

school matters

RETURN TO LEARN EDITION

return to learn

in this issue of school matters, we highlight the district's return to learn plan

trojan news

news

in this issue of school matters, we highlight the latest news, events & information from the district

schedules

in this issue of school matters, we highlight upcoming district events and schedules

PLAINWELL COMMUNITY SCHOOLS



SCHOOL MATTERS

from the district

MONTANGE'S MESSAGE

It has been an interesting start to the 2020/21 school year. From remote learning to hybrid learning and back again, the PCS students and staff have had to adapt to a lot of changes to begin the school year! We are so grateful to our teachers, staff, students and families for their hard work and dedication to continue to learn in the classroom and while remote/virtually learning. Your flexibility and understanding are greatly appreciated as we navigate through these challenging times at Plainwell Community Schools.

Under our current Return to Learn plan, Plainwell High School will remain in remote learning until the completion of the Second Trimester on March 5, 2021 and Plainwell Middle School will remain in remote learning until after the completion of Winter Break, returning to hybrid learning on Tuesday, January 19, 2021. It is the plan to have elementary buildings remain in hybrid learning unless positive cases or quarantines require a targeted closure of a building for a set amount of time required by the Allegan County Health Department or MDHHS.

We know that no plan is perfect and that the decisions we make as a district impact the PCS families greatly; however, we will do our best to help you through this in any way that we can. As a district, we will continue to provide our families with support and resources to help them succeed during these difficult and unpredictable times. Thank you again for your ongoing support as we continue to educate "Today's Learners and Tomorrow's Leaders", while striving to keep our students, staff and PCS Community safe during these challenging times.

MATTHEW MONTANGE
PCS SUPERINTENDENT



CONTACT US

ADMINISTRATION OFFICES
(269) 685-5823

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(269) 685-9554

MIDDLE SCHOOL
(269) 685-5813

COOPER ELEMENTARY
(269) 349-2674

GILKEY ELEMENTARY
(269) 685-2424

RENAISSANCE HIGH SCHOOL
(269) 685-1573

STARR ELEMENTARY
(269) 685-5835

SCHOOL YEAR AT A GLANCE

DECEMBER 21-JANUARY 1

WINTER BREAK
No School

JANUARY 18, 2021
No School

FEBRUARY 5, 2021
1/2 Day

FEBRUARY 19-22, 2021
MID-WINTER BREAK
No School

MARCH 4 & 5, 2021
1/2 Days

MARCH 15, 2021
No School

APRIL 2-9, 2021
SPRING BREAK
No School

MAY 31, 2021
No School

JUNE 9 & 10, 2021
1/2 Days (June 10 - Last Day of School)

- for the
full school
year calendar,
please
see page 16 -

RETURN TO LEARN

We have made a commitment to you that our Return To Learn plan is a plan designed with the health and safety of our students and our employees as the top priority, and based on the best available and most up to date public health information. This plan to return to school is student-centered, focused on the social-emotional and physical health and safety of our students and staff and designed to keep our kids learning at a high level. There is no doubt that the 2020-21 school year will look different, but we are dedicated in our effort to provide both a safe environment and a positive learning experience. The Plainwell Community Schools Return to Learn Plan was a group effort guided by our own Task Force of parents, teachers and administrators, local and state health officials, and Michigan's Return to School Roadmap. As conditions change we will continue to work with you and make the necessary adjustments to keep everyone safe.

As of November 16, 2020, Plainwell Community Schools has three learning schedules for their students depending on their grade level. Currently, the elementary students are in a Hybrid Learning Plan. This means the K-5 students are broken into two cohort groups - Group A & Group B - and each attend in-person classes two days a week with remote classes three days a week. Group A attends school in person on Mondays and Thursdays; Group B attends school in person on Tuesdays and Fridays. Wednesday will be a remote learning day for all students with virtual intervention opportunities for those needing extra help. Our High School students are in a remote learning program, with 100% virtual education through March 5, 2021. Our Middle School students are also in a remote learning program, with 100% virtual education through January 19, 2021.

For families with additional health concerns, or those more comfortable with an all-virtual learning option, the Plainwell Virtual Learning Academy K-5 (PVLAK5), the Plainwell Community Schools Virtual Academy 6-8 (PCS-VA 6-8) and the Plainwell Community Schools Virtual Academy 9-12 (PCS-VA 9-12). These programs are available for students throughout the school year.

Please know, this plan is fluid and may need to be adjusted as new guidance from the Michigan Department of Education, Governor's Office, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and the Allegan County Health Department and other public health officials is received or as necessary to best support the health and safety of our students and employees. All updates will be posted on our Website and shared with our families and employees using our usual means for communication.



For the PCS Return to Learn documents, COVID-19 Dashboard and up-to-date information, please visit:

>>> plainwellschools.org
>>>> Quick Links
>>>>> Return to Learn

preparedness plan highlights

▼ INSTRUCTION/SCHEDULE

ELEMENTARY HYBRID LEARNING PLAN

2 Days in Classroom Instruction | 3 Days Remote Learning

PCS students are in two groups - A & B:

- A Group - Attends school on Mondays & Thursday, remote learning takes place on Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday.
- B Group - Attends school in person on Tuesdays and Fridays; remote learning takes place on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

100% VIRTUAL ONLY EDUCATION AVAILABLE! Elementary virtual education option is available through the Plainwell Virtual Learning Academy for K-5.

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL REMOTE LEARNING PLANS

100% Remote Learning

The PCS remote learning program will provide High School and Middle School students with 100% remote learning Monday-Friday with their specific classroom teachers. The remote program will allow students to learn from home until it is safe to return to the classroom as follows:

- Middle School - 100% Returns Learning until they return to school on January 19, 2021
- High School - 100% Remote Learning until they return to school on March 5, 2021

▼ HYGIENE & CLEANING

PROCEDURES

- Every classroom will be supplied with hand sanitizer and other cleaning & sanitizing supplies.
- Each classroom will have a hygiene protocol with timelines that are posted for hand-washing/sanitizing and room and material cleaning.
- Classroom teachers or support staff will wipe down the students desks every time students exit the room at the elementary or after every period at the secondary level.
- Playground equipment will be cleaned twice a week.
- Custodial Staff will regularly clean high frequency areas.

▼ ATHLETICS

GO TROJANS!

- PCS will comply with all guidance published by Allegan County Health Department.

▼ SCREENING & TESTING

BE SAFE! STAY HEALTHY!

- Teachers and staff must self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms prior to coming to school each day.
- Parents and guardians must self-screen students in their household for COVID-19 symptoms prior to coming to school each day.
- Visitors will be limited, but will be screened for COVID-19 symptoms upon entry into the office if they will be in other parts of the building.
- District will work directly with the Health Departments of Allegan, Kalamazoo, and Barry County regarding a positive test result and any required contact tracing and subsequent quarantine requirements.

▼ BUSING & STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

SAFETY FIRST

- Signage will be added to each bus to address the use of face masking of all students and drivers, use of hand sanitizers and cleaning protocols.
- District will assess the number of buses that may be on the road and re-evaluate weekly based on student participation rates.
- Buses will be properly cleaned after the departure of the last child from each run once the bus has returned to the transportation garage. Logs and video will be maintained for a period of 90 days.
- Communication will be sent out to families related to the mandatory nature of wearing a face mask on the bus and that all staff and students must wear it in order to be transported. When needed, drivers will be provided the option to wear a face shield when a mask interferes with safe operation of the bus.

ELEMENTARY

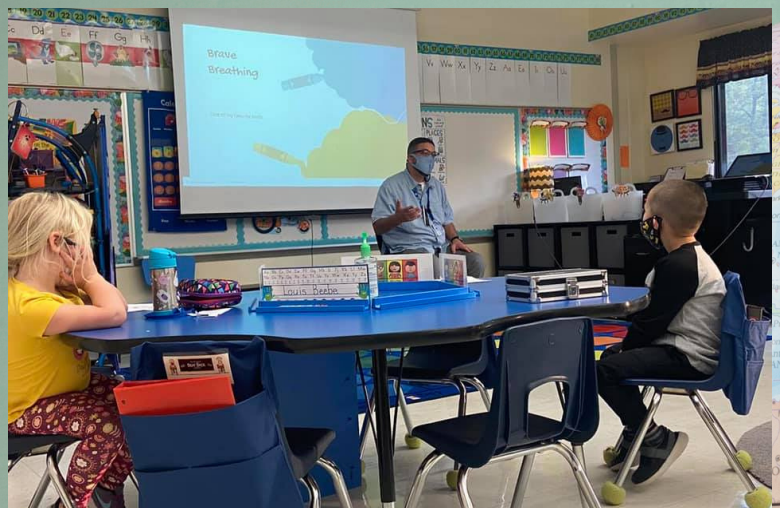


◀ mindful practice

Mrs. Beach's 4th grade class at Cooper has been working on being mindful during their Hybrid in-classroom learning days. She is teaching her students that being mindful takes practice, especially during these tricky times throughout the pandemic. What a great way to keep her students active in body and mind during these challenging times.

▼ a "writerly" life!

Mrs. Beach's 4th graders are living a "writerly" life during in-classroom learning days in the Hybrid learning plan. What a great way for these students to enjoy the outdoors, while creatively writing!



▲ brave breathing

During in-person Hybrid Learning days, Mr. Boender's Kindergarten class at Gilkey Elementary have been working on Brave Breathing exercises with Mr. Luzack. What a great way for these students to work on their body and mind while learning. Way to go, Geckos!

► r.o.c.k. starrs

Starr Elementary has a new PBIS acronym which is R.O.C.K.

R - Responsible
O - Open Minded
C - Capable and Confident
K - Kind

The Starr students are encouraged to be their best and ROCK! Each week, students who exhibit these qualities are selected to be the weekly "ROCK Starr Students". These students are selected by following the school "rules" throughout each location in the building, consistently in a fun and positive way. The ROCK Starr students



celebrate other students for doing the right thing and encourage others to try it rather than always being punitive. These students are responsible in the classroom, on a bus or even while doing virtual learning. Way to go ROCK Starrs!

To help celebrate our ROCK Starrs, students were asked to paint rocks to decorate the showcase in the front entry of the building, so they have a fun reminder to be their best self and ROCK at Starr Elementary!

EDUCATION & FUN AT COOPER, GILKEY STARR & PVLA ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

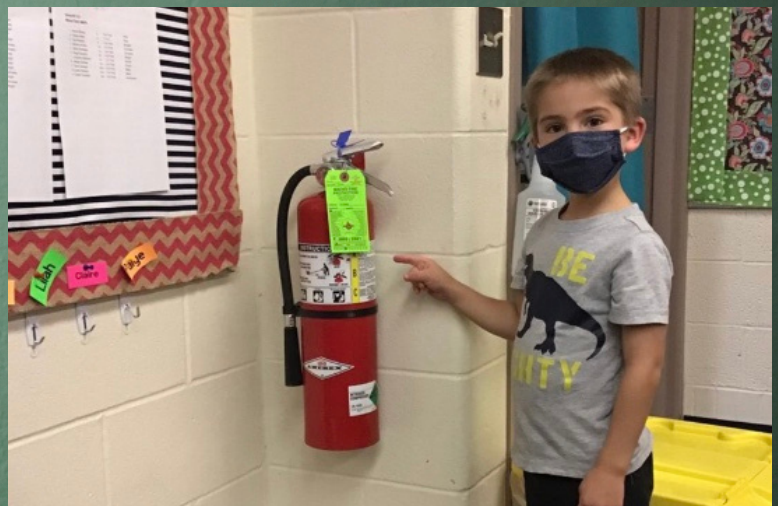
◀ virtual learning

With the return to learn and some families uncomfortable with returning to the classroom, PCS created the Plainwell Virtual Learning Academy for K-5 (PVLAK5). This program is a 100% virtual option for elementary families. The staff at the PVLAK5 has done an outstanding job in creating amazing educational opportunities for their virtual students. "The Voyagers" as they refer to themselves and their learners, have truly set sail on this new experience and have done a great job navigating through rough and uncharted waters. Keep up the great work, PCS is proud of the students, teachers and staff for their hard work and dedication to continue education through the PVLAK5!



▼ education & fun

There is lots of education and fun happening in the Plainwell Virtual Learning Academy K-5 for our elementary virtual learners! One of the students in Mrs. Muselin's 2nd grade class is taking her projects seriously, while making them seriously fun! This student even took her citizenship lesson one step further and delivered flowers to a senior citizen's home! Way to go, keep up the great work Trojans!



▲ fire safety

In October, the Starr Kindergarten students had fun learning about fire safety. They went on a Fire Safety scavenger hunt at their house or while at Plainwell's TASC program, practiced stop, drop and roll and then wrote about what they learned. What a great way for these kindergarteners to learn the importance of fire safety. Way to go Starr Students.

► scavenger hunt

Our Voyager Crew hosted a fun activity for their students and families during the week of October 23-30! They hosted a scavenger hunt around the town of Plainwell. It was a fun way for students/families to interact and explore our beautiful city while learning.





PLAINWELL MIDDLE SCHOOL

◀ science



Our Middle School science teachers got creative while giving a lesson to their students on good hand washing practices using Glo Germ. They compared soap and water with hand sanitizer to determine which works best. In addition, they watched the Myth Busters video called Contagion, which had a segment on coughing and sneezing and how germs can spread/be minimized.

What a great way to teach and encourage the PMS students to work together to have a safe and healthy school!



◀ aviation



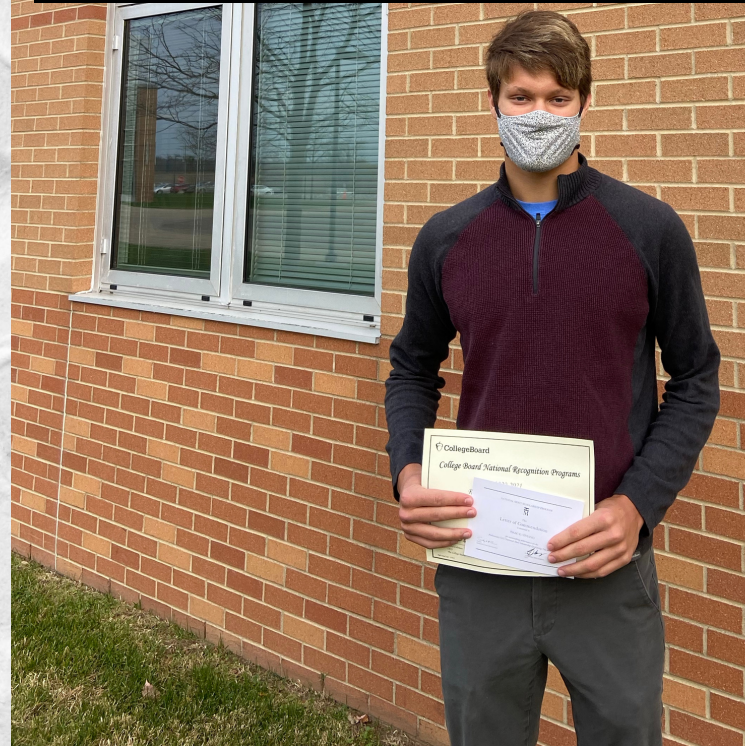
It has been said that experience is the greatest teacher. On November 2nd and 3rd, students from Mr. Fisher's Introduction to Aviation Class were able to experience first hand all the concepts and theories taught in class by test flying their hand built Scout Gliders. The flights took place in the Middle School playground area, and students gained eyewitness accounts to an array of aerodynamic features such as the four forces of flight, aircraft design, advantages and disadvantages of poly-dihedral wing configuration, center of gravity, Bernoulli's Principle, and Newton's Laws of Motion. Student's used this knowledge to manipulate and perfect their airplane's flight performance by making each succeeding flight last longer and fly higher than the previous flight. The reactatory "Oohs and Ahhs" by students and staff alike made for an exuberant learning experience, and hopefully piqued renewed interest in aircraft design and aerodynamics for future generations.

◀ student athletes



Congratulations to all the Middle School student-athletes for their dedication to academics and volleyball, cross country or club-soccer this fall. We are proud of your dedication to continue your education, while giving it your all on and off the "field"! Also congratulations to the following athletes who received special recognition from their coaches during fall sports: Volleyball - Lillie Cross & Maggie Montange, Cross Country - Josie Longcore & Colten Jenkins, Soccer - Landon Jepsen & Austin Gyorkos.

PLAINWELL HIGH SCHOOL



▲ parking lot art

Prior to the start of Hybrid learning, the students in the Class of 2021 were invited to participate in a special parking lot painting project. The 2021 Senior Class had the opportunity to paint their parking spots for the school year! It was great to see their creativity as they kick-off their senior year! A special thank you to the parents/volunteers who helped make this project possible!

▲ phs art

Great things are happening in the art program at PHS! To provide her students with a genuine art experience while remote learning, Art Teacher Regina Beltowski, designed art kits as a creative way to engage students and provide them with the necessary materials to be successful in her courses. After receiving a generous donation from an anonymous donor to fund the entire program, she began working on this project by finding the perfect size box that would house the materials. Mrs. Beltowski then collected materials, some of which were from school, but most supplies were ordered specifically for her students to complete this special project. With the help of her husband and children, she assembled the kits, which included all the supplies necessary to set her students up for success in her Beginning Drawing class and Intro to Art programs. Thank you to Mrs. Beltowski for creating this amazing project for your students! Trojan pride!

▲ merit honor

Congratulation to PHS student, Isaac Viviano, for being recognized as a National Merit Commended Student Rural and Small Town Scholar. What a great honor for Isaac! Congratulations on your hard work, thank you for your dedication to your education at PHS!

▲ phs robotics

Congratulations to the Plainwell High School's two VEX Robotics Teams who were very successful at their first (ever) tournament in October. Our men's team took fourth place, and our women's team placed tenth. In November, the two HS VEX Robotics Teams had another successful tournament in Grandville. Sixteen teams from Grandville, Hudsonville and Plainwell participated in the event. After the qualifying round of six matches, our men's team captained the sixth place alliance and our women's team were captains of the eighth place alliance. Our two teams lost their first playoff match to the number 3 and number 1 alliances, respectively; however, the men's team was presented with the Build Award, one of the four top judged awards in VEX Robotics. The Build Award is presented to a team that has built a robot that is of high quality, uses mechanical and electrical components effectively and efficiently, and is designed with a clear dedication to safety and attention to detail.

The teams (women's and men's) consist of five members each and all participants are "graduates" of the Plainwell Middle School Robotics Program. The teams are coached by Jason Ferris. Congratulations to our Robotics teams for their success this fall!

RHS & ADULT EDUCATION

▼ welcome rhs and adult education students

We are excited to announce that all of our students and staff will be reunited in learning at 798 E. Bridge (The Community Center) for the 2020-2021 school year! Thank you to the community of Plainwell for making this possible. We also continue to offer secondary learning sites in Wayland and Hastings.

For the 2020-2021 school year, we will offer our students (both young and old-er) the same flexibility we've been providing for 13 years of using online learning management systems, creating comprehensive schedules to meet individual and diverse student needs and support our learners with a fully trauma-informed staff. Our students have always had to balance health concerns, jobs, family responsibilities and limited resources ALONG WITH attending school. This year, there's more need than ever to show flexibility and out-of-the box thinking and with our new facility we now have everything we need to deliver the following options to our learners:

VIRTUAL TO THE MAX- These students may have health concerns, family responsibilities, or another reason to do their schoolwork almost entirely away from the school building. These students will abide by the pupil accounting requirements on Count Day; by keeping excellent communications with their Teachers and Learning Mentors; by committing to a minimum of 25 hours of documented learning per week; and submitting notes to access Final Exams in a proctored setting. (Learning research clearly shows that students of all ages learn more and progress faster with in-person learning and with a teacher present, but we understand that what is optimal isn't always possible).

FULL TILT RHS- These are students who will be attending in-person as much as possible. These students know in-person learning is best for them and they can accommodate a schedule of 7:30 am to 2:30 pm four days per week unless there are extenuating circumstances (excused absences or government guidelines).

BLENDED & STIRRED- These are students who have some ability to work on their courses through distance learning but also would like to partake in on-site/in-person learning. These students will work with Renaissance staff to create a schedule of in-person and distance learning that fits their academic and personal needs.

▼ building schedule

7:30 AM | Building Opens
9:00 AM | Morning Meeting
10:10 AM | Stretch Break
11:30 AM-12 PM | Lunch
1:10 PM | Stretch Break
2:30 PM | Afternoon Break
3-5:00 PM | Evening Class
5-7:00 PM | Evening Class

▼ in search of...

persons that need their high school diploma, GED, English as a Second Language services, improvement of basic skills, specialized training (CNA, welding, etc) or seeking to improve their job or financial status.

For more information, please contact Tammy Glupker or Charlie Wynne at the Community Center/ RHS office at (269) 685-1573.

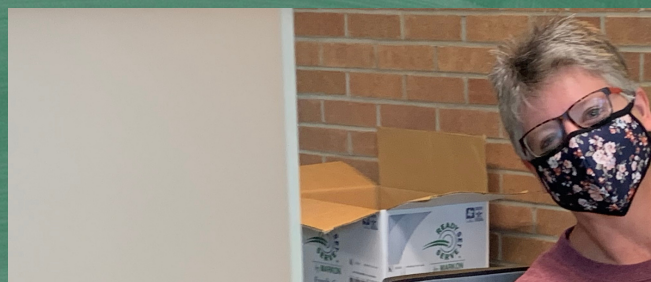
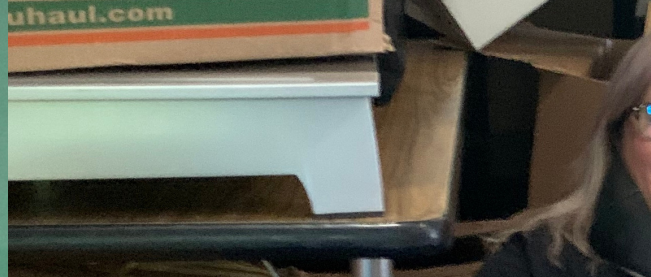


LOOKING FOR WORRY'FREE High School & Adult EDUCATION OPTIONS?

At Plainwell Renaissance High School, YOU CHOOSE:

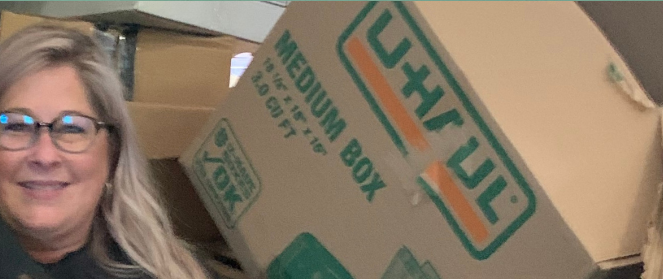
1. **In-Person:** I learn best when I'm at the school as much as possible. ✓
2. **From a Distance:** I need the security and flexibility to do as much of my school work from outside of the school building as I can so I am willing to strictly abide by the minimum requirements in order to do so. ✓
3. **Combination:** Sometimes, for some subjects or for some personal reasons I will need to work from a distance and other times, I will want to do my learning in person. I want to set up a personalized schedule each quarter that fills my unique academic and life needs. ✓

For More Information: Email Tammy.glupker@plainwellschools.org or TEXT: **ENROLLRHS** to (269)204-3037



▼ community education and facility use on hold

Programs offered through Community Education and the use of school facilities for non-school functions are on hold until January 1 or after. Although we value the enrichment and community our programs offer children, adults and senior citizens, planning and scheduling for these activities/events takes place a season, and sometimes more, before they occur. COVID-19 restrictions limit our ability to offer programs but we will review the state of affairs January 1 and return to planning or announce an extension at that time. Thank you for your patience and understanding.



▼ daycare assistance

There is assistance available for adult learners who are struggling to find the right school or daycare fit for their children. These decisions are harder than ever and we would like to help. Contact Tammy Glupker tammy.glupker@plainwellschools.org or Charlie Wynne charlie.wynne@plainwellschools.org or Text HELPMENOW to (269) 302-3036

Free College Courses

PLAINWELL ADULT EDUCATION

The state is rolling out several programs offering **FREE** college courses for adults in our community. **INTERESTED?** To help our partners in Allegan County secure local programming, we request that you please complete a brief survey. Please contact (269) 685-1573 for a survey link.

COMPLETE SURVEY FOR
FREE COLLEGE COURSES

▼ star family literacy

Renaissance would like to welcome the students who formerly attended Star Family Literacy. The Star program provided an essential service to Allegan County and it's our goal to offer those students an experience that exceeds their expectations.



Your partner in transforming
lives through education,
leadership and service

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TECHNICAL & EDUCATION CENTER
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www.alleganaesa.org



June 16, 2020

Dear District Leaders, Families, Students, and Partner Organizations,

First, through Evenstart and then as the STAR Family Literacy Program, AAESA has provided a high school completion option for teen parents while also teaching the high school students to parent the next generation. Trying to provide education to 2 generations with the same foundation allowance as a single student took creativity, budget stretching and amazing partners. We are thankful for support from Early Head Start, Michigan Works, Hungry for Christ, Nestlings, Junior Achievement, the employees at AAESA, our local school district counselors and administrators, and many more. The AAESA Board of Education generously provided additional budgetary support in order to enable the purchase of vans to enable students and their babies to get to school.

Looking at the 2020-2021 school year, anticipating a deep cut in per pupil funding from the Michigan Department of Education, lack of grant funding from Michigan Works, and low enrollment numbers exacerbated by COVID-19, the time has come to look at a new way to serve these deserving students. I am pleased to say we have found a new partner who is ready and willing to step in and continue to serve the teen parents in Allegan County. Renaissance Alternative High School in Plainwell, under the direction of Tammy Glupker, will enroll students that would have continued on with STAR and is happy to enroll future teen parents. They are committed to providing a quality program that meets the unique needs of teen parents.

Many thanks to all who have supported STAR Family Literacy of the years. We are proud of all the graduates who persevered and in many cases were the first in their families to receive a high school diploma. The students worked hard for that achievement while learning to be their children's first and best teacher.

If you know of teen parents looking to complete high school in an environment that will assist them and understand their unique challenges, please refer them to Tammy Glupker, Principal, at Renaissance Alternative High School at tammy.glupker@plainwellschools.org or phone 269.685.8911 or Kathy Elliott (269) 685-1189 and kathy.elliott@plainwellschools.org.

Thank you

Laurie Schmitt, PhD

Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services

▼ navigating virtual learning

Adult Education Teacher, Heidi Huizenga and Home Outreach Coordinator, Nicole Vyverman, could be found this Fall at Sherwood or Hicks parks toting around a laptop, mobile hotspot, and an entire curriculum for their new "Navigating Virtual Learning" class.

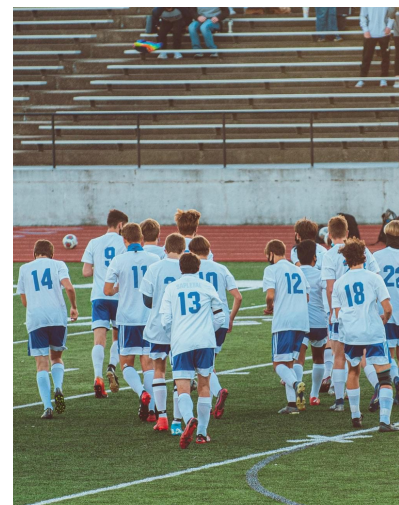
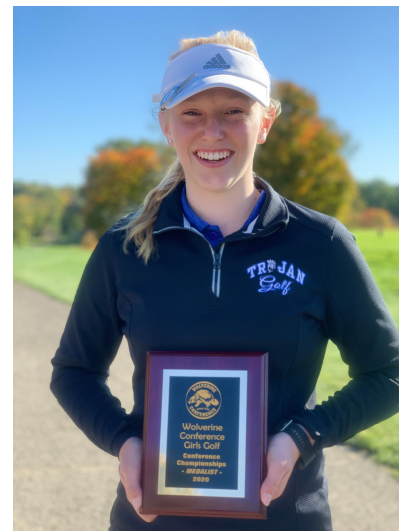
Why? In April, Huizenga recognized the need of parents in our community to be equipped with the tools needed to assist their children with remote and virtual learning. Through her work and personal life, Huizenga has an arsenal of knowledge about digital platforms, homeschooling best practices, and a unique knack for getting the best out of her students. She was determined to use her position at Renaissance to benefit our families in the community.

Nicole Vyverman teamed up to offer the social emotional side of learning and parenting for the class. Vyverman explains that she was excited to co-teach this class because as a parent, you never have enough knowledge and you can never have too many networking resources.

The class utilizes Google Classroom and Zoom to facilitate discussions about the best environment for learning at home as well as the best mindset for these types of challenges. Students can take part in the conversations virtually or at the park. "Our hope is that they will be able to keep this knowledge forever and it will increase their self-efficacy," Vyverman said. "It's so essential that they develop their own growth mindset to carry on to their children." Vyverman also teaches a class called, "Building the Bridge" which pays participants to learn more about themselves, develop goals, and be supported through mentorship partners at Bridges of Hope Allegan County.



ATHLETICS





NEWS FROM OUR ATHLETIC TEAMS

◀ swim & dive

Congratulations to the Women's Swim & Dive team who won the Conference meet at Allegan on Saturday (11/7) with a final score of 547.5 points and 24 points overall. On Friday (11/6), the diving team also competed at Allegan with Taylor Seibert placing 2nd, Charley Truitt placing 7th, Izzi Keckler placing 11th and Sarah Russell placing 12th. All divers earned spots to the regional meet which will be held in mid-November.

We are very proud of the swim & dive team for all their accomplishments during this challenging season! Trojan pride!

◀ cross country

On October 31, Plainwell High School's cross country teams competed in Regionals at Otsego High School. The Girls team finished in 5th place! Congratulations to Mackenzie Hill and Grace Pettit for qualifying for the State meet with their performances. Mackenzie was the runner-up in the race, with Grace right on her heels for 3rd place. Way to go girls! Also, congratulations to the men's cross country team for also finishing in 5th place at their Regional meet. A big congratulations to Ethan Johnson and Eli Veen for finishing in the top 7 and qualifying for the State Cross Country Meet at Michigan International Speedway in November. Way to go, Trojans!

◀ girls golf

Congratulations to the Girls Golf Team for representing PHS so well this season! At Regionals, the girls were one place out of moving on to State as a team, but Renae Jaeger qualified individually, as she was the top golfer at MHSAA girl's golf regional match - Renae shot an 80 and was the medalist. She went on to compete at the state finals at Michigan State University's Forest Akers Golf Course on October 17. Renae represented PCS well and shot a 91 for 48th place out of 107 players. Way to go, Renae, PCS is incredibly proud of you!

◀ soccer

Congratulations to Coach Snyder, Coach Beauregard and the boys varsity soccer team for winning the Wolverine Conference Championship for 2020! Congratulations to Coach Snyder who was also awarded the Soccer Coach of the Year in the Conference! Way to go, Trojans! Plainwell pride!

Also, a big congratulations to the PHS JV Men's Soccer team for completing an UNDEFEATED season, 12-0! Way to go PHS soccer teams!

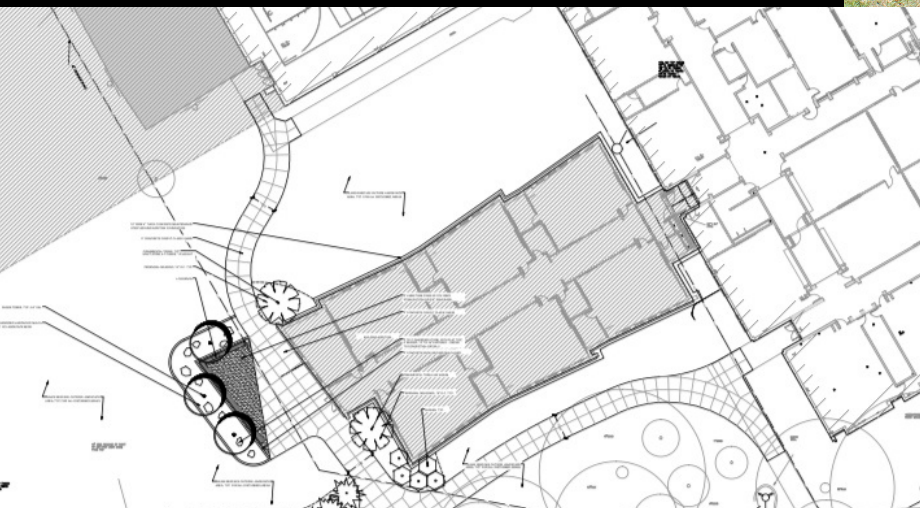
◀ fall athletes

We are incredibly proud of all of our athletes for their dedication to academics and athletics this fall! We appreciate these Trojans representing Plainwell Community Schools so well, especially during these challenging times. Each of our student-athletes give it their all in the classroom and while competing. Trojan Pride!

BOND UPDATES

► rhs & community center

PCS is proud to announce that our first project from the 2019 Bond Proposal is complete! Our Renaissance High School and Adult Education programs are now located at the newly renovated Community Center. These renovations included upgrades and remodeling of bathrooms, added office and work space, new entryway and lobby, new windows, new flooring, new lighting, and HVAC systems, and new fire control and safety systems. You will also notice that the back parking lot was also completely replaced. We are excited for the students and staff of our Renaissance programs who finally have a space that allows them to maximize their potential and offer new possibilities for teaching and learning! We will be hosting an Open House for the community once we get through the limitations currently required by the state.



◀ middle school academic addition

If you have driven down Starr Road lately you will notice a lot of construction activity on the back half of the Middle School. We are excited to announce that our new academic wing for Plainwell Middle School is underway! This addition includes 6 classroom spaces, additional storage, group spaces, and bathrooms. While the building will look different in some ways from the original building, it will also incorporate design features that will accommodate future bond upgrades that will be applied to the entire MS facility as well the future gym and pool additions. The new wing will be completed sometime in the late spring to early summer and additional MS renovations will begin in early summer of 2021 including existing classrooms, media center, cafeteria, bandroom, and complete overhaul of HVAC and electrical systems. Please look for regular updates on this project on our social media pages.



**THANK YOU FOR
SUPPORTING PCS &
VOTING YES TO THE
2019 BOND PROPOSAL!**



FOLLOW THE "LITTLE TROJAN" EARLY EDUCATION FACEBOOK PAGE FOR THE LATEST NEWS AT [FACEBOOK.COM/LITTLETROJANS](https://facebook.com/littletrojans)



Plainwell Community Schools' Virtual Play-and-Learn Calendar

For more Talking is Teaching tips and other district Play-and-Learn Zoom links, please visit Help Me Grow-Allegan's Facebook page.



Help Me Grow
www.hmgrow.org Allegan



MEETING DATES:

SEPT. 17TH
OCT. 15TH
NOV. 19TH
DEC. 17TH
JAN. 21ST
FEB. 18TH
MARCH 18TH
APRIL 15TH
MAY 20TH

TIME: 10-10:30AM



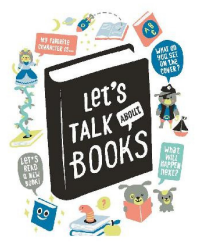
ZOOM MEETING LINK:
<https://bit.ly/3jEeyCy>
Meeting ID: 819 8980 4811
Passcode: e56PPV



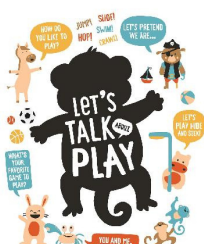
September



October



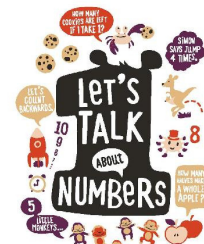
November



December



January



February



March



April



May

PCS CALENDAR

2020-21

Today's Learners. Tomorrow's Leaders

AUGUST 2020

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						01
02	03	04	05	06	07	08
09	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

SEPTEMBER 2020

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

OCTOBER 2020

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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

NOVEMBER 2020

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29	30					

DECEMBER 2020

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27	28	29	30	31		

Aug. 25, 26 Building/District Welcome/Remote Learning Planning - 10 hours DPPD

Aug. 27, 31 Remote Learning Planning for Teachers 4 hours DPPD
Sept. 1, 2, 3

Sept. 4 & 7 Labor Day Weekend, No School

Sept. 8 First Day for Students

Oct. 6-8 Elementary & PMS Conferences

Nov. 20 End of 1st Trimester

Nov. 25-27 Thanksgiving Break

Dec. 2 Remote Learning for Students/Staff Records

Dec. 21-Jan. 1 Winter Break

Jan. 18 No School for Students, Staff DPPD

Feb. 5 1/2 Day Students, EL/MS Conferences

Feb. 19/22 Mid-Winter Break

Mar. 4 Half Day Students, PM Staff Records

Mar. 5 Half Day Students/Staff, End 2nd Tri

Mar. 15 No Students, Staff DPPD

Apr. 2-9 Spring Break

May 31 Memorial Day

June 9 Half Day Students, PMS Staff Records

June 10 Half Day Students/Staff, End 3rd Tri

JANUARY 2021

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					01	02
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

FEBRUARY 2021

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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

MARCH 2021

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28	29	30	31			

APRIL 2021

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25	26	27	28	29	30	

MAY 2021

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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

JUNE 2021

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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

SCHEDULE

PHS	7:40 AM-2:26 PM 1/2 Day: 11:04 AM
PMS	7:40 AM-2:25 PM 1/2 Day: 11:03 AM
COOPER	8:20 AM-3:26 PM 1/2 Day: 11:49 AM
GILKEY	8:18 AM-3:25 PM 1/2 Day: 11:49 AM
STARR	8:30 AM-3:36 PM 1/2 Day: 11:59 AM

LEGEND

	Full Day
	No Students/Staff Only
	Half Day for Students/Staff Full
	K-12 Half Day Students and Staff
	No Students or Staff
	Students Remote, Staff Special
	Remote Learning Planning for Teachers

*DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

DAILY HOME SCREENING FOR PCS STUDENTS



Parents: Please complete this short check each morning and report your child's information to Plainwell Community Schools in the morning before your child leaves for school.

SECTION 1: SYMPTOMS | If your child has any of the following symptoms, that indicates a possible illness that may decrease the student's ability to learn and also put them at risk for spreading illness to others. Please check your child for these symptoms:

- ☐ TEMPERATURE 100.4 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT OR HIGHER
- ☐ SORE THROAT
- ☐ NEW UNCONTROLLED COUGH THAT CAUSES DIFFICULTY BREATHING (FOR STUDENTS WITH CHRONIC ALLERGIC/ASTHMATIC COUGH, A CHANGE IN THEIR COUGH FROM BASELINE)
- ☐ DIARRHEA, VOMITING, OR ABDOMINAL PAIN
- ☐ NEW ONSET OF SEVERE HEADACHE, ESPECIALLY WITH A FEVER

SECTION 2: CLOSE CONTACT/POTENTIAL EXPOSURE |

- ☐ HAD CLOSE CONTACT (WITHIN 6 FEET OF AN INFECTED PERSON FOR AT LEAST 15 MINUTES) WITH A PERSON WITH CONFIRMED COVID-19
- ☐ TRAVELED TO OR LIVED IN AN AREA WHERE THE LOCAL, TRIBAL, TERRITORIAL, OR STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENT IS REPORTING LARGE NUMBERS OF COVID-19 CASES AS DESCRIBED IN THE COMMUNITY MITIGATION FRAMEWORK
- ☐ LIVE IN AREAS OF HIGH COMMUNITY TRANSMISSION (AS DESCRIBED IN THE COMMUNITY MITIGATION FRAMEWORK) WHILE THE SCHOOL REMAINS OPEN



▼ board member

Plainwell Community Schools had three Board of Education positions open during the 2020 election. We are happy to introduce you to the newly elected Board of Education Candidates:

- Jill Dunham (Incumbent)
- Mike Hopson
- Anthony K. McNeel, PhD (Incumbent)

We are thrilled to have Jill Dunham and Anthony K. McNeel continue to serve on our Board of Education for another term. In addition to Mrs. Dunham and Dr. McNeel, we are excited to introduce you to our newest BOE member, Mike Hopson, who will join the Board January 2021.

Name: Mike Hopson

Mr. Hopson's Statement: I am seeking the Plainwell school board position to serve in my district as our family has benefited from the education our sons received. I hope to accomplish assisting in policy and representing the people of the PCS district, working with administration as we wisely use the Bond funds for the advancement of our schools. Currently we have decisions to make regarding operating funds and how the cuts from the State of Michigan will affect us, and how the pandemic is affecting our schools. As a board member I would assist in being prepared for the future. I believe the role of a leader is to serve the people he is representing.

▼ food service

Plainwell Food Service is happy to announce that they will be offering FREE breakfast and lunch to all PCS students through June 30, 2021. All children 18 and under will receive this meal benefit. Please continue to check plainwellschools.org and the district's social media pages for updates on food delivery and pick-up options. Thank you for your support of the Food Service program at PCS!

▼ thank you

It has been a great start to the school year and we appreciate the students, families, teachers and staffs continued dedication and hard work to provide PCS students with a high level of education through this new way of learning. Keep up the great work Trojans - "Work hard and be nice to people". Trojan Pride!

HAVE A **MUSICAL** HOLIDAY
AT PLAINWELL HIGH SCHOOL'S

WINTER CHORAL SHOWCASE

virtual edition

JOIN US TO CELEBRATE THE
HOLIDAY SEASON WITH A
VIRTUAL YOUTUBE
PERFORMANCE BY THE
PHS CHOIR PROGRAM

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2020
| 7PM |



A YOUTUBE LINK WILL BE SHARED
THE WEEK OF THE PERFORMANCE



LEGAL NOTICES

from PCS

ASBESTOS HAZARD EMERGENCY RESPONSE ACT

This notice is to inform the public about Plainwell Community Schools' Asbestos Management Plan.

1. The Asbestos Management Plan contains information regarding the locations of asbestos-containing materials (ACM) in all school buildings, the condition of the ACM and a plan for dealing with the ACM. This plan is on file at the Administration Office and in all the school buildings.

2. Reinspection: A reinspection of all district buildings is required by law every three years after implementation of the Management Plan.

3. Periodic Surveillance: Once every six months, ACM must be visually inspected for changes in condition. This inspection is performed by trained and certified school personnel. ACM will be repaired if damaged and maintained by the District's Operation and Maintenance Program (OEM). Those with further questions of concerns may contact the District's designated AHERA person, Greg Smith, Director of Operations at 269-685-6338.

WEAPONS EXPULSION POLICY

The Board of Education will not tolerate the possession of weapons by anyone while on school property or at a District-related event. In implementing this policy, Plainwell Community Schools will comply with Public Act 211 which prohibits students from possessing a firearm, dagger, dirk, stiletto, knife, mechanical device, iron bar, brass knuckles or other devices designed to inflict bodily harm while in attendance at school or a school activity or en route to or from school on a school bus. This policy shall also encompass look-alike items, false fire alarms, bomb threats, and intentional calls to falsely report a dangerous condition. The Superintendent shall prepare procedures to ensure immediate reporting to the parent and the local law enforcement agency after discovery of the weapon or the false report; and take proper disciplinary action with the student as provided in the Code of Conduct and AG5610. The Gun Expulsion Law, Senate Bill number 966, calls for permanent expulsion of students who are caught with a weapon of any type on school property. Expelled students are able to petition to return to school. Fifth graders and younger may be reinstated in 90 days, students in sixth grade and above have to wait 180 days before being reinstated. Local procedures shall also include immediate reporting to the appropriate law enforcement agency if a dangerous weapon is found or is suspected to be in the possession of a District employee or visitor.

STUDENT MEDICATION AUTHORIZATION POLICY

Plainwell Community Schools shall not be responsible for the diagnosis and treatment of student illness. The administration of prescribed medication to

a student during school hours will be permitted only when failure to take such medication would jeopardize the health of the student or the student would not be able to attend school if the medicine were not made available during school hours. Medication should be administered in the home, if at all possible. For the purpose of this policy, "medication" shall include all medicine prescribed by a physician and/or any patented drug. The total responsibility of dispensing or administering any non-prescribed (over-the-counter) drugs, preparations and/or remedies shall rest solely with the parent or legal guardian and that student. Before any medication may be administered to any student during school hours, the Board shall require the written request of the parent/guardian or the completion of a medical release for high school. This documentation shall include: written orders from a physician detailing the name of the drug, dosage, and time interval the medication is to be taken along with written permission from the parent/guardian of the pupil requesting that the school district comply with the physician's order. Only medication in its original prescription bottle, labeled with the date of the prescription, student's name and exact dosage will be administered. Asthmatic students may possess and use a metered-dose inhaler or other inhaler provided the student has written approval from the parent or legal guardian and health care provider and that written approval is provided to the principal or superintendent. If you have further questions, please contact your school's main office (or the high school athletic office).

TITLE 1 PARENTS RIGHT TO KNOW

In accordance with the requirements of the federal Title 1 law, parents of students in any school receiving Title 1 funds may request, and the District will provide, the following information regarding their child's teacher: A) state qualifications, certification, and licensing criteria; B) whether the teacher is teaching under any emergency or provisional status; C) the undergraduate major of the teacher and the area of study and any certificates for any graduate degrees earned. In addition, parents may request the qualifications of any paraprofessional providing services to their child. Starr Elementary is the only district school receiving Title 1 funds. Request for teacher or paraprofessional qualifications should be made in writing to the Starr Elementary principal. In addition, parents shall be notified of the level of achievement of their child on required state academic assessments and be given timely notice if their child is assigned to a teacher who has not achieved NCLB highly qualified status or if the child is taught for more than four weeks by a teacher who has not achieved highly qualified status.

2020/21 ADVISORY TO ALL PARENTS

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Plainwell Community Schools has adopted an Integrated Pest Management program. Inherent with this are the District's efforts to reduce pesticide use as much as possible. While it may occasionally be necessary to apply a pesticide, this program does not rely on routine pesticide applications to resolve problems. We use various techniques such as habitat alteration, sanitation, mechanical means, exclusion, etc. to prevent pest from becoming a problem. As required by Michigan law, you will receive advanced

notice of non-emergency application of a pesticide (insecticide, fungicide, or herbicide), other than bait or gel formulation, which is made to the school, school grounds, or buildings. This advance notice of a pesticide application will be given 48 hours before the application by the following two methods:

- 1) Posting at the primary entrances to your child's school. The entrances that will be posted are the main entrance and those that have a sidewalk that leads directly to a parking lot.
- 2) Posting in the common area located by the main office of the school.

Please note that notification is not given for use of sanitizers, germicides, disinfectants or anti-microbial cleaners. In certain emergencies, such as an infestation of stinging insects, pesticides may be applied without prior notice to prevent injury to students, but you will be promptly notified following any such application, via the two posting methods identified (above). You may review the school's Integrated Pest Management program and records of any pesticide application upon request by contacting Greg Smith at 685-6338.

Parents or guardians of children attending the school are also entitled to receive the advance notice of a pesticide application, other than a bait or gel formulation, by first class United States mail postmarked at least 3 days before the application, if they so request. If you would like to be notified by mail please contact Department and/or person name at the following number Greg Smith at 685-6338. Please give the Department person's or secretary, your name, mailing address and what school(s) your child or children attend and they will put your name on the advance notification by US Mail list. You can do this in any manner you wish, the law only requires you to tell parents how to get on the list. We can tell you that we have not had a lot of parents call our districts to be put on the list. The paragraph below only needs to be added if you do not want to mail parents in the summer. If you historically have had no parents or few parents request mailed notifications then it would be easier to just mail the notices. Only use this paragraph if you intend to set up and maintain the telephone message notification system. Remember if you say you are going to do this the state during inspections may want to hear the message and know the number. Please note that after the school year is completed and during the months when school is not in regular session (summer), those parents who requested advance notice by mail, will be notified using an alternative method consisting of a telephone message notification system. Parents and guardians may call 685-6338, at least 1 day before an application, for advance notification. The school will also continue posting advance notification at the school by the methods identified above.

Sincerely,

Greg Smith, Director of Operations, 685-6338.

SAFE & DRUG FREE SCHOOLS & COMMUNITIES

Plainwell Community Schools recognizes and abides by the standards of the Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities Act and the Drug Free Workplace Act.

These standards prohibit the unlawful manufacture, possession, use, sale, distribution, or concealment of illegal drugs and alcohol in school programs, school vehicles, school premises, and at school sponsored activities on and off school property. Drugs include all controlled substances as defined by law, as well as "look-alike" drugs, steroids, and alcohol. These standards apply to all Plainwell Community Schools' students and staff. The use/abuse of drugs and alcohol poses serious health and safety risks to Plainwell Community Schools' students. We urge students, parents, guardians, and care providers to work hand-in-hand with our district to ensure that these important standards are upheld.

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL LAW

The Plainwell Community School district complies with applicable federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination, including Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. It is the policy of the school district that no person on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, disability status, genetic information & testing, Family & Medical Leave, sexual orientation and gender identity or expression, or veteran status shall be discriminated against in employment or educational programs and activities. In order to coordinate compliance activities and investigate complaints charging discrimination, the school district has appointed Superintendent Matt Montagne as Civil Rights Coordinator. Inquiries, complaints, or grievances should be addressed to the Civil Rights Coordinator, 600 School Drive, Plainwell, Michigan, 49080-1595, phone (269) 685-5823.

FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT

Each year the Plainwell Community Schools is required to notify parents or students of rights under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). FERPA affords parents and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education record as "directory information;" student's name, participation in officially recognized activities and sports; height and weight if a member of an athletic team; dates of attendance; awards received; honor rolls and scholarships. The district will make such "directory" type information available upon a legitimate request, unless a parent, guardian, or adult student notifies the district in writing within 10 days of receipt of this notice. The written objection should list all types of information about the student to be excluded from directory information. The same notification requirement applies to high school students who do not want directory information released to military recruiters. Upon such written objection, this information will not be released without the prior consent of the parent or eligible student. If no objection to disclosure is made, student names, photographs and directory information may also be posted on the school district's website. Your objections should be addressed to: Matt Montagne, Superintendent of Schools, Plainwell Community Schools, 600 School Drive, Plainwell, Michigan 49080.

Annual Notice of the Right to Request



PLAINWELL COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
TODAY'S LEARNERS | TOMORROW'S LEADERS

600 School Drive | Plainwell, MI 49080-1595
269-685-5823
plainwellschools.org



SENIOR ART MURAL

ADELINE TERPSTRA

2020 Graduate, Adeline Terpstra, is being honored for creating the class of 2020 senior mural, as she was the artist selected among her class for her artistry and inspiration. When the shutdown occurred in March, she took the mural home and finished the work in quarantine. Her inspiration derives from the phrase, "It's a jungle out there." She also noted a passion for painting animals. The vivid colors, realistic texture, and intricate details makes this work extraordinary. She created many influential works of art over her four years while attending PHS and Kendall's dual enrollment program. This special mural will be displayed in the halls at Plainwell High School for many years to come. Plainwell Pride!

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Amy Blades	President
Shannon Zabaldo	Vice President
Julli Bennett	Treasurer
Jill Dunham	Secretary
Anthony McNeel	Trustee
David Skinner	Trustee
Christine VanDenBerg	Trustee

The public is invited to attend all Board of Education meetings. Business meetings are held the third Monday of each month and workshop meetings are held on the first Monday, both beginning at 6:30 PM in the Administration Building, which is located off Gladys St. between Starr Elementary and Plainwell Middle School.

Published by the
Plainwell Board of Education
Plainwell, Michigan 49080

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION OFFICES | 269-685-5823

Matthew Montange	Superintendent
Melissa Gelbaugh	Director of Finance
Greg Smith	Director of Operations & Transportation
Dave Price	Director of Athletics
Connor Kooyers	Director of Food Service

STAY CONNECTED!

To stay connected with all the latest Trojan news, please follow Plainwell Community Schools on Social Media or visit plainwellschools.org.

