

# PIEDMONT FOCUS

MONTHLY NEWS & UPDATES FROM PIEDMONT PUBLIC SCHOOLS





## **BOARD OF EDUCATION FEBRUARY 13, 2023 MEETING UPDATES**

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### **ROLL CALL**

All board members were present.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION/ACTION ITEMS**

Piedmont Public Schools Board of Education did not convene into executive session.

The board unanimously approved the employment list in Attachment A of the agenda.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

The consent agenda was unanimously approved with no changes.

# DISTRICT UPDATES

## SECONDARY CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

### ASSESSMENT SUCCESS

Secondary Curriculum has set a goal for the 2022-23 school year to challenge our students through custom-built quarterly assessments. While difficult initially, these assessments have become standard for our students, better preparing them for upcoming state tests in April.

Secondary teachers are working diligently to equip students through rigorous lessons, and students have risen to the occasion. We are happy to share student Depth of Knowledge Levels have increased from ones and twos to threes and fours.

Over the next few months, we will gradually introduce state practice questions to quarterly summative assessments so students will become familiar with verbiage and formatting prior to taking state assessments.

### STUDENT INTEREST SURVEYS

Recently, our secondary schools surveyed the students to gauge their interest in new courses they would like to see offered at each respective building. The data will assist principals in creating their master schedules for the upcoming school year to possibly include some of the suggested courses students have expressed an interest in taking. Recommendations from the survey included: Advanced Technology courses, Environmental Science, Astronomy, Criminal Justice, and Journalism.

### ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION AUDIT

Piedmont recently participated in our annual site-check audit for our Alternative Education Program. The audit evaluated our program against the Oklahoma state-approved 16 criteria for an effective program. The program audit found PPS to meet 100 percent of all evaluated areas. The program received high marks for exceeding state criteria standards in providing additional social services and therapeutic counseling, opportunities for hands-on art therapy, and post-secondary opportunities presented to the students through the program.



## ELEMENTARY CURRICULUM

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

Elementary Curriculum is eager to provide purposeful, hands-on professional development focused on math instruction at the February 20th scheduled PD day. Elementary teachers will collaborate to identify the most essential standards per grade level to create a math vertical alignment from Pre-K through 5th grade.

### ADMINISTRATOR DEVELOPMENT COHORT

The Administrator Development Cohort met on Wednesday, February 8th. The focus of this meeting was Special Education from an administrator's perspective. Kaitlin Smith, Director of Special Education, presented and answered questions.

### MATH STANDARDS & ASSESSMENTS

3rd and 4th-grade students completed assessments over Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 math standards. Teachers are using this diagnostic information to provide specific support for students who have not mastered these standards. This will help better prepare students for upcoming state tests.



### ENROLLMENT CENTER

	1-6-2023	2-6-2023
PIEDMONT ECC	604	601
NORTHWOOD ELEM.	478	473
PIEDMONT ELEM.	465	459
STONE RIDGE ELEM.	591	592
PIEDMONT INTERMEDIATE	764	759
MIDDLE SCHOOL	775	767
HIGH SCHOOL	1426	1415
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5104</b>	<b>5076</b>

# DISTRICT UPDATES



## ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES

- PHS Wrestling won the district title and qualified for Dual State
- MSP Wrestling competed at Junior High State
  - Makaylee Cannon won JH State wrestling title
- MSP Cheer won the Junior High State Championship
- PHS Wrestling and Basketball programs completed Senior Night celebrations
- The following PHS student-athletes qualified for the State Swim meet:
  - Noah Morrison
  - Caleb Rhone-Dunn
  - Kody Whiteneck
  - Ashton Harris
  - Paige Calvert
  - Ella Deason
  - Maya Johnson
  - Abby Knouse
  - Natalie O'Hair
- More than forty student-athletes were drug tested in the month of January
- PHS Baseball helped re-mulch the Piedmont park with F&M Bank



## CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

### MIDDLE SCHOOL OF PIEDMONT

- Electricians and plumbers are working on the inside of the gym
- Block layers are working on the locker rooms
- Exterior footings are underway in areas 3 and 4
- Slab on grade will follow in 4 weeks
- Utility crews are on site tying in new sanitary sewer line

## PPS HEALTH SERVICES

### SCHOOLCARE CHARTING IN POWERSCHOOL

SchoolCare is a PowerSchool-compatible platform that enables school nurses to chart student health information, chronic diseases, and visits to the nurse's station electronically in a HIPAA and FERPA-compliant health records platform. Our district nurses are excited for us to implement this new tool in PowerSchool!

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- Monday, March 20th - Internal Staff Mobile Mammogram Screenings
- Saturday, April 22nd - My HeartCheck Youth Heart Screenings

## SPECIAL SERVICES



### SPECIAL OLYMPIANS COMPETE

PPS Special Olympians competed in several events over the past month including singles bowling, unified bowling and team basketball.

### SECOND SEMESTER ENROLLMENT

Second semester has seen an increase of more than 30 students who receive special services across the district.

### YES WE CAN! BOOK STUDY

Special education teachers, general education teachers, and site and district administrators are working together to improve learning outcomes for all students through book study. At our first meeting, we dove into data and looked for trends to encourage meaningful conversations and thoughtful ideas.



# DISTRICT UPDATES



## TWENTY TEACHER GRANTS FUNDED BY PIEDMONT SCHOOLS EDUCATION FOUNDATION

We are excited to share Piedmont Public Schools Education Foundation and the Carrie Attalla Memorial Fund will fulfill twenty grants for Piedmont Teachers this year, totaling \$17,603.48! Educators across the district were surprised in their classrooms and had the opportunity to celebrate with their students. Congratulations to the following grant recipients:

### Piedmont ECC:

Angie Sholar, Anna Barros, Makenzy Sanders, Mindy Ohl, Melisa Woolf, Amy King, Tiffany Downing, Kala Derichsweiler, Rae Lightfoot, Cindy Lacefield, Laura Kishman, Kimberlee Morrison, Kathy Needham

### Piedmont Elementary:

Amy McConnell, Amber Tudor, Megan Wally

### Northwood Elementary:

Amy Bixler, Kendi Jones

### Piedmont Intermediate:

Suzanne Young

### Middle School of Piedmont:

Sydney Silva, Courtney Arnold, Hannah Sawyers, Jami Karber, Marie Spencer, Sarah Hatley, Amy Brezina, Chelsea Lopez

### Piedmont High School:

Stacy Johnstonbaugh, Linda Peters, Connor Gowriluk, Clint Brown, Christian Morse, Julie Horton, Jon Bakewell, Eric Wright, Mike Eaton



## TAKE FLIGHT AT PIEDMONT SCHOOLS



The Payne Education Center provides specialty training on Take Flight: A Comprehensive Intervention for Students with Dyslexia. Take Flight addresses the five components of effective reading instruction identified by the National Reading Panel's research and is a comprehensive Tier III intervention for students with reading difficulties. Structured literacy is explicit, systematic teaching that focuses on phonological awareness, phonics and decoding, spelling, vocabulary development, comprehension skills, and written expression. Take Flight equals Structured Literacy.

Reading Specialists look at several pieces of data to determine which students qualify for the Take Flight program including ISIP/iStation results, Dyslexia screeners, Literacy First data, cognitive ability, speech language services and more.

Piedmont Schools currently has three educators trained in Take Flight. We are excited to share that two more of our employees, Rae Lightfoot and Kendi Jones, will begin the two-year process of being Take Flight-trained through the Payne Education Center this year.

## HUMAN RESOURCES & EMPLOYEE RELATIONS

### SUPPORT EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR AWARDS

We are excited to launch a new initiative district-wide to boost employee morale and develop a culture of recognition for all staff. We recently opened nominations for site Support Employee of the Year for all of our buildings. Nominees cannot hold a teaching certificate or be an administrator. We are excited to share the results of this award soon!

### PPS SAFETY MANUAL

We have been working diligently to produce a safety manual for all staff that outlines best practices and guidance for safety. We hope this provides clarity and expectations for our staff.

# PRINCIPAL REPORTS

## Secondary

### PIEDMONT INTERMEDIATE

This school year, our site leadership team identified two areas of focus: Protecting instructional time and implementing best academic practices. The beginning of the school year centered on creating and reinforcing structures to streamline academic time, reformatting classroom layouts, and creating cohesive teaching teams.

Since then, we have shifted focus to implementing best academic practices throughout our school. We began utilizing content collaboration meetings, professional development days, and Teacher Resource Days to access and evaluate student academic data sets in mathematics. We identified areas where our students need additional practice to master skills using this data. We developed Academic Intervention schedules during Advisory focused on targeting specific student skill deficits in math. This practice allows for small-group instruction using targeted interventions.

This semester, we have implemented school-wide reading interventions during Advisory along with the math interventions. In collaboration with elementary reading specialists, we assessed students in key areas of reading proficiency and created groups based on these results. Our teachers are using research-based literacy and phonics interventions to support student learning. Students who are not showing any skill deficits participate in structured learning extension activities to enhance and develop those skills.

### MIDDLE SCHOOL OF PIEDMONT

As we reflect on our school year, the Middle School administrative team has reexamined the annual focus goals we established in August 2022. Our overall goals were increasing instructional support and strategies in the classroom and creating a positive student experience. We have provided intentional and meaningful feedback to our teachers through walk-throughs and the observation process to support instruction in our building. We have also utilized professional development days to model specific instructional strategies that teachers can practice and implement immediately in their own classrooms.

As for our goal for a positive student experience, we have continued our "Wildcat Spotlight" each month, which allows teachers to nominate students who show great character and effort in the classroom and beyond. We have also utilized a few incentive opportunities to celebrate students who are getting to class on time and meeting classroom expectations. After meeting the qualifications, students are

entered into a drawing and rewarded with certificates and coupons to local vendors for a prize/treat.

As we move into the second semester, we will utilize our upcoming professional development day on February 20th to further emphasize instructional strategies for our teachers to implement this semester. We will continue to focus on meaningful teacher evaluations and work to provide quality feedback to grow and develop our teachers. We will host several more incentive opportunities for our students and will continue celebrating their accomplishments and efforts.



### PIEDMONT HIGH SCHOOL

The overall focus at Piedmont High School for the 2022-23 school year has centered around instructional effectiveness, focusing on questioning, application, and closure. Instructional effectiveness was broken down into three main priority points:

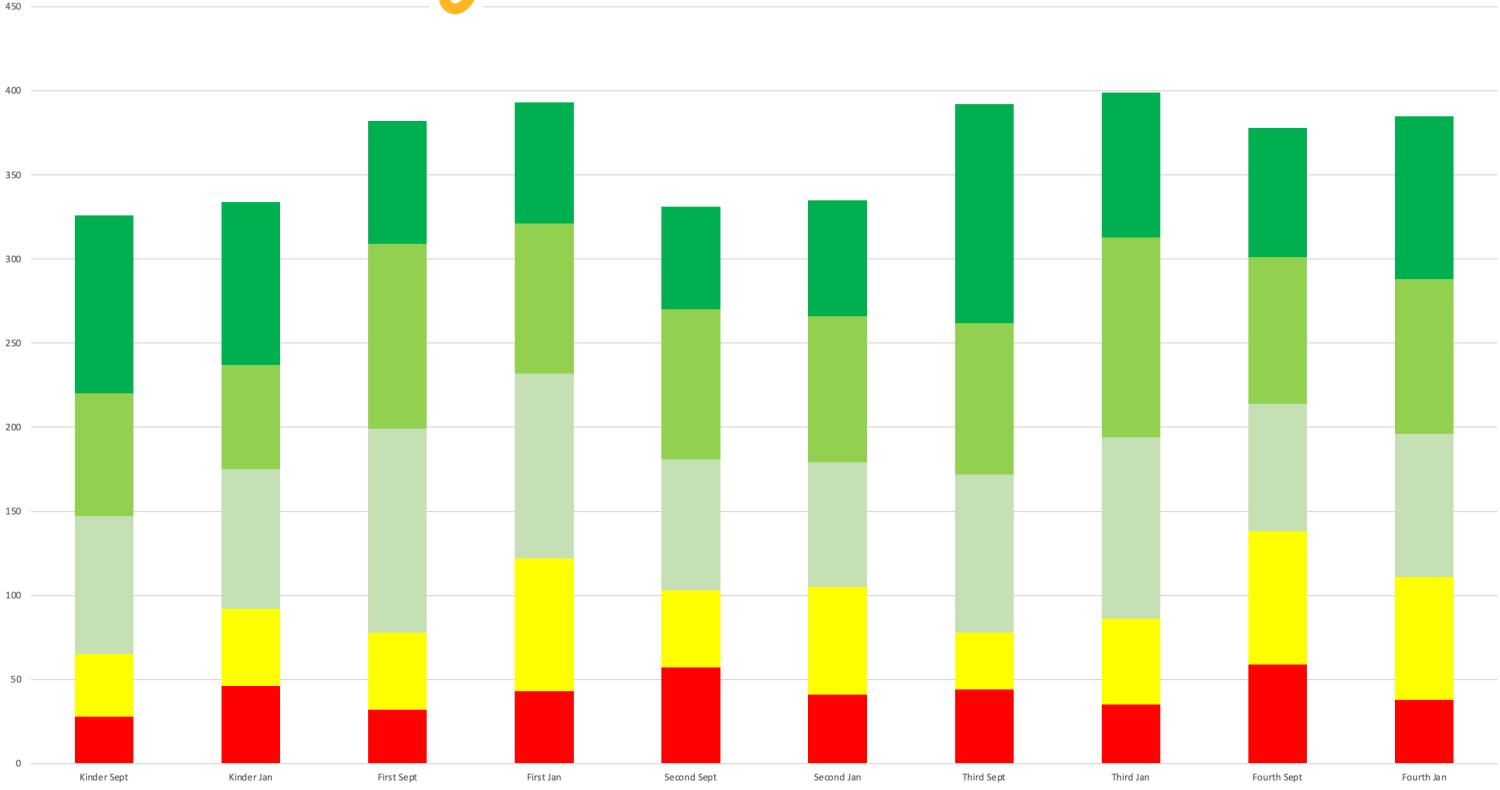
1. Understanding how students will use and apply the information they have learned in their daily lives.
2. Asking rigorous questions to effectively assess student knowledge regarding new information.
3. Utilizing closure activities to help teachers quickly assess student understanding.

We have worked to provide constructive feedback to our teachers during observations to support quality instruction. We have utilized our professional development days to focus on questioning, application, and closure practices, working through strategies to improve instructional practices.

This semester, we will use the upcoming professional development day on February 20th to build upon instructional strategies for our teachers. We will follow up through observations and measure our goal of improving instructional effectiveness through TLE, the teacher/leader evaluation system that is used to inform instruction, create professional development opportunities and improve both the practice and art of teaching and leading.

# PRINCIPAL REPORTS

## Elementary



The iStation Universal Screener is given three times per year. The graph reflects beginning and middle of the year data for each grade level, K-4, across the district. This data is one of several tools used to determine which students who may need support in their development of reading skills. It is important to note that September and January data may not show exact student-to-student outcomes, as students have moved in and out of the district throughout the year.

Reading Specialists and Interventionists support our students with the greatest need. Sessions are built using multi-sensory, structured literacy programs.

Classroom teachers use data from iStation, the Literacy First Continuum, and the PAST (Phonological Awareness Screening Test) to determine the specific area of focus for interventions for each student who has scored below benchmark.

Each site's Professional Learning Community meets monthly to track data and adjust intervention plans.

# PIEDMONT

## Public Schools

### 2022-23 SITE TEACHER OF THE YEAR HONOREES

On January 27th, District Administrators hopped on a big yellow bus to surprise our site Teacher of the Year honorees! We are proud of the following educators for being selected by their colleagues to represent their school sites.

#### KIMBERLEE MORRISON PIEDMONT EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER



"Kimberlee Morrison is a phenomenal educator and human being. She exhibits kindness with every word and gesture and maintains a scheduled and organized classroom full of high achievers. Her students love her, her colleagues love her, and she strives to be the best she can be. I am grateful for her influence."

- A colleague at Piedmont ECC

#### TIFFANY ALLEN PIEDMONT ELEMENTARY



"Mrs. Allen is an amazing educator. She builds relationships with her students and makes each child feel loved and important. Mrs. Allen goes above and beyond to create innovative and engaging lessons that make learning fun. She is a great coworker and she is always kind and helpful to staff and parents alike. She never shies away from hard work to make her class more engaging and fun for her kids. Mrs. Allen is one of a kind... just ask any of her students."

- A colleague at Piedmont Elementary

#### TYLER SMITH NORTHWOOD ELEMENTARY



"Tyler always makes sure to do what's best for students and will speak up for them when needed. Tyler also makes learning fun and goes above and beyond to establish relationships with his students. Tyler is a great team player, has patience with his students and colleagues, and is flexible & adaptive."

- A colleague at Northwood Elementary

#### JAMMIE KIMMEL STONE RIDGE ELEMENTARY



"Ms. Kimmel is an outstanding representative of Stone Ridge and Piedmont! She continuously looks for ways to improve her teaching and reach her students. Ms. Kimmel is eager to add new ideas and programs to our school, such as the NASA program she is currently a part of. Jammie shares new ideas and resources across the district, as she spends time at each of our elementary school sites."

- A colleague at Stone Ridge Elementary

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## Public Schools

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#### SHANTAYA ROSS PIEDMONT INTERMEDIATE



"Shantaya makes quality connections with students and routinely creates an environment all students enjoy. She does this while maintaining her value in the educational process and helping students reach their goals in the classroom. In addition to this, she consistently goes above and beyond for the school as a whole through her work ethic and creative ideas."

- A colleague at Piedmont Intermediate

#### SYDNEY SILVA MIDDLE SCHOOL OF PIEDMONT



"Sydney goes above and beyond every day. She is the first to answer other teachers' questions and assist with anything they need. She offers to volunteer or assist with anything the school or district needs. She fights for her students' education by standing up for them and staying after school to tutor. She changes the way she teaches a lesson if the students don't understand, and voices her concerns when things need to change. She cares that her students succeed and has great relationships with them. I think she is the definition of a fantastic teacher, and I wouldn't be surviving my first year if it wasn't for her."

- A colleague at Middle School of Piedmont

#### BAILIE HOLLINGSHEAD PIEDMONT HIGH SCHOOL



"Bailie is the English Department Head, and she is a mentor teacher. She attends several of the students' events. She has high expectations for her students, and they enjoy her class. Bailie has a positive attitude and helps both students and teachers. She is currently working on her Masters in Education."

- A colleague at Piedmont High School