

SEPTEMBER 11-17, 2023 | VOL. 1

# THIS WEEK AT PCS

PLAINWELL COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

## TROJAN NEWS

Stay up to date with the latest Trojan News with This Week at PCS. Please check weekly for the latest news and updates from the district.

PLAINWELLSCHOOLS.ORG





# MONTANGE'S MOMENTS

POINTS OF TROJAN PRIDE  
FROM SUPERINTENDENT MONTANGE

Welcome to week three and our first full week of learning! We are excited to begin another great week at PCS! We are incredibly grateful for the opportunity to educate your children - thank you to our students, families and staff for your dedication and support of Plainwell Community Schools! Have a great week and GO TROJANS!

Each week, we will highlight the accomplishments of our Trojans. Below, please find some of our athletic and Trojan recognitions for this week! Keep up the great work and GO TROJANS!

## ATHLETIC RECOGNITIONS

**VARSITY FOOTBALL:** Congratulations to the Varsity Football team on their 34-27 victory over Coldwater! It was a great night to be a Trojan at Streidl Field with a wonderful performance by the Trojan Marching Band, lots of Plainwell Pride led by the Cheer team and a well played game by the PHS Football team! Way to go - TROJAN PRIDE!

**VARSITY TENNIS:** The Boys Varsity Tennis Team traveled to South Haven on September 5 and the following players brought home a win: Number 1 Doubles: Andrew Hampton and Teagen Wilson, Number 2 Doubles: Bradley Jeffreys and Austin Susens, Number 3 Doubles: Anthony Kolhoff and Brayden Triemstra and Number 4 Doubles: Lincoln Benson and Sean MacRitchie.

**VARSITY GOLF:** The Varsity Girls Golf team got the attention of the Wolverine Conference by having four golfers shooting under 50: led by Ayla Jaeger at 46; then Anessa Jaeger at 48, Ellen Awe at 48, Emma Taylor at 49, Sophia Beck at 53 and Avari Merica at 53. Great job, Trojans!

**JV SOCCER:** Congratulations to our JV Soccer team on their win versus Edwardsburg, 1-0! The goal was scored by Isaiah Looney-McPhillips with an assist from Logan Swartz. Jacob Bowden and Chib Amaezechi earned the shutout. Well done!

**VARSITY SOCCER:** Congratulations to our Varsity soccer team on their win versus Edwardsburg, 2-0! Goals were scored by Zack Holtman and Gage Truitt with an assist from Jacob Erdody. Andrew Eldred, Connor Wilson, and Mason Meert led the backline to secure the shutout. This win is significant as Edwardsburg is the defending conference champion and preseason ranked #5 in the state. Great job!

**MIDDLE SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL:** The Middle School 7th and 8th grade Volleyball teams played against Otsego last night. Both teams played great and had close games! Congratulations to the 7th grade team on their win! We are proud of these student-athletes for their hard work in and out of the classroom - GO TROJANS!

**VARSITY CROSS COUNTRY:** The Boys and Girls Cross Country teams had excellent performances at the Delton-Kellogg invitational tonight.

- HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE: 1. The Boys team placed their top 7 in the first 21 runners for a first place team score of 36 points. 2. The Girls team's top 5 all finished in the top 25 to win medals and lead the girls to a runner-up finish, behind state ranked GR Covenant Christian. 3. Medalists for the Trojans include: Josie Longcore, Emma Taggett, Hannah Erlandson, Gwen Todd, Raya Mergen-Henry, Henry Cox, Isaac Veen, Donovan Ryan, Liam Troutner, Hiro Nguyen and Trent Hansen. 4. Big congratulations go out to Junior Henry Cox for his first HS victory! Congratulations Trojans - Plainwell Pride!

**PHS EQUESTRIAN CLUB:** PHS Students, Aidan Ranger and Selah Smith competed in their final equestrian club district meet on Sunday. They placed first in all three of their district meets (8/26, 8/27 and 9/10) winning the Championship for Division D. Being one of the top two teams in their division means they now move on to Regionals which will be in Berrien Springs Sept 29-Oct 1. These two are outstanding equestrians and their hard work continues to pay off. Way to go, Trojans!

**PHS VARSITY VOLLEYBALL:** Varsity Volleyball had a strong showing Saturday at the Battle Creek Lakeview tournament. Our ladies were very competitive, defeating Chelsea and Schoolcraft, and playing strong sets against Lakeview and Bronson.

## TROJAN RECOGNITION

Throughout our buildings, we have been settling in to the 2023/24 school year! It has been exciting to see our students begin to make connections, as they meet their classmates, teachers and begin to dive into a great year of learning! Here are some highlights from the first two weeks of school!

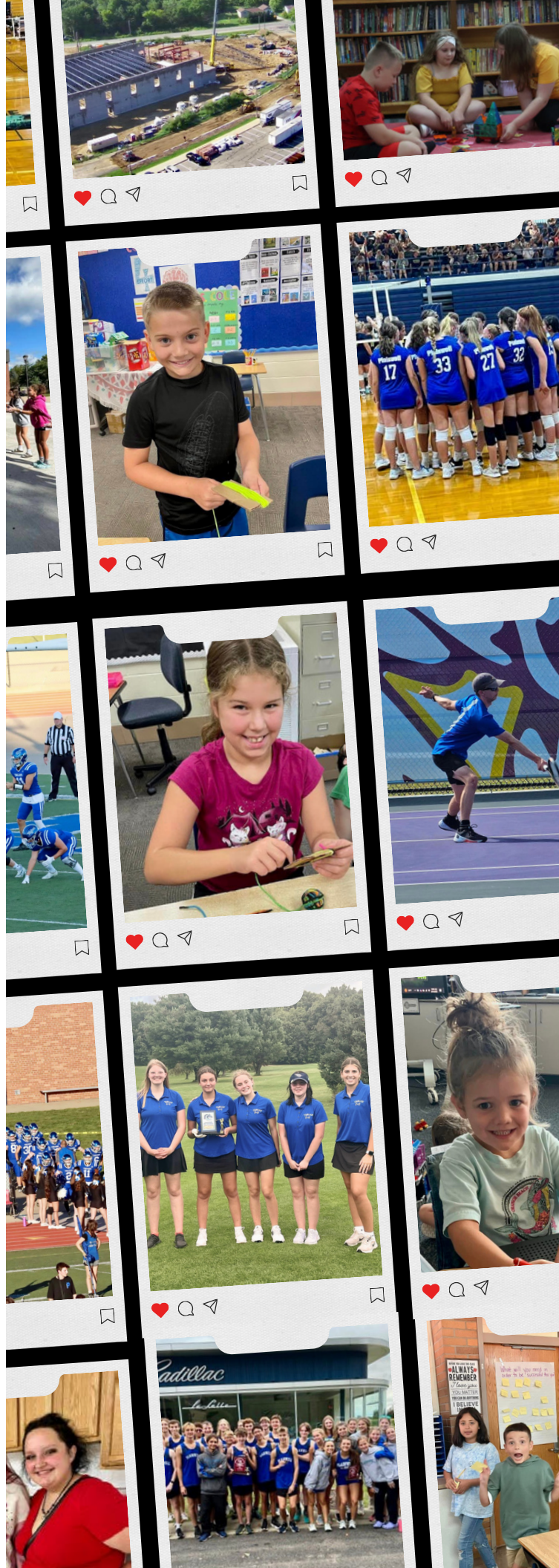
**MIDDLE SCHOOL TEAM BUILDING:** At the Middle School, teachers had their students work on several team building activities to help build strong relationships. It's great to be a Trojan!

**ROCK STARR CLASS CONTRACT:** Our Rock Starrs in Mrs. Amaezechi's fourth grade class at Starr Elementary worked together to develop their class contract.

**STARR KINDNESS:** Students in Ms. Cole's 4th grade class at Starr Elementary had some fun while being creative. Cole's Crew created warm fuzzies during a break from learning as a reminder to show kindness to others. Kindness is contagious!

**COOPER CONNECTIONS:** Our youngest Trojans in Ms. Mudgett's Young 5 class at Cooper Elementary are making connections and having fun as they begin their educational journey at PCS.

**BOND UPDATE:** Construction continues on the new Trojan pool and gymnasium. It's so exciting to see the progress and imagine this future facility, which is on track to open Fall 2024! Our continued thanks for voting "YES" on the 2019 Bond Proposal! We appreciate our community's support of Today's Learners, Tomorrow's Leaders! Plainwell Pride!





# EVENTS & PROGRAMS AT PCS

CLICK TO LEARN MORE OR REGISTER TODAY!



## ATHLETIC TICKETS/PASSES

We are excited to share our 2023/24 ticket and pass options! There are a lot of great options available, so please [click here](#) to choose the one that best fits your needs.

Okay

Got it!



## SPIKERS VOLLEYBALL

Registration is open through 9/29 for Spikers Volleyball for 3-6th graders. Learn more by [clicking here!](#)

Okay

Got it!

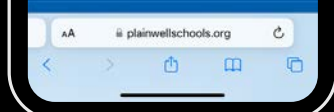
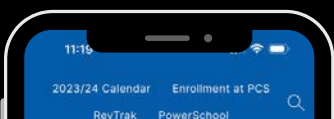


## JUNIOR CHEER NIGHT

Registration is open through 9/14 for Junior Cheer Night for K-8th graders. Learn more by [clicking here!](#)

Okay

Got it!



## PCS TUTOR ME

Did you know? Online tutoring support is available 24/7 for all PCS students during the 2023/24 school year! Learn more by [clicking here!](#)

Okay

Got it!



## SHARP SHOOTERS BASKETBALL

Pre-registration is open for our Sharp Shooters competitive basketball league for 5th-8th grade girls. Learn more by [clicking here!](#)

Okay

Got it!



## TAE KWON DO

Registration is open through 9/30 for Fall Tae Kwon Do for PCS students and families. Learn more by [clicking here!](#)

Okay

Got it!



## POWERSCHOOL AT PCS

PCS switched our student information system from Infinite Campus to PowerSchool. Have you logged in to verify your contact info? If not, please [click here](#) to verify your information.

Okay

Got it!



## LIFELONG LEARNERS

We are excited to introduce our Lifelong Learners program at PCS! This program is available to community senior citizens who are looking to get involved and active in our community! Learn more by [clicking here!](#)

Okay

Got it!



## CLAYFUL COACHING

Clayful is a text-based mental health coaching platform designed to provide PCS 6-12 grade students 1:1 mental wellness coaching. Learn more by [clicking here.](#)

Okay

Got it!





notes from pcs



Do you have exciting news from the Trojan community? Do you have an upcoming event or program to share with our families? We'd love to hear about it and possibly share it in an upcoming publication! Please share your story, pictures or event info with PCS-elizabeth.gallagher@plainwellschools.org.

PLAINWELL COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

## EARLY EDUCATION

**BOOKS, BALLS & BLOCKS**  
JOIN THE HELP ME GROW FREE "BOOKS, BALLS, BLOCKS & BOUNCE" EVENT (FOR AGES 0-5!)

- LOCATION -  
RANSOM DISTRICT LIBRARY  
(180 S SHERWOOD AVE, PLAINWELL)

- DATE & TIME -  
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22 FROM  
11:00AM-12:30PM

**2023/24 PLAY-AND-LEARN**  
LEARNING & FUN FOR PARENTS AND  
CHILDREN AGES BIRTH TO FIVE YEARS  
HELD AT RANSOM DISTRICT LIBRARY  
(180 S. SHERWOOD AVENUE,  
PLAINWELL).

FOR MORE INFORMATION & UPCOMING  
DATES, PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE

**PLAINWELL CORNERS PRESCHOOL**  
FALL PRESCHOOL STARTS AUGUST 28 - WELCOME  
LETTERS & OPEN HOUSE INFORMATION WERE  
EMAILED & MAILED TO PCP FAMILIES.

PROGRAM IS FULL. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO  
BE ADDED TO THE WAIT LIST, EMAIL  
KATTIENYBERG@PLAINWELLSCHOOLS.ORG  
FOR PROGRAM INFORMATION, PLEASE  
SCAN QR CODE.

## Fit over 50 Class

Strengthen bones & muscles,  
improve cardio health & balance,  
increase flexibility &  
coordination. Class is held at  
Hicks Gym and taught by Ace-  
Certified Group Fitness Instructor  
Sharrin Schultz. \$4 drop-in class  
(first class is free). Please bring  
your own weights & a water  
bottle. Class is held each Monday,  
Wednesday and Friday from 9-  
10 AM. Begins 8/28/23.

Community  
Education  
Fitness Classes

IF PLAINWELL COMMUNITY  
SCHOOLS IS CLOSED FOR ANY  
REASON, WALKING AND  
FITNESS WILL BE CANCELED.



want the  
latest news  
from  
high school &  
middle school  
athletics?  
scan the QR  
code.

SCAN  
ME



For Community Education  
Fitness Class Information  
throughout the year, please  
scan the QR code.

### INDOOR WALKING (FREE)

Adults Only Walking at Hicks Gym  
Monday, Wednesday & Friday from 10- 10:45 AM  
(beginning 8/28/23)

Family Walking at Hicks Gym  
Tuesday & Thursday from 10- 10:45 AM  
(beginning 8/28/23)

### S.E.A.T. FITNESS

S.E.A.T. (Supported Exercise for Ageless Training) is a brand new, chair-based fitness program that strengthens the body and mind, while improving balance and flexibility through functional fitness to get the most out of life. Held at Hick's Gym and taught by Miss Sharrin. \$4/drop-in (first class is free). Class is held each Tuesday and Thursday from 9-9:45 AM, beginning 8/28/23.



## MASTERS SWIM PROGRAM

JOIN US FOR AN ADULT SWIM PROGRAM  
COACHED BY KATY COX. FOCUS OF THE  
PROGRAM WILL BE ON COMPETITIVE STROKES.

PRACTICES ARE MONDAY, WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY FROM  
6-7 AM, BEGINNING WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6.

MORE INFORMATION WILL BE SHARED SOON!

FOR QUESTIONS & ADDITIONAL DETAILS, PLEASE EMAIL  
[KATY.COX@PLAINVELLSCHOOLS.ORG](mailto:KATY.COX@PLAINVELLSCHOOLS.ORG)

## HOST A POOL PARTY AT PCS!

CELEBRATE AT THE PCS POOL! WE WOULD LOVE  
TO BE A PART OF YOUR NEXT PARTY OR EVENT.

- 1-30 GUESTS: \$75.00/HOUR (2 LIFEGUARDS)
- 31-50 GUESTS: \$100.00/HOUR (3 LIFEGUARDS)

DUE TO THE ONGOING BOND CONSTRUCTION  
FOR THE NEW POOL AND GYM, THE LOBBY AREA  
IS CURRENTLY NOT AVAILABLE FOR RENTAL.  
RENTAL WILL BE FOR THE POOL ONLY, NO FOOD,  
CAKE, ETC. SPACE WILL BE AVAILABLE. WE  
APOLOGIZE FOR THE INCONVENIENCE.

TO BOOK THE POOL FOR YOUR UPCOMING PARTY  
OR EVENT, PLEASE CALL 269-685-2425. FOR MORE  
INFORMATION OR FOR RENTAL DETAILS, PLEASE  
SCAN THE QR CODE.

SCAN  
ME 

## LAP SWIM

\*NOON LAP SWIM ON MONDAY-FRIDAY:  
12:30-1:30 PM

\*EVENING LAP SWIM ON TUESDAY &  
WEDNESDAY NIGHTS: 6-7 PM

- DETAILS -

LAP SWIM PASSES AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE AT  
THE POOL. GOLD PASSES ARE AVAILABLE AT THE  
POOL. ALL PCS EMPLOYEES SWIM FOR FREE FOR  
ANY LAP SWIMS. PLEASE BRING YOUR SCHOOL  
I.D. FOR POOL INFO THROUGHOUT THE YEAR,  
PLEASE SCAN QR CODE

## OPEN SWIM

\*OPEN SWIM ON FRIDAY NIGHTS  
FROM 7-8 PM

\$10/FAMILY OR \$3/PERSON

\*PLEASE VISIT THE PCS POOL PAGE FOR POOL CLOSURES



HOME OF THE TROJANS

## 2023/24 SAFE PROGRAM

ENROLLMENT IS OPEN FOR BEFORE &  
AFTER SCHOOL CARE FOR THE 2023-  
24 SCHOOL YEAR.

- AVAILABLE AT ALL 3  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS
- OPENS @ 6:00 PM / CLOSING @  
6:30 AM

ALL FAMILIES NEED TO REGISTER  
(EVEN IF THEY USED THE  
PROGRAM LAST YEAR)  
• \$25 REGISTRATION FEE &  
\$4/HOUR, ONLY CHARGED FOR  
TIME USED  
• SCAN THE QR CODE FOR MORE  
INFORMATION & TO REGISTER



FREE  
SCHOOL  
MEALS

## 2023/24 FOOD SERVICE

Did you hear? The Michigan School Meals  
program was signed into law, allowing all  
public school students, Pre-K through 12th  
grade, to eat breakfast and lunch FREE for  
the 2023/24 school year!

Did you know, daily food service (breakfast &  
lunch) menus can be viewed on the PCS app?  
Download it today by searching for "Plainwell  
Community Schools" on your phone's app  
store. Menus can also be viewed on our  
website through Nutrislice.



## GOOD HANDS PLAINWELL

GOOD HANDS PLAINWELL BEGINS ITS  
13TH YEAR OF PROVIDING FREE  
WEEKEND MEALS FOR QUALIFYING  
PLAINWELL COMMUNITY SCHOOLS'  
STUDENTS THIS FALL. APPLICATIONS  
ARE SENT HOME AT THE BEGINNING  
OF EACH SCHOOL YEAR. NO COSTS  
FOR PARTICIPATING FAMILIES.



Want  
to stay  
connected  
to PCS?  
Follow us  
on social  
media & our  
website for  
the latest  
news &  
updates  
throughout  
the school  
year!

[Plainwellschools.org](http://Plainwellschools.org)





# ELEMENTARY NEWS

COOPER, GILKEY & STARR

## ELEMENTARY YOUTH PROGRAMS

**PCS is excited to offer a number of outstanding youth programs throughout the school year. From volleyball, to indoor soccer, to basketball, Tae Kwon Do and golf programs, PCS has some great opportunities for the elementary students to stay active and be involved. Please look below for our current Youth Programs.**

### FALL TAE KWON DO:

Join us for the upcoming Fall TaeKwonDo program to improve coordination, gain strength and increase your flexibility while learning self-defense techniques, taught by Master Huong Tran.

- **Dates:** September 11-November 23 (ten weeks)
- **Time:** 5:30-7:00 pm
- **Location:** Plainwell Middle School Cafeteria
- **Cost:** \$60/individual or \$85/family
- **Registration:** [Click here to register](#) (closes September 30)
- **Questions:** For questions regarding the TaeKwonDo program, please contact [Community Education & Recreation by clicking here](#).
- [For a printable flyer for the Fall TaeKwonDo program, please click here.](#)

### SHARP SHOOTERS BASKETBALL:

Join us for a competitive basketball league for 5th-8th grade girls. Basketball experience and advanced basketball skills are necessary. Girls play against other area southwest Michigan teams of their grade level to gain game experience and further develop basketball skills. The League follows MHSAA rules and allows teams to run man and zone offenses/defenses.

Team organization and practices (days of the week, location, times) will be announced in September. Games are usually Saturday afternoons and some travel will be required. The season will consist of 3 home games, 3 away games and 3 tournament games. Tryouts may be needed depending on the number of prospective participants. Sharp Shooters will not interfere with Middle School volleyball and ends prior to the start of Middle School basketball and Hoopsters.

NOTE: Initial registration and practice are free but once teams are formed, players will be instructed to pay \$125.00 to cover gym rental, and game-certified MHSAA officials; reversible jersey, league fees).

- **Registration:** [Click here for pre-registration/practice](#) - \$125 fee will be charged once teams are formed.
- **Questions:** For questions regarding the Sharp Shooters program, please contact [David Clark by clicking here](#).
- [For a printable Sharp Shooters flyer, please click here.](#)

### JUNIOR SPIKERS VOLLEYBALL:

Junior Spikers is a volleyball program for girls 3rd-6th grade. The goal of the Spikers is to experience the sport, understand the rules and have fun! Season ends with a Saturday tournament with Otsego.

- **Dates:** Tuesday and Thursday evenings from October 17-December 5 (tentative)
- **Times:**
  - 3rd & 4th Grade Practice
    - 6:00-7:00 PM at Starr Elementary
  - 5th & 6th Grade Practice
    - 6:30-7:30 PM at the Middle School
- **Cost:** \$60
- **Registration:** [Click here to register](#) (registration deadline is September 29)
- **Questions:** For questions regarding the Spikers Volleyball program, please contact [Community Education & Recreation by clicking here](#).
- [For a printable Spikers Volleyball flyer, please click here.](#)

### JUNIOR CHEER NIGHT!

Attention PCS K-8th graders! You are invited to join us for the 2023 Junior Cheer Night! Participants will have the opportunity to practice and learn from the PHS Cheer team and cheer during the first quarter of the Varsity Home Football game.

- **Dates:**
  - **Practice:** Thursday, September 14 from 5-7 PM
  - **Game:** Friday, September 15 from 6-7:30 PM (first quarter of Varsity game)
- **Cost:**
  - \$45 per participant (includes shirt)
  - Proceeds benefit the Trojan Cheer Team
- **Registration:**
  - [Click here to register](#)
- **Questions?** Please contact our [Cheer Coach by clicking here](#)
- [For a printable Junior Cheer Night flyer, please click here.](#)

## POWERSCHOOL

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## SMILE! UPCOMING PICTURE DAYS

### Cooper Elementary:

- September 20

### Gilkey Elementary:

- September 19

### Starr Elementary:

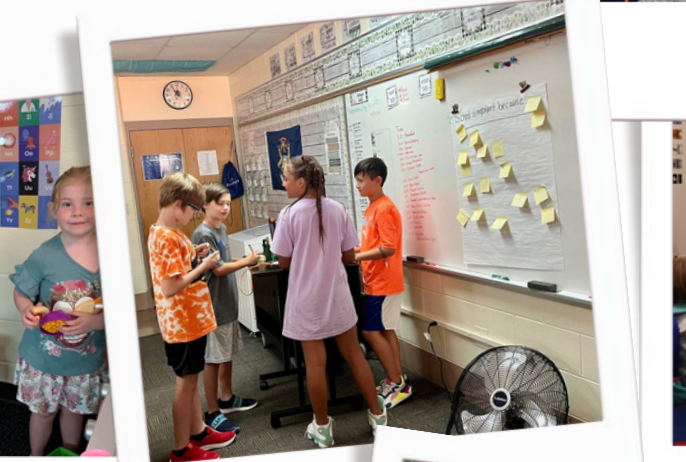
- September 26

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### UPCOMING SCHOOL CALENDAR DATES

- Friday, October 6 - No School Day
- Thursday, November 16 & Friday, November 17 - Half Days (End of First Trimester)
- November 20-24 - No School Days (Thanksgiving Break)

For the full 2023/24 school year calendar, [please click here](#).





# MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

HOME OF THE TROJANS

## MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH PROGRAMS

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- [For a printable Junior Cheer Night flyer, please click here.](#)

## MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETICS

**BOYS BASKETBALL:** Any boy interested in basketball there will be an open gym every Sunday 4-6pm at Plainwell HS.

## STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to the Plainwell Middle School Students of the Week!

- 6TH GRADE: **Joshua Preuss**
- 7TH GRADE: **Evi Coutu**
- 8TH GRADE: **Gibson Pettit**

## BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS AT PLAINWELL MIDDLE SCHOOL

We are excited to introduce Big Brothers Big Sisters at Plainwell Middle School. During the 2023/24 school year, we will be offering the Partnership Program. As a Big Brother, Big Sister or Big Duo, you can mentor a child at Plainwell Middle School during their school day (suggested investment of your time: 30-60 minutes, 2-4 times per month, for 1 school year). Interested in becoming a Big Brother or Big Sister, please scan the QR code or visit [ThinkBigToday.org/volunteer](https://ThinkBigToday.org/volunteer).

## SMILE! MIDDLE SCHOOL PICTURES

Picture day at PMS is this Friday (September 15) for ALL 7th and 8th Graders! In addition, if your 6th grade student did not get their picture taken previously, they can also get their picture taken.

## TUTOR ME

Did you know that online tutoring support is available 24/7 for all PCS students? So whether your student is struggling to understand a specific homework question, they need help with a standardized test topic or anything in between, support is available. For more information, [please click here](#).

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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- **2023/24 CALENDAR:** For the full 2023/24 school year calendar, please [click here](#).

## MIDDLE SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS

PMS provides additional updates for their families via their daily announcements that are sent via email.





## WHAT'S NEW AT PHS?

# HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

HOME OF THE TROJANS

## OK2SAY

Use OK2SAY or the PHS reporting form (see below) for reporting threats or concerning behavior to students, parents and the community. Students, staff, parents and community members must take responsibility for saying something if they know something. [PHS Incident Report Form](#)

## PHS ATHLETIC TICKETS

We are excited to share our 2023/24 ticket and pass options! There are a lot of great options available, so please review these carefully to choose the one that best fits your needs. [Click here for ticket options and more information.](#)

## PLAINWELL EDUCATION FOUNDATION MEETING

PCS Parents and Supporters - if you are interested in joining the Plainwell Education Foundation and helping support Plainwell Community Schools we are having an informational meeting on 9/26/23 in the Plainwell High School Media Center from 6:00-7:00. The PEF supports all students and staff with teacher grants, student scholarships, and other efforts.

## POWERSCHOOL

PCS has switched our student information system from Infinite Campus to PowerSchool. This change requires parents to create a PowerSchool parent portal account and link their student(s) in order to receive mailings/communications from the district and PHS. Thank you for your support and patience as we work together to update the information in the database. To log-in to PowerSchool, please [click here](#).

## CLAYFUL

Along with our on-site counseling staff, PCS also offers Clayful to PHS students. Clayful is a text-based mental health coaching platform designed to provide students 1:1 mental wellness coaching before, during and after school. For more information, [click here](#).

## TRAILS: SUICIDE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION FOR CAREGIVERS AND COMMUNITIES

TRAILS invites you to attend an upcoming presentation: Suicide Awareness and Prevention for Caregivers and Communities. The free presentation will take place via Zoom on Tuesday, September 12 from 3:30-4:45pm (ET) 1:30-2:45pm (MT). **Space is limited to the first 500 registrants, [click here to register!](#)**

## TUTOR ME

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## PHS ANNOUNCEMENTS

PHS provides updates via their Daily Announcements. You can also view other important information regarding PHS, by visiting [plainwellschools.org/o/phs](https://plainwellschools.org/o/phs) under Menu - Parent Center or Student Center.





**FOR ALL THE LATEST NEWS & UPDATES, PLEASE VISIT  
PLAINWELLSCHOOLS.ORG OR FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA.**