



# Pleasant Hill SCHOOL DISTRICT WINTER/SPRING 2021

## A Letter from Your District Superintendent

I wanted to give you an update as to where we are as a school district as we are working through the COVID-19 crisis.

When Pleasant Hill School District started this journey back in March, there were many scientific knowns regarding students and scientific unknowns of COVID-19. Prior to COVID-19, the educational community fully knew the scientific research associated with students who do not spend time in-person for their education: academic loss, high failure rates, increasing achievement gaps, lack of student engagement. All are elements that we know are negatively affected by online learning, specifically for younger grades. Further, we knew the majority of child abuse cases are reported during in-person school. We knew that the social and mental well-being of students is dependent upon in-person interaction with peers. We also knew that, in many cases, in-person school is the safest place for many underserved and at-risk students.

This past March and throughout the summer, the scientific unknowns were centered around the effects of COVID-19 on students and teachers and the spread of the virus in schools. School districts, in coordination with the guidance of Ready Schools, Safe Learners (RSSL) provided by the Oregon Department of Education (ODE), developed school blueprints for safety measures and protocols for in-person instruction. However, the metrics embedded within the RSSL guidance, and imposed by the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) were clearly some of the most stringent nationwide, exceeding criteria listed by the Center for Disease Control (CDC), as well as neighboring states. Now, after nearly half the school year has been completed, the growing body of state, national, and international scientific research is clearly indicating that COVID-19 does not spread in schools with strict adherence to safety protocols as outlined in RSSL. We now have the data that supports students, and specifically elementary students, needing to be in-person for school. Each day that goes by without in-person instruction, Oregon students fall further and further behind peers in other states.

The governors' announcement on December 23, 2020, in conjunction with ODE, stating that Oregon's K-12 COVID-19 metrics are changing to "advisory" rather than "mandatory" surprised school districts throughout the state. In response, educational partners such as Oregon School Board Association (OSBA), Coalition of Oregon School Administrators (COSA), Oregon Education Association (OEA) and Oregon School Employees Association (OSEA) have been engaged in conversations with the Governor's office and with the Legislature about the need to return to in-person learning as quickly and safely as possible.

I want to emphasize that the Governor's decision about moving to advisory metrics does not change the requirement for schools and districts to follow RSSL safety protocols and guidance. This is particularly important, not only for the health and safety of students, staff, and families, but also to receive COVID-19 liability protection passed by the legislature in late December.

PHSD received guidance from ODE and OHA during the week of January 18 regarding updated metrics and information about how to process decisions locally in the context of allowing for the potential of more on-site education for our students. I want to assure you that PHSD will continue to advocate for a safe move to expand our in-person instruction during this pandemic as an option in the near future. We will also continue our distance learning option for those families who feel it is their best learning option for their children's needs.

Respectfully,

*Scott Linenberger*  
Superintendent

**"WHEN YOU CAN'T  
CONTROL THE WIND,  
ADJUST YOUR SAILS."**

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# PLEASANT HILL SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS

## SHARE YOUR HOLIDAY SNAPSHOTS WITH US!

Do you have fun holiday pictures with your elves or pictures of sibling silliness? If so, Mr. Meinzen in Publications would be delighted to get pictures of your kids from the holidays to put in the yearbook and newspaper!

Just email a large size or full resolution file to him at [tmeinzen@gmail.com](mailto:tmeinzen@gmail.com) or [tmeinzen@pleasanthill.k12.or.us](mailto:tmeinzen@pleasanthill.k12.or.us). Thanks!

## BOOSTER CLUB NEWS

The Pleasant Hill Booster Club is happy to announce the Approved Funding Request for the Boys Basketball Team of the Vertimax in conjunction with Darwin Terry and the High School. We may be hunkered down waiting to get our kids back into school and playing sports, but we are still supporting them through this trying time!

We are not sure what the auction will look like this coming year but we are working on some ideas behind the scenes and will hopefully be able to announce something in either late February or March. Please check out our new Facebook Page, we had a problem with our old page so look for us again as the Pleasant Hill Booster Club. We are also excited to announce that Leslie Brown will be handling any Apparel Items you need. You can send your request to [PleasantHillBoosters@gmail.com](mailto:PleasantHillBoosters@gmail.com).

We continue to have our meetings monthly every second Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. You can send an email request if you would like to join the Zoom meeting! We are always looking for volunteers and people interested in helping our kids! If you have any questions, concerns, or requests please feel free to reach out to the Booster President, Jennifer Jordan, at 541.554.1070.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to seeing you soon!

## A Letter from Your School Board Chair

Hello, Pleasant Hill families. Happy New Year!

As we journey into 2021, I think it is safe to say that we all hope this new year will be better than the last. 2020 brought us a global pandemic, record level unemployment and economic hardship, devastating wildfires, social unrest, and a contentious national election. 2020 also introduced "distance learning" into our educational system, turning many of our dining rooms and living rooms into makeshift classrooms. While distance learning is not ideal for most of our students, I am proud to say that the Pleasant Hill School District has made the most of this opportunity to show this community that we care about every one of our students. All staff have shown that they are willing to go the extra mile to serve students and their families the best we can, regardless of the challenges we face. The School Board greatly appreciates the hard work of Superintendent Linenberger and the entire staff as they continue to navigate constantly changing regulations and recommendations from our State and local officials to keep all of us safe while providing the best educational possible.

As we look towards the rest of this school year and beyond, PHSD remains focused on how we can continue to maximize our educational opportunities while keeping our students and staff safe. We have recently started providing Limited In-Person Instruction (LIPI) for students in grades 4-12 that is currently allowed under Oregon Department of Education (ODE) guidelines. This program allows small groups of students to receive on-site instruction for short periods of time while following detailed COVID-19 protocols. The District has also started upgrading air filtration systems in our buildings to remove airborne pathogens and improve indoor air quality. We recognize that maintaining clean air in our schools is a worthwhile investment not only now during the pandemic, but it will continue to provide benefits during future fire and flu seasons for years to come. Finally, we are starting to discuss how PHSD could maintain the ability for some students to continue to utilize distance learning even after COVID is behind us. While we recognize that most students are anxious to return to campus full time, we now know that some students have benefited from an online learning environment. We will continue to explore all options to make sure we are serving each student to the best of our abilities.

In closing, I just want to say that I am proud to be a member of the Pleasant Hill community, an Oregonian and a citizen of these United States of America. While our thoughts and beliefs may differ at times, I believe there is infinitely more that unites us than divides us. Let us all keep that in mind now more than ever.

Sincerely,

*Jeff Bernardo*  
School Board Chair

## Open Budget Committee Positions

There are two vacant seats on the 2020-2021 Budget Committee. Interviews and final selection of new Budget Committee Members will take place at the Pleasant Hill School Board meeting on February 22, 2021. If you are interested, please find the application at <https://www.pleasanthill.k12.or.us/new-member-application>.

The Pleasant Hill School District Budget Committee is a ten-member financial advisory committee consisting of five elected School Board members and an equal number of qualified district voters appointed by the Board for staggered three-year terms. The primary purpose of the Budget Committee is to bring public participation into the budget development process. Their responsibilities are governed by Local Budget Law, in Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) Chapter 294.

# PLEASANT HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## A Letter from the Principal

The students of Pleasant Hill Elementary have been busy on their journey to master the grade level standards. This school year is like none other. Our students are either participating in K-3 Exemption (a blend of in-person and distance learning), distance learning only, or 4th and 5th grade Limited-In-Person Instruction (LIPI) in addition to distance learning. Not only have the students been busy, but the level of parental/guardian support has been incredible.

We started the year with the staff reaching out to each family in their class, introducing themselves, and providing families an opportunity to learn more about the year to come. This was followed by "Beep and Greet the Teacher" prior to the start of school. As part of the "Beep and Greet," Chromebooks were distributed to families for students to use as part of their daily school experience this year. Students and their parents/guardians log on to Zoom, Seesaw, Dreambox, and Lexia Core 5, to name a few of the programs used daily.

The first day of school arrived and we had to pivot, canceling the start of school due to the wildfires, ultimately delaying our first day by a week. When the first day finally arrived, both staff and students were excited to be back in session either K-3 on-site or K-5 on Zoom. Families quickly adjusted to all the changes in practices, such as not being able to walk students to class, sending their students with a mask, water bottle, and their Chromebook daily, or assisting students attending Zoom classes and completing their daily assignments at home.

"Monthly Materials Distribution Days" were introduced in September. Families whose students are participating in distance learning only are able to come to the school and pick up materials to support their student's education such as whiteboards, novels, textbooks, etc.

Our PTO graciously volunteered to support students this year in the area of literacy. Each month books are purchased and distributed to encourage reading. In addition, the PTO Board creates monthly incentive activities for students to complete after reading their new book, like send your teacher a video clip sharing your favorite part of the story via Seesaw.

In October, we held Zoom goal/parent conferences. Teachers invited parents/guardians to Zoom meetings, set-up phone conferences, or participate in socially distanced outdoor conferences. Just like in years past, the purpose was to set goals for their students for the year. The feedback we received was very positive. Parents are appreciative of having an opportunity to meet with teachers, building relationships and forming partnerships to assist our students in being successful this year.

During November, we welcomed 72 students in 4th and 5th grade back to campus. These families accepted an invitation to participate in LIPI as well as distance learning. K-3 students continue to either participate in a blend of on-site and distance learning, or continue distance learning only. Our school community also collectively worked together and pulled off a successful community food drive during November.

December has been a month of our students giving back to the community. This year, due to COVID-19, we were not able to hold our annual Winter/Holiday music program. Instead, Mr. Strong, our elementary music teacher, held the first PHES Holiday Sing-along via Zoom. It was an evening filled with song and dance.

Here we are in January, getting ready to prepare report cards for the 2nd quarter of the school year. It is a great time to reflect on the academic growth of our students as they continue to make their journey towards mastering their current grade levels' standards. To assist with this growth, students will continue logging in daily to Lexia Core 5 Reading, Dreambox Math, as well as attending classes receiving daily instruction either on-site or Zooming on-line.

Oh, the places we have yet to go!

*Devery Stoneberg*

Principal, Pleasant Hill Elementary School

## PLEASANT HILL EDUCATION FOUNDATION NEWS



The Pleasant Hill Education Foundation is celebrating our 30th anniversary! For 30 years, the Foundation has maintained its commitment to inspiring learning, enhancing teaching, and creating opportunities for all students. In honor of our service to our community, we are unveiling our 30th anniversary logo.

### News and Updates

This year has been like no other. The Foundation would like to thank you for your ongoing generosity. Thanks to your partnership, the Pleasant Hill Education Foundation supports the Pleasant Hill School District in offering a higher quality education. Your donations to the Foundation go towards Innovative Teacher Grants, Scholarships, and enrichment programs that go beyond normal school funding. As a result, since September, we have funded over \$47,000 in Innovative Teacher Grants, Music Grants, new technology, and other programs within the District.

The Breakfast on the Hill and Casino Nights events have been postponed – please stay tuned for more information on possible events this summer or fall!

### ARE YOU AN ALUMNI? WANT TO BE UP TO DATE ON OUR EVENTS?

If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please send your contact information to [janderson@phillfoundation.org](mailto:janderson@phillfoundation.org). Also, please like us on Facebook and Instagram.

# PLEASANT HILL HIGH SCHOOL & MIDDLE SCHOOL

## DISTANCE LEARNING

PHHS will still use the following online learning platforms:

- APEX
- SHMOOP
- Delta Math
- GIZMOS
- iCVES

Teachers will continue conducting live synchronous instruction in the mornings with Zoom meetings Monday through Thursday. During the afternoons and Friday mornings 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m., teachers are available for small group support by Zoom meeting. Students are also able to reach out to teachers by email or phone.

Our teaching staff continually look to improve and adapt to online distance learning. Stay tuned for more updates!

## ATTENDANCE

If your middle or high school student will be absent for any part of the school day, call the PHHS Front Office at 541.747.4541.

## FRONT OFFICE HOURS

The Pleasant Hill Middle School/High School Front Office is open from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

## ATHLETICS

For all information regarding Billies Athletics, please follow us on our website at [www.billiesathletics.com](http://www.billiesathletics.com).

## CONTACT INFO

Pleasant Hill High School  
84455 N. Enterprise Road  
Pleasant Hill OR 97455

Phone: 541.747.4541  
Fax: 541.744.3351

## A Letter from the Principal

As we finish the first semester, it goes without saying that we are looking forward to the day that all students are back in the building. In the meantime, we will continue with Distance Learning in the morning and scheduled in-person appointments in the afternoon.

During the months of December and January, we began inviting students into the building for Limited-In-Person Instruction (LIPI), which allowed our teachers to work with students on campus who needed assistance. This has resulted in approximately 75-100 students per day coming to campus for help with their schoolwork. While we realize that this is not the same as normal school, we are still pleased to be able to see students in-person.

Thank you and be safe.

Go Billies,

*Randy Fisher*

Principal, Pleasant Hill High School and Middle School

## COUNSELING OFFICE NEWS

To stay current with what's happening in the counseling office, be sure to check out the PHHS Counseling Blog at <https://phhscounseling.blogspot.com/>.

CONGRATULATIONS to the 15 seniors who have already received their letters of acceptance to a college or university for the 2021-2022 academic year!!

Students will be able to view second semester schedules in their Gradebook account starting on January 21. Please note that, although there are 8 scheduled periods, most students in grades 9-12 will have five to seven classes.

Seniors: email Ms. Ruiz at [cruiz@pleasanthill.k12.or.us](mailto:cruiz@pleasanthill.k12.or.us) to schedule your half-hour in-person or Zoom senior meeting. Parents are welcome to join (in Zoom meetings only).

(by Cheryl Ruiz and Kathy Duval)

## REMINDER: THE LIBRARY IS OPEN

The Middle School/High School Library is OPEN. Students can browse titles and place holds using the library system linked on the school website.

<https://www.pleasanthill.k12.or.us/library-and-media-center>

## INSTAGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

PHHS will continue to use our Instagram page for weekly announcements. We can be followed at [@phhsadmin](https://www.instagram.com/phhsadmin).



# PLEASANT HILL HIGH SCHOOL & MIDDLE SCHOOL

## A Letter from the Music Department

I feel very fortunate to work in the Pleasant Hill School District. This year has been challenging in so many ways, but the brightest spot for me has been being able to meet with students in person. Each aspect of our music programs here in Pleasant Hill elementary, band, and choir, have all been able to meet and rehearse with students. This has made all the difference to me and to the students in our district. As I look around the educational landscape of our county, state, and country, we are one of the few schools where this can be said. Some of the top band programs in the state still haven't met in-person or rehearsed a single note with their students. I commend our community, parents, staff, administration, and school board for having a plan that allows us to see and meet with students on a regular basis and implementing this plan well.

We've been able to do some great things through all meetings with students. Ryan Strong has been with students in-person and online regularly. He even put together a community sing-along on Zoom in December. Dozens of community members, parents, and students attended; singing carols and other traditional music together. Mr. Strong even played his oboe for them! He is excited for the New Year and continuing to share the wonders of music with students.

Kyle Ludwig is doing a stellar job with our budding vocalists. If you haven't already, you should tune into the "Pleasant Hill Music Department" YouTube channel to hear a myriad of quality recordings that the choir students have been producing. Mr. Ludwig has spent long hours arranging, recording, and editing these projects to bring you a quality result. Please check it out! He has plans to continue recording and could possibly stream some live performances of the choir in the coming months. Stay tuned, as that will certainly be encouraging and enjoyable to see.

As we've been able to rehearse on a regular basis, our band students are currently working on performance repertoire as well as supplemental online material. I hope you were able to catch our winter concert streamed live on YouTube in December. If you missed it, you can still view it by searching for "Emerald Performing Arts Live" on YouTube. We will be featuring more live concerts from the band room, as well as participating in online music festivals and workshops such as the Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival coming up at the end of February. Unfortunately, our own Pleasant Hill Jazz Festival will have to be put on hold again this year, but we look forward to hosting a bigger and better festival in April of 2022. Please plan to join us for that!

With our world hopefully returning to normal this year, we embrace the opportunity to continue educating our students in the performing arts. Music is meant to be created, performed, and shared together. The more we are able to do these things, the better. I hope the projects and performances that we have been able to share with you have been a blessing, and please stay tuned, as there is more on the way. See you soon!

Sincerely,

*Zac Tendick*

PHSD Band Director

## AGRICULTURE, CTE, AND FFA NEWS

Planting ideas, teaching skills, and growing futures is what Pleasant Hill Agriculture CTE program and FFA chapter are always pursuing. During this time of virtual learning, the Ag program is challenging students with many at-home labs and skill development projects. Pleasant Hill High School currently offers eight agricultural classes focusing on natural resource and wildlife management, animal science, horticulture, business management, Ag related skills development, and leadership.

Several students have decided to take skills, knowledge, and learning opportunities to the next level through competition. A Pacific Northwest Forestry Education Campaign, "Thru the Trees," connects students with potential careers in forestry. Two FFA members, Tressa Geyer and Zoey Brott, developed a film about landslide management. Their efforts earned them second place, a cash award, and the opportunity to work on a promotion campaign blending art, technology, and research. Visit the PHSD website to view their video.

Another agricultural lab student finds his pace at full throttle. Freshman Zack McGuire learns more than just basic mechanics, engine troubleshooting, and agricultural sales by competing and winning in motocross racing series throughout the region. Zack looks forward to making his passion into his profession.

Our chapter's next FFA meeting is February 23 at 6:30 p.m. We will be recognizing our chapter award winners, sharing updates on current projects and goals. If you would like to attend via Zoom please email Angela White for a meeting link.

We are always seeking industry and community members to help with guest lectures, equipment, ideas, and supplies for educational opportunities. If you're interested in learning more, contact Angela White at 541.207.2184 or [awhite@pleasanthill.k12.or.us](mailto:awhite@pleasanthill.k12.or.us).

# PLEASANT HILL SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS

## When Should I Keep My Student Home?

**NOTE:** These are general guidelines for schools, not to be confused with medical advice. Many of the symptoms listed here will require medical care. Please contact your child's medical provider directly with any questions that you have.

STUDENT'S SYMPTOMS:	STUDENT MAY RETURN TO SCHOOL WHEN:
<b>FEVER</b>	
Temperature by mouth greater than 100.4 degrees	No fever for at least 72 hours without the use of fever-reducing medicine
<b>RASH</b>	
Skin rash or open sores	Rash is gone; sores are dry or can be completely covered by a bandage; or with orders from doctor to school nurse
<b>COUGH</b>	
New cough develops	In general, when symptom-free for 72 hours. If pertussis (whooping cough) is diagnosed, after taking 5-day course of prescribed antibiotics or when cleared for return by local public health authority. If COVID-19 is diagnosed, with orders from local public health authority.
<b>DIARRHEA</b>	
3 loose/watery stools in one day OR newly unable to control bowel movements	Symptom-free for 48 hours
<b>VOMITING</b>	
Any vomiting	Symptom-free for 48 hours
<b>HEADACHE</b>	
Headache accompanied by stiff neck and fever, OR with recent head injury	Symptom-free or with orders from doctor to school nurse
<b>JAUNDICE</b>	
New, yellow color in eyes or skin	After orders from doctor or local public health authority to school nurse
<b>EYE IRRITATION</b>	
Eyes are red or have discharge, particularly yellow or brown discharge from eyes	Redness and discharge is gone OR with order from doctor to school nurse
<b>BEHAVIOR CHANGES</b>	
Acting different without reason, unusually grumpy or sleepy, OR acting differently after a head injury	After return to normal behavior OR with orders from doctor to school nurse
<b>MAJOR HEALTH EVENT</b>	
Recent surgery or illness lasting two or more weeks	After orders from doctor to school nurse
<b>CONDITIONS REQUIRING EXCESSIVE CARE</b>	
Your student's health condition requires more care than school staff can safely provide	After measures are in place for student's safety

## How to Protect Your Family from COVID-19

After months of dealing with the ongoing pandemic, it may seem that everything that could possibly be said about COVID-19/the coronavirus has already been said. You likely have your own family routine down after months of dealing with suggestions and restrictions due to the pandemic. According to the CDC, there are some simple and practical steps that families can do to keep themselves and their students safe and healthy:

### Teach and reinforce everyday preventive actions

- Wash hands with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitizers if soap and water are unavailable
- Wear a mask if you're two years old or older
- Avoid close contact with people who aren't part of your household (at least six feet of distance)
- Avoid people who are sick and coughing or sneezing
- Cover your own coughs and sneezes

### Keep up-to-date with other healthcare matters

- Schedule and attend routine well-child and vaccine visits
- Prepare for visits by asking your healthcare provider how healthy patients are being kept separate from those who may be sick
- If you or your child have any COVID-19 symptoms, notify your healthcare provider *before* your office visit

If you want to learn more about the ongoing COVID-19 vaccination efforts in Oregon, visit:

[covidvaccine.oregon.gov](https://covidvaccine.oregon.gov)

As restrictions and conditions change in Oregon, you can keep up-to-date on state guidelines, which services are open/available, and recent news releases online at:

[coronavirus.oregon.gov](https://coronavirus.oregon.gov)

And if you'd like to learn more about the "Ready Schools, Safe Learners" guidance that we're following at the Pleasant Hill School District, you can find a wealth of information at:

[www.oregon.gov/ode/students-and-family/healthsafety/  
Pages/Planning-for-the-2020-21-School-Year.aspx](https://www.oregon.gov/ode/students-and-family/healthsafety/Pages/Planning-for-the-2020-21-School-Year.aspx)

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NON-ESSENTIAL TRAVEL

Travel to/from other states or countries could increase the risk of COVID-19 spread. Avoiding travel, particularly travel through shared conveyance such as air, bus, or rail travel, can reduce the risk of virus transmission and bringing the virus back to Oregon. All non-essential travelers, including returning Oregon residents, **should** but are **not required** to:

- Practice self-quarantine for **14 days** after arrival
- Limit their interactions to their immediate household

Those who have traveled to or from their home may consider ending quarantine early if they have not had any symptoms:

- After **10 days, without any testing**; OR
- After **7 days**, if they have had a **negative result** by an antigen or polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test within the 48 hours before ending quarantine.

Residents of Oregon **should** but are **not required** to stay home or in their region and avoid non-essential travel to other states or countries.

These recommendations do not apply to individuals who cross state or country borders for **essential travel**.

Do you have a  
PHSD-provided  
Verizon Hotspot  
that you're no  
longer using?

## TECHNOLOGY: VERIZON HOTSPOT

It appears that either there are some who are not using their PHSD provided Verizon Hotspot, or their device is no longer functional.

Please return the Hotspot at your earliest convenience to the Pleasant Hill High School Front Office if this is the case. PHSD continues to pay for the device with monthly charges, and there are others who could use the device if it is not currently being used.

The Front Office is open from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.



### Pleasant Hill School District

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