

# Pleasant Hill School District #1

## Fall 2021 Newsletter



### Page 2

- School Board Letter
- Music Program Updates
- Pleasant Hill Education Foundation

### Page 3

- Letter from the Pleasant Hill Elementary School Principal
- Letter from the Pleasant Hill Middle School and High School Principal

### Page 4

- Find School District Info Online
- Follow Us on Twitter
- Join Our Email List

**Commitment  
Excellence  
Community**

## A Letter from the Superintendent

Dear PHSD Community:

I'm excited that we are now in the first weeks of a new school year for the Pleasant Hill School District (PHSD) and our Pleasant Hill community as we continue to put the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic behind us and address our future. Every team member of the PHSD has worked hard over the past year and we were able to have school in person all year, which was a major achievement and something to celebrate. Our team, with board support, has strived to ensure we have the right programs, staff, and resources to build the foundation to move the district to the next level of success.

We all know it is critical that PHSD implements health and safety protocols to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. And over the past few months, state education and health officials have worked to draft another [resiliency framework](#) for public school districts that shifts to a more traditional, local decision-making model. PHSD has fulfilled the requirement of having the safety protocols, following statewide quarantine and isolation protocols, mandating use of face coverings, and providing a process to support students. The following documents were submitted to ODE/OHA/LPHA before we opened for the school year: [Safe to Return to School](#), [Communicable Disease Management Plan](#), [COVID-19 Exclusion Chart](#), and [When Should I Keep My Child Home?](#) All can be found on the PHSD website as well.

After more than a year of implementing physical distancing, cohorts, isolation protocols, and other measures, we continue the necessary practices to mitigate COVID-19 and create a welcoming and inclusive learning environment for students and staff. Providing strong COVID-19 protocols is one imperative; however, it is also essential to help students and staff build and rebuild relationships and make sense of the challenging and sometimes traumatic last 18 months to set the foundation for the school year ahead.

We also know that in-person instruction, delivered safely, provides our children and families with the greatest access to an equitable education. Schools not only educate our kids, but also act as a center of services to students and families, offering nutritious meals, access to social-emotional and mental health supports, as well as physical health services. As we continue to work our way through this pandemic we need to continue to work together in partnership as a school district, families and our community at large.

It is PHSD's plan to continue to provide a traditional school schedule this year with all students learning in-person. As an educator, I am excited about everything that will be possible this year for our students as we open up all of our amenities, programs and school activities. It is a pleasure to work and serve in the PHSD and everyone is looking forward to what we will accomplish this year.

I want to thank everyone for your continued support of the school district and, as always, if you have any questions or concerns please feel to reach out and let us know.

Respectfully,  
*Scott Linenberger*  
Superintendent

# A Letter from the School Board

Dear PHSD Families and Community,

As the new school year starts, Pleasant Hill School District welcomes two new School Board members: Drew Gottfried and Rusty Rexius. They were elected to replace Jeff Bernardo and Curt Offenbacher, who both chose to retire from the Board. Many thanks to Jeff and Curt for their years of service and dedication to the students of Pleasant Hill.

I was hoping that this school year would start as a normal year. Unfortunately, it was not to be. The staff and administration are again challenged to provide a meaningful educational experience to our students during these uncertain times. I would like to thank everyone, from staff to students and parents, for making the best of the situation last year and the start of this year.

Earlier, Governor Brown indicated that school boards would be able to exercise local control in deciding issues, such as whether masks would be mandated in school or not. The district sent out a survey based on the perception that the Board would be able to exercise local control.

Soon after the survey became live, the Governor shifted away from local control and mandated masks. We don't know where the Board would have stood on masks; it has never been discussed, as we have not had an option. I do know that it is a very difficult issue when considering both mental and physical health concerns. If at any time in the future the Board has the opportunity to set the policy, we would certainly value your input.

Comments to the Board can be made at any time on the PHSD Feedback page (<https://www.pleasanthill.k12.or.us/resources/district-office/contact-us/school-board-budget-feedback>). While an individual comment might not get a reply, issues will get directed to the administration or discussed by the Board as appropriate.

Sincerely,

*John Oldham*

School Board Chair

## Pleasant Hill Education Foundation

Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year! We are pleased to announce that this school year we will be celebrating 30 years of working with our community to raise funds for the students of the Pleasant Hill School District. Funds raised go towards Innovative Teacher Grants, robotics, music programs and other donor directed funds that help us inspire education, enhance teaching and create opportunities for all students. We are here to support students and teachers have the best year possible.



Want to get involved? We have a variety of different ways to help support our mission ranging from donating, sponsorships, volunteering at events, serving on a committee and board membership! Contact Jennifer Anderson at [janderson@phillfoundation.org](mailto:janderson@phillfoundation.org) for more information or visit [www.phillfoundation.org](http://www.phillfoundation.org).

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**February 2022**  
**Casino Night**

## PHHS Music Program Updates and Save the Date!

Welcome to another year of music in Pleasant Hill! It is with great joy that I write to you with a projected full year of in-person learning in place. I'm so looking forward to doing band this year and would like to bring to your attention a few things happening in our music department.

Our new choir teacher has arrived! Please join me in welcoming Daniel Huynh to the Pleasant Hill Community. Daniel comes to us from Salem, having recently finished his degree at Oregon State University. In just a short time, Daniel is connecting well with the students and is excited to engage with the community and continue our tradition of excellence in music. I hope that you will join him for a choir concert or two this year.

Daniel and I are both so very glad to be in-person with students this year. Teaching music online was a significant challenge but our students persevered and are back again for band and choir. Along with Beginning Band, Intermediate Band, Concert Band, and Pep Band, our Jazz program is growing with two Jazz Bands in place, and a Jazz Combo in the works. Students are looking forward to getting on the road and performing at concerts, competitions, and festivals this year!

Speaking of festivals, the Pleasant Hill Jazz Festival will return this year! Mark your calendars for **April 16, 2022**. After two years off, I am excited to continue this long-standing tradition, providing our Northwest community with a quality music festival. Many bands attend from around the Northwest region, looking forward to it every year. If you are interested in being a part of the festival this year, either as a volunteer, audience member, or even as a member of our executive committee, please contact me.

Daniel and I would love to see you at our winter concerts! The choirs and bands will perform at the high school on **December 15 and 16**, respectively.

As always, I am grateful to be teaching and making music in this special community. Here's to a great year in music!

Sincerely,

*Zac Tendick*

PHHS Director of Bands

[ztendick@pleasanthill.k12.or.us](mailto:ztendick@pleasanthill.k12.or.us)

# A Letter from the PHES Principal

Dear Families,

This year, like last year, promises to be a year filled with its own set of challenges for Pleasant Hill Elementary School, but together, staff, students, and parents can make it a great year! A key piece to a great school year is partnering with parents in their child's education.

## Why is Parent Involvement Important?

Decades of research show that when parents are involved, students have:

- higher grades, test scores, and graduation rate.
- better school attendance
- increased motivation, better self-esteem
- lower rates of suspension
- decreased use of drugs and alcohol
- fewer instances of violent behavior

Become more involved:

- joining our PTO
- volunteering, being a guest presenter, reader whenever possible
- attending parent-teacher conferences, family nights, and other events
- communicating with your child's teacher on a regular basis concerns and successes
- keeping your child's teacher informed about events in your child's life which may affect his or her performance at school

Become an active participant:

- serve as a role model, showing your child that you support his or her education by partnering with their teacher
- assure that you are aware of your child's progress, demonstrating to your child how important their progress is to you
- teach your child that your input at the school is appreciated and that you support the school's efforts

The staff of Pleasant Hill Elementary will:

- provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment
- check in with families building relationships
- hold parent conferences in October, either in person or zoom to share student strengths and weaknesses
- jointly formulate goals for your student to work towards during the school year
- provide families with progress reports/report cards at the end of each 9 weeks.
- reach out to families as needed
- be available to parents to answer questions, address concerns, share ideas via Seesaw, email, voicemail or in person by appointment or zoom

The staff of Pleasant Hill Elementary is asking you to:

- ensure your student is at school, on time, unless excused due to an illness
- take a few minutes each day to ask your child about their day at school
- partners with us, working to assist your child in being successful
- call and talk with your child's classroom teacher before calling the office about any concerns as well as successes
- make reading 20 minutes, over and above any Lexia Core 5 or Epic assignments, nightly a priority within your family

Thank you for partnering with us to make this another great year for our Billies!

Respectfully,

*Devery Stoneberg*  
Principal

# A Letter from the PHMS & PHHS Principal

Dear PHHS Community,

It has been a great start to the school year at Pleasant Hill High School. Students are in class and enjoying all the wonderful things that we offer, from our outstanding class offerings in Career Technical Education to our Advanced Course offerings through Lane Community College and AP programs. Sports and clubs are also back in full swing, with students participating in Soccer, Cross Country, Volleyball, and Football.

We are very excited to continue to offer in-person learning. While we all look forward to the day that we can get back to normal, it is up to all of us to do our part by wearing our masks, washing our hands, and maintaining social distance. By doing these things, we can ensure that our students and staff can continue working together here at school.

Best regards,  
*Randy Fisher*  
Principal



# Find Billie News & Sports Online!

We want to make it easy for you to find out the latest Pleasant Hill School District information, whether it's the date and time of a school event, upcoming games or matches, or other vital updates throughout the year.

## School Calendar

<https://www.pleasanthill.k12.or.us/about/calendar>

## Billie Athletics

<https://billiesathletics.com/>

## School District News and Information

<https://www.pleasanthill.k12.or.us/district-updates/news>



## Follow Us on Twitter & Join Our Email List

In an effort to help keep our schools and community safer, we have created a Twitter feed so you can have instant access to breaking school related communication. We also offer an email list with periodic updates about school and community events.

Follow us on Twitter at [twitter.com/PHSDEmergency](https://twitter.com/PHSDEmergency), or [@PHSDEmergency](https://twitter.com/PHSDEmergency), and turn on your notifications. You can sign up for our community email list visiting our website at <https://pleasanthill.k12.or.us>. Click on the "Sign Up for Newsletter" link.

Currently, it is our intention to only send tweets that pertain to school safety or emergency items. Your email address will not be used for ads or other purposes than PHSD information.

## Pleasant Hill School District

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