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## PENDLETON SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS

September 20, 2011

### Math Success!

*From the Desk of Jon Peterson, Superintendent*



Welcome to the 2011-2012 school year, Pendleton!

The recent release of data from the 2010-2011 Oregon Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (OAKS) provides school districts across the state with an opportunity to analyze learning systems and instructional programs.

In the Pendleton School District, there is good news to share with our community.

For the last few years, all schools in the PSD have implemented strategies and programs focused on improvement in mathematics. These efforts have been especially intensified at

Pendleton High School, where the number of students meeting or exceeding math benchmarks was below 50 percent annually through the 2009-2010 school year.

As reported by the Oregon Department of Education, these numbers changed significantly in 2010-2011. In fact, the percentage of PHS students meeting or exceeding the benchmark in math last year was 69.8 percent, an increase of 23 percent from the 2009-2010 school year. Congratulations to the entire PHS math department for this outstanding accomplishment – and congratulations to our students for their hard work.

PHS is also recognized for its work in reading, writing, and science, where students also experienced double digit gains from the 2009-2010 school year (up 16 percent in reading, 14 percent in writing, and 17 percent in science). Reading, math, and science scores at PHS were above the state average, while writing scores were under the state average by only 0.6 percent.

*See Math on p. 2*

## Common Core Standards

**Q: What are the Common Core State Standards?**

**A:** The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) are a set of shared K-12 learning expectations for students in English-language arts and mathematics that provide a consistent, clear understanding of what students are expected to learn in K-12 math and English-language arts. The standards are designed to be robust and relevant to the real world, reflecting the knowledge and skills that our young people need for success in college and careers. The CCSS supports the college and career ready expectations of Oregon's new graduation requirements.

**Q: Why does Oregon need common educational content standards?**

**A:** Today, each state has its own process for developing, adopting, and implementing standards. As a result, what students are expected to learn can vary widely from state to state. We know that our graduates will compete for jobs with students from other states and countries with more rigorous standards. CCSS will help ensure that all students, no matter where they live, are prepared for success in postsecondary education and the workforce.

**Q: Will the new Common Core State Standards replace Oregon's existing academic content standards for math and English language arts?**

**A:** Yes. These two new sets of standards will replace Oregon's current standards in English-language arts and math. While the new standards are similar to Oregon's current standards, some content has been shifted to ensure college and career readiness at the end of high school.

**Q. Since Oregon has adopted the national common core standards, and they are scheduled to be in place by 2014, what is the PSD's plan for implementation?**

Some districts around the state have made the choice to implement the new standards effective this year. In these districts, students will be tested based on the old standards since OAKS is not tied to the new Common Core. Obviously, this practice will be problematic with regard to AYP ratings.

The PSD will take a more patient implementation approach. Teachers are encouraged to start the process this year by familiarizing themselves with the new standards. There are a variety of resources available on the ODE Web site, including a "crosswalk," which helps teachers compare current standards with new standards. Grade level and subject area teacher teams will be instrumental during this transition.

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## HOT TOPICS:



### **PSD selected for CLASS Project**

The Pendleton School District has been selected by the Chalkboard Project to participate in the CLASS (Creative Leadership Achieves Student Success) Project for the 2011-2012 school year. Designing the CLASS Project pilot is Phase One, and will consist of several designated steps that will be carried out by the PSD in partnership with Chalkboard.

Fifteen PSD representatives (eleven teachers, 3 building administrators, and one school board member) will serve on the PSD Class Design Team. During the course of the 2011-2012 school year, this team will focus on four areas of effective teaching to raise student achievement and strengthen teacher leadership. The four areas – expanded career paths, effective performance evaluations, targeted and relevant professional development, and new compensation models – will drive their work. The CLASS Design team will create plans unique to the PSD to best meet the needs of our students, staff, and community.

### **Board Goals**

#### **Goal #1: School & Curriculum Improvement**

Increase achievement for every student, close the achievement gap, and ensure every student is prepared for their future.

#### **Goal #2: Organization/Development of District Resources**

Develop and provide prudent stewardship of District resources to best support student success and educational equity.

#### **Goal #3: Long-Term Facilities Planning**

Develop a comprehensive long-term facilities plan to prepare for the future of the Pendleton School District.

*Math, cont. from pg. 1*

In spite of the improvements at PHS, the school did not meet overall Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). PHS did meet AYP requirements in eight of nine rated categories, but AYP standards require schools to meet the designated standard in all subgroups.

All five of the PSD's elementary schools met AYP in 2010-2011, compared to only three in 2009-2010. Sunridge Middle School met AYP in 14 of 15 categories, and received a "Not Met" rating as a result.

We are proud of the improvements we were able to make in 2010-2011. We also understand we have more work to do – and we're focused on continued improvement in 2011-2012.

## Enrollment Update

School	2011-2012 (start of school year)
PHS	914
Hawthorne	82
Sunridge	781
Lincoln	183
West Hills	202
McKay	350
Sherwood	412
Washington	371

## Mark Your Calendar

**Oct. 10** - School Board Meeting, 7 p.m., District Office

**Oct. 13** - PHS Homecoming Football Game, 7 p.m. Round-Up Grounds

**October 14** – Statewide In-service - No School

**November 8** – K-12 Evening Conferences

**November 9** – K-12 Day/Evening Conferences – No School

**November 10** – No School

**November 11** – Veteran's Day – No School

**November 23** – 2 hour Early Dismissal – NO KINDERGARTEN

**November 24-25** – Thanksgiving Break