

BACK TO SCHOOL 2023/24



back to school

In this issue of School Matters, we highlight the district's back to school details for the 2023/24 school year.

news

In this issue of School Matters, we share the latest news, upcoming events/programs, a bond update & important information from the district.

schedules

In this issue of School Matters, we provide important dates, schedules and building specific information for the upcoming school year.

NEW YEAR, NEW MEMORIES, YOUR YEARBOOK AWAITS

BUILDING 000
2010

PLAINWELL
TROAN

Troan 2012

Blue

BOND TIMELINE

RENAISSANCE/COMMUNITY CENTER UPGRADES
Completed August 2021

MIDDLE SCHOOL ADDITION UPGRADES
Completed August 2022

GYM/POOL COMPLEX CONSTRUCTION
Currently Under Construction - Began September 2022
(Estimated completion August 2024)

GILKEY A/C & PLAYGROUND
Currently Under Construction - Began June 2023
(Estimated completion August 2024)

•COOPER/STARR A/C & PLAYGROUND
Construction Begins June 2024
(Estimated completion August 2024)

•OLD POOL COMPLEX REMODEL
Construction Begins 2025
(Estimated completion 2026)

•Subject to change

We are incredibly grateful to the amazing Plainwell Community for voting "YES" on the 2019 Bond Proposal. You have given our district the opportunity to enhance our facilities and to offer the best to our students. We are grateful for your ongoing support!

Pool/Gym
& Gilkey
Playground
Construction

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2023/
kindergarten





PLAINWELL COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
POWERSCHOOL
NEW STUDENT/PARENT PORTAL
Welcome to PowerSchool
 New for the 2023/24 school year, PCS has an updated student/parent information system - PowerSchool! PCS Families should have received an email to welcome you to PowerSchool. Please take a few minutes to create a parent portal account to ensure the district has your up-to-date contact information to continue to receive emails/calls/texts from the district and/or your student's building.

✓ Verify Contact Information ✓ Add Additional Contacts

PowerSchool Workshops
 Need more information, join us for one of our upcoming PowerSchool Parent Workshops to learn about the new system and how it will work for you and your student! Scan the QR code to learn more!

SCAN ME! 

STAY CONNECTED: plainwellschools.org |   

/24 ENROLLMENT
 young 5 schools of choice

ENROLL TODAY!
 DO YOU HAVE A KINDERGARTEN OR YOUNG 5 STUDENT THAT WILL BE STARTING SCHOOL THIS FALL? IN-DISTRICT & SCHOOLS OF CHOICE ENROLLMENT AT PCS IS STILL OPEN FOR THE 2023/24 SCHOOL YEAR!

TWO LEARNING OPTIONS

1 YOUNG 5 PROGRAM
 Begin your student's educational journey at our Young 5 program. Available for children turning 5 years old between September 1, 2023-December 1, 2023.

2 KINDERGARTEN
 If your Trojan is turning 5 years old prior to September 1, 2023, Kindergarten may be the best educational option for them!

ENROLL TODAY!


SCAN CODE 

WELLNESS SUPPORT
 for PCS Students & Families

FAMILY & STUDENT WELLNESS SUPPORT OPTIONS

- ✓ STUDENT SUPPORTS
- ✓ FAMILY SUPPORTS
- ✓ IN-DISTRICT SUPPORTS
- ✓ COMMUNITY SUPPORTS

SCAN QR CODE TO LEARN MORE





PLAINWELL COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
 TODAY'S LEARNERS TOMORROW'S LEADERS

 **message from montange**

Welcome back to school! I hope all of you have had an enjoyable summer and that you were able to spend some quality time with friends and family doing all the great things that our wonderful state and town have to offer. Our district is very excited about this upcoming school year for our students and families set to begin on August 28. High School sports and marching band are already in full swing and Middle School sports will begin soon.

I am sure you have noticed that construction of our new pool and gym facility are well underway, this exciting project is scheduled to be completed for the 2024 Fall sports season. THANK YOU to our community for your support. Please note that additional information on the bond and our various projects can be found in this publication.

PCS has faced multiple tragedies this past year with the unexpected loss of multiple staff members and we want to acknowledge the outsized impact of both Ryan Meert and Darlene Kohn on our kids and the Plainwell community. Both Ryan and Darlene were dedicated educators who loved kids, gave their all, and represented the best of what Plainwell Community Schools has to offer. We THANK YOU for your dedicated service and we will MISS you greatly.

As always, we appreciate your partnership in the process of educating our kids, and can't thank you enough for the privilege and opportunity to do so. There is no doubt that we will face additional challenges this year but we are prepared to do what is needed to ensure our children are successful in school and in life. We wish all of you a good school year and look forward to seeing you soon. GO TROJANS!!

Matthew Montange

 **note from community education**

Wow! What a great time to be living in Plainwell. I'm having a lot of fun with the Community Education Department and am proud to brag about all that we have going on. This spring kicked off in a fun way with a Seniors in Action Cinco De Mayo event held at Ransom Library. People from all over the community got dressed up and came in to dance, exercise, play games, win prizes, and eat. A good time was had by all.

It has been a busy summer here in the Island City. You might have seen our "Youth Ball" kiddos around town this summer. Working in collaboration with the city we were able to hold T-Ball and Baseball/Softball practices and games in various ballfields throughout the district. The season was a huge success and the kids had a lot of fun. The youth golf lessons at Doster were another great event this summer and we even added a third section, which filled up rather quickly.

We are also proud of the academic focus of our summer programs. Kids throughout the district had the chance to attend Summer School in July where learning was reinforced, credits were recovered, advancement classes were offered, and friendships were formed. Through the "Meet Up and Eat Up" program, we served all sorts of meals to kids in the community at Starr Elementary, Plainwell High School, Gun River East, Renaissance High School and Ransom Library. We are so thankful for all of the community partners and relationships we have to help make all of these awesome events possible!

Looking forward, we are really excited to announce that this fall we will be offering Love and Logic parenting classes! Not only will these classes help with the basics of parenting, but lots of opportunities will be available to meet and collaborate with other parents in the community. As I look back, some of my lasting friendships were formed by getting to know the parents of my children's friends. Anyone who has ever raised kids knows that at times, you'll need a strong support network of friends!

That's it for now. We had a great summer and look forward to another fantastic fall. I look forward to seeing you at an event sometime soon. Here's to active connections!

Dedicated to Education and Recreation,

Jason Herbert



connect with us   
plainwellschools.org

ADMINISTRATION OFFICES 269-685-5823	PLAINWELL HIGH SCHOOL 269-685-9554	PLAINWELL MIDDLE SCHOOL 269-685-5813	COOPER ELEMENTARY 269-349-2674	GILKEY ELEMENTARY 269-685-2424	STARR ELEMENTARY 269-685-5835	RENAISSANCE HIGH SCHOOL ADULT & COMMUNITY EDUCATION 269-685-8911
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MIDDLE SCHOOL

home of the trojans

WELCOME TO PLAINWELL MIDDLE SCHOOL

We are looking forward to beginning another great year of learning at Plainwell Middle School. Before we begin a wonderful year at PMS, we would like to take a moment to share about our Administrative changes in the building.

First, we would like to take a moment to share our thanks and appreciation to PMS Principal, Mrs. Tasia Stamos, who after 23 years at PCS retired at the end of the 2022/23 school year. Her hard work, dedication and caring heart were unmatched and she will be greatly missed by the students and staff at the Middle School. We wish her all the best and much happiness in her retirement!

After an extensive search and interview process, we are happy to announce that our previous Assistant Principal, Mr. Ben Manting, has been selected to become the new Principal this fall. In addition, we have hired a new Assistant Principal, Mr. Jeff Hattendorf, who is joining PCS from Pine River Area Schools where he was the Principal for the last two years. We are excited to have Mr. Manting and Mr. Hattendorf in these new roles beginning with the 2023/24 school year and look forward to continued excellence at Plainwell Middle School under this new leadership.

As we begin the new school year, we would like to welcome our new 6th grade students to the Middle School. You will be joining a great group of 7th and 8th graders who are eager and ready to learn! We wish our Middle School students a great school year. Thank you to each of our families for the opportunity to educate your children - Today's Learners, Tomorrow's Leaders! GO TROJANS!

MIDDLE SCHOOL IMPORTANT DATES

CHROMEBOOK PICK-UP (7TH & 8TH GRADE)

- Dates: Monday, August 14 and Tuesday, August 15
- Time (for both pick-up days): 12:00-7:00 pm

MEET IN THE MIDDLE (6TH GRADE ORIENTATION)

- Date: Wednesday, August 16
- Time: 4:00-7:00 pm
- Event Information: Students can pick-up Chromebooks, tour the Middle School and take school pictures.

OPEN HOUSE

- Date: Wednesday, August 23
- Time: 5:00-6:30 pm
- Event Information: Students can meet their teachers, get schedules, find your locker and take a tour of the school.

7TH & 8TH GRADE PICTURE DAY

- Date: Friday, September 15

FALL PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

- Date: Thursday, October 5
- Time: 3:30-7:30 pm (held via Zoom)

SCHEDULES

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

- The first day of school is Monday, August 28 (half day)

DAILY SCHEDULE

- First Bell (full & half day): 7:34 am
- Full Day: Classes are held from 7:40 am to 2:25 pm
- Half Day: Classes are held from 7:40 am to 10:45 am

NEWS

For the latest news from the Middle School, including updates, athletic information and upcoming programs/events, please scan the QR code or visit plainwellschools.org/o/pms.





HIGH SCHOOL

home of the trojans

WELCOME HIGH SCHOOLERS

We are looking forward to the 2023/24 school year at Plainwell High School. We are excited to welcome the classes of 2024, 2025, 2026 and 2027 in the building on Monday, August 28, as we kick-off the year with the Trojans. To our freshman class - welcome to PHS and to our class of 2024 - we wish you a wonderful senior year at Plainwell High School!

We look forward to another great year of learning at Plainwell High School!

HIGH SCHOOL BACK TO SCHOOL IMPORTANT DATES

ATHLETIC KICK-OFF MEETING (AT THE PAC)

- Date: Tuesday, August 15
- Time: 7:00 pm
- Kick-off meeting for 2023/24 athletes and their parents/guardians

FRESHMAN BOOT CAMP (AT THE PAC)

- Date: Thursday, August 17
- Time: 9:00-11:00 am (Lunch provided)

SOPHOMORE MATERIAL PICK-UP & PICTURES

- Date: Thursday, August 17
- Time: 1:00-3:00 pm

JUNIOR & SENIOR MATERIAL PICK-UP & PICTURES

- Date: Friday, August 18
- Time: 9:00-11:00 am for Juniors and 1:00-3:00 pm for Seniors

PHS OPEN HOUSE

- Date: Thursday, August 24
- Time: 5:00-6:30 pm

FALL PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

- Date: Wednesday, October 4
- Time: 4:00-8:00 pm

BACK TO SCHOOL REMINDERS

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL | The first day of school is Monday, August 28 (half day)

DAILY SCHEDULE | 7:40 am-2:26 pm | 1/2 Day: 7:40-10:45 am

PHS ATHLETICS | For the latest news from Trojan Athletics, please visit phstrojans.com

RENAISSANCE HIGH SCHOOL

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

- The first day of school is Monday, August 28 (half day)

CONTACT RHS AND ADULT EDUCATION

- address: 798 E. Bridge Street, Plainwell, MI 49080
- phone: 269-685-8911

DAILY RHS SCHEDULE

- 8:15am-2:30pm

HALF DAY RHS SCHEDULE

- 8:15-11:30am

FALL PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

- Thursday, October 12



FALL ELEMENTARY
CONFERENCES - 2023



PCS APP!

It's everything Plainwell,
in your pocket.

Documents Events Staff Directory Alerts

Download today!



Search: **Plainwell
Community Schools**





Mark your calendar for Elementary Fall Parent/Teacher Conferences the week of October 16. More information and scheduling details will be shared with families through district and/or building communications.



DAILY SCHEDULES

COOPER ELEMENTARY:

- Doors open at 8:20 am
- Full Day Dismissal: 3:30 pm
- 1/2 Day Dismissal: 11:50 am

GILKEY ELEMENTARY:

- Doors open at 8:10 am
- Full Day Dismissal: 3:20 pm
- 1/2 Day Dismissal: 11:40 am

STARR ELEMENTARY:

- Doors open at 8:25 am
- Full Day Dismissal: 3:35 pm
- 1/2 Day Dismissal: 11:55 am

YOUTH PROGRAMS

PCS IS EXCITED TO OFFER A NUMBER OF OUTSTANDING YOUTH PROGRAMS THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL YEAR. FROM VOLLEYBALL, TO INDOOR SOCCER, TO BASKETBALL, TAEKWONDO AND GOLF PROGRAMS, THE PCS COMMUNITY REC TEAM HAS SOME GREAT OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE ELEMENTARY STUDENTS TO STAY ACTIVE AND BE INVOLVED.

AS REGISTRATION OPENS FOR UPCOMING YOUTH PROGRAMS, WE WILL SHARE INFORMATION THROUGH DISTRICT COMMUNICATIONS, INCLUDING: THIS WEEK AT PCS, SOCIAL MEDIA & THE PCS WEBSITE. TO VIEW CURRENT PROGRAMS, PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE.



elementary news

cooper, gilkey & starr

WE ARE READY TO BEGIN ANOTHER GREAT YEAR AT COOPER, GILKEY AND STARR ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS. WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING OUR K-5 STUDENTS BACK IN THE BUILDINGS FOR THE 2023/24 SCHOOL YEAR ON MONDAY, AUGUST 28 (HALF DAY).

A VERY SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST TROJANS, OUR CLASS OF 2037 KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS - WE ARE EXCITED TO WELCOME YOU TO PCS!

WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR OF LEARNING AT PCS. AS ALWAYS, WE WILL STRIVE TO CREATE AN EDUCATIONAL PLAN THAT HELPS YOUR STUDENT SUCCEED IN AND OUT OF THE CLASSROOM!

THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING PCS FOR YOUR STUDENT'S ELEMENTARY EDUCATION. WE WISH EACH OF OUR STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES A GREAT 2023/24 SCHOOL YEAR. SEE YOU SOON KOALAS, GECKOS AND ROCK STARRS! FOR NOW, PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR TO JOIN US FOR OUR OPEN HOUSES!

ELEMENTARY OPEN HOUSE

at Cooper, Gilkey & Starr Elementary
Tuesday, August 22 from 5-6:30 pm

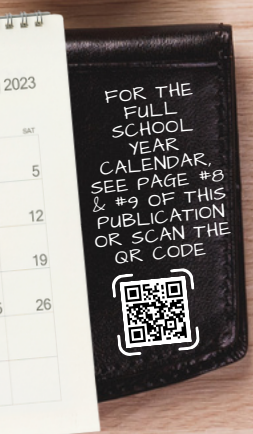


ELEMENTARY PICTURE DAYS

COOPER ELEMENTARY:
September 20

GILKEY ELEMENTARY:
September 19

STARR ELEMENTARY:
September 26



2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

- FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL (1/2) DAY -

Monday, August 28

- BREAKS & HOLIDAYS -

LABOR DAY: September 1-4

THANKSGIVING BREAK: November 20-24

WINTER HOLIDAY BREAK: December 25-January 5

MID-WINTER BREAK: February 16-19

SPRING BREAK: March 28-April 5

MEMORIAL DAY: May 24-27

- NO SCHOOL -

Friday, October 6

Monday, January 15

Friday, February 2

Friday, April 26

- HALF DAYS -

Monday, August 28 (First day of school)

Thursday, November 16

Friday, November 17 (end of first trimester)

Friday, December 22

Thursday, February 29

Friday, March 1 (end of second trimester)

Thursday, June 6

Friday, June 7 (last day of school/end of third trimester)

- LAST DAY OF SCHOOL (1/2) DAY -

Friday, June 7

CALENDAR LEGEND

 Full Day of School

 Half Day of School

 No School



NOVEMBER 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		



MARCH 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						



AUGUST 2023						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

SEPTEMBER 2023						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

OCTOBER 2023						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

DECEMBER 2023						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

JANUARY 2024						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

FEBRUARY 2024						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

APRIL 2024						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

MAY 2024						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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JUNE 2024						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

For news, updates or to connect with PCS, please visit plainwellschools.org, follow us on social media or download the "Plainwell Community Schools" app.



Youth Programs

fall & winter



JUNIOR SPIKERS

Volleyball Program for 3rd-6th Grade Girls

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

- **Dates:** October 21-December 2
- **Times:**
 - 3rd & 4th Grade Practice from 6-7 PM
 - 5th & 6th Grade Practice from 6:30-7:30 PM
- **Cost:** \$60
- **Registration:** Registration deadline is September 29
 - PLEASE NOTE: Registration for program will be posted on RevTrak approximately one month prior to the registration deadline. *The dates and times listed above are tentative.*



JUNIOR KICKERS

Indoor Soccer Program for K-5th Grade Girls & Boys

Recreational program open to K-5th Grade students. Players will be placed in a group based on grade level and/or ability. Each Saturday (weeks 2-7), the same group will meet and be divided into two teams. Players should attend practice on October 28 at the assigned time for your grade level. Phone call reminders will not be made. On October 28 (week 1), players should meet at the assigned times.

- **Dates:** Saturdays from October 28 - December 16 (excluding Thanksgiving weekend)
- **Times (please note these times have changed from previous years):**
 - 9 AM: 3rd, 4th & 5th Graders
 - 10 AM: Kindergarten Boys
 - 11 AM: Kindergarten & 1st Grade Girls
 - 12 PM: 1st Grade Boys
 - 1 PM: 2nd Grade Girls & Boys
- **Cost:** \$60
- **Registration:** Registration deadline is October 21
 - PLEASE NOTE: Registration for program will be posted on RevTrak approximately one month prior to the registration deadline. *The dates and times listed above are tentative.*



SHARP SHOOTERS

Basketball Program for 5th-8th Grade Girls

A competitive league for those with basketball experience and advanced skills. The league follows MHSAA rules and allows teams to run more advanced defense and offense. Sharp Shooters will not interfere with MS Volleyball and ends prior to the start of MS basketball and hoopers.

- **Dates:** Practices start the week of September 11. Games on Saturdays from October-December with some travel required.
- **Cost:** \$125 (Covers gym rental, game certified MHSAA officials, jerseys)
- **Registration:** Registration deadline is September 15
 - PLEASE NOTE: Registration for program will be posted on RevTrak approximately one month prior to the registration deadline. *The dates and times listed above are tentative.*
- **Note:** Team organization and practices (days of the week, location and times) will be announced in September.



JUNIOR HOOPSTERS

Basketball Program for 3rd-5th Grade Girls and Boys

This program introduces kids to the basic fundamentals of basketball and the rules of the game. Teams will practice 1-2 times per week and play games on Saturdays. Games will be played in Plainwell, Otsego and Martin.

- **Dates:** December 4-March 2 with practices during the week and games on Saturdays
- **Cost:** \$60
- **Registration:** Registration deadline is November 6
 - PLEASE NOTE: Registration for program will be posted on RevTrak approximately one month prior to the registration deadline. We will not accept any late registrations, so please register early.
- **Note:** *The dates and times listed above are tentative.* You will be contacted by your child's coach with specific dates/times.

PCS is excited to offer a number of outstanding youth programs throughout the school year. From volleyball, to indoor soccer, to basketball, taekwondo and golf programs, PCS has several great opportunities for our students to stay active and be involved.

As registration opens for upcoming youth programs, we will share information through district communications: This Week at PCS, social media & the PCS website (plainwellschools.org). To view current programs throughout the school year, please scan the QR code.



SCAN ME



LOVE LO PARE CLAS

\$10
FOR
WORKBOOK



PLAINWELL
PERFORMING
ARTS CENTER
CHILDCARE PROVIDED

BRINGING YOUTH PROGRAMS & OPPORTUNITIES TO OUR
STUDENTS THAT ENRICH THE PLAINWELL COMMUNITY

PLAINWELL COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

PLAINWELL COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

E AND LOGIC ENTING SSES

AVAILABLE TO
ANY PCS
FAMILY
(PRESENT OR
FUTURE)

THURSDAY
EVENINGS

SEPTEMBER 14, 21 & 28
OCTOBER 5, 12 & 19

TIME
6-8PM



TO REGISTER, VISIT
PCS REVTRAK OR
SCAN QR CODE



REGISTRATION CLOSING 8/31

HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS *Go Trojans!*



NEWS FROM THE ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

Fall sports are in full swing! The first day of tryouts was on August 7 for all our fall sports. It's great to see the kids and coaches back in action!

The Plainwell Athletics Kick-off meeting is on Tuesday, August 15 at 7:00 pm at the PAC. Come to the kick-off and learn more about Plainwell High School athletics for the 2023/24 school year. Fall parent meetings will follow (if you haven't previously met).

This year, we will continue to use Big Teams to gather all our athletic forms for MHSAA and Plainwell Community Schools. The system is used for information management for athletics. There are a lot of tools with Big Teams, one of them is communication. We'll be able to email all our athletic families or just the families of a particular team. We'll utilize this feature often throughout the year. Be ready to check and read communications from Big Teams for announcements and information regarding your athlete(s).

If you're searching for an athletic team's schedule, please visit phstrojans.com. Click the season you're interested in, scroll down and click the sport listed and the schedule will pop up. If you subscribe to a team, you can get a link to help download the schedule to your preferred calendar. By subscribing, you'll get updates and schedule changes right away!

Ticket information will be shared with our families and community soon - here are the highlights! We'll continue online ticketing through HomeTown where there will be several ticket options available. The newest addition are season passes for our Plainwell Trojan fans, not just students!

We would love to have our parents and community involved in athletics! You can join our Booster Club, help out at events or even become an official. If you have more questions, please reach out to our Athletic Department between 7:30 am- 4:00 pm. Please contact 269-685-2096 or melissa.preston@plainwellschools.org (Athletic Director) for assistance.

Plainwell Community Schools strives to provide the best athletic experience for all our student-athletes. High School athletics is an education based activity where our students learn the value of hard work, dedication, teamwork and handling adversity. There is so much more that we hope to share with you as our year moves forward.

Thank you to our families and community for your continued support of Plainwell athletics.

BIG TEAMS

As we announced last year, Trojan athletics has their own website - phstrojans.com! One of the many great features on the site is that families can utilize the Big Teams portal for athlete registration. Please take a moment to register your athlete, upload athletic forms and check-out High School/Middle School rosters and athletic schedules for the 2023/24 season.

In 2023/24 all athletes MUST complete their pre-participation/athletic forms online through Big Teams! Please visit the athletic page at phstrojans.com and click "Online Registration" to complete the registration process.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Mark your calendar to join us for the annual Plainwell Athletics Kick-off meeting on Tuesday, August 15 at 7:00 pm in the Performing Arts Center to learn about our 2023/24 athletic programs!

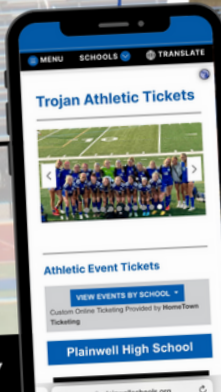
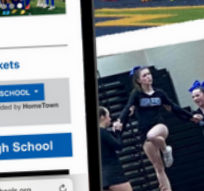
Also, please join us to cheer on the Trojans at their first home football game of the season on Thursday, August 24 at 7 pm vs. Hamilton HS! Go Trojans!

ONLINE TICKETING

For all 2023/24 athletic events, tickets and passes can be purchased online at phstrojans.com under "Buy Tickets" or scan the QR code to be directed to the PHS Trojans Box Office.



For information from PHS athletics, including rosters, schedules and updates, please visit phstrojans.com.



FROM THE DESKS OF:
COMMUNITY RECREATION/EDUCATION
& PMS/PHS ATHLETIC DEPARTMENTS

BE SAFE

BOE resolution



In the spring of 2023, our Plainwell Community Schools Board of Education passed a resolution supporting safe gun storage practices for our community. That resolution states that PCS will annually provide all parents with information and resources regarding safe gun storage and the impact the practices have on schools and the community. We continue to strive to provide a safe learning environment for all students and staff, and we greatly appreciate your ongoing support with these efforts.

Studies of school-based gun violence point to the same significant point for intervention: addressing students' unauthorized access to guns in the home. One recent study of targeted school violence incidents from 2008 to 2017 found that 76% of the firearms were obtained from the home of a parent or close relative.

What's more, unsecured guns in the home pose a risk to students outside school. Firearms are now the leading cause of death among children in the U.S. Every year, nearly 350 children under the age of 18 unintentionally shoot themselves or someone else. Distressingly, almost 40% of child gun deaths are suicides—nearly 700 child gun suicides annually (pre-pandemic). In most incidents, the gun used was one that belonged to someone in the student's home. One study found that 87% of kids know where their parents' guns are kept, and 60% have handled them. Research shows that secure firearm storage practices are associated with up to an 85% reduction in the risk of self-inflicted and unintentional firearm injuries among children and teens. Storing firearms securely protects any child in your home as well as students throughout the school district and community.

You can learn more, including a secure storage fact sheet, talking to your children about guns, and facts and resources on child firearm suicide, at BeSMARTforKids.org. For additional resources, you can also scan the QR code above.



WELCOME

new transportation supervisor

Plainwell Community Schools is excited to announce that Bradyn Juhas has been named as the new Transportation Supervisor. With his Bachelors in Public Administration from Grand Valley State University and several years of experience in Transportation, Bradyn brings a wealth of knowledge to his new position. His passion for school buses and transportation started at a young age riding routes with his aunt, which has carried over to his career where he takes great pride in his role while working with students, parents and staff. Bradyn began his career in transportation at Jenison Public Schools where he most recently spent three years working as the director of transportation intern and school bus driver. Bradyn knows that communication, safety and efficiency are all key factors in creating a successful transportation department.

When Bradyn is not at school, he enjoys traveling to warm states in the winter and exploring Northern Michigan in the summer. You can usually find Bradyn on a boat in the summer hanging out with family and friends.

Bradyn's passion for transportation and education will make him a great fit for this position. Bradyn is excited to meet the students, parents and staff at PCS! His knowledge, experience and communication skills will help build a positive environment for our students and bus drivers.

Bradyn is excited to begin his new role and continue to work with students at Plainwell Community Schools. For those interested in welcoming Mr. Juhas to his new role, to learn more about joining the transportation team or if you have any questions regarding busing, please contact bradyn.juhas@plainwellschools.org.

LEGAL & POLICY
IMPORTANT LEGAL & POLICY NOTICES

PLAINWELL
HOME OF THE TR

LEGAL NOTICES

FROM OUR OFFICES!



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 A05610. 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.

2023/2024 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 (269) 685-6338, greg.smith@plainwellschools.org.

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 US mail, please contact Greg Smith at the following number (269)685-6338. Please provide 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.

Sincerely,

Greg Smith
Director of Operations

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 records. These rights are: Right to Inspect: The right to inspect and review substantially all of the student's education records within 45 days of the day the school receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal (or appropriate school official) a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The school official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected. This right extends to parents under 18 years of age and to any dependent student age 18 or older. Right to Request Amendment: The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate or misleading. Parents or eligible students may ask the school to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should write the school principal (or appropriate official), clearly identifying the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the school will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing. Right to Prevent Disclosures: The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception which permits disclosure without consent is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the school as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the school board; a person or company with whom the school has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); to a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his/her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his/her professional responsibility. (NOTE: FERPA requires a school district to make a reasonable attempt to notify the parent of eligible student of the records request unless it states in its annual notification that it intends to forward records on request.) Right to Complain: The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the school to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA is: Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue SW, Washington DC 20202-4605. Right to Obtain Policy: Parents have the right to obtain a copy of the policy adopted by the Board of Education in compliance with FERPA. A copy may be obtained in person or by mail from: Superintendent, Plainwell Community Schools. Right to Object to Release of Directory Information: Generally, school officials must have written permission from the parent of a student or an eligible student before releasing any information from a student's record. However, school districts are allowed to disclose, without consent, "directory" type information. The Board of Education of the Plainwell Community Schools has designated the following personally identifiable information contained in a 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.

notes from pcs



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

PLAINWELL COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

EARLY EDUCATION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Fit over 50 Class

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

Community
Education
Fitness Classes

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



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

SCAN
ME



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

INDOOR WALKING (FREE)

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

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

S.E.A.T. FITNESS

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

MASTERS SWIM PROGRAM

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

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

MORE INFORMATION WILL BE SHARED SOON!

FOR QUESTIONS & ADDITIONAL DETAILS, PLEASE EMAIL
KATY.COX@PLAINVELLSCHOOLS.ORG

HOST A POOL PARTY AT PCS!

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

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

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

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

SCAN
ME



LAP SWIM

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

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

- DETAILS -

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

OPEN SWIM

OPEN SWIM ON FRIDAY NIGHTS
FROM 7-8 PM

\$10/FAMILY OR \$3/PERSON

POOL CLOSED SEPTEMBER 1-4



HOME OF THE TROJANS



2023/24 SAFE PROGRAM

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

- AVAILABLE AT ALL 3
ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS
- OPENS @ 6:00 PM / CLOSING @
6:30 AM
- ALL FAMILIES NEED TO REGISTER
(EVEN IF THEY USED THE
PROGRAM LAST YEAR)
- \$25 REGISTRATION FEE &
\$4/HOUR, ONLY CHARGED FOR
TIME USED
- SCAN THE QR CODE FOR MORE
INFORMATION & TO REGISTER



FREE
SCHOOL
MEALS

2023/24 FOOD SERVICE

Did you hear? The Michigan School Meals program was
signed into law, allowing all public school students
Pre-K through 12th grade, to eat breakfast and lunch
FREE for the 2023/24 school year! To participate,
we highly encourage all families to complete the free
& reduced application (new applications must be
completed each year). Please scan the QR code or
visit plainwellschools.org under Menu-Food Service-
Program Details for more information.

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



GOOD HANDS PLAINWELL

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



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

Plainwellschools.org



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

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Shannon ZabaldoPresident
Anthony McNeelVice President
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Andrea BarrowsTrustee
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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/page/board-of-education.

Published by the
Plainwell Board of Education
Plainwell, Michigan 49080

PLAINWELL COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

WE ARE HIRING JOIN OUR TEAM

learn more or apply today!

SCAN ME



scan the qr code or visit plainwellschools.org

PCS SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION | 269-685-5823

Matthew Montange Superintendent
Melissa Gelbaugh Director of Finance
Bradyn Juhas Director of Transportation
Melissa Preston Director of Athletics
Michael Ritsema Director of Food Service
Greg Smith Director of Operations

STAY CONNECTED!



We welcome you to follow Plainwell Community Schools on our website and official social media accounts. To stay connected to the latest Trojan news, please visit plainwellschools.org and/or follow our official social media accounts: Facebook: facebook.com/PlainwellCommunitySchools/, Instagram: [plainwellschools](https://www.instagram.com/plainwellschools) and Twitter: [@PlnwellSchools](https://twitter.com/PlnwellSchools)



BACK TO SCHOOL 2023/24