



PLEASANT HILL SCHOOL DISTRICT

WINTER 2024 NEWSLETTER

A LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Pleasant Hill families,

As we welcome the winter season, I'm excited to share updates about our district's progress and plans for the coming year. Together, we've made incredible strides in improving our facilities, enhancing our programs, and fostering a strong sense of community.

Upcoming Facility Upgrades

We're thrilled to announce several major projects that will take place this summer, thanks to the combined efforts of our district, community, and partners:

- **Track Resurfacing and Turf Replacement:** Beginning in June 2025, we'll be resurfacing the track and replacing the turf, ensuring our athletic facilities remain safe and state-of-the-art for our students and community. This \$750,000 project is funded through the District Replacement Fund and the incredible fundraising efforts of our community.
- **Seismic Upgrade to the High School Gymnasium:** Also beginning in June, our high school gym will undergo a seismic rehabilitation, funded by a \$2.49 million grant from the State of Oregon's Seismic Rehabilitation Grant Program. This upgrade will ensure our gym is a safe and secure space for years to come.
- **Middle and High School Library Remodel:** Thanks to the support of our District's Capital and Maintenance Reserve Funds and a generous donation from the Pleasant Hill Education Foundation, our library will be remodeled into a modern, welcoming space that inspires learning and collaboration.

These projects reflect our ongoing commitment to maintaining facilities that support both student achievement and community engagement.

Looking Ahead

As always, our vision remains centered on graduating all students with high levels of academic and personal achievement, prepared for post-secondary success and compassionate citizenship. We are excited about the opportunities these new initiatives and facility upgrades will bring to our students, staff, and community.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in making Pleasant Hill School District a place where every student can thrive.

Warm regards,

Jim Crist
Superintendent

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OUR MISSION

To graduate all students with high levels of academic and personal achievement, who are ready for post-secondary excellence, and who are prepared for productive, compassionate citizenship, through research-based instruction and a collaborative system of support.

A LETTER FROM THE BOARD

Dear caregivers, students, staff, and community members,

I wanted to take this opportunity to provide insight on the priorities your school board has chosen to emphasize this school year. Every board member has expressed a desire to have positive, meaningful impact on students' learning experience while ensuring our staff are supported and empowered. To that end, the board set the following goals at the beginning of the school year:

- Task district administration with identifying a meaningful method for monitoring student success beyond state testing. This process will include feedback from teachers to ensure they feel supported and not targeted. The desired outcome is to identify strengths and needs in a more efficient manner than what state testing offers.
- Increase board involvement in the district. Board members have started attending meetings with the Elementary PTO, Booster Club, Education Foundation, FFA and various school functions.
- Encourage student/board interactions. This has been a priority for the board every year that I have served. This year we have had the pleasure of welcoming students from Mr. Reiersgaard's leadership class to provide detailed updates on student body activities.

Please note that this is not a comprehensive list encompassing everything that is accomplished at board meetings. Examples include regular updates and approvals for facility upgrades, superintendent performance evaluation as well as ongoing board member development. We encourage and appreciate feedback whether that's during public meetings or striking up a conversation when you see us in the community.

Sincerely,

Stephen Hammond

Board Chair

OSAS INFORMATION

Did you know the Every Student Succeeds Act is a federal law that governs general education in public schools across the country? This law was passed in 2015 and requires statewide testing in certain grades and subjects every year. All students take the test and the results can provide feedback to families, teachers and schools about student progress in those subjects that are skills needed for career and college. Testing will occur in the spring and include Language Arts and Math in grades 3rd-8th, Science in grades 5th and 8th and Language Arts, Math and Science for 11th grade. This year will also include a survey for students in grades 3rd-11th. More information will be coming soon and always feel free to contact your students' building principal with specific questions.

Join the Educational Equity Advisory Committee (EEAC)

In 2021, the Oregon Legislature passed Senate Bill 732 requiring each school district to establish an Educational Equity Advisory Committee (EEAC). This committee is crucial in helping school district leaders identify the factors that aid or hinder the success of students who have been historically excluded, negatively impacted or underserved by Oregon's educational systems. The EEAC is designed to advise school boards and superintendents on various matters, including the educational impacts of district policy, district-wide climate, and issues affecting underserved student groups.

What Does the EEAC Do?

According to SB 732, the specific duties of the EEAC include:

- Advising the school district board and superintendent on the educational equity impacts of policy decisions.
- Informing the school district board and superintendent when situations arise in schools that negatively impact underrepresented students and advising on how to address these situations.
- Identifying and advising on situations that positively impact underrepresented students and suggesting ways to replicate these successes across the district.

Who Can Join?

EEAC members are selected by the school district board and the school district superintendent and must include parents, employees, students and community members from the district. The committee must consist of individuals who represent the identities of historically underrepresented and underserved students within the district.

Timeline

- September 2024 to March 2025: Outreach and application period
- January 2025 to May 2025: Committee member selection process
- June 2025: Committee member nomination and approval
- Summer/Fall 2025: Onboarding of committee members
- School year 2025-2026 and beyond: Committee will function in an advisory capacity to the PHSD Board of Directors and Superintendent

Apply Now!

To apply to be a member of the EEAC, please scan this QR code with your phone's camera:

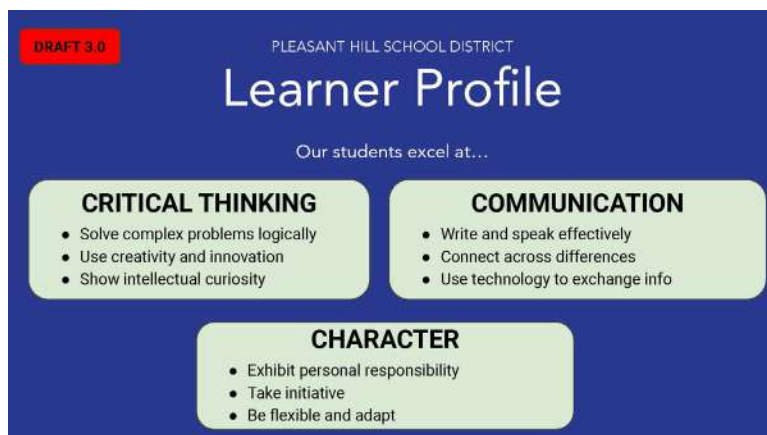
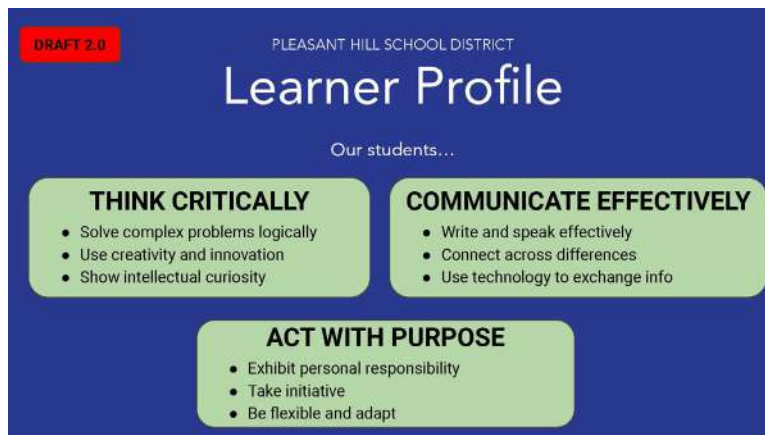
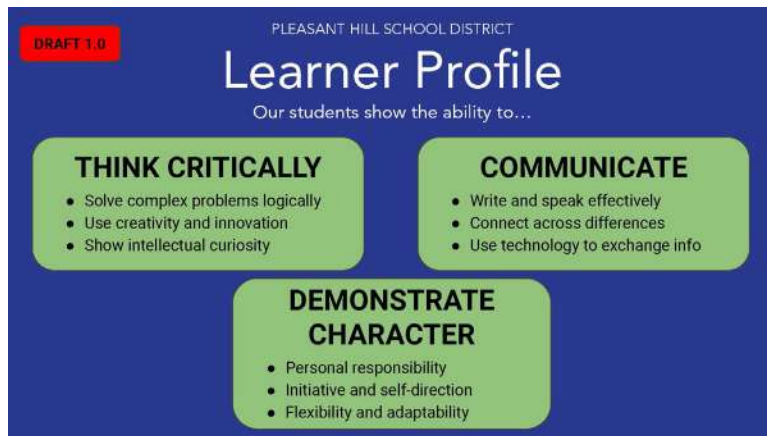


For additional information please contact Jim Crist, Superintendent Pleasant Hill School District, at 541-736-0701 or by email at jcrist@pleasanthill.k12.or.us.

DEVELOPING A PHSD LEARNER PROFILE

This year, we've been hard at work creating a learner profile that defines the core competencies and characteristics we want our students to develop alongside their foundational literacies. The PHSD Learner Profile will serve as a district-wide framework, aligning curriculum, teaching strategies, and student support around shared goals.

Once approved by our Board of Directors, the profile will move into an implementation phase where staff and students will collaborate to align learning tasks with the profile characteristics. Together, we'll define what proficiency looks like for each characteristic, ensuring this framework becomes a meaningful guide for teaching and learning.



Track & Turf Fundraising Progress

We're thrilled to share exciting news about our Track and Turf Committee's fundraising efforts! Thanks to the incredible support of our community, we've raised over \$25,000, with an additional \$35,000 already pledged. This progress brings us closer to achieving our goal of creating a high-quality track and turf facility for our students and community to enjoy.

If you'd like to join this initiative and help make a lasting impact, please check out the Pleasant Hill Track and Turf Fundraising Prospectus located in the school newsletter. Your support makes all the difference. Thank you for being part of this exciting journey!

PHHS & PHMS Music Updates

Our high school and middle bands are active as ever and doing very well this year. This winter and spring these students are gearing up for multiple music festivals and will have our first competition at the West Salem Jazz Festival on February 8th. The Concert Band and Wind Ensemble will be performing at multiple festivals in March and hoping to qualify for state. These students are hard at work, practicing and perfecting their craft to represent Pleasant Hill well in the coming months.

Also, please don't forget about the Pleasant Hill Jazz Festival this year on April 12th. It's our 48th year and we will be featuring a fantastic local guest saxophonist Ben Harris!

Our spring concert will be 6:00 p.m. on March 19th in the high school Student Center. We hope to see you there!

A LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Families,

What a wonderful first half of the year we have had! I continue to be amazed by this community. Students are working hard, learning, making such great progress. One of the things that helps students be so successful at school is clear and consistent expectations. We provide this through our PBIS program also known as Billie Spirit in our building.

What is Positive Behavior Intervention Support/Billie Spirit?

Billie Spirit is our Positive Behavior Intervention Support System, PBIS, which is a systematic approach to creating safe and effective learning environments for students. It is based on the idea that when students are taught clearly defined behavioral expectations and provided with positive corrective responses to behavior, the majority of students will meet those expectations. Those needing additional assistance are provided with more support.

There are three components to our PBIS system:

- School-wide systems to establish a positive culture.
- Classroom systems that blend academic and behavioral expectations.
- Individual student support for those students needing the most intense behavior support needs.

We have four school wide expectations of students: Kind, Respectful, Responsible, and Safe. Each area of the school has specific behavior expectations for our students based on these principles. These expectations are taught at the beginning of every school year, and are reinforced throughout the year, with booster lessons after every major break.

Praise and encouragement combined with effective instruction are the cornerstones of the Billie Spirit program. Although negative consequences are sometimes necessary to change inappropriate behavior, students are more likely to learn and demonstrate appropriate behavior in an encouraging and supportive learning environment.

Students have an opportunity daily to earn Billie Bucks for demonstrating Billie Spirit by being **Kind, Responsible, Respectful** and **Safe**. Students can buy special privileges such as to eat lunch with a friend in the cafeteria instead of at their classroom table, write in ink for the day and purchase special recess privileges, just to name a few.

How can you support Billie Spirit at home?

Talk with your students about how they are Kind, Respectful, Responsible and Safe. Using this same vocabulary at home with your student also reinforces that these are not just at-school expectations, they are life-long expectations. Thank you for supporting your students daily.

Sincerely,

Brenna Fairchild
Principal

Elementary Music Program Updates

The Pleasant Hill Elementary Music Program is thriving!

After a successful performance by our 5th graders for our "Grinchy" Winter Concert, it is time to prepare for the other concerts ahead. Up next is our Valentine's Day 1st grade concert. This will be on February 13th at 1:00 p.m. in the Blue Gym. Don't miss this adorable concert.

Afterward, we're working on a new adventure for PHES, a musical! This after school music enrichment activity for 3rd-5th graders is School House Rock Live Jr.! All of the students who are participating are already working hard. Performance dates are May 14th and 15th.

We're also gearing up for our annual Talent Show. Sign-ups for this production will be sent out in mid-March.

In addition to offering these extra music opportunities, in class, 3rd-5th graders are going to begin exploring the world of recorder.

We're looking forward to a fun, musically filled quarter! Go Billies!

How You Can Help

- **Donate:** Your financial contributions will directly support the maintenance and improvement of our track and field facilities.
- **Volunteer:** Offer your time and skills to help with events and maintenance projects.
- **Spread the Word:** Share our story and mission with your network to help us reach more supporters.
- **Follow Along:** Keep track of our progress by following our Facebook and Instagram pages @phtrackandturf

TURF AND TRACK CAPITAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

The Turf and Track Capital Campaign Committee is chaired by Travis and Kelsi Melvin.

The committee includes dedicated members:

- Madeline Carlton
- Michelle Allen
- John and Kendra Goldberg
- Sally Kesey
- Jenn Woodland
- Curt Offenbacher
- Jim Crist



Scan here to
donate today!



Pleasant Hill Track and Turf Fundraising Prospectus



A LEGACY OF INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE

In 1964, Bill Bowerman, a legendary figure in track and field, collaborated with Pleasant Hill teacher and track coach Jim Puckett to create the first synthetic track in Pleasant Hill. Using tire rubber from Wyatt Tire Shop, sand, and liquid tar, they laid the foundation for a revolutionary track surface. This innovation was highlighted by former University of Oregon runner Geoff Hollister, who noted that runners consistently clocked one to two seconds ahead of pace on this new track.

HISTORIC ACHIEVEMENTS ON THE TRACK

The Pleasant Hill track is more than just a groundbreaking surface; it is a stage for remarkable athletic achievements. In 1966, Kenny Moore, a former Oregon distance runner and two-time Olympian, is rumored to have run an American Record-setting pace for the 20K on this very track.

Additionally, Russ Francis, a 1971 Pleasant Hill graduate, set the national high school record in javelin with a throw of 259 feet 9 inches – a record that stood until 1988. Francis went on to become a first-round draft pick in 1975 by the New England Patriots and later won a Super Bowl with the San Francisco 49ers in 1984.

PIONEERING WOMEN’S TRACK AND FIELD

Jim Puckett, an OSAA champion in the 100yd, 220yd, and long jump events in the mid-1950s, played a pivotal role in advancing women’s track and field in Oregon. Alongside Bowerman, Puckett was instrumental in getting OSAA to include girls’ track among their sanctioned programs. On May 23, 1964, he organized and launched the inaugural Oregon Girls High School State Track & Field Championships, opening the sport to girls across the state.

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF LEGACY AND INNOVATION

Due to COVID-19, the 60th anniversary of this historic event will be celebrated in 2025. This milestone offers a unique opportunity to honor the legacy of those who have contributed to the rich history of Pleasant Hill track and field.

The Need for Upgrades

Our current turf field and track are now 12 years old, far exceeding their typical lifespan of 6 to 8 years. The turf is coming unraveled, and our track is in dire need of resurfacing. Recognizing the need for these upgrades,

Pleasant Hill School District created a reserve account and has \$500,000 available. The turf and track project is estimated to cost between \$700,000 and \$800,000, setting our fundraising goal at \$200,000.



To Donate:

Please make checks payable to Pleasant Hill School District
(add Turf and Track Project to the subject line)

Mail to:
Pleasant Hill School District
36386 Hwy 58
Pleasant Hill, OR 97455

Or scan the QR code below for online donations:



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The Pleasant Hill track is more than a school facility; it is a community track open for regular public use. This track has been a valuable resource for local residents, promoting fitness and community engagement, including serving as the host site for the American Cancer Society’s annual Relay for Life event.

From elementary school running clubs to walking groups and families, the track serves as a central hub for community activity, making this project more than a sports facility upgrade. This is a public health project as well.

PROJECT TIMELINE

We aim to break ground by June 7, 2025, the day after graduation.

This will ensure minimal disruption to school activities and allow ample time for the project’s completion before the next school year begins.

JOIN US IN CONTINUING THE LEGACY

As we look to the future, we invite you to be a part of this extraordinary legacy. Your support will help us maintain and enhance the facilities that have been home to so many groundbreaking achievements.

Together, we can ensure that Pleasant Hill continues to be a place where athletes can push the boundaries of what is possible.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For fundraising and project questions, please contact:

Jim Crist, Superintendent
Pleasant Hill School District
Email: jcrist@pleasanthill.k12.or.us
Phone: 541-736-0701

Join us in celebrating the past and investing in the future of Pleasant Hill track and field. Your support is crucial in keeping this legacy alive and thriving for generations to come. Thank you for your consideration and generosity.

AG, FFA, AND CTE UPDATES

This fall, students were busy creating and building projects. The woodshop construction classes have successfully built sheds on site and for "Project Hope," a St. Vincent de Paul housing project. With the recent renovation of our CTE facilities, students could more efficiently assemble and construct these larger projects in our CTE workyard. Our Metals and fabrication classroom program utilizes the new Plasma CNC table to create custom projects. Students can learn software design programs in our new CTE computer lab, a project funded this summer by a Perkins Grant through Lane Education Service District.

Horticulture and Intro to Agriculture students are practicing propagation and many students have recently competed in a Soil Science FFA Career Development Event.

Students engaged in a food science unit, which allows over 53 students to receive an Oregon Food Handler Certification, will use their skills in a new food science project, Fun Food Friday. In this, students will learn to analyze recipes for nutritional value, prepare food and serve to the class. Peers will evaluate and provide feedback to the students on the snack. Although this is not a home economics course, it is essential to tie food and agriculture with consumer science, nutrition and life skills. These small work-based learning experiences help students gain experience and knowledge to apply at home and in jobs. This program was made possible by the combined effort of the Pleasant Hill Education Foundation by supplying our new kitchen with equipment, a grant for Oregon Food Handler Certifications and the Pleasant Hill FFA Alumni Association for assistance with our grocery expenses.

Health Occupations

Our Health occupations program is getting off to a good start, and we can use many pieces of new equipment in our regular curriculum classes with assistance from the Pleasant Hill Education Foundation. The program focuses on our Emergency Medical Responder, Health Occupations Careers and rigorous Anatomy and Physiology coursework, aligned with Lane Community College, preparing students for post-secondary transition. Our partnership with the Goshen Pleasant Hill Fire Department is greatly appreciated for our firefighting certification and health occupations.

Health Occupations CTE middle school survey class is working on problem-solving and critical thinking skills in a new STEM classroom challenge. Students were challenged to build a castle wall that could withstand a catapult attack. The catapult ammunition was marshmallows. This focused on teamwork and collaboration, which are essential workforce skills.

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Booster Program Updates

Happy 2025 to all! We are excited for what this year will bring to our Pleasant Hill School District and to our community.

OUR NEWSLETTER & GRANT REQUESTS

In December we mailed out our first physical newsletter. We hope you had a chance to look through it and read about additional projects and activities we have funded. We hope to have a digital copy archived on our website as well. We are continuing to work on updating and adding to our website and are pleased to have transitioned our grant request to a digital form.

Remember, if your school-based group, team or club is interested in a grant, the athletic director should be made aware and give his approval before you submit your form. Grant requests are reviewed monthly during our meetings the 2nd Wednesday of the Month. We appreciate when the official representative from the group or the group itself can come and present. We love to meet the people we serve!

One of the main reasons we are able to approve most grant requests is due to our year-round fundraising efforts at the school concessions. Groups are able to earn for their projects/uniforms etc. by working concessions. Just recently the baseball program earned \$1,000 by working concessions at the wrestling tournament hosted by PHHS. More recently we also welcomed our School Board Chair Stephen Hammond who worked concessions in support of the track team to purchase new uniforms.

NEW FACES AND WAYS TO JOIN IN

Speaking of welcome, we are pleased to welcome a new varsity baseball coach, **Boone Casarez**, and a new varsity softball coach, **Nikki Derrick**. We wish you a successful and safe season! We also congratulate **Luke Jackson** on his transition from assistant boy's varsity basketball coach to the position of head coach. Keep up the great work!

Please be sure to mark your calendars for our largest fundraiser of the year: The Annual Dinner and Auction Fundraiser. Saturday April 26th.

We are currently seeking community members to assist with our auction in various capacities. Our next meeting is February 12th in the Community Center and we would love to see some new faces who are excited to lend their talents, support and resources to benefit the students in our district.

On a final note, we feel blessed to be part of a community who showed so much care and support to our Pleasant Hill families who were affected by tragedy in December. We thank you and appreciate your love and generosity.

AG, FFA, AND CTE DISTRICT NEWS, CONTINUED

CTE Open House Night & Regional Administrators Tour

The CTE program will host its open house night on February 19th from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., starting in the Student Center at the high school. Students, parents, and community members can attend a short introduction followed by four classroom demonstrations and answer sessions. Some students will showcase their projects and teachers will share about facilities and equipment while discussing the current project underway. CTE open house night allows our community and industry partners to visit facilities, interact with students and better understand the careers and technical skills that students are learning in the classroom and applying in life. We invite anyone interested in our Ag, natural resources, metals and fabrication, woods and construction, health occupations and art to come and visit us for the CTE open house night.

On February 26th, the PHHS CTE program will host a regional tour of administrators and teachers. Our students will showcase our CTE programs and activities and interact with other teaching professionals from around our region. During the showcase, participants will learn how our CTE program operates, have an opportunity to tour facilities and watch student learning and teachers in action.

Future Farmers of America

Pleasant Hill FFA had a good fall competition season. The FFA Chapter Placed 1st in Beginning District Food Science, 1st in Beginning Agricultural Sales, 3rd in Advanced Agricultural Sales, and had six students in the top 20 at our Soil Event. 24 7th-9th graders competed in the Ag Olympics Competition and were the high point chapter with 9 students earning the top 10% award competing against 12 schools and 260 students. Our students also took part in Ag Expo, the Pacific Northwest's largest ag expo and career event. 8 PHHS students competed in the welding competition and had a great showing. The FFA Chapter Executive Officer Team also competed in the Parliamentary Procedure CDE at the Fall District Leadership Retreat. FFA activities pick up moving toward spring.

PHHS Medical Club

PHHS Medical Club allows students interested in the medical field opportunities for leadership, tours and activities targeted toward their knowledge in the health field.

At right, the high school FFA Soils Team assembles on bales of hay.

Below left, students at work in the Food Science and Safety Lab.



At right, horticulture students assess plant health.

Below, one of the Project Hope sheds being assembled in the workyard.



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AG, FFA, AND CTE DISTRICT NEWS, CONTINUED



At left, students assemble floriculture bouquets for the Forest Today and Forever Banquet Fundraiser.

Below, participants work on the middle school STEM Challenge.



Below, FFA Career Development Event winners pose following their strong showing at the event and students attend the Ag Expo Field Trip.



Upcoming CTE Events

FFA will host the State FFA Officers on January 27th and participate in Job Interview and Résumé, Public Speaking, Business Management and Agriculture Mechanics Career Development events this winter. After spring break, we enter a busy season of over 15 career development events including floriculture, forestry, dairy foods evaluation and livestock evaluation among others. Students will soon be gearing up for market animal production showing at the summer's Lane County Fair and Youth Auction.

FFA students will be gearing up for the FFA Oregon State Convention in late March. This leadership activity is a great experience and a chance to compete against students from around the state. Our organization conducts fundraisers throughout the year, including writing grants in our Agriculture Business Management class, working concession stands and industry banquets, selling floriculture products and performing various additional community service activities to fund our field trips, career development events and leadership activities.

We will host a hot dog feed at Wilco in Springfield on Friday, February 15th from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Stop by and support our efforts. FFA is an affiliate program that enables all enrolled middle and high school students in Ag/CTE classes to join free of charge. The Winter Official FFA Meeting will be held on February 3rd at 6:30 p.m. in the student center, all are welcome.

If you have any questions about the PHHS CTE program or student activities, don't hesitate to get in touch with Angela White at awhite@pleasanthill.k12.or.us.

At right, FFA Executive Officers take a moment away from leadership duties.



At far left, students from the 7th-9th grade Ag Olympic Championship Team celebrate.

At near left, students take samples for Soil Science.



Pleasant Hill School District

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HIGH SCHOOL WINTER ATHLETICS

Winter sports at PHHS are in full swing. All four of our winter sports programs are looking to bring home state trophies.

- Boys basketball is currently 11-2 and ranked #2 in the state.
- Girls Basketball is currently 9-4 and ranked #8 in the state.
- Boys and Girls Wrestling is currently ranked #9 in the state. Most recently, wrestling placed 5th at the King of the Hill Invitational.
- Cheerleading is returning for another competition season after placing 3rd at last year's OSAA State Championships. Not long ago, they placed 2nd at the Colt Cheer Challenge.

Check out our winter sports schedules at osaa.org and find a date to cheer on our Billies!

PHEF SAVE THE DATE

Pleasant Hill Education Foundation invites you to our Winter Blues Gala. This is our largest fundraising event of the year. This year's event is on Saturday February 22nd at 6:00 p.m. at the Ford Alumni Center. Tickets are available for purchase now at \$75 for singles or \$125 for a couple.

We are excited to be featuring Donny Raye & The Blues Foundation. Come enjoy an evening that brings our community together with dinner, dancing and raising money for PHSD. We can't wait to see you there!

Want to get involved? We have many ways to help support our mission ranging from sponsorships, volunteering at events, serving on a committee and board membership. Contact Amber McKee at amckee@phillfoundation.org.

Don't forget to follow the Pleasant Hill Education Foundation on Facebook and Instagram.