

Community Survey for Potential April 2024 Ballot Question

Our community members are an important part of the Platte County School District, and we need your help. We continue to seek ways to improve our District and to also find solutions to challenges. **To help us move forward and potentially envision the District's finances in a new way to attract and retain quality staff, we are seeking your feedback.**

We always welcome your ideas and suggestions, and now more than ever need to hear what you think. **Please take a few minutes to provide your feedback in our online survey.**

Our online survey is available November 6 - 17.

It's Easy to Share Your Ideas

1. **Take the survey online.** Visit: www.research.net/r/PlatteCountyR3
2. **Scan the QR code below.** Take a photo of this code with your smartphone and click on the popup link to take the survey.



Substitutes, Custodians, Paraprofessionals, Bus Drivers, and Lunch Monitors Needed

We are hiring substitute teachers, custodians, paraprofessionals, bus drivers, and lunch monitors for this school year and have posted potential openings for the 2024-25 school year! Visit www.plattecountyschooldistrict.com/careers/currentopenings to apply. Pay rates listed below have a potential to increase.

Substitute Teachers. You pick your schedule - short-and long-term positions, as well as pre-scheduled positions are available.

- **Long-Term Substitute:** \$18.67 per hour (after completion of 5 consecutive days)
- **Substitute:** \$15.60 per hour.

Custodians, Paraprofessionals, Bus Drivers, and Lunch Monitors. Join the PCR-3 team for competitive pay, and District-provided benefits package, as well as a rewarding working environment.

- **Custodians.** Full- and part-time positions available. Hourly positions start at \$15.73 and increase with experience.
- **Paraprofessionals.** Starting pay ranges from \$15.27-\$15.73 per hour and increases with experience.
- **Bus Drivers.** Driver pay starts at \$18.96 per hour and increases with experience.
- **Lunch Monitors.** Pay starts at \$12.42 per hour.



Treasures



Platte County
HOME OF THE PIRATES

OCTOBER 2023

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Oct 20 End of 1st Quarter
Oct 27 Report Cards Go Home
Nov 1 & 2 Parent/Teacher Conferences
Nov 3 No School
Nov 6 No School - PLD Day
Nov 22-24 No School - Thanksgiving Break
Dec 20 1st Semester Ends
Dec 20 3-hour early dismissal
Dec 21-Jan 2 Winter Break

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Doug Doll President
Shawn Chiddix Vice President
Sharon Sherwood Member
Karen Bryant Member
Mike Matousek Member
Amy MacCuish Member
Tyler Fadler Member
Danielle Nickell Secretary

VISION

Building learners of tomorrow...

MISSION

To prepare individual learners for success in life, the Platte County School District provides meaningful experiences in a safe and caring environment.

VALUES

Student Focus • Collaboration • High Expectations • Integrity
Visionary Leadership • Innovation • Results Orientation

HEADLINES >

PCHS Girls Tennis Make History



photo credit: PC Preps Extra

With a 5-4 victory over St. Pius X on October 8, the **PCHS Girls Tennis Team** celebrated their first District Championship in PCHS history. Coach **Zach Keith**, who helped start the PCHS tennis program, shared, "This win is for them, but it's also for all of the girls who have been a part of our program for the last 16 years who worked really hard and never got to hold that trophy."

National Merit Semifinalists

PCHS seniors **Alex Beeman** and **Daniel Bunge** have been named semifinalists in the 2024 National Merit Scholarship Program. More than 1.3 million high school students entered the competition by taking the PSAT. The nationwide pool of semifinalists, representing less than 1% of high school seniors, include the highest-scoring entrants in each state. Alex and Daniel will continue the competition for a National Merit Scholarship offered this spring. Following graduation, both Alex and Daniel plan to go to college and study statistics and/or applied math. Both have scored a perfect 36 on their ACT test.



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OCT 2023



New Schools Open; April 2021 No Tax Increase Bond Program Complete

On August 10, 2023, the community came together to cut the ribbon and open the doors of the District's newest building, Platte Purchase Middle School. The event brought students, staff, families, community members, former teachers, and business partners to tour the new 95,000 square-foot building that now houses students in 6th-8th grades in the southern attendance area of our District.

With the opening of Platte Purchase Middle School and the conversion of Barry School to Barry Elementary for the start of the 2023-24 school year, the April 2021 No Tax Increase Bond Program projects are now complete.

Platte Purchase Middle School. Flexibility and adaptability are at the heart of the school's design, allowing students to quickly shift between different learning styles, modalities, and technologies.

Platte Purchase Middle School has re-imagined the visitor experience, making sure that community members feel welcome and secure within its walls. Ample daylight and clear way-finding make the school a community resource beyond regular school hours.



First Choir Concert. Platte Purchase Middle School's flexible auditorium now offers ideal performance space for student events.

The school boasts a flexible auditorium, which can be used by both the school and the community for various meetings and events. Additionally, Platte Purchase Middle School offers collaboration spaces within the building's



Expanded Facilities for PCR-3 Middle School Program. Platte Purchase Middle School's track and field, full-sized gymnasium, and flex performance space offer improved facility options for middle school activities.

Barry Elementary. During the summer, Barry School underwent a transformation into Barry Elementary concurrent with the opening of Platte Purchase Middle School. The school now serves students from Pre-Kindergarten to 5th grade. Renovation efforts encompassed several areas, including: expanding the main hallway by removing lockers, replacing tile and carpet in several classrooms and the cafeteria, applying fresh paint across the building, installing age-appropriate furniture, updating exterior signage, and enhancing safety and security by installing perimeter fencing at both Barry Elementary and Pathfinder Elementary, as well as a new crosswalk, sidewalk, lighted crossing beacon, and fencing to the Y-Fields for recess and PE activities.



First Day at Barry Elementary. Mrs. Ambrose welcomes 375+ PreK to 5th graders for Barry Elementary's first day of school.

DISTRICT CONTACTS >

District Education Center Main Number: (816) 858-5420 District Fax: (816) 858-5593

Dr. Jay Harris, Superintendent
Dr. Drew White, Deputy Superintendent
Ashley Jones, Exec. Director of Human Resources
Dr. Alicia Casey, Exec. Director of Academic Services
Wayne Krueger, Interim Exec. Director of Business Services
Dr. Devin Doll, Exec. Director of Operations
Laura Hulett, Director of Communications
Brian Noller, Director of Strategic Partnerships
David Dixon, Director of Technology
Dr. Jen McClure, Director of Elementary Ed.
Dr. Aaron Duff, Director of Secondary Ed.
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Megan Drummond, Assistant Director

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Michelle Howren, Associate Principal
Matt Messick, Assistant Principal
Dr. Mandi Tolen, Assistant Principal
Gabe Middleton, Activities Director

Platte Purchase Middle School
(816) 436-1433
Jessica Hoffecker, Principal
Dr. Jeff Adams, Assistant Principal

Platte City Middle School
(816) 858-2036
Dr. Chris Miller, Principal
Robert Mueller, Assistant Principal

Barry Elementary
(816) 436-9623
Kacie Ambrose, Principal
Dr. Mindy Wheeler, Assistant Principal

Compass Elementary
(816) 858-0172
Eric White, Principal
Allison Page, Assistant Principal

Pathfinder Elementary
(816) 436-6670
Dr. Anna Bohn, Principal
Emily Miller, Assistant Principal

Siegrist Elementary
(816) 858-5977
Johna Sutton, Principal
Michael Powers, Assistant Principal

Platte County
998 Platte Falls Road
Dr. Jay Harris, Superintendent
Platte City, Missouri 64079



Empowering Young Entrepreneurs: "Aspiring Entrepreneur Award" Offered to PCHS Students

Platte County High School is nurturing the entrepreneurial spirit through a new "Aspiring Entrepreneur Award." Last spring, Platte County High School juniors learned of this unique opportunity, which encourages students who possess an entrepreneur mindset, and who are future-focused, philanthropic, and creative, to apply. Unlike many scholarships, this program does not consider grades, test scores, or financial need as criteria for selection. Instead, it values qualities like vision, creativity, and community impact.

Fifteen impressive PCHS juniors completed applications in May, and ten candidates were chosen to advance to the next round. In June, the ten candidates shared their proposed entrepreneurial projects (to be executed during the summer before their senior year), and from this talented pool, five finalists were ultimately selected.

These five finalists each received a generous \$1,000 grant to develop their entrepreneurial concepts into viable start-up businesses, and will present their progress to another community group in late October with a chance to be awarded one of two \$10,000 awards to continue their entrepreneurial dreams. The PCHS Aspiring Entrepreneur award is funded by a local, private entrepreneur.

Congratulations to our five finalists in the first PCHS Aspiring Entrepreneur Award program:

Emmalyn Burnett - Welding

Emmalyn Burnett, in partnership with her twin brother, Ian, is embarking on a new business "Wonder Twins Welding." Emmalyn will combine her business skills and welding knowledge with her brother's advanced welding skills gained at Northland Career Center, to weld custom art pieces to sell online and at various marketplaces. Emmalyn has used her start-up funds to purchase tools and materials to support the production of their initial products and prototype testing.

Katherine Morgan - Cosmetology & Beauty Products



Katherine Morgan is passionately chasing her dream of owning a cosmetology store and creating her own line of beauty products. She's currently honing her skills at Donna's Academy of Hair Design while showcasing her talents in PCHS's theatre productions. Notably, Katherine was a member of the team who received the prestigious Blue Star Award for outstanding hair and makeup design during PCHS's performance of "The Addams Family!"

Scott Sellers - Car and Band Instrument Detailing

Scott Sellers' detailing business doesn't just make cars shine, he also brings a sparkle to band instruments! He's on a mission to expand his business, while also supporting his local high school band by donating his time, materials, or percentage of his profits to one of his favorite passions, the PCHS Band. Scott has used the seed funding to purchase materials and equipment to run his business effectively.



Lucy McClain - Clothing Line



Lucy McClain is on a mission to revolutionize fashion for young women with unique body types. She's all about creating comfy, affordable bra options and more. With her startup funds, Lucy is diving into marketing and branding and she's purchasing materials to craft multiple prototypes. Let's cheer Lucy on as she shapes the future of fashion!

Jackson Thornton - Drop Shipping

Jackson Thornton is seeking success in the drop shipping world, currently promoting an all-in-one cleaning tool for phones and earbuds. He's on a mission to clean up and scale up his e-commerce empire, introducing additional products as his business grows, while keeping risks low.



"With this being the first year of Aspiring Entrepreneurship Award, we weren't sure what to expect," **Brian Noller**, Director of Strategic Partnerships, shared. "To get so many students involved and to see what some of their current and future ideas are, has been very eye-opening. These students have shown how talented and creative they are. While their could only be five finalists, there were several more great ideas that also will find entrepreneurial success outside of this award process."

During their final pitches at the end of October, finalists will share what they have learned over the past 3 months and changes they have made to improve their products and processes.

"I am very hopeful that this is an award that we can offer for many years to come. Stay tuned as we reveal the grand finalist/winners in November and share the future of the Aspiring Entrepreneur Award," Noller added.



Homecoming
2023-
Enjoy
the ride:

ROAD TRIP
to Homecoming



Homecoming 2023 was a real trip! For this year's "Road Trip" to Homecoming, PCHS hosted the Victory Supper where the Homecoming King, Senior **Nash Brown** and underclassmen candidates were crowned, fall activities provided season updates, **Pirate Legacies** (alums with current PCR-3 students) gathered, and **PCHS's band, dance team, cheerleaders, and youth cheerleaders** performed. Students showed school spirit with hallway decorations, dress up days, marching in the Homecoming parade, and sharing their talents at Connections Bank's community tailgate. At halftime of the Pirates 24-21 win over Park Hill South, Senior **Lydia Doole** was crowned PCHS's 2023 Homecoming Queen.

Thank you to our 2023-24 Pirates ROCK Business Partners!



Thank you to these partners
for supporting character
education in our schools!

Northland Career Center



Platte Purchase Middle School



Siegrist Elementary



Compass Elementary



Pathfinder Elementary



Barry Elementary



Accepting Hall of Fame Nominations Until December 1

Do you know of a special volunteer; a former teacher, employee, or student; or a community member who has contributed significantly to the enhancement of the Platte County R-3 School District or has had outstanding accomplishments after graduating from Platte County High School?

If so, you can complete a Hall of Fame nomination to recognize those special individuals. The PCHS Booster Club accepts nominations until December 1, and the Hall of Fame will induct new members on January 23, 2023. You can pick up an application at the high school office or access the online nomination form via the District website on the Hall of Fame page under the Community Channel at: www.plattecountyschooldistrict.com/business_community/hall_of_fame.

HALL OF FAME

PCR-3 Welcomes Butterflies with Certified Waystation

Platte County High School's Science Club members have been working hard since last spring to complete the design and planting of an officially certified Monarch Butterfly Waystation in the Platte County School District. This project was originally started by PCHS's Dual Environmental class



to support the dwindling numbers of Monarchs, by providing food on their migratory journey, as well as to provide students and staff an educational garden to use throughout the year. The original garden had to be recreated due to PCHS's recent construction and the new "Pirate Nation Butterfly Sanctuary" has been installed to the south of Paxton Center where the playground once was located.

Thanks go to PCHS science teacher and Science Club sponsor **Andrea Schmidt**, former teacher **Kim Redinger**, PCHS Freshman **Parker Messinger** and **Boy School Troop 351, PCHS Science Club members, and PCR-3 maintenance staff** who have contributed to the design and installation of this 550 square foot butterfly waystation.

Next steps include planting additional trees, adding mulch and benches, and installing a posted sign with a QR code leading visitors to related educational documents. PCHS AP Environmental students and PCHS Engineering students will be working on the educational documents and constructing the signage.

Want to donate to this project? The Science Club welcomes donations of dirt, mulch, garden tools, and funds to purchase additional plants for next spring. The Club is hosting a fall and winter wreath fundraiser to also support the waystation. Visit www.LynchCreekFundraising.com/c/301163 to place a wreath order, and contact Andrea Schmidt at schmidta@platteco.k12.mo.us if you'd like to make a donation.

Sign up for PCR-3's e-Treasures Newsletter

Sign up for PCR-3's monthly electronic newsletter, e-Treasures. Register to receive e-Treasures, full of the latest news and events via email. You won't want to miss an issue! Sign up by visiting the District website at www.plattecountyschooldistrict.com/departments/communications.

e-Treasures



GOING THE EXTRA MILE: Coach Seymour Pitches In as Bus Driver

Thank you to Platte Purchase Middle School 8th grade social studies teacher, **Coach Tyrone Seymour** for stepping up and going the extra mile (literally!) by becoming a certified bus driver. Coach Seymour has been helping out when we're short on drivers for after-school activities. Want to be a part of our awesome transportation team like Coach Seymour? Visit plattecountyschooldistrict.com/careers to apply.

