

Pulaski County Public Schools

Pathway to a Brighter Tomorrow

February 2022

www.pcva.us

Go Cougars!

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Critzer Elementary



Dublin Elementary



Pulaski Elementary



Riverlawn Elementary



Snowville Elementary



Pulaski County Middle



Pulaski County High

Pulaski County Public Schools is pleased to offer this publication to the residents of Pulaski County. Our goal is to offer you a look at some of the many great things that are taking place within our school system, as well as keeping you informed on upcoming events and programs.

Far too often, the headlines are filled with sensational headlines that portray our schools,

students, teachers, staff, and community in a negative light. We are all better than that and it's time to let the rest of the world see just how great our community and schools are.

The Pulaski County Public School System is setting the standard in many areas. We currently offer our students as many or more opportunities than surrounding areas. This includes

STEM/CTE programing, athletics, after school programs, extra-curricular activities and college preparatory programs, including dual enrollment classes with New River Community College that have allowed many PCHS students to graduate college before or immediately after graduating high school.

Don't hide your Cougar Pride! Be a proud member of our school system and community!



Pulaski County Public Schools

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The Cougar Growl: Direct from the students

Student Reports

Students at PCHS are offered many opportunities to showcase their talents in competitive sports and academics. This winter, many students have taken advantage of these opportunities and showcased their incredible talents.

Senior basketball captain Ally Fleenor recently surpassed the 1,000 career points milestone. Fleenor has played basketball her entire life and has played on the varsity team since her freshman season.

"It's awesome to be one of only five girls to pass one thousand points in the school's history," said Fleenor. "I think it's a really big achievement." Fleenor said that she was very proud of this season. "We lost two of our best players to injuries," Fleenor added. "But the team has been able to come together and have a great season."

Senior track and field captain Armonte Hill-Lewis has recently broken the school's long jump record and qualified for the national championship meet. Hill-Lewis' jump of 23 feet puts him first in the state and top 15 in the country.

"There's a lot of great jumpers out there," said Hill-Lewis, "so to be in the top 15 in the country is incredible. It's a huge honor." Hill-Lewis looks forward to competing at the Indoor Track National Championship at Virginia Beach in March alongside his fellow Cougars, junior Diego Turner and sophomore Garrett Kinder.

Wrestling captain Evan Alger has a record of 32-1 for



Emma Clevenger
Senior Editor

his junior season so far. Alger is hoping that this will allow him to be the one or two seed for the region tournament that is set for Feb. 5, at Orange County High School.

"I expect the tournament to be difficult," Alger said. Hoping to walk out as regional champion and head off to states, Alger said, "It would be great to bring home a state championship medal this year. My goal is to place, but if I placed first that would be even better."

Molly Keller is the only girl on the wrestling team for the 2021-22 season. In December, she placed second at the girl's wrestling tournament held in Culpeper and placed second at the Orange County Girls Invitational on Jan. 22.

"[The girls there] were just glad they got to wrestle other girls and weren't getting demolished," Keller said. "This was used to show Virginia that [girls wrestling] has the numbers to have their own division." Keller went on to place second at the "unofficial-official" Girl's State



Morgan Farmer
Junior Editor

Wrestling Tournament held on Jan. 29, in Alexandria, Virginia.

Junior Diego Turner recently broke the track team's shot-put school record at the Bulldog Invitational on Jan. 29, at Liberty University. His throw of 51' 9 1/2" not only earned him the school record, but it also earned him gold at the meet.

"It feels great to break the school record," Turner said. "It's been the same for a long time so to break it is an honor." Turner is currently ranked second in the state for 4A and said, "I think I can win the state this year. I'm hoping to throw 54' by the end of the season and I know it's definitely possible." Turner will compete alongside fellow Cougars Armonte Hill-Lewis and Garrett Kinder at the National Championship meet in March at Virginia Beach.

MACC (Mountain Academic Competition Conference) is a competitive academic activity much like quiz bowl teams. There are five different categories that students can compete in, including Math, Science,



Evan Hull
Staff Writer

Social Studies, English, and All-Around, a mixture of all the subjects in one category.

This season MACC is hosting tournaments at home for the first time since 2014. Each tournament is an all-day event with nine different schools with five teams each competing. It even has concessions and a hospitality room for teams waiting for their next match to start.

According to the MACC head coach, Ms. Dishon, after a successful season of having to perform matches online and having to learn the ins and outs of technology last year, they are hoping to have another successful season in-person. For some of the MACC team members this is the first time ever competing in in-person matches. They are excited to get to travel, eat out, and make memories with their teammates.

Note: The Cougar Growl Student Report is written by students in PCPS. Student Editors and Writers gather the information and submit it by a set deadline for publication.



Cougars in action

Pulaski County High School students have been hard at work recently, helping capture those special moments in sports and other activities.

These students can be seen at ball games, plays, concerts and more snapping away.

These students are members of either the school yearbook staff or school newspaper staff. Photos they take will be used in either publication.



You can't
hide that



BE POSITIVE!
BE RESPECTFUL!
BE YOUR BEST YOU!



Camp Cougar Announcement

Camp Cougar 9 and 10 (Summer PE 9 and 10) applications are now available for students. Camp

Cougar 9 applications will be located in the 8th grade school counseling office (Mrs. Vaughn) and Camp Cougar 10 applications are available in the high school school counseling office.

Both programs will run from June 6, 2022 - June 24, 2022 and tuition is \$276. Transportation will not be provided for participating students as parents will need to bring students each day by 8 a.m. and pick up students by 4 p.m. All applications are due by March 11, 2022 to the High School.

Please do not turn any application into Middle School. Mandatory Swim Checks are May 12, 2022.

We look forward to another great year!! Please contact Gina Miano @ gmiano@pcva.us for more information or questions.

PCPS Spotlight: School Nutrition serving as example for all

By DAVID GRAVELY

When COVID-19 first started causing issues within the Pulaski County Public School System, the response was, as usual, inspiring. When it comes to taking care of our students, and each other, PCPS is a family atmosphere and everyone acts like a concerned parent taking care of each other.

While all of the groups within the school system have been recognized at some point for their contributions in keeping our students safe and in the classroom as much as possible, another group has been taking it even further.

The Pulaski County School Nutrition Staff is made up of many employees at each school, led by Mrs. Ethelene Sadler, Director of School Nutrition. Sadler visits the schools on a regular basis to make sure the staff at each one has what they need. She works to make sure enough employees are on hand to get the job done and is always on the lookout for new talent.

Sadler has the assistance of some very capable Managers at each school, who she says are the reason the program has been so successful. PCHS is led by Sheila Stodder. PCMS is led by Elaine East. Dublin Elementary has April Goble. Critzer Elementary has Lorana Jones. Kimberly Secrist leads Pulaski Elementary. Connie Owens keeps Riverlawn Elementary moving. Snowville Elementary is led by Olivia Fizer. Each of those have a team that helps them take care of our students on a daily basis.

Sometimes, the lack of enough employees results in her

helping out. Getting to work putting together meals for students is something she is very familiar with, having worked those positions herself for many years before taking charge of the program.

“The school nutrition program’s sustainability depends on the number of breakfast and lunch meals that are served each day,” Mrs. Sadler explained. “The School Nutrition Program operates solely on revenues received for meals, ala carte sales and catering. The mission for the Pulaski School Nutrition Program is to see that every student benefits nutritionally from all meals provided each school day. Our dedicated School Nutrition team serves not only food, they include smiles, encouragement and even the occasional reminder to use good manners!”

PCPS now offer free meals and snacks to students thanks to a federal program that began in 2020.

“Pulaski County Public Schools was approved for the Community Eligibility Provision which provided meals at no cost to all students,” Sadler explained. “Since March 2020, The United States Department of Agriculture approved all students access to school meals under the Summer Food Service Program. In September of 2021, most schools in the country transitioned to the Seamless Summer Option, also allowing schools to provide meals at no cost to all public-school students. The ongoing purpose of the school nutrition program is to serve quality meals that contribute toward the whole child’s long-term health and wellness.”

So just how many meals



Mrs. Ethelene Sadler
PCPS Director of School Nutrition
 have they served?

Between August and December of 2021, PCPS School Nutrition Workers served breakfast to 157,165 students. They also served 219,979 lunches.

“In addition to providing breakfast and lunch every school day, Pulaski County participates in the at-risk CACFP (Child and Adult After Care Program),” Sadler said. “This program allows us to offer snack and supper meals for tutoring and other enrichment programs happening after school. Participation in this program has increased significantly since the beginning of this school year. As of December 2021, over 20,000 snack and supper meals have been provided.”

Sadler and her staff have also provided meals when school is not in session. This includes distributing food when schools are forced to go virtual. School Nutrition employees served up meals and distributed food from buses and select locations when COVID-19 left students on a virtual schedule. They also serve meals during regularly scheduled breaks.

“The business of providing meals for students doesn’t end when the school year ends,” Sadler said. “School Nutrition provides meals most of the Summer. We serve during academic summer school and also to Randolph Park, local churches and others that let us know they need meals for kids. During the 2021 Summer, 55,658 meals were provided.”

Of all the meal programs, Sadler says the biggest growth she and her staff have seen has been in one particular area.

“One of the success stories we like to share is our breakfast program at all schools,” she said. “The idea of traditional breakfast is not what students like anymore. Participation and student feedback say ‘keep Grab n Go!’ This model is used in all Pulaski County Schools and breakfast participation has increased since this implementation. This model is a win-win for students! They grab their breakfast and head to the classroom. There has been positive feedback from administrators, teachers and students!”

The PCPS School Nutrition Program has also continued to try to keep things local, when possible. Supply chain issues have affected everyone, including them.

“Farm to School continues to be a very important part of the school nutrition program,” she said. “Fresh locally grown fruits and vegetables are included on trays as much as possible.”

Menus are posted weekly at their website, as well as information on nutrition and fitness. The page can be found at www.schoolnutritionandfitness.com/index.php?sid=1494430420757.



Snowville Elementary School School Nutrition Staff members include (from left) Lisa Price, Olivia Fizer, and Rebecca Dalton.



Dublin Elementary School Nutrition Staff members include (from left) April Goble, Ashley Hubbard, Teresa Wright, Melissa Hylton, and Jane Moore.



Critzer Elementary School Nutrition Staff members include (from front to back) Tina Shelton, Cassandra Warden, Lorana Jones, and Connie Slaughter.



We love our School Nutrition Staff!



Riverlawn Elementary School Nutrition Staff members include (from left) Connie Owens, Torrey Dishon, Tammy Kolarich, Sheila Hamblin, and Betty Robertson.



Pulaski Elementary School Nutrition Staff members include (from left) Kimberly Secrist, Joyce Wagner, Denna Shaffer, Kathleen Hall, Kelsey King, Meghan Mitchell, and Bridget Tolbert.



Pulaski County High School Nutrition Staff members include (from left) Kathy King, Carolyn Burke, Isabella Altis (student intern), Tara Porter, Tracy McGrady, Sheila Stodder, Ethelene W. Sadler, Loretta Farris, Kaye O'Dell, and Kayla Stuart.



Pulaski County Middle School Nutrition Staff members include (front, from left) Rebekah Farris and Robert Hedge. (Back) Brenda Gravley, Elaine East, Jessica Worrell, Brenda Stephens, Mary Parnell, and Janet Petty. Not pictured are Ashley Hubbard and Vanessa Ayers.

PCPS: Working toward a return to normal

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

PCPS Community,

It appears that things in our schools might be on the upswing with a declining number of Covid cases and knowing that spring weather is right around the corner. It's exciting to think that we're just a few days away from the beginning of baseball, softball, soccer, and tennis which always seems to be quickly followed by prom, the spring musical, and graduation.

As most folks know, Pulaski County Public Schools recently adopted Governor Youngkin's Executive Order #2 which made masks optional during the school day for students. This move was met with much enthusiasm by

some and serious concern from others. responsibility through the use of vaccines, voluntary testing, and medical-grade masks seems to be working at least as well as the universal masking procedures that have been in place for the past two years.

We're happy to report that things seem to be working out so far. The number of positive cases within our schools have declined significantly during the second week of implementation and our students seem to be adhering to their parents' guidance about whether or not to remain masked during the school day. The new focus on assuming more individual



Dr. Kevin Siers, Superintendent

teams. We're also working with a group of student advisors to identify courses that they would like to see added to the classes offered at the middle and high schools.

Our faculty, staff, and administrators know that students who enjoy any single aspect of their school day are much more likely to be successful at every aspect of their public school experience. PCPS remains committed to the principle that school should be a positive experience for every student and we are excited to continue incorporating programs that our students want and enjoy.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kevin Siers
Superintendent

PULASKI COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD NOTES

Pulaski County Community,

Greetings and salutations! I hope you enjoy our Pulaski County Public Schools newsletter. Our schools have been very busy in the past few months, creating opportunities for our students to shine so I hope everyone will take a few moments and read about what they have been doing.

As a parent and former teacher myself, I would like to encourage parents and guardians to take advantage of the many ways you can get involved in your child's education. If you are not currently using the Parent Portal to keep track of your child's academic progress, please contact the school board office

to get the information you need even the most quiet child talking.

to log on. Email or call your child's teacher to find out what you can do to help your child be successful in their class. Teachers like to hear from parents who want to know what at-home activities and interventions can benefit their child's progress. And most importantly—ask your child!

Ask open-ended questions like “what did you learn today” and “tell me about your favorite class” in order to get



Dr. Paige Cash, PC School Board Chair

weekend afternoon. To echo the advice of our county's new tourism department, “Play Outside!”

As a citizen of Pulaski County, I would like to encourage all citizens to get involved in their community. Pulaski County is growing and it offers something for everyone to enjoy. My family enjoys the hiking and running trails. Claytor Lake and Gatewood Park are perfect peaceful get-a-ways on a

Another way to get in your community is to attend local meetings of your elected boards. The school board meets every second Tuesday, at 6:00 pm in the Pulaski County Middle School auditorium. The meeting includes two opportunities for public comments from citizens to speak on school related matters.

I appreciate all that Pulaski County citizens do to support our students, teachers, and staff. Education is truly a priority of all of us in Pulaski County.

Sincerely,

Dr. Paige Cash
PC School Board Chair

Pulaski County High School PCHS excited for upcoming events



It's incredible to imagine graduation is just around the corner! We have more than 300 members in the Class of 2022 making the most of their last semester at PCHS. We can't wait to celebrate their accomplishments this May!

Last November, PCHS announced our 2021-2022 Most Valuable Cougar Nominees as nominated by their fellow Class of 2022 classmates: Brooke Ar-

nold, Arushi Aurora, Carrie Blankenship, Kimberly Lyons, Gwendolyn Puckett, Allen Queen, Elaja Rollins, and Sky Semones. This spring we will announce the Class of 2022 MVC at our senior awards assembly.

December consisted of the wrap-up of first semester classes, 12 days



Jennifer Bolling
Principal

of holiday spirit fun, and our first modified SOL testing schedule. Our students and staff made the most of our time here by continuing with instruction, all the while dressed in fun holiday attire. Our SOL testing plan was a great success and we are proud of our students' performance!

In addition, we continued to have great support at our athletic, academic and fine arts events where our students showcased their talents and hard work.

Follow our events calendar on Facebook and join us to see our students in action!

We appreciate everyone's participation and support as we move through this school year!

PCHS choral students excel at districts

Nine Pulaski County High School choral students were selected to participate in the 2022 District 7 All-District Chorus Feb. 11. Due to COVID, only seven of them made the trip to the SWVA Higher Educational Center, but it was a powerful group of singers and they represented PCHS very well.

Four students participated in the Mixed Chorus under the direction of Dr. Joey Trivett of the SWVCC in Richlands, Virginia. They were Addison Slaughter, Carrie Blankenship, James Johnson and Bruce Keller.

Three students participated in the Treble Chorus under the direction of Dr. Matthew Potterton of ETSU in Johnson City, Tennessee. They were Kaydence Conner, Carlie Keller and Gwendolyn Puckett.

Although the events were shortened to accommodate mitigation strategies for COVID,



students were able to work with these outstanding conductors, perform an evening concert and learn "nuggets" of information to bring back and share with other members of the PCHS Choral Department.

Four junior and senior students will now prepare to audition for the chance to become

members of the 2022 VCDA All-Virginia Chorus. All-Virginia will take place in Richmond April 21-23.

Seen here are (front) Carlie Keller. Middle: Addison Slaughter. Back (from left) Gwendolyn Puckett, Kaydence Conner, Carrie Blankenship, James Johnson and Bruce Keller.



Fleenor breaks record

Senior Lady Cougar basketball player Ally Fleenor hit a three-point basket just minutes into their game against Christiansburg last week to break the all-time scoring record for the program.

The shot gave her 1,213 points, which broke the previous record of 1,212 which was held by Terri Garland of the 1992 team.

Fleenor and her teammates won the game against Christiansburg, earning the RRD title.

Pulaski County Middle School

PCMS: Moving closer to normal again



Sports Back in Season

During the 2020-21 school year, Sports seasons were delayed due to Virtual Learning for the first part of the school year. The COVID Pandemic did take a toll during that school year with sports seasons being delayed and shortened as a result. Everyone definitely looked forward to school year 2021-2022 with plans for sports returning to their regular seasons.

Fall sports began with Football, Cheerleading and Vol-

leyball. Football, with its new Head Coach Jake Dowdy, ended the season with a record of five wins and only one loss.

Winter sports followed with Girls Basketball, Boys Basketball and Wrestling. All sports had great attendance by our parents and community supporters. Next up is Spring Sports with try-outs starting in late February. Students wanting to sign up must have a Physical dated after May 1, 2021.

E-Hall Pass

Pulaski County Middle School has adopted an electronic version of the paper hall passes with a program designed by educators of Eduspire Solutions called E-Hall Pass.

The E-Hall Pass helps the school monitor students throughout the building which

promotes safety and responsibility.

Students make requests for a hall pass using their Chromebooks that are then approved by a teacher, substitute, office staff, etc. For bathrooms, lockers and water fountains students can create an Autopass which is approved automatically when these locations have availability.

The E-Hall Pass has eliminated the long waits in hallways for bathrooms and water fountains. Now students do not miss out on instruction while waiting. The E-Hall Pass lets them know when these locations are open.

Another great feature is the ability to create appointments in E-Hallpass. Students can request an appointment with an administrator or school coun-

selor. School Nurses can create appointments for students receiving regular medications at school. The appointment feature also sends an email to students to remind them of their appointments.

Since its implementation in January 2022, PCMS has seen a big difference with quieter hallways during classes and easier tracking of students within the building. Learn more at <https://eduspiresolutions.org/e-hall-pass/>



Rebecah Smith
Principal





Critz Elementary School

Critters appreciate School Nutrition Staff

Critz Elementary School is so proud of our Child Nutrition Department. Lynn Jones, Manager, and Connie Slaughter, Assistant Manager, make sure that every child receives a nutritious breakfast and lunch each day. They also continue to provide weekly meals for those students who are attending school virtually this year.

Anyone who works at CES will tell you that if you want to have a laugh, go to the cafeteria. Many of us have helped bag

lunches for school closures and we can attest to the fact that these ladies make the work fun.

There have been many days where we have been short-staffed with our Custodial Team. In addition to feeding the students, Mrs. Jones and Mrs. Slaughter volunteered to stay late and help clean classrooms in the evenings to support of Mr.

Taylor, Lead Custodian. They even started a “Clean Room Contest” where they would visit each classroom in the afternoons and decide which class did the best job of cleaning up before leaving for the day. The winning classroom was announced on the morning announcements and Mrs. Jones and Mrs. Slaughter would go to that room and do

a fun craft activity with the students as their reward for keeping their classroom clean. This is just one example of how Child Nutrition steps up to help the school environment in any way possible.

We deeply appreciate the dedication and support of our Child Nutrition Staff! They exemplify what Team Players truly look like!

Thank you Mrs. Jones and Mrs. Slaughter!!! WE LOVE YOU!

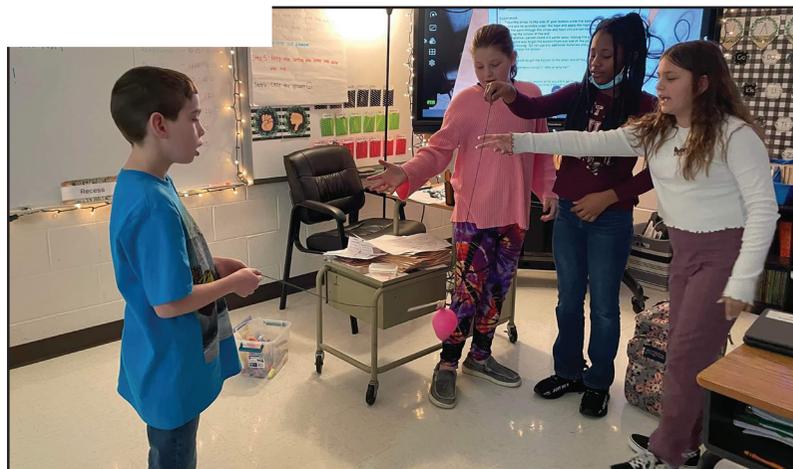


Nancy Dillon
Principal



Critters in action

The Critz Elementary School Critters have continued to push forward and are striving to be the best at all they do.





Dublin Elementary School Shamrocks say Kindness is the Key

Dublin Elementary School Shamrocks had a successful end to the second nine weeks. Our teachers, staff, and students have worked diligently to learn new content and practice skills in order to grow academically.

We had the opportunity to add three part-time Title I tutors to our faculty in order to more fully support our students this year. They will be working with our current Title I teachers to support student learning in all grade levels. We are so excited to have these teachers working with

us this semester!

Our PTO is supporting a Read-a-Thon fundraiser starting mid-February. This fundraiser is intended to encourage our students to read while helping our PTO raise funds to support our school and teachers.

For more information, you can look on the Dublin Elementary Facebook page. We are always excited to have new ways to spark a love of reading,

and we cannot wait to hear about the books and stories our students will be reading!

At DES, we believe kindness is the key to a happy and positive school environment.

Every day, on our morning announcements, we recognize students who have been nominated by an adult in the building for showing kindness and good character. These students receive a certificate to honor them for

their positive contribution to our school.

We challenge our Shamrocks and Shamrock families to join us in celebrating Kindness Week (February 14 – 18) and Random Acts of Kindness Day (Thursday, February 17) by completing acts of kindness.

We are proud of our wonderful Shamrock community and are thankful for all of the community members who help make DES so special. Thank you for your support of our faculty, staff, and students.



Elizabeth Webb
Principal



Shamrocks in action
Dublin Elementary School students are always on the move, learning and growing as they work toward educational advancement.





Pulaski Elementary School

PES: Rolling along and adding new programs

Before leaving for Winter Break, Pulaski Elementary had an amazing week to help keep holiday spirits high. Faculty and staff were treated to pizza provided by our wonderful PTO. The faculty and staff also participated in a "Cookie Swap" which turned out to be a huge success.

The students had a dress up each day that week, and ended the week in their pajamas. Some of our fifth-grade students and PE teachers visited retirement homes and delivered holiday cards to the residents. This wonderful field trip has

become a wonderful chance to visit the community each year for our fifth-graders.

After a much-needed break, PES was ready to welcome the students back. The students also seemed excited to be back in the building to see all of their friends (we had a lot of parents thank us for being reopened again as well!).

Our before and after school tutoring program has been a hit, and the dedicated organizers and teachers of

these programs have done a wonderful job keeping things active and fun for the students. We are also providing in-school tutoring to help students catch up in certain areas.

PES is also opening up a STEAM program for selected fourth and fifth graders to showcase experiments, in-depth studies, and creating products.

Pulaski Elementary also prides itself of having the best sleigh riding hills around. It

was wonderful seeing so many people from the community enjoying those hills. We would love for the community or our parents to send us some of those sleigh riding pictures!

As we approach warmer weather, PES plans to have field trips for the majority of grades. There are a lot of places PES students are going to visit, and we are excited to be able to provide this for them. We will also be planning activities to help our upper grade students prepare for SOLs in the spring.

PES continues to roll right along!



Mike Price
Principal



PES Staff and students were able to visit with residents of a local retirement home and deliver holiday cards and sing for the elderly residents before the start of Winter Break. Students also enjoyed celebrating the holidays when things got a little "Grinchy," as seen in the photos below.





Riverlawn Elementary School

RES: Reacting to a loss with important project

On January 14, 2021 Riverlawn Elementary suffered the loss of our School Resource Officer, Sergeant Perry Hodge. Students and staff both adored and looked up to Sergeant Hodge for his calm demeanor, funny personality, and willingness to always help in any way he could for the betterment of the school and the community.

A year later, students and staff are still feeling his loss. So, as a way to give back to the legacy and memories that Sergeant Hodge left behind, Riverlawn Elementary School has partnered with the Pulaski Elks and NexTrex to collect plastic bags that will be recycled into a memorial bench at Riverlawn Elementary.

In order to receive a bench through the NexTrex company, there must be 500 pounds of plastic bags returned to a recycling center.

NexTrex offers two differ-

ent recycling programs. One program is for Community Representatives and the other is for School Partnerships. With the Community Program, the organization who agrees to participate will collect the bags for a six month period. Once the 500 pounds has been collected, the bench will be made and donated to a place of choice. The School Program offers less of a guarantee for receiving the bench because it is run as a competition against other local schools in the area.

Riverlawn Elementary was set on wanting the memorial bench placed on campus so the Pulaski Elks agreed to help with the recycling collection and purchase of a plaque that will be placed on the bench.

The plastic bag collection

began on January 15, with the intention of collecting plastic bags through the end of April. Riverlawn Elementary received 500 pounds of plastic bags in two weeks with more bags still being delivered.



Kimberly Sink
Principal

Due to the large amount of community involvement, Riverlawn Elementary joined the NexTrex School Program to attempt to be the top school to recycle the most plastic bags. If this can be accomplished we will receive a second bench. This bench will be donated to the county for it to be placed within the community in Ser-

geant Hodge's Memory.

The top grade level who collects the most plastic bags will receive a Pizza and Ice Cream Party. The second place prize will be a grade level ice cream party.

Thanks to community support, Riverlawn Elementary has already recycled 775 pounds of plastic bags. Two hundred and seventy five pounds will be allocated to the school competition. So, we need continued community support to collect plastic bags through April 22 to accomplish our goal of winning the school competition. Donations can be brought to the main office at Riverlawn Monday-Friday from 8:00-4:30 pm.



The biggest question is which class will collect the most plastic bags as Riverlawn Elementary School works hard to collect enough for two benches in honor of SGT Perry Hodge. They already have enough for one bench and are halfway to the 500 pound goal for a second one.

Snowville Elementary School



Huskies finish out December with Grinch experience

Our Snowville Huskies finished out the month of December with Mrs. Arnold's classroom performance of the "Grinch". Students performed an excerpt from the play, and other classrooms were invited to watch the performances. Every student had a role, and students worked together to make their performances successful.

Also, our Snowville Elementary Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) donated their time

and effort to give each classroom a holiday party, complete with goodies for everyone to enjoy. A huge thank you goes out to everything our PTO does to support our students!

The TG Howard organization also sponsored a coloring contest, and winners were announced in December. Several nice prizes were given

out. We extend a thank you to this organization for sponsoring this contest!

Our return from Winter Break began the third nine weeks grading period, and our Snowville Huskies continue to demonstrate that they are respectful, responsible, and are ready to learn!

Our Awards Assembly was canceled due to in-

clement weather, so students were given awards in their individual classrooms.

We have lots of activities on the horizon, including the Souper Bowl and Canned Food Drive sponsored by our PTO and the Kids Heart Challenge sponsored by the American Heart Association in conjunction with our PE classes.

Please continue to check us out on Facebook to see what our Snowville Huskies are up to!



Amy Shrewsbury
Principal



Huskies staying busy
Snowville Elementary School students kept busy during the past month, working on several different projects and enjoying several celebrations.



PCPS offering free COVID testing for students, staff



With positive COVID-19 test results still an issue throughout the NRV, country and world again, Pulaski County Public Schools are working hard to protect students and keep them in the classroom. Unfortunately, home testing kits have become difficult to find at times and lines for drive-thru testing are often long.

A program has begun which offers free and voluntary weekly testing for students, staff, and school system administration. The program, which is a partnership with the Virginia Department of Health and Primary Health, goes to a different school each day to offer the testing.

The goal of the testing is to help identify COVID-19 cases earlier, which can help prevent or stop an outbreak before it happens. Knowing sooner that someone is positive will allow them to stay away from others and prevent spreading the virus.

The program is offered to all students, staff, and school system employees, regardless of vaccination status. The testing is offered at no cost and no insurance information is required. The testing is completed at the school during the school day in

a private location at each school.

Testing is conducted each Monday at Critzer Elementary at 10 a.m. and Dublin Elementary at 1 p.m. Tuesdays the testing is conducted at Pulaski County Middle School at 8 a.m., Pulaski Elementary School at 10:30 a.m., and finally Pulaski County High School at 1 p.m. Wednesday the tests are conducted at Riverlawn Elementary School at 8 a.m. and then Snowville Elementary School at 10 a.m.

Results are sent directly to the parents and the school by email and usually are available 24-48 hours after the test is complete. If a test comes back with a positive result, the school will also contact the student's parent or guardian.

The test kits used are not the type that go further into the nasal cavity. Students can self-swab as they are monitored by testing personnel. The tests are not painful and do not cause discomfort and normally takes less than five minutes to complete.

To sign your student up for testing, parents or guardians should visit <https://my.primary.health/1/pulaski-county-public-schools>. This link is specific for Pulaski County Public School students and staff. After registration, students are NOT required to test each week, but they can. Parents may also stop testing their students at any time after signing up.

Richard Thomas is the Testing Division Coordinator for the program. He can be contacted by email at rthomas@pcva.us. Parents or guardians can also contact Mary Hall at

mhall@pcva.us or by calling 540-643-0531 if they have questions or concerns.

"We are extremely grateful to our committed families and staff who continue to show great flexibility and resilience as we work together to contain the spread of this virus," Thomas said. "We are excited to offer this program to help identify people who are COVID-19 pos-

itive earlier and protect our students, staff, family members and others. Those who have already signed up for the program are pleased with the speed and efficiency of the testing, as well as the peace of mind it offers them. We want to make sure we are doing everything we can to keep Pulaski County students in the classroom and safe through this pandemic."

Pulaski County Public Schools

PreK and K Registration



- March 3 - Snowville Elementary
- March 8 - Pulaski Elementary
- March 10 - Riverlawn Elementary
- March 15 - Critzer Elementary
- March 17 - Dublin Elementary

Registration will be 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Please make sure you bring the documents listed below.

Documents needed for Registration

- Birth certificate
- Verification of address (utility bill, lease agreement, cable bill, etc.) -- something that provides a service to the home. Driver's license cannot be used as address verification.
- Custody papers if applicable.
- For Pre-K ONLY - verification of income (W2's, 1040, child support, unemployment, etc.)

www.pcva.us

Pulaski County STEM/CTE Program News

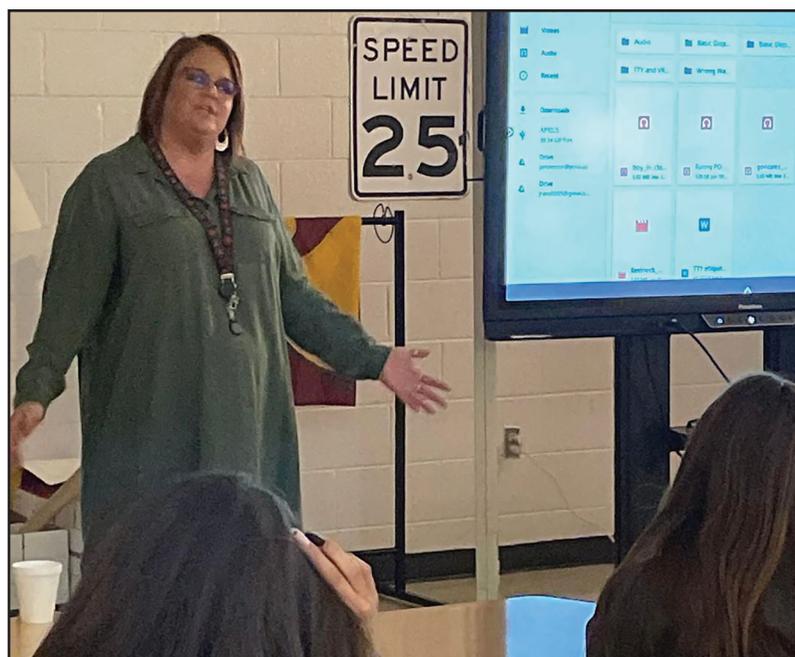


The Cougar Store Reboot is almost complete! The Cougar Store is a School Based Enterprise run by the Advanced Fashion and Fashion Marketing Classes. Students are responsible for every part of the process, including design, quotes, stock, and selling the merchandise. Stop in to learn more!



The Pharmacy II students are kicking off clinicals by visiting local New River Valley Pharmacies, getting close to earning their Pharmacy Tech National License!

The Pulaski County STEM/CTE program, led by Director of CTE Mrs. Megan Atkinson, is one of the top programs in the state when it comes to preparing our students for life after high school. Students can learn, practice, and eventually get certification in several different career pathways. The program offers our students training in agriculture, early childhood development, cosmetology, food services and culinary arts, welding, electricity, carpentry, drafting, engineering, health and medical science (CNA, pharmacy tech, EMT, video production and criminal justice, along with others. Some of these programs have direct pathways to employment after high school, while others offer dual enrollment courses through NRCC that offer the chance to complete a degree while still in high school.



The success of the Criminal Justice Program in the Career and Technical Education Building at Pulaski County High School is largely due to professionals taking the time out of their busy schedules to teach students their own specialized skills. Recently, while learning how to conduct safe and professional traffic stops, Ms. Anderson requested the help from one of the best dispatchers in the NRV, April Blankenship. She was able to bridge the gap between law enforcement officers and dispatchers. April explained that for an officer to be safe on a traffic stop, the dispatcher has to be given clear and concise information. The students used the information that she taught to become even more proficient in radio etiquette, and how to relay information to those who are tasked with keeping them safe! Thank you April for your time, wisdom and humor! Pulaski County's Criminal Justice students are better today for the lessons you taught us!!

Pulaski County Public Schools in Action

Pulaski County students, teachers and staff members are always on the move and doing great things in the classroom and community. Here are a few shots of those activities from the month of January.



The JV Cougar basketball team took first place recently in the First Community Bank Christmas JV Tournament at Fort Chiswell High School.



The Cougar Store, operated by members of the PCHS DECA organization, recently added a new upgrade to what they have to offer. This new Cougar Kiosk is portable and offers the group the ability to store and take their goods to different locations to sell. The items the group puts up for sale are designed by Pulaski County students and then printed or created and then offered at games and events. You can find out more about the PCHS DECA organization on their Facebook page, [Facebook.com/PCHSCougarDECA](https://www.facebook.com/PCHSCougarDECA).



Perfection Achieved!

The JV Lady Cougar basketball team recently completed a perfect 17-0 season. In this photo we see (front, from left) Taylor Goble, Andi Ratcliff, Sidney Phibbs and Reese Nolen. Back: Coach Shawn Lawson, Destiny Duncan, Morgan Price, Caroline Bishop, Emma Ritter and Sophia Hanson.

PCHS ALL-SPORTS PASSES

Pulaski County High School is now selling All-Sports Passes for Winter and Spring Sports. Prices for All-Sports Passes have been reduced now that Fall sports have concluded. Below are the current prices for an All-Sports Pass. Passes can be purchased in the front office at PCHS during normal school hours.

Student: \$30
Adults: \$55

This pass will allow admission to ALL Winter and Spring home sports contests (Excluding benefit games, tournaments and playoffs).

Let SchoolCashOnline make life easier

Did you know that you can pay most school fees online from home? The SchoolCashOnline app lets you pay for school field trips, student fees, Spirit Wear and many other items from the comfort of your own home. You can also purchase tickets to athletic events, plays and concerts in advance with SchoolCashOnline. Sign up today!

Visit www.pcva.us and then follow the dropdown menu from either students or parents to the SchoolCashOnline link.

Click here to make payments with SchoolCashOnline

PCPC
PULASKI COMMUNITY PARTNERS COALITION
[facebook.com/officialPCPC](https://www.facebook.com/officialPCPC)

The mission of the Pulaski Community Partners Coalition (PCPC) is to reduce substance abuse & misuse among youth by promoting healthy, thriving families and a safe community by connecting people, resources and ideas.

PCPC typically meets the first Wednesday of each month at 10:30 a.m. via Zoom. Meetings are open to anyone who is interested in supporting the mission of creating a safe and healthy community.

To join the PCPC mailing list, or to request a meeting invitation, please contact Mike Wade at mwade@nrvcs.org.