The Primary School is celebrating a new school year with renovations to the building, a new schedule for encore classes, and several new staff members. The biggest facility changes are to the offices, art room, and health room, all allowing for more security and privacy. We enjoyed showing off our new accommodations to families at Kindergarten's Meet the Teacher conferences and Open House before the start of school. Encore classes are now held 50 minutes once every four days, so that teams of teachers have daily common planning times, and students have increased class time for music, PE, and library. PS staff members have spent the first week building relationships with students and families, and modeling, teaching, and practicing school and classroom routines, procedures, and behavior expectations. Our emphasis on kindness, respect, and responsibility is evident throughout the building in print and in practice.

The first week of school was a huge success! Students came ready to learn and our staff came prepared to teach. Our building looked beautiful on the inside and out due to the hard work of our district Building and Grounds crew, Maintenance and Custodial staff, Technology Department and all PHES personnel. Staff, students and parents are especially enjoying the newly renovated and relocated Library Media Center and Computer Lab.

Evidence of our school-wide theme for first semester, Dreams Under Construction, can be seen everywhere throughout the building. Students are constructing stories, building 3-D images out of pipe cleaners and are problem solving with pasta and marshmallows.
Teachers spent the first week with students establishing classroom routines, teaching school-wide expectations and building a sense of community. When I asked students how their first week of school was, they have responded with “spectacular”, “amazing” and “I never want to leave.”

Through collaboration with Janis Yokley, our Third and Fourth graders will begin their new keyboarding program this week. This program is designed to help our students become proficient at keyboarding. We know that once automaticity is developed, students will be able to concentrate more on writing than typing and move towards becoming producers rather than consumers of technology. This week we look forward to welcoming parents to our Curriculum Night on August 26th at 6:30. Curriculum Night is a time when teachers have the opportunity to share valuable information with parents about the Missouri Learning Standards, homework, schedules, assessments and school-wide expectations.

**INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL**

We had a fabulous turn out for Open House/Meet the Teacher! Students and parents located their classes and met their teachers. They practiced opening lockers and placed supplies in them. Parents had the opportunity to sign up for parent teacher conferences which will take place in October. Team 6A had a photo booth available to parents and students. We had some amazing snapshots of excited PHIS families.

We are thrilled to invite parents to our Curriculum Night on Tuesday, September 9. Doors will open at 6:15pm and our first “class” will begin at 6:30pm. Parents will be following a modified schedule of their child’s schedule. Rooster Time teachers will be contacting parents for a personal invite. Teachers are looking forward to sharing with parents what their classes are all about and what they should expect from the school year. Elective teachers will be located in the library throughout the evening as well, but additional information is shared below about each of them and the exciting things that are happening in their classes.

Hello! I am Mrs. Chandler and I am the new music teacher at PHIS! This is my first year teaching, but I had a blast student teaching at PHES last spring. We have lots to accomplish in music class this fall! We will start by working on our teamwork qualities and reviewing our basic music skills. Sixth grade choir will quickly begin preparing music for their October 13th concert and fifth grade will begin learning skills and songs for their November 4th PTO program. Any student who would like to keep singing outside of the school day is welcome to join us in Honor Choir! The honor choir will meet on Tuesday mornings from 7:25-8:00 and Thursday afternoons from 3:30-4:15 to immediately begin preparing for the October 13th concert. Honor choir will begin on Tuesday September 2nd. I can’t wait to begin working with PHIS students. This is sure to be the start of a fabulous school year!

Mrs. Jane Bermel: My role as a school counselor is to provide guidance services that consist of working with students to help them academically, personally, and socially. I will be working closely with parents, teachers, school administrators, and other professionals
to provide students with the best possible resources and services. As your child’s counsel or I will work to serve the needs of all students by helping to build positive self-images, enjoy good relationships with others, and to develop feelings about work, family, and society. In the next couple of weeks I will send you some information about other services such as individual and group counseling that are offered here at the Intermediate.

Mrs. Ellen Reynolds—Art: Welcome to the new school year! I am excited about getting to know all of our new students, and seeing familiar faces as well. I am planning a fantastic year filled with lots of exciting art projects! I am always looking for volunteers to help out with our Square One fundraiser (this will be our first project).

Let me introduce myself. I am Ms. Greve, the new computer teacher. This will be my first year teaching in the Pleasant Hill School District. I just moved to the area from Pittsburgh, PA. I am thrilled to be back in MO.

We have many exciting things planned for computer classes this year. Our school year will begin with improving our keyboarding skills. Being fast and accurate typers will allow students to create wonderful projects as the year progresses. I can’t wait to see the creativity of our students!

Hello - My name is Ms. Pray and I’m excited to be the new media specialist at PHIS. We will be using a flexible schedule in the library so your student will have the opportunity to choose books on their schedule. They will also be spending many class periods in the library learning about selecting books and about the research process. Students are always welcome to come to the library before and after school to return and check out books. My goal as a media specialist is to instill a life-long love of reading in students and help them become effective users of information. Throughout the year, I will be offering special events to support those goals. The first upcoming event is the Fall Book Fair in October.

Hello my name is Mr. Adamczyk. I am in my 10th year of teaching in Pleasant Hill. This will be my third as the P.E. teacher at PHIS. I’m excited to start a new school to welcome old faces and meet the new ones. We will start with various games to get familiar with rule and expectations. Our first unit will be football. We will learn positions for offense and defense as well as rules and skills your child will need to play.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL**

We are off and running, and I PREDICT a great year! This week, we started with hypothesis writing in middle school science classes. On Wednesday, students predicted what would happen if we filled a balloon with water and held it to a candle flame. Then, Mrs. Davis
and the classes tested their hypothesis. On Thursday, we started reading and discussing how earth moves around the sun and we compared and contrasted angles of sunlight due to the Earth's tilted axis. This is preparing the students for their first iPad assignment where they will be creating a presentation (either with Explain Everything or Stop Motion) to explain the changes in sunlight angles during the course of a year.

Attached are some of the anchor charts we completed in both 7th grade Math and 8th grade Intro to Algebra. The first week went very well. Getting the procedures down took over the first few days. Finally on Thursday, we were able to hit the ground running with math! In 8th grade, we started with Rational and Irrational Numbers. At first the students were intimidated, but as the discussion developed the students started making connections to the material and what they'd done in the past. I'd say it was a successful first week of school and first week of math!

We also kicked off our fall middle school activity season this week. The PHMS Cross Country Team continues to grow with 38 Roosters and Chicks participating this year! The runners will begin the season by attending the first two meets with the high school team before completing the season on October 16 at the Warrensburg Invitational. The cross country team takes all-comers with the goal to make healthy, lifetime runners out of these awesome kids.

The 8th grade football season kicked off on August 19 with 28 student-athletes participating. With the extreme heat, practices had to be modified to ensure player safety, but it was still a very positive first week of practice. The team has a new schedule for this year which finally includes Harrisonville. The 8th grade Roosters first game will also be their home opener against Grain Valley beginning at 5:00 on Tuesday, September 16.
We had an excellent turn out for volleyball try-outs this past week, and we are excited to get our season underway! Our team has high expectations, and we are willing to do what it takes to reach our goals. PHMS welcomes a new assistant coach Tiffany Sullivan to our program who brings lots of volleyball knowledge and past coaching experience to the table. We will spend the next 3 weeks preparing for our first match. We hope to see you in the stands for our first home match on September 16 too!

**High School**

We are off to a GREAT start at Pleasant Hill High School! The PHHS student council welcomed students back with a Disney theme that included decoration and individual name posters throughout the building. This group, sponsored by Carrie Ryerson, put in a lot of time to make PHHS a welcome place.

It seems that learning hasn't missed a beat. In Mr. Moore's Language Arts classroom, students are engaged in writing using the new Google Chromebooks. Students are logging their reading goals for the new school year. Meaningful, challenging, and appropriate goals will be set for each quarter and tracked alongside the reading log items and adjusted as they progress. These students are also familiarizing themselves with the using Google Search and Google Drive by learning how to gather a set of details to include in their writing. In Mrs. Johnston's art class students are creating a stylized signature to use in their art portfolio. Finally, in the bottom picture, Mrs. Purnell has her students practicing their greetings in Spanish. *Tener un gran año en escuela.*
SPECIAL SERVICES

Our new staff members are starting out strong. Monica Cochran, 6th grade, is taking the lead for math co-teaching due to Mrs. Liautaud’s leave. Jessica Parsons is also taking the lead in some math classes at the Middle School level. Updates from coworkers have all been positive.

Our other newbes Nathan Wood (Primary) and Kristen Heineck (Middle School) are working hard. They have set up their rooms and have already started providing services and screening.
TECHNOLOGY

This year we have begun implementing Chromebooks in English Language Arts classrooms at the High School. Each classroom is equipped with enough Chromebooks to provide one device per student in each class. This is an exciting opportunity for our students to not only learn the language skills for the course but to also implement modern technology tools integrated with the lessons. Curriculum is currently being developed to incorporate information and communication technology skills along side reading and writing learning goals.

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

What a time for Pleasant Hill Activities!

Highlights:

1. On August 8th the fall sports Purple & Gold night kicked off what promises to be an energetic and exciting season. All the fall sports teams were represented along with The Pride of the Hill marching band. The teams had an opportunity to strut their stuff with open practices for all to see. It was a fun event with awesome attendance by the parents and patrons of the district!

2. Pleasant Hill High School hosted the Smithville Warriors in what was a televised football game last Friday night. Despite moving the game time back one hour and having a delay of ½ because of lightning in the area, the event went off without a
hitch! The Roosters fought hard but ended up falling to the Warriors in the contest. The coaches were pleased with the effort of our kids given the formidable opponent.

3. Coach Fleeman and the softball program is up and rolling. The Chicks participated in the Ray-Pec softball jamboree last weekend and are currently playing in the Greater Kansas City Softball Tournament for the first time. Attitudes are great as the team and coach Fleeman work through the changes involving the new leader.

4. The Chicks Volleyball team and coach Creason travelled to Truman High School last week for a jamboree involving Truman and Blue Springs HS. Their first official match of the year will be this Tuesday evening at Summit Christian Academy. They will play in Holden on Thursday. The Chicks are gearing up for what promises to be another entertaining season in the MRVC West?

5. The girl's golf team had a successful first tournament against the big schools at Ray-Pec last week. Coach Bloom was impressed with the 6th place showing out of 19 teams being the smallest school at the tournament.

6. Boys Soccer participated in the Lee's Summit jamboree last week. There is a lot of enthusiasm amongst the players heading into this fall season. The boys will play in the Clinton Tournament just after Labor Day, which is new. Their first contest of the year is this Thursday at Warrensburg.

7. Cross Country is “off and running” with a new coaching staff and a new attitude! In speaking with some of the team members, the workouts are a bit tougher than in the past, but the excitement for a successful season is building. We welcome head coach Paul Stahl and his assistant Jeff Scott to the program!

8. The Pride of the Hill seems to have taken over! The group has over 90 members this year and is working on an exciting show. Mr. Twenter and The Pride are eager to present their brand new uniforms for the first time at the home football game on September 12th. They will attend four competitions this fall and anticipate strong performances with the high levels of leadership evident within the band!

9. The heat has been a minor issue with our programs this past week. The coaches have done an exceptional job paying close attention to our heat acclimatization policies and our kids’ safety. Ms. Jennifer McConnell is on point in assisting our student-athletes with their needs and protecting them from the heat.

10. The middle school programs lifted off last Tuesday in cross country, football and volleyball. Games and event for these sports generally begin after the second week of September.

Practices and rehearsals are evident everywhere you look at Pleasant Hill High & Middle Schools. The students and coaches are working hard to represent the Pleasant Hill community with professionalism & class in everything they do!