



SPOKES

staying connected with

PENDLETON SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS

Sept. 15, 2014

School year off to promising start

From the Desk of Jon Peterson, Superintendent



The 2014-2015 school year is off to a good start. During the Sept. 2-5 In-Service week, the District welcomed 30 new staff members. Twenty-two of these folks are teachers new to our District. It's been a long time since we've had the opportunity to bring in this many new employees!

We are hopeful our enrollment level will, at least, remain flat compared to last year. We ended the 2013-2014 school year with about 3,200 students, and we don't anticipate much deviation from this number in 2014-2015. Our kindergarten numbers appear to be lower this year than they've been the last two years, causing minor concern.

Bond dollars have been dedicated to several projects over the course of the summer. Roofing projects are finished at Lincoln and West Hills, and demolition is complete at Hawthorne. Construction will begin at the Hawthorne site in mid- to late-September. Safety and security upgrades will also start across the District later this fall.

Fall Key Communicator Meeting

Thursday, Oct. 16, 2014
12-1 p.m., Banquet Room
Mac's Bar & Grill, 230 S.E. Court Ave.

Winter Key Communicator Meeting

Thursday, Jan. 15, 2015
12-1 p.m., Banquet Room
Mac's Bar & Grill, 230 S.E. Court Ave.

The 2014-2015 school year also marks the official implementation of the Common Core State Standards. Attached you will find a one-page information sheet that explains the Common Core, as there has been much debate and controversy over this issue in the last year. The Pendleton School District has been strategically implementing these standards over the past three years in preparation for this transition. We'll talk more about the Common Core at our first Key Communicator meeting.

Our Key Communicator meeting dates this year are Oct. 16, Jan. 15, and May 14. We'll be meeting from 12-1 p.m. in the Banquet Room at Mac's Bar and Grill (230 S.E. Court Ave.). Lunch will be provided.

If you know of anyone who might be interested in joining our Key Communicator group please encourage them to go to the PSD website and check out the appropriate link. Prospective members can also contact my assistant, Tami Calvert, at 541-276-6711.

I look forward to seeing you at Mac's on Oct. 16.

Mark Your Calendars: Upcoming KC Meetings

Spring Key Communicator Meeting

Thursday, May 14, 2015
12-1 p.m., Banquet Room
Mac's Bar & Grill, 230 S.E. Court Ave.

Oregon's New College- and Career-Ready Standards

The Academic Baseline for Success in College, Careers, and Life

- **Our children need to be prepared for college, career, and future success.** As the economy continues to grow, we need to ensure that all students, no matter their zip code, are prepared for the opportunities and challenges they will face after high school.



COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS INITIATIVE

PREPARING AMERICA'S STUDENTS FOR COLLEGE & CAREER

- Our state chose to adopt the K–12 Common Core State Standards to help ensure that **all students graduate from high school with the core academic knowledge and skills necessary for success in college, careers, and life**, for the benefit of their futures and the future of our state.
- **Working to close the achievement gap is a top priority for Oregon.** The new standards promote equity by ensuring all students, especially historically underserved students, are offered access to high-level content. They allow teachers and parents to understand exactly what all students should know and/or be able to do at each grade. They allow us to more accurately measure student learning outcomes so that feedback and support can be provided when it is clear students are not on track for success.
- **Today's — and tomorrow's — jobs value postsecondary education and training more than ever.** Americans without the requisite knowledge and skills will struggle to access good jobs in the increasingly competitive global economy.
- **Oregon has had state-adopted standards for years.** The Common Core are simply the latest version of these standards for English and math. Our state has been involved in every step of their development and adoption. Oregon teachers and administrators reviewed various versions of the standards and provided multiple rounds of feedback to the developers before they were adopted by the State Board of Education in 2010.
- **Teachers are implementing these standards.** 80% of teachers in Oregon say what is being taught in their school aligns with the Common Core. Districts around the state have offered support and professional development for teachers to implement the standards since 2010. Locally, teams of teachers have created curriculum aligned to the Common Core, giving teachers access to high-quality instructional materials.
- **These common standards help ensure that students are receiving a high quality, rigorous education consistently from school to school and state to state.** The Common Core State Standards are shared learning expectations adopted by 46 states around the country. They provide a clear, consistent understanding of what our students are expected to learn in K-12 math and English.
- **The Common Core is not a curriculum.** Curriculum remains a local school district decision. The Common Core are simply the standards outlining what students should know and be able to do at various grades. Locally adopted curriculum allows for teacher flexibility and creativity in the classroom.



PENDLETON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 16R 2014-2015 School Calendar

187 Teacher Contract Days, 8 Teacher In-Service Days, 170 Instructional Days, 4 Conference Days, 5 Teacher Holidays

Legend

C = Conferences	R = Round-Up
EC = Evening Conferences	V = Vacation
SI = Staff Inservice (No School)	NS = No School
H = Holiday	E = Early Release
School Improvement Mondays	

Student Contact Mondays

Kindergarten	9:15 – 11:30 12:45 – 3:00
Elementary	9:15 – 3:00
Middle School	9:00 – 2:55
High School	9:00 – 3:00

Student Contact Tues - Fri

Kindergarten	8:15 – 11:00 12:15 – 3:00
Elementary	8:15 – 3:00
Middle School	8:00 – 2:55
High School	8:00 – 3:00

SEPTEMBER 2014

M	T	W	T	F
H	SI	SI	SI	SI
NS	NS	R	R	R
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30			

1 Labor Day Holiday
2-5 Staff In-Service Days
4 Evening Open House/Orientations (all schools)
10-13 Pendleton Round-Up
15 School Begins - All Students
School Days = 12

FEBRUARY 2015

M	T	W	T	F
SI	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27

2 Staff In-Service - No School (End of 1st Semester)
School Days = 19

OCTOBER 2014

M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	SI
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

10 Staff In-Service - No School
School Days = 22

MARCH 2015

M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
V	V	V	V	V
SI	31			

23-27 Spring Break
30 Staff In-Service - No School
School Days = 16

NOVEMBER 2014

M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	H	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
EC	C	NS	H	V

11 Veteran's Day Observed
24 Evening P/T Conferences - School in Session
25 P/T Conferences (all day & evening) - No School
26-28 Thanksgiving Break
School Days = 15

APRIL 2015

M	T	W	T	F
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	EC	C	NS
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	

15 Evening P/T Conferences - School in Session
16 P/T Conferences (all day & evening) - No School
17 No School
School Days = 20

DECEMBER 2014

M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
V	V	V	V	V
V	V	V		

22 Winter Break Begins
School Days = 15

MAY 2015

M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
H	26	27	28	29

25 Memorial Day
School Days = 20

JANUARY 2015

M	T	W	T	F
			V	V
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
H	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

5 School Resumes
19 Martin Luther King Jr. Day
School Days = 19

JUNE 2015

M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	E	SI	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30			

4 PHS Baccalaureate
6 PHS Graduation
15 Last Day of School for Kindergarten
16 Last Day of School - Two Hour Early Release
17 Staff In-Service - No School
School Days = 12