SCHOOL MATTERS

winter 2021 / spring 2022



district news

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

building news

in this issue of school matters, we highlight what's new in the school buildings at pcs

upcoming at pcs

in this issue of school matters, we share our upcoming events



from the district

district news

- & News, Updates, &
- Information from the District

- elementary news
- Latest News from Cooper,
- Gilkey, Starr & Virtual K-5

honoring Mr. Roush

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WE WILL CONTINUE TO EVALUATE THE NEEDS OF OUR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES ON A YEARLY BASIS AND ADD OR ADJUST POSITIONS ACCORDINGLY TO SUPPORT THE TROJANS.

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Enrollment for the 2022-23 school year is now open! Are you interested in learning more about becoming a Trojan - please visit plainwellschools.org for more information on beginning your academic adventure at PCS!



SUMMER SAFE PROGRAM

Registration is now open to join us at summer of fun with weekly field trips, water play & swimming, engaging activities time options available/choose your weeks! please visit plainwellschools.org/page/safe.

NCCN LAP SWIM
Monday-Friday from 12PM. Please sign-up at
plainwellschools org under
Pool. Cost is \$3/person
(passes available at the
pool).

SUMMER SAIL

PCS will be setting SAIL on a summer of adventure, learning & fun at their Summer Adventure in Learning (SAIL) program for K-12 grade students! Stay alert as the SAIL "Captains" will share more information, availability and enrollment details with our families through District communications!

PCS Pool

For pool programs & the monthly pool calendar from PCS, please visit plainwellschools.org/page/community-pool

Pool Rental-\$50/hr for 30 people. Lifeguards included. Additional \$25 for lobby rental which includes table and chairs. Please email

Kristin.Harper@plainwellschools. org to book a pool party or call 269-685-2425 for more details.

Bond construction on the new athletic complex (pool & gymnasium) will begin this summer! THANK YOU to our community for voting "YES" on the 2019 Bond Proposal - we appreciate YOU greatly!





BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL SAFE REGISTRATION FOR THE 2022-23

SCHOOL YEAR WILL OPEN ON MAY 1ST! MORE INFORMATION WILL BE SHARED THROUGH DISTRICT COMMUNICATIONS.



FUTURE TROJANS

DO YOU HAVE A
KINDERGARTEN OR YOUNG
FIVE STUDENT WHO WILL BE
JOINING PLAINWELL
COMMUNITY SCHOOLS FOR
THE 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR?
PLEASE VISIT
PLAINWELLSCHOOLS.ORG/
PAGE/KINDERGARTEN FOR
INFORMATION & ENROLLMENT!



SON DAY

COMMUNITY EDUCATION IS OFFERING AN EVENING OF SONS AND MAGIC ON SATURDAY, APRIL 30 FROM 5-7 PM.

SONS AND THEIR CHAPERONES WILL BE TREATED TO A MAGIC SHOW WITH THE VERY SUCCESSFUL, FUNNY AND SLY MAGICIAN, BRIAN PENNY. THE THEMED PHOTO BOOTH, BALLOON ARTIST, SCOOP THE BALLOONATIC AND TRICKS AND TREATS THROUGHOUT ARE SURE TO CREATE WHAT SONS WILL REMEMBER AS THEIR SPECIAL DAY! TO REGISTER, PLEASE VISIT PLAINWELL.REVTRAK.NET.

SPRING SWIM LESSONS

Ages 4 years and up. Dates: May 2-5 & May 9-12. Two times slots to choose from: 5:30-6 PM and 6:10-6:40 PM. Sign-up on RevTrak. Limit to 20 participants per time slot.

Want to stay connected to PCS? Follow us on social media for the latest news & updates!









The last day of the year is Wednesday, June 8



The Gilkey Geckos held a successful Walk-a-Thon fundraiser where they raised \$17,481.42.

book vending machine

The Cooper Koalas got a new addition to their building - A BOOK VENDING MACHINE!
Through learning, positive behavior and hard work students can earn "coins" to purchase a variety of different books that are available for all K-5 grade levels. The vending machine was purchased through a grant by the Perrigo Foundation and is an awesome addition to Cooper Elementary.



ALL FUN AND GAMES

In February, several teams from Plainwell's Elementary Schools participated in the 2022 Battle of the Books team competition at the Plainwell PAC. The teams worked hard reading and studying seven books over the last several months to prepare for the competition. On Battle Day, the teams all had outstanding teamwork during the quiz-bowl type competition. Congratulations to the 2022 Battle of the Books Champions, The Magic Pirate Readers, from Cooper Elementary who won the Grand Battle. We are so proud of the dedication from all of our participants who worked hard to prepare for this special day!

holiday fun

the weather

In November, students in Mrs.

Schipper third grade class at Cooper

participated in a WoodTV8 Weather

Experience to learn about Michigan weather.

Prior to winter break, our elementary buildings were filled with lots of smiles. Classrooms had special activities, treats, a special visit from the PHS Choir and lots of fun! The Rock Starrs at Starr Elementary even had a special visit from Lucky the Elf who brought smiles, giggles and lots of joy as students found her throughout the building.

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plainwell virtual & hybrid

The Plainwell Virtual & Hybrid students have had a great year of learning and adventure so far! They have worked hard while learning remotely or through our hybrid program. They have also enjoyed several adventures, taking field trips to the Plainwell City Hall and Plainwell Fire & Safety where they learned about the various roles throughout the City of Plainwell. We are thankful to offer these virtual options for the PCS families!



100 days of learning & fun

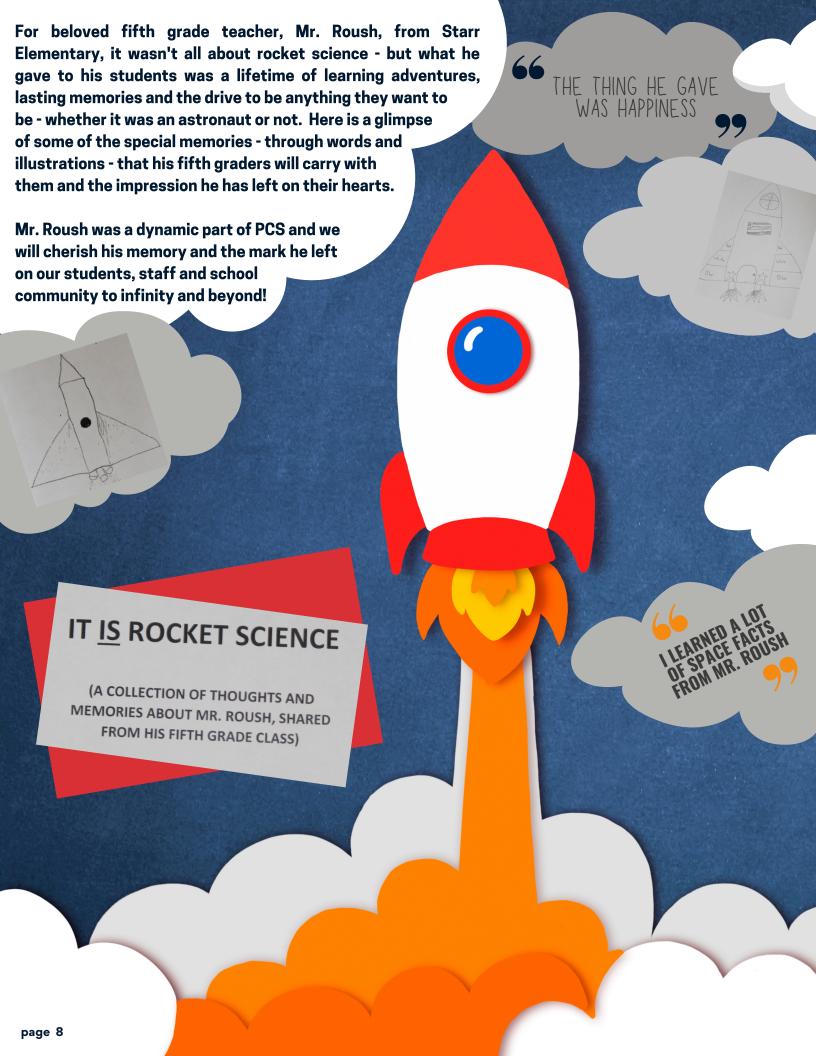
special art projects - the elementary students had many great learning opportunities and lots of fun for 100 days

celebrate Ms. Funk as a Cool Teacher! She was nominated by one of her students for her engaging lessons and loving dedication to her students. What a great

honor and exciting day for these Geckos. THANK YOU to all of the amazing educators at PCS!

congrats! Congratulations to Geri Macklin, who was nominated and selected as WZZM 13's Teacher of the Week in February. Mrs. Macklin is one of our amazing

teachers at Plainwell Virtual & Hybrid.

















choir festival

In mid-March, our Middle School Choirs performed at the 2022 Festival in Hastings and Holland. The 6th, 7th, 8th and Honors Choirs all received perfect sight reading scores and first division ratings! Way to go, Middle School Choir!

robotics program

The Plainwell Robotics Club just completed a very successful 2021-22 competition season. Our High School Program grew from 2 to 4 teams, our Middle School Program added 3 teams for a total of 7, and we created 4 new VEX IQ teams at Gilkey Elementary School. The high school and middle school also fielded two Aerial Drone teams each. The teams included: Fifteen high schoolers, 29 middle schoolers, 14 fourth and fifth graders, and 20 coaches and mentors participated. Half of the 58 students were experiencing robotics for the first time, and 16 of the coaches were new this year. The teams made 46 tournament appearances and earned 8 major awards: one by a Gilkey team, 2 by middle school teams, and 4 by high school teams, including the Tournament Champion and Skills Champion trophies. Three high school teams and one middle school team qualified for the State Championships; and one middle school team has been invited to the U.S. National Championships. Congratulations to each of these talented and dedicated students and coaches.

middle school science

In early March, the Plainwell Middle School Science department was selected to present at the MSTA Conference in Lansing. The team presented a session called C-E-R, A Scaffolded Approach for All Learners. Congratulations to these educators for being selected to present, we are so thankful for your dedication to the education of our Middle School students!

2022 shop with a hero

Prior to the holidays in December, the Middle School hosted their annual 2021 Shop with a Hero event at Meijer. At the event, 100 - \$100 gift cards were handed out to Shop with a Hero at Meijer in Plainwell. What a special time for the PCS students, as well as the heroes that helped them holiday shop. We are so grateful to our anonymous donor for providing this opportunity to our students every year, it touches the lives of so many. We are also very thankful to local heroes and volunteers for making this such a special event for the Middle School Students. THANK YOU to everyone that made this night so incredibly special!

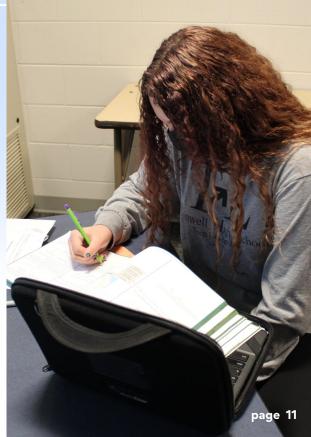
math nation

The Plainwell Middle School math programs were the recipients of free resources from Math Nation this year. Math Nation is a "Powerful, Interactive Tool" that provides videos, learning tools, workbooks and online support to students 24-hours a day. These materials provide our 6-8 grade students with all the necessary tools to succeed in math classes throughout middle school. A very special thank you to Math Nation for your support of Today's Learners and Tomorrow's Leaders.

supporting ukraine

In March, Plainwell Middle School held a grade level contest to support Ukrainian Refugees. The goal was for each grade level to get the most pennies in their grade level jar and take points away from other grades by adding silver coins to their jars! Once the competition was complete, the Student Council and Current Events Class students counted the money that was raised. Thank you to the Middle School students who raised over \$1,800, this money will be donated to the World Central Kitchen, who is providing meals to over 2.5 million Ukrainian refugees. Way to go, Trojans!





phs homecoming

Homecoming 2021 was outstanding! Highlights include: an outstanding performance of the national anthem by the PHS choir, a hard played game by the PHS varsity football team, an exceptional halftime show by the marching band, an awesome cheerleading squad to cheer on the Trojans, a stadium full of school spirit, the announcement of the 2021 Homecoming Court and the crowning of the 2021 Homecoming King and Queen.

A special congratulations to Blake Filkins and Mia Perrin on becoming the 2021 Homecoming King and Queen!

To kick-off Homecoming week, Plainwell High School held an ASA High School No Hate Tour assembly sponsored by the Marines. The No Hate Tour is a group of professional BMX riders who are X Game medalists that encourage lessons in bully prevention. The event was held in the gym at Plainwell High School and featured high-flying BMX jumps and various stunts, including one featuring our very own educator Mrs. Kostanko, all while sharing stories and ways to stop bullying. It was a great way to kickoff this exciting week at PHS - a special thank you to the Marines and the professional BMX riders for an awesome experience for our students! For more information on the No Hate Tour, please visit: nohatetour.com.

multicultural club

Plainwell High School has a new club for their students. The Multicultural Club has a mission that "honors and promotes awareness of cultural diversity in an effort to bring people together toward friendship and greater understanding of each other's cultures. A safe place that would celebrate cultural awareness and diversity within the school".

The group has done several activities this school year; including taking a trip to the International Festival at Western Michigan University where students enjoyed music, foods, traditional dances and fashions from many cultures from around the world.





phs umatter days

Throughout the school year, Plainwell High School has presented various UMatter days. In an effort to increase awareness of teen suicide and mental health issues, PHS students plan these events to let each and every PHS student know they matter. These events include mindfulness workshops, contests, safe talks and more. PHS is proud of the ongoing efforts by the UMatter team to remind all PHS students that "UMatter".

phs choir

In February, the PHS Choir had successful showings at their Festivals. The Bass Choir and combined Soprano/Alto Choirs sang at Hastings High Schools. Both groups scored high enough to qualify to sing at the State Choral Festival in May. The Bass Choir also scored their personal highest in PHS history! The Combined Soprano/Alto Choirs scored perfectly across the board! PHS Honors' Choir also qualified for State Choral Festival while competing at East Kentwood HS, only 10 points away from perfect across-the-board scores. All ensembles will be singing at State Choral Festival at Hope College in May!

marching band

In November, the Trojan Marching Band competed at the State Finals at Ford Field in Detroit, which was the band's first return to State Finals in 2 decades and the first ever performance at Ford Field. The band competed against 11 other bands in their division from all around the state of Michigan and found themselves in 4th place overall after an exciting show!

phs spring musical

The 2022 PHS Spring Musical "Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella" took their final bow in March after three fantastic performances! It was exciting to see the reviews pouring in to support this amazing cast and crew: "Outstanding performance", "Awesome show", "Wonderful show". We are incredibly proud of the cast, crew and directors for putting on this amazing show at PCS - congratulations on your outstanding performances.

partner of the year

Plainwell Renaissance Adult Education was honored to be named West Michigan Works Partner of the Year for 2021. In addition to the Plainwell location, Renaissance Adult Education provides GED and high school completion classes for adult students in Barry County at the West Michigan Works office in Hastings. These classes are taught by instructor Kristine Brown, who works for Renaissance Adult Education through a partnership with Community Action. Congratulations to Renaissance Adult Education!

rhs powerlifting

To help benefit the health and wellness of the Renaissance High School and Adult Education students, the RHS staff, spearheaded by Bill Stouffer, added a Fitness Center to their facility! Since the Fitness Center's opening, the Renaissance students have embraced the sport of powerlifting. Since Renaissance's move to 798 E. Bridge Street, Mr. Stouffer has been using the new fitness area to teach physical fitness. Part of his plan was to integrate important values such as sportsmanship, positive attitude and resilience. He received a grant to bring in The Plate Boys (William Tolliver and Terrell Alexander) as guest presenters and the combination has been powerful. In mid-February, six RHS students - Chelsea Myland, Makayla Vercruysse, Nico Pellegrino, Kaydn Hamilton, Devin Sonnerville and Vincenzo Pellegrino - participated in their first ever Powerlifting competition. All of the participants placed within the top 1/3 of their weight class and Devin Sonnerville took 1st place in his class. Way to go RHS!

rhs driver's education

Renaissance Alternative High School Receives Grant to Provide Driver's Education. In a grant application to the Mignon Sherwood DeLano Foundation, RHS Principal Tammy Glupker notes, "In American society, obtaining a driver's license is one of our first experiences with setting and achieving a personal "SMART" goal. It is specific, measurable, attainable, relevant and time-bound. Most students complete this goal with a full team of assistants." She asserts the barriers to even commit to this process - financial, time, and access - are the trifecta that thwart her students and others from many opportunities and the next steps that are integral in engaging and contributing to society. Glupker partnered with L & L Driving School and was awarded \$5,400 to offer Driver's Education to Renaissance students. The classes are very accessible and conveniently timed and the grant will reduce the cost per participant by 78 percent. Students begin the first class in May.

family literacy event

Renaissance Adult Education held a Family Literacy Event in March. It was a great family friendly event to enjoy special reading activities and crafts during Reading Month. Stay tuned for future events hosted by Renaissance Adult Education!

teaching new skills

Renaissance High School teacher Bill Stouffer has been utilizing a newly created recreation center to teach new skills. The Renaissance staff, trained extensively in Trauma-Based educational practices, are always looking for ways to provide opportunities for holistic growth. This involves making time for supervised and safe "free play". During recreation time, students are learning the correct rules of Ping-Pong and Billiards but also enjoying the subsequent benefits of making connections with their peers, using their bodies and movement strategically, cooperation and leadership. Recently they held a tournament organized fully by the students. All this is possible because of the move to the new location. Thanks to our community passing the bond for improvement!

building bridge class

Congratulations to the first full class of high school students who completed the Building the Bridge class in March. The "bridge" they learned about in the class led them to a better understanding of themselves and each other. Thanks to their instructor Nicole Vyverman and Bridges of Hope, Allegan County Board President, Charlie Wynne.

2022 daughter day

In February, we held our annual Daughter Day where we had almost 200 participants. During the event, daughters and their chaperones enjoyed an evening at PCS filled with games, glamour & glitter! The special event included: glitter tattoos, a nickname game, dance lessons, a photo booth, lots of give-aways and formal pictures. The evening also had a few special guests, as Plainwell High School's Competitive Cheer team led group dances on stage and Becky Howrigon documented the special evening with formal pictures. What a special day it was for those who attended, from sweets and treats, to pictures, glitter and fun. It was a great time for the PCS daughters and their dates. A very special thank you to all who participated in making this such a wonderful day! Plainwell Pride!

upcoming events & programs

NEW THIS YEAR! All Community Education and Youth Recreation Programs will be advertised electronically. For upcoming events and programs, please visit the district's social media accounts, view our weekly electronic publication "This Week at PCS" or visit plainwellschools.org. We are excited to share these programs with our community electronically, so please stay tuned for information and details coming soon.





































phs basketball

ALL-CONFERENCE BASKETBALL: Congratulations to the Trojan Basketball Players that were All-Conference for the 2022 season!

BOYS BASKETBALL:

- Jack Anderson (Sr.): First Team All-Conference
- Daeshawn Dixon-Schuhmacher (Sr.): Second Team All-Conference
- Holden Deaton (Sr.): Second Team All-Conference
- Sam Gibson (Jr.): Second Team All-Conference

GIRLS BASKETBALL:

- Lauren Vanderstelt (Sr.): First Team All-Conference
- Maya Johnson (Jr.): Honorable Mention All-Conference

phs boys swim & dive

Congratulations to the Boys Swim and Dive State Team - Ivan Emde finished 5th in the 100 fly earning him All State Honors. He also finished 13th in the 100 back. Jake Westdorp finished 14th in diving. The 200 and 400 free relay of Ivan Emde, Lucas Boven, Tyler Keator and Andrew Miller finished in 20th and 18th. Way to go, Trojan Swim!

DIVER OF THE YEAR!

Congratulations to Jacob Westdorp who was voted Zone 6 Diver of the Year. This award is voted on by coaches from all over Southwest Michigan! Way to go, Jacob! Trojan pride!

phs girls swim & dive

Congratulations to the Girls Swim and Dive State team who finished 10th overall at the Division 3 State Meet held at Calvin University! Riley Nugent is the State Champion in the 200 free and secured her 4th straight 500 free title! Taylor Seibert finished 4th in 1 meter diving earning her All-State recognition. Sydney Harper placed 15th in the 500 free. The relay team of Isabelle Delaet, Elizabeth French, Sydney Harper and Riley Nugent placed 12th in the 200 free relay and 13th in the 400 free relay. What a great season for Trojan Swim and Dive!

phs cross country

The Girls Cross Country team had a great season and finalized their season competing at Regionals where they finished in 4th place and only 11 points short of a third place team qualification for States! Mackenzie Hill was 2nd and Grace Pettit was 7th and both qualified for State!

At the MHSAA Division 2 State Cross Country Meet, Mackenzie Hill finished in 19th place to earn All-State honors for the second time in her career. Mackenzie also earned All-State as a freshman, then after suffering injuries that hampered her season for two years, worked hard to regain her form and earn that status once again! Way to go Mackenzie - Trojan pride!

myway wrestling

Congratulations to Cooper Elementary third grade student, Lane Curry, who competed at the MYWAY (Michigan's Youth Wrestling Association) State Championship competition and WON! Next up, Lane will go to the National competition on April 8th. Way to go, Lane and best wishes at Nationals!

phs cheer

The PHS Cheer team had a great competitive season! The team ended the season by placing 9th in our Region (score of 700.4) at their Regional competition at Kenowa Hills. This places the team in top 20 in the State for Division 2! Trojan Pride! A special congratulations to Competitive Cheer Coach, Kylie Cook, who was voted All-District Coach of the Year by her fellow coaches. Congratulations on a great season and receiving this recognition, Coach Kylie!

phs ski

The PHS Ski team had another great season, finishing their season with an award ceremony where Dillon Vlietstra took 9th in the Conference and Liam Troutner took 14th. The teams finished the season with the Varsity Girls taking 4th place and the Varsity Boys in 5th. The Varsity Girls B team took 1st and Boys took 3rd. Way to go, Trojan Ski!

phs wrestling

The PHS Wrestling team had another great season, winning the Wolverine Conference with a record of 8-0 in Conference Dual Meets! The team also went on to win Districts, beating Gull Lake in the finals 49-24! Two of our wrestlers, Adin Young and Trammel Robinson, went on to compete at the State Finals at Ford Field in Detroit!

The season was complete with Rodd Leonard, PHS Wrestling Coach, being awarded Coach of the Year! Mr. Leonard says it was a team effort and gives the credit to Jaylyn Bohl and Travis Reardon for the incredible season - they did it together!!! What a great season for Trojan Wrestling - Plainwell Pride!

middle school wrestler

Congratulations to Plainwell Middle School 8th grader, Madison Nieuwenhuis, who wrestled at the Tulsa Nationals, the biggest tournament in the US, where she took first place and is now the National Champion! Congratulations to Madison on this amazing accomplishment!

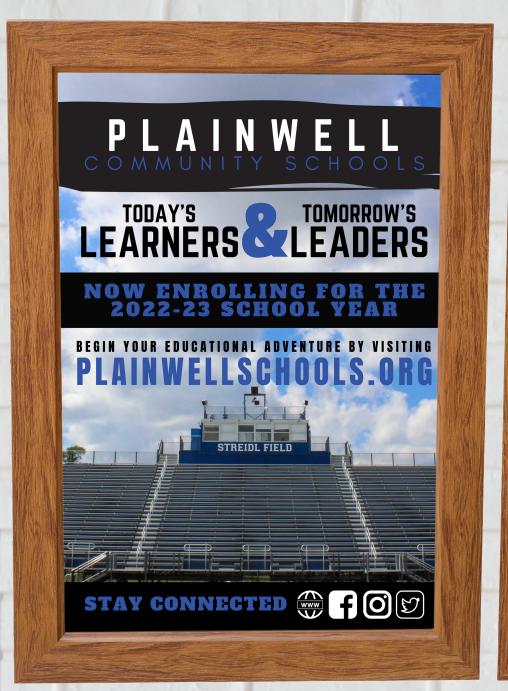
starr swimmer

Congratulations to Starr Elementary fifth grader, Sophia VanHeest, who participated in the USA Swimming Michigan State Meet where she placed: 3rd in the 100 Back, 2nd in the 500 Free, 2nd in the 50 back, 2nd in the 200 free and earned 1st place in 100 Free! Sophia is a State Champion! Way to go, Sophia!

trojan pride!

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





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THANK YOU FOR VOTING "YES" ON THE 2019 BOND PROPOSAL! COMMUNITY CENTER REMODEL Completed October 2020 **MS ADDITION Completed August 2021 MS REMODEL Completion Spring 2022** POOL/GYM **Construction Fall of 2022 ELEMENTARY PLAYGROUNDS Completion Summer of 2023 ELEMENTARY A/C Completion Summer of 2024**



EVENTS











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

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Amy Blades	President
Shannon Zabaldo	Vice President
Julli Bennett	
Jill Dunham	
Ann Filkins	
Mike Hopson	Trustee
Anthony McNeel	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. Meeting information and agenda details can be viewed at plainwellschools.org/board.

Published by the Plainwell Board of Education Plainwell, Michigan 49080



- TUESDAY, MAY 3 AT 7 PM - FREE CONCERT AT THE PLAINWELL PERFORMING ARTS CENTER FEATURING MUSIC FROM THE PHS CHOIRS

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION OFFICES | 269-685-5823

Matthew Montange	Superintendent
Melissa Gelbaugh	Director of Finance
Greg Smith	
Melissa Preston	
Michael Ritsema	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.







