Teachers across the district have been working in Illuminate DnA to enter common assessments and to administer benchmark assessments at tested grade levels over the past several weeks. The District Curriculum Facilitator, Jakquelyn Boden, began working with teachers at the Primary School last week to implement the next stage of assessment available to the district through Illuminate. Three classrooms of students took FastBridge universal screeners to pilot the program, with other classrooms continuing the process this week. The additional information will allow teams of teachers to see specific strengths and weaknesses of each student to place into appropriate Response to Intervention (RtI) groups. The universal screener will provide teachers with valuable results and reports immediately following the online session. Once interventions have been put into place for several weeks, progress monitoring can also be done through Illuminate and FastBridge. This quick feedback on progress of students is an important part of meeting their individual needs. By utilizing an online tool, teachers are able to make adjustments in a more timely manner, without having to spend valuable time creating the monitoring assessments themselves.

More Assessments Available Through Illuminate

PreK-2nd grade students enjoyed Delta Dental’s “Land of Smiles” assembly on Friday, Sept. 29. The “Land of Smiles” is a live performance that teaches children about good oral health care. The program visits 370 schools in Missouri and South Carolina each year, educating more than 70,000 children. This is a free program for our school.

Second grade students are shown above taking a universal screener in the computer lab at the Primary School. The results will help teachers better meet the needs of each student through instant online results and reports.
Primary Continued

Would you rather have 2 skittles or 6 skittles? For most, the answer is pretty clear...6! My students would agree, they would like to have the “greatest” amount of skittles! Would you rather have 2 assignments or 6 assignments?! Well, you would think that answer would be clear, the “least”, but 2 of my students replied with “6!”! When I asked them, why? They replied “Because we like to work hard!”. What hard working scholars I have!

Next, students were each given a “secret number” on a flash card. While working together, they displayed great team work skills to order their numbers from least to greatest. The students then asked for a BRAIN BUSTER! So, they were given a set of 25 random numbers, less than 100. They were able to work together and sequence the numbers from least to greatest with minimal teacher redirection!

Elementary School

Spotlight on Mrs. Franklin’s 3rd Grade Class
Mrs. Franklin’s class has had a great start to the new school year. We have experienced a Solar Eclipse together, won 1st place in our building for most APEX run pledges, celebrated Homecoming, and added Flashlight reading to our Fridays. We are finding our shine and learning to work as a classroom family. Right now you can find us becoming better readers during RTI, learning about the science of flight through our PLTW module, and coaching each other through addition and subtraction. We love learning at PHES in room 20!

Spotlight on Ms. Armstrong’s 4th Grade Class
The students in Ms. Armstrong’s class are off to a great start this year! They have been learning new skills each week and working hard to show what they know. In the past few weeks, we have used Chromebooks for assessments and Google Classroom projects. The students are always excited to use the Chromebooks and they are getting really good with navigating their way around them. It has been a busy first few weeks of school, but we are definitely looking forward to more adventures to come!

Spotlight on Collaboration at PHES
It doesn’t matter what grade, what class or which teacher...we learn together!

Intermediate School

Sixth grade students were able to go “shopping” for groceries using different operations with decimals to find out how much they could buy within a budget. The students used several different ads to find prices and sales in order to stay within his/her budget. The students were given opportunities to have academic conversations with each other and have collaborative discussions within their groups. They were encouraged to express their ideas within their groups and occasionally supported possible disagreeing ideas. This activity was considered a Problem Based Learning activity. The students were hooked with a problem of having to go grocery shopping for seven days, feeding everyone in their group for that week, and staying within a budget. The second day, we took it even a little further! The students were asked to determine whether $15 off of their purchase would be more beneficial rather than 15% off their total. The students were challenged to convert the 15% into a decimal and determine what operation to use to find out what 15% off their total would be. This PBL allowed students to dig a little deeper into learning how to manipulate decimals. The students were able to think about how this PBL can relate to the real world. The students had tons of fun and loved the challenge!
Congratulations to the PHIS Students of the Week! These students were selected by their teachers for exhibiting character traits including RESPECT! They are also good role models.

PHMS continues working with students to improve each day. Math and ELA teachers have developed a second benchmark assessment that students will take right before Thanksgiving. Teachers met with students to show them individual progress and challenges on the pre-test. Now students will have targets to master to show growth the second time around. PLTW is alive and well in science: telegraph machines made of nails, paper clips, and wire demonstrate how electrical current can be used. Choir is preparing for a fall concert on October 19, and FACS is working through modules that teach students practical skills. Mrs. Campbell is spearheading a Veteran’s Day observance that will invite veterans into the middle school in November.

WIN has started at PHIS. WIN stands for What I Need! Students are working on a variety of different skills based on their own needs. WIN occurs during Rooster Time three times each week; it is differentiation in action! Students are primarily focusing on reading and math skills, but this may look several different ways. We are excited about this time of the day and helping our students reach their potential.

The entire student body participated in a PBL on weather related content. Meteorologist, Gerard Jebaily, from Channel 41 News was our guest speaker to kick off our learning. He was informative and engaging. Students and staff were excited to learn more about weather after he shared with us. Students researched and built a variety of weather instruments. They recorded their data from these instruments and made comparisons. Many thanks to LMS, Mrs. Arenson, who organized this learning event for us!

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Left to right: ELA students tackle breakout boxes in the library. Mrs. Zrust prepares students for their Fall concert on October 19. Students in Mrs. Mosier’s FACS class work on a cooking module.

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High School

PHHS juniors and seniors attended a college fair at Harrisonville High School on Thursday, September 21, 2017. They, along with students from Harrisonville, Sherwood, and Cass-Midway had the opportunity to visit representatives from forty-two regional colleges and technical schools. The students found this event to be very helpful in the process of selecting a college.

The PHHS choir students performed the national anthem at the NHL pre-season hockey game at the Sprint Center. The choir had a great performance prior to watching the St. Louis Blues take on the Minnesota Wild on Thursday, September 28, 2017.

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

Highlights:

- **Make it Gold for Kids**: It is outstanding to note that our very own Sean Berry donated two Monday Night Football Chiefs tickets for the cause. NHS ran a raffle for the tickets to raise money for the Make it Gold for Kids campaign as September was Children’s Cancer Awareness month. The final tallies are not in, however Mr. Berry, Mrs. Fifer and NHS deserve a lot of credit for helping with this cause.

- **Rooster Cheer**: The Rooster cheerleaders held a youth cheer clinic a couple of weeks ago. The taught a routine and some of their popular cheers to the kids. The youth were invited to perform before the Homecoming game with the Rooster cheerleaders. It was an awesome sight!

- **Rooster Football**: The Roosters are getting set to take on the Odessa Bulldogs, a district opponent, this week at Odessa. (Friday October 6th) Make the trip out to check out Odessa’s new facility and catch the Roosters making their mark on the new Bulldog turf! It should be a good ballgame.

- **Pride of the Hill**: The PHHS marching band travelled to Ozark High School this past weekend. They had a strong performance competing with 35 other schools. The Pride of the Hill placed 2nd in class 2A on Saturday. The band will compete at Blue Springs South this coming Saturday in the KC Championships! They will perform at approximately 3:45pm

- **Cross Country**: We were approached with the opportunity to run our JV boys at the Lone Jack Invitational. After a team meeting discussing availability, we jumped on the idea as our JV was unable to travel to the weekend meet in St. Louis. At the meet, our JV boys competed in the varsity division against five complete teams and runners from 9 small schools. Only one of our athletes had varsity experience going into the race but each athlete rose to the occasion and ran incredibly well on a hot and muggy afternoon.

  The varsity squads traveled to Jefferson Barracks Park to face off against some of the best competition from the other side of the state. For the boys, this race served as a measuring stick with us competing against Fulton (3rd at last year’s state meet), Helias (4th at last year’s state meet), and perennial powerhouse Herculaneum. Jefferson Barracks Park is often touted as one of the hardest and hilliest courses in MO and with nearly record high temps in the St. Louis area, we knew this one would be tough.

  The boy’s had a conservative start through the first mile but made big moves in the 2nd mile to move up in the pack. The last mile was all guts and mental strength as the athletes gave it their all to pass as many runners as they could. When the dust settled (literally), the Pleasant Hill Roosters were declared the Class 3 Meet Champions. Scores were Pleasant Hill (61), Fulton (98), Helias (111), and Herculaneum (128). With this win, the boys are currently ranked in the top 4 teams in the subjective Milesplit rankings. They will need to work on bringing down their average finish time and most importantly remain healthy as they enter the October and November racing season.

  In the girl’s race Aubrey Scott bravely moved to the front of the race mixing it up with #1 ranked Helias Catholic. She held on to the chase pack through two and a half miles before fading to 8th place. Aubrey has received honorable mention in the Milesplit State Rankings and has her eyes set on a top 25 finish at the state meet.

  Dakota Middleton and Kolton Kincaid made strong moves in the second mile to move up to 3rd and 4th place respectively. Freshmen Keagon Madison had a break-out race PRing on the tough two lap course and battled a runner from Knob Noster to move up into 9th place. Each of those three athletes finished on the awards stand. Joel Conway and RJ Hughes rounded out the top 5 runners from Pleasant Hill.

- **Chicks Golf**: The Chicks participated in the district tournament last week. While the team fell just short of advancing, two Chicks will represent PHHS at the Sectional Tournament today (Monday). Maddy Roach and Sally Riffe travel to Maryville to compete in the sectional tournament. Wish them luck and look for an update on twitter @phillgolfteam

- **Rooster Soccer**: The Roosters have had some tough matches over the past couple of weeks. They came out of Excelsior Springs with a 4-2 MRVC victory while dropping their match with Grain Valley last Thursday evening. The Roosters travel to Oak Grove on Tuesday and Harrisonville on Thursday. They will wrap up the week with Green Ridge at home on Friday evening (varsity will play at 5pm that night).

- **Chicks Volleyball**: The Chicks keeps rolling in the MRVC West with victories over Odessa and Oak Grove on the road. They will play at home vs. Harrisonville on Tuesday and on the road vs. Grain Valley on Thursday. They will head back to Grain Valley Saturday for their annual tournament.

- **Chicks Softball**: The Chicks have earned the #1 seed in their district tournament which begins this week in Odessa. In earning a bye, the Chicks will not play Wednesday night. They will begin class 3 district 14 play Thursday night in Odessa with a 4pm game. They secured the MRVC West championship outright this past week with their win in Odessa. They also defeated Excelsior Springs on Senior night this past week. The Chicks will host Smithville Monday evening to wrap up their regular season.