drafts. Beginning the year with narrative writing allows the teachers an opportunity to get to know the students and to help foster relationships. Once narrative writing is completed, the students will begin reading To Kill A Mockingbird and will learn about identifying themes while reading. The freshmen will be introduced to P.E.E.L writing during the unit.

Pleasant Hill Activities… “It’s a GREAT Day to be a Rooster/Chick!”

Rooster Cheer: The Rooster cheerleaders have had a lot of energy and passion for their Roosters the past few weeks. Led by some of their senior members, they’ve put together routines they performed at the last two home football games. Nice work Rooster cheerleaders on an awesome season so far. See you Friday night!

Rooster Football: The Roosters are set to host the Boonville Pirates in round #1 of district play this coming Friday night 7pm! Many are confused on how this occurred, however the strength of the Rooster’s schedule provided just enough punch to get the home game! The cost for round #1 is not different than any other game. (Round #2 will be set by MSHSAA)

Pride of the Hill: The PHHS marching band travelled to the KC Championships at Blue Springs South HS on October 7th. They brought home a 2nd place trophy for their efforts and competed in the finals! They had a week off and will travel to Odessa next Saturday for another competition. “By the Sword” has been and exciting show! The Pride of the Hill will be performing at the game Friday night!
Chicks Golf: The Chick's own Maddy Roach competed in the Missouri State Championships this past week. She finished better than half the field and improved tremendously over her effort from last year. Sally Riffe just missed the cut to get to the state tournament by one stroke at the sectional tournament. The Chicks had a strong year this year and we are looking for great things out of Coach Bloom's program next year!

Rooster Soccer: The Roosters have earned the #2 seed in the district tournament coming up. The Roosters will be hosting Oak Grove, Boonville, and Clinton this week at this year and we are looking for great things out of Coach Bloom's program next year! 

Cross Country: Warrensburg HS - Thursday October 12th: The first race of the day was the combined JV Boys and JV Girls. The JV Boy's squad got out conservatively with most of the pack near medaling contention. In the second and third miles they began to surge around corners and attacked hills passing groups of runners. Dakota Middleton led the JV boys with an exciting finish line kick that earned him 2nd place and a new PR of 19:00. Kolton Kincaid, Keagon Madison and Parker Snow all posted top 10 finishes. Joel Conway was the 5th man finishing in 14th place. The JV Boys came away with the win over Warrensburg, Grain Valley, Pembroke Hill, and Smith-Cotton. One of my goals as a coach is always to have the best JV squad in the conference as that demonstrates our depth and commitment. Today, the JV Boys defeated Grain Valley's JV for the first time in my coaching career and took down two of the most competitive teams in our district. On the girl's side, Emma Mueller and Megan Swinney both finished in the top 25 earning medals. Megan Swinney and Emily Perisho ran outstanding races with both girls shaving off over 1 minute from their season best.

JV Boys:
2 Dakota Middleton 19:00.1* PR; 7 Kolton Kincaid 20:04.0*; 8 Keagon Madison 20:04.0* PR; 10 Parker Snow 20:23.9* PR; 14 Joel Conway 20:34.1*; 22 RJ Hughes 21:16.4*; 29 JR Tabony 21:45.0; 50 Carson Case 23:02.1; 60 Andrew Conway 23:34.3
1 Pleasant Hill High School 41
2 Warrensburg High School 59
3 Grain Valley High School 75

JV Girls:
15 Emma Mueller 26:39.8*; 24 Megan Swinney 27:55.6* SB; 32 Emily Perisho 29:14.4 SB
The next race was the varsity boys. The storyline for this race was to see how the Roosters, ranked 4th in the state, would compete against Warrensburg who was 2nd in the state coming in. Warrensburg showed early on that they were not messing around with all 7 of their athletes ahead of our #1 runner. Shawn Gallagher led the Roosters through the mile followed closely by our pack. Jerod Rottinghaus and Landon Fatino led the charge to pass as many Warrensburg runners as they could. In the end, the roosters put all five runners in the top 19 positions but it was not enough to make up for Warrensburg's impressive 1-2 punch. The team lost to Warrensburg by 11 points but did manage to beat rival Grain Valley for a third time this season and also took down district competitor Pembroke Hill for the second time this season. We have some workouts planned in the next few weeks that will sharpen our boys and girls to prepare for the district meet. The boys have a game plan that; if executed, could put them ahead of Warrensburg at the district meet.

The girls showed tremendous improvement in their pacing during their race. Up front, Aubrey Scott chased down a pack of talented runners finishing 5th overall. Behind her, the girl's pack executed a game plan of starting off near season best pace and maintaining it throughout the race. Ashtyn Dickens and Jadyn Dowdy both ran personal best times while Savannah DeMeyer and Tabitha Graham tooked a large chunk of time off of their season best. The girl's squad placed 6 out of 9 teams in a race containing several ranked teams from multiple classes. Their improvement in the last few races has moved them into contention for the MRVC conference title. The Chick's goal is to bring home hardware from next Wednesday's conference meet.

Warrensburg, MO Gentle Rolling Hills, 71 degrees, sunny

*Denotes Medalist

Varsity Boys:
5 Landon Fatino 17:26.7* PR; 7 Jerod Rottinghaus 17:34.3*; 8 Desmond Ewing 17:56.2*; 13 Shawn Gallagher 18:12.8*; 19 Evan Jacobs 18:27.1*; 27 Will Pryor 18:41.3*
1 Warrensburg High School 40
2 Pleasant Hill High School 51
3 Grain Valley High School 76
4 Pembroke Hill School 107
5 Lexington High School 174
6 Weaubleau High School 192

Varsity Girls:
5 Aubrey Scott 21:03.9*; 31 Ashtyn Dickens 23:22.2 PR; 33 Jadyn Dowdy 23:34.4 PR; 50 Savannah Demeyer 24:59.9 SB; 55 Tabitha Graham 25:15.4 SB; 56 Rachel Denney 25:15.8; 58 Sandy Aguilar 25:31.7
1 Holden High School 58
2 Notre Dame de Sion High School 68
3 Grain Valley High School 74
4 Warrensburg High School 102
5 Pembroke Hill School 109
6 Pleasant Hill High School 158
7 William Chrisman High School 161

Chicks Golf: The Chick's own Maddy Roach competed in the Missouri State Championships this past week. She finished better than half the field and improved tremendously over her effort from last year. Sally Riffe just missed the cut to get to the state tournament by one stroke at the sectional tournament. The Chicks had a strong year this year and we are looking for great things out of Coach Bloom's program next year!

Rooster Soccer: The Roosters have earned the #2 seed in the district tournament coming up. The Roosters will be hosting Oak Grove, Boonville, and Clinton this week at Ekland Field. Tuesday night the Roosters take on the Cardinals of Clinton at 7pm. Boonville/Oak Grove is at 5pm. The championship is scheduled for Thursday evening at 6:30pm.

Chicks Volleyball: The Chicks have secured yet another MRVC West Championship going undefeated in the conference. They are also the #1 seed in their district tournament to be played in Clinton, Mo. this week. The Chicks will begin play in the semi-finals on Wednesday at 5pm. The championship is scheduled for 7:30pm.

Chicks Softball: The Chicks had an awesome run in the playoffs! They won the district championship in Odessa last week by defeating the Oak Grove Lady Panthers. They got a sectional victory in Marshall in the middle of last week. We hosted the the quarterfinal vs. Smithville this past Saturday, where unfortunately the Chicks were upset by the Lady Warriors. They wrapped up a great season with an MRVC West conference championship, a district championship and a sectional championship to be proud of.

Speech & Debate: October 13-14 the Speech and Debate team traveled to Blue Springs for the first tournament of the year. The Novice Debate team of Evan Miller and Canton Elliott picked up their first two wins of the season. Bayne McColl finished 10th in Humorous Interpretation out of approximately 75 entries and Mackenzie Beaman finished 6th in Dramatic Interpretation out of approximately 85 entries. The next speech and debate tournament is October 20-21 at Rockhurst.