



Student newspaper of
Phillipsburg High School
410 South Seventh Street
Phillipsburg, KS 67661

The Panther After Party will be held September 4 following
the football game at 298 2nd St in Phillipsburg for grades
7-12. Free food, games and fun!

The NWK Youth Suicide
Prevention Coalition is
hosting a two mile color
run/walk for Phillips
County. Page 3.

the panther pause



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From the classroom to the web

LAUREN WALLGREN

Reporter

"Why are there so many steps to turn in my homework?"
"How do I open this in Notability?"
"Why do I get so many emails?!"

Students and teachers may be asking or hearing these questions a lot. The district is starting out the year by having the staff and student body use the application Google Classroom. According to Google, this app makes learning and teaching simple and fast and allows teachers to distribute and grade assignments in a paperless way.

"We are a Google school," Principal Todd Bowman said, "All of our apps are Google, so Classroom isn't an extra expense, and it fits in with the other apps."

In past years, students have complained about using a different application for each class such as, Edmodo, Socrative or Email. Google Classroom narrows down the number of school-related apps and keeps all work in one spot.

"We needed something that brought everyone together," Bowman said.

Some of the teachers used Google Classroom starting in February of last year. FACS teacher Deb Weishaar was one of these teachers.

"I like the flexibility of it," Weishaar said, "It reaches every student, and lets me know the exact time and date they turn in their assignments, so I know when they are late."

Over the summer, administrators decided Google Classroom would be used in every classroom.

Though Classroom sends out a ton of emails, they have a purpose. Emails are reminders for students to turn in assignments for class. Emails also give students the option to see what they'll be doing in classes later in the day.

Google Classroom's layout is designed to be easy and quick. One tap and all of the assignments and in-class topics for that

week are on a single page. The due date, page numbers, directions and the homework attachment is right at students' fingertips.

However, teachers and students have had troubles with the app. While a majority of the student body doesn't like Google Classroom, some have accepted the change and believe it will be beneficial to the school throughout the year.

"It's a great use of technology," Sophomore Rylee Bretton said.

The teachers ran into the problem of advancing technology for their subject. Many wondered how they could use the iPads more effectively in their class. Google Classroom is a way for every teacher, no matter the subject, to use iPads.

There's a learning curve, like there is with anything. Eventually Google will be part of everyday life in the classroom and students will no longer ask, "Why can't I do this on paper?"



"I don't like it because it doesn't work at home," junior Brittney Shank said.



"It's nice because it's all in one app and I can get everything in one place," senior Donovan Lumpkin said.



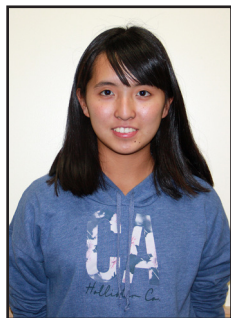
"Honestly, it's less effective than turning things in by hand because the app is unreliable," sophomore Noah Peak said.

75% of students asked said no!

25% said yes!

Google DENIED!!

New faces in the halls



Hana Soto, junior
Japan

"In Japan I had ten minutes in between classes and here we only have three minutes, so its really hard for me to move classes that quickly."



Dylan Dulany,
junior
Atwood, Kansas

"The biggest difference between my old school and here would probably be the technology. We did not have the updated technology that Phillipsburg has."

Mr. Harris

What school did you graduate from and what was your degree in?

"I graduated from Friends University in Wichita, Kansas, with a Bachelor of Arts in Secondary Education."

What classes do you teach?

"I teach World History, Current Events and Study Skills."

What is your first impression of PHS so far?

"I really like it here, it's good to be back at a small school again. The teachers have been great. The other employees and staff have helped me adjust so much, and its been nice to be around them."

If you could be any cartoon character, what would it be and why?

"It would be bugs, because there's nothing better than bugs. He is the most famous."



Miss. Cameron

What school did you graduate from and what was your degree in?

"I graduated from Bethany College in Lindsborg, Kansas, with a degree in Secondary English Education."

What classes do you teach?

"I teach freshman and junior English"

What is your first impression of PHS so far?

"Not only do you have very supportive coaches and teachers here, but I think that all the students are very supportive of one another as well. I've noticed that is just a positive atmosphere to be in. Everyone has been very welcoming."

If you could be any cartoon character, what would it be and why?

"Courage the Cowardly dog, because I very much enjoy not only watching scary things, but I like the idea of good triumphing over evil."



Haylee Brunner,
sophomore
Niles, Michigan

"At my old school, they had regular high school and New Tech. New Tech had all sorts of technology methods, and they used laptops for everything"



Hannah Nagal
Freshman
Topeka, Kansas

"At my old school we were allowed to have phones in class."



Logan Van Der
Wege
Junior
Hays, Kansas

"At my old high school, we had up to 850 students, and here even if you combine both the high school and middle school it wouldn't compare."



Hallie Muirhead
Junior
Elm Creek, Nebraska

"At my old school, we weren't allowed to have phones during lunch, but here we do, so that's great."



Dustin Gendoes
Sophomore
Wakeforest, North Carolina

"My old school was a lot bigger."



Jocelyn Gibson
Freshman
Home-Schooled

"My first day of school was a little hectic, because I couldn't get my locker opened at first. Over all, it was enjoyable, and I also love seeing my sister Jillian more throughout the day."



August Ricker
Freshman
Hays, Kansas

"In Hays, we had more students in our classes, so the teachers didn't have enough time to answer our questions in one class period."



Faith Dulany
Freshman
Atwood, Kansas

"It has way more students. There are more male teachers. Besides that not much more."

Freshmen face frustration and excitement as they transition to high school

For a lot freshman, transitioning into high school can be tough. Freshmen experience some big changes and need to know how to adjust quickly.

A big struggle for many incoming freshmen is remembering where their classes are located. "It's a big school. I thought I'd easily get lost," freshman Matthew Merklein said.

Another struggle for incoming freshmen is figuring out how to use a combination lock.

"I struggle with getting my locker open," freshman Jocelyn Gibson said.

High school can be more challenging and will take some time to adjust. Teachers will have higher expectations, but are here to help their students get into college. In return, students have to work just as hard as teachers do.

In high school, there is a larger variety of classes to choose from.

"I like how there is more freedom in some classes," freshman Ashley Babcock said.

Not only are students excited for the changes in school, but they are also looking forward to high school athletics.

"I'm really excited for football," freshman Cháron Ellis said.

Excitement and eagerness to play is exactly what athletics coaches are looking for. Good sportsmanship and discipline are qualities all athletes should possess.

It's not always easy moving from top dog to the bottom of the totem pole.

"It feels weird because at the bottom you can feel everyone's eyes on you," freshman Nikole

Huntley said.

Every high school student has experienced the transition into high school. Some coped better than others, but in the end everyone eventually learns the ropes of high school.



Freshmen Lexi Beach, Logan Solida, Kyleigh Russell, Cháron Ellis, Trey Sides and Allen Conner are seen warming up before starting their freshman P.E. class.
Photo by: Yearbook Staff

Respect all, fear none

HANNAH PEAK

senior editor

The crowd waits anxiously as the first serve is made. The neon ball rises into the air before connecting with the racket and soaring across the court towards the opponent. The match begins, and both players fiercely battle one another. With an experienced team, the tennis team begins to prepare for their first match.

Donna Jarvis, the head tennis coach, prepared the team for the season by holding a camp in June and having open courts twice a week during the summer. She also had a conditioning week for the team the first week of school.

“The team is coming along really well,” Jarvis said.

With 31 girls on the team, the doubles and singles spots have not been decided yet. The junior varsity’s first meet will be on August 25 and varsity’s first meet will be held on August 27. Both meets will be held in Trego. There will be eight tournaments for the team to face, other than regional and state tournaments.

“Because I’m a senior, my personal goal for this season is to earn one of the top five spots within the team and keep it throughout the season,” senior Suzanne Huntley said.

Throughout this upcoming season, the tennis team will face multiple opponents with fire in their eyes. Even if they walk away with a loss, the girls will continue improving and building their skills as the fall progresses.



Junior Madi Mathes attacks the net during the varsity meet on Sept. 1 at Phillipsburg. Mathes finished the day in second with doubles partner junior Maggie Malmberg. Photo by Kristina Sisson.

Pull together; push to win

ELIZABETH LEIDIG

editor

Smack! The volleyball is served over the net to the opponent, as one player in particular gets ready to pass it to the setter.

The setter sets the ball for the hitter to slam down into their opponents when bam! The spike has been blocked!

Seniors Alex Babcock and Rachel Coomes, juniors Tatum Bartels and Ashley Wells and sophomores Lauryn Davis, Claire Keeten and Erica Hoover are all returning letterman.

“With seven returning lettermen having a lot of experience as hitters and front row player, defense will be the biggest thing to improve on this year,” Coach Terra Keeten said.

Despite the big number of returning lettermen, the competition will still be tough. Not only with the tournaments have strong competition, but the league will have some strong teams, as well.

“TMP won our league tournament last season, and they have the majority of their players returning, so they will be very competitive,” Keeten said.

The team hopes to keep improving with not only the older players, but also their younger players.

At their first competition on Tuesday, Sept. 3, the team defeated Plainville and Oakley, but lost to Smith Center.



During the C team tournament held at Phillipsburg on Saturday, August 29, freshman Lexie Beach lines up to pass the ball to the setter. Sophomore Morgan Wagner prepares to help Beach if necessary. The Panthers ended the tournament with a first place finish. Photo by Lauryn Davis.

Small numbers but big goals

BHUMIKA BHAKTA

editor

The Cross Country team has a new coach this year, junior high wellness teacher David King. The team consists of sophomores Jaya Fink and Ethan Fiek and senior Austin Tein from Logan, KS.

Tein is the only returning letterman this year. Effective teams don’t just happen. It takes effort from each and everyone on the team to succeed. When a team works together, any big obstacle can be tackled. For this reason, coaches and team members set goals for the team and individual athletes.

“My biggest goal for the kids is that they get better each day at practice, and each meet, we have them get better,” King said.

He hopes that all the set individual and team goals are achieved by the end of the season.

With such a small number of players, one of the goals is to attract more students.

“One of the biggest things I want improve on is that I want us to be able to produce a culture where we attract more athletes, and hopefully we would have a full boys’ and full girls’ team,” King said.

Cross Country is a sport that is ideal for setting personal goals and working hard to achieve those goals.

The first meet of 2015 was held September 3 at Norton. Results were not available at press time.

Football team hopes to capitalize on strengths

CLAIRE KEETEN

editor

Returning Offensive Starters

Donovan Lumpkin
Kian Stegmier
Jace Gordon
Brock Means
Nate Prewitt
Seth Jacobs
Zach Davis
John Gower

Returning Defensive Starters

Donovan Lumpkin
Kian Stegmier
Connor Boxler
Jace Gordon
Conner Weinman
Nate Prewitt
Zach Davis

According to Coach Covington...

Personal goals for this year

“To see the team develop and to turn a bunch of individual athletes into a team”

How are the younger players adjusting

“They are having trouble adjusting to the faster speed. We are having to slow everything down to show them the right way to do things.”

What will be your strengths this year

“Offensive and defensive line”



During the football scrimmage on Saturday, August 29, sophomore Braden Juenemann prepares to put a hit on the receiver. The panther will see their first real action on Friday, Sept. 4 against TMP at home. The night has been deemed the Blackout Night with Golden Plains Credit Union sponsoring the event.

Photo by: Kateyln Swanson

What areas will you need to improve on this year

“To be able to throw the ball and get out of situations where they are behind the chains”

Students and staff encouraged to run for a cause

BHUMIKA BHAKTA

editor

Did you know suicide was the 2nd leading cause of death for youth in 2011? More than 4,000 youth ages 15-24 died by suicide.

According to the Youth Risk and Behavior Survey, among high school students 15.8% considered suicide; 12.8% made a plan for suicide; 7.8% attempted suicide one or more times and 2.4% made a suicide attempt that had to be treated by a doctor or nurse.

Girls are more likely to attempt suicide, but boys are more likely to die by suicide than girls.

On Wednesday, Sept. 9 USD 325 will be having a color run/walk to raise awareness for teen suicide. Students and teachers are encouraged to participate in the event, which will be help at 2p.m.

Those students who participate will be excused from their seventh hour class to run/walk. They will report for attendance before the run and again after the run. Students who opt to remain in class must complete the teacher’s assignment for that day.

Out With the Old, In With the New

CLAIRE KEETEN

Reporter

In 1995, many people were shocked with the outcome of the OJ Simpson trial, the death of Spanish pop singer Selena Quintanilla, the bombing of the Oklahoma City Federal Building, and it was also the last time the weight room received new equipment.

The idea of new weight room equipment has been in the works for the past three years; finally, this past year everything was in place.

"Safety was a big problem. It was way too crowded and the equipment was too old," said Athletic Director Andy Kenney.

Administrators and coaches came together to work towards a solution.

Generous donations from the no-longer-active Phillipsburg Rec. Commission of \$10,000, the Booster Club for \$5000, \$3,000 from Rode-way Inn and Suites, and \$800 from the sales of old equipment made it possible to purchase five half racks with adjustable benches, five weight lifting bars and a multi station - leg curl and leg extension machine.

Additionally the coaches and janitors also applied a fresh coat of paint.

Student athletes will benefit in many ways.

"It will benefit athletes by providing a safer environment and better equipment to work on with more capabilities for them to do different lift activities that we didn't have before. It also benefits all students that are in weights class," said Kenney.

Students who have actively used the weight room enjoy the upgrades.

"The best part of the new weight room is all the new equipment," sophomore Erica Hoover said.

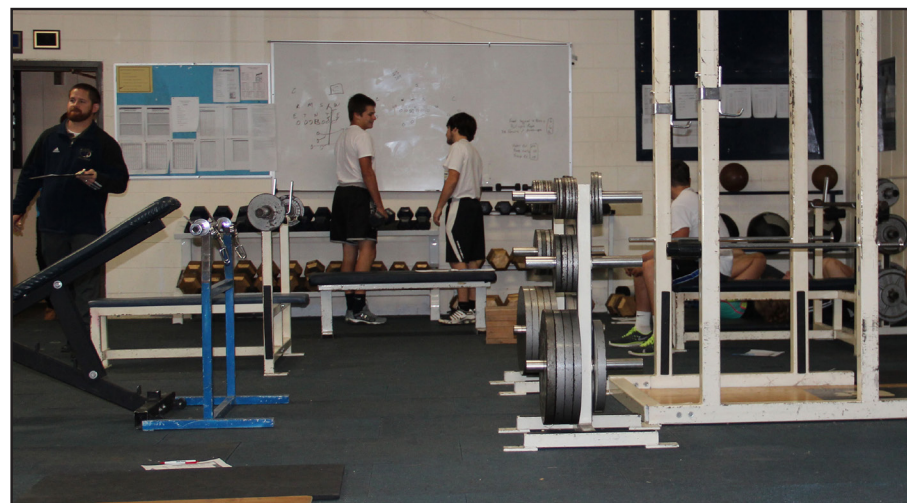
"The new equipment is much nicer and the broken pieces are gone. The new equipment allows us to do different lifts, which is beneficial," said senior Brock Means.

Not only is the new weight room safer, but also it is also more spacious.

"The new equipment allows us to utilize our space more efficiently. It is a safer environment because of the open floor area. The new racks are really nice as they allow us to stack weights vertically instead of on weight trees. It seems like our weight room is much bigger now and we can use the open space for a lot of different drills."

Although it took many years and the financial help of the community, the high school now has a weight room it can be "Panther Proud" of.

During P.E classes, last year students found themselves cramped and unable to workout efficiently. On the contrast, this year students are able to try new workouts and safely lift with all the newfound space.



Panther Pause Goes Paperless

LEYLA KARIM

Reporter

C-H-A-N-G-E. It's a word everyone knows. The Panther Pause has recently gone through a big change and found a new way reach students and members of the community by publishing all issues of The Panther Pause online.

"It was kind of an idea that I was tossing around at the end of last year," Advisor Robin Sides said. "With all of the changes with the Google Classroom and trying to go paperless, I thought this year might be a good year to try and make that change."

Sides approached Principal Todd Bowman about the topic. He then had to send it to the board, and they all agreed that is was a great idea.

Not only will publishing the school newspaper online save paper, but it will also save the journalism department money. Last year it cost the journalism class about \$2,500 to publish all ten issues of the Panther Pause.

"By switching online we are keeping our school up to date," senior Panther Pause Editor Hannah Peak said. "It will benefit the younger generation by having them be involved with technology."

Some other benefits of publishing online are The Panther Pause staff can be more flexible with deadlines and have a longer period of time to put the paper together.

To take advantage of available technology, Sides is planning to eventually make the paper more interactive by adding photo streams and



possibly a few online surveys.

One downside to the change is that community members also like to read the paper and will likely be disappointed that paper copies will not be distributed.

Several ideas to address this issue have been discussed. The paper will be made available on the school website. Additionally, Sides would like to send out Panther Alerts to notify the community when the paper is available. This alert will contain the link to the school website where the publication can be found.

Moreover, if parents or grandparents are not tech savvy, they can ask to have a paper copy printed. A small fee may be required.

Could This Be The End of Dual Credit Courses?

ELIZABETH LEIDIG

Reporter

The beginning of the school year is normally filled with much anticipation of what the year will bring, this year; however, the accrediting service for colleges in Kansas and 19 other states decided to change the requirements needed to teach a dual credit college course, which has led to both the students and teachers' disappointment.

The teachers must make their intentions known in the next several weeks. If they decide not to pursue a Masters Degree they will not be able to teach dual credit courses after December 2015. With the changes being made, teachers must now obtain a Masters Degree in their teaching area or already have a Masters Degree in another area and gain 18 credit hours in their area of study. Gaining a Masters Degree is not only time consuming, but also bears a huge financial burden on the shoulders of anyone trying the gain the title.

Some teachers question how their teaching would improve by getting a Masters.

"I don't feel that I would teach college algebra any better or feel that I would be any better prepared by getting my Masters in math," College Algebra Rachel Miller said.

Many teachers teaching the college classes are in a bind for what decision they will make.

"I am conflicted because I want the students to have the opportunity to take dual credit classes because it is a huge advantage for students going into college, but at the same time the personal financial obligations is a deterrent," Comp teacher Robin Sides said.

A scholarship through the Board of Regents is an option for teachers who want to offset the cost.

"I'm looking at a scholarship available through the Board of Regents to offset the cost of getting a Masters degree. If it works out, I would be more inclined to pursue my Masters," Sides said.

Several universities such as Fort Hays State are working with dual credit teachers to reduce the cost of graduate hours. Typically graduate hours range from \$275-\$550 per credit hour.

Teachers aren't only the only ones upset about the change.

"I am really disappointed that I might not be able to take statistics next semester. I was really looking forward to taking it before next year so I could be more prepared for college," senior Katelyn Swanson said.

This change has left several teachers weighing their options and students wondering about their schedules next semester.