Letter from Dr. Coleman

Hello Pride of the City,

Welcome to Peoria High School, the Pride of the City. I am so excited that you are part of our amazing learning community. Whether you are a returning, first-year, or transfer student, we are happy to have you here at the Pride. Peoria High School is a diverse community of learners with a rich tradition of excellence. Although our previous school years were unique in teaching and learning experiences, we were still able to have positive learning results. This year our goal is to continue the same success.

At Peoria High our focus is academics, attendance, safety, and school culture with each being equally important in making us the Pride of the City. Your help is needed in all of these areas to help us reach these goals. The process is simple, please attend school/class on time daily, engage in learning activities, and exhibit your best behavior at all times. In return we will provide you with a safe and enriching learning environment where your needs and aspirations are customized with the ultimate purpose of you graduating from PHS college and career ready. It is our desire that you will have accomplished academic success, experienced personal growth, and increased social responsibility.

As we say daily being a proud member of the Pride of the City, Peoria High places an expectation on every student, staff member, and parent to hold themselves to a higher standard, while representing first class behavior in all areas of today’s society. It is our goal that wherever a member of the Pride of the City ventures, they will stand out as the example of how to carry oneself in all aspects of life.

Please let me know how I can assist you in being a proud member of the pride. From one PHS alum to the next, I wish you success in all of your endeavors both now and in the future. Let’s make this your best school year ever.

Sincerely, Dr. Coleman

IN THIS ISSUE
Clubs and Activities 3
Crossword Puzzle 8
Editorial Policy 2
Library Services 3
Meet the Admin 1
Meet the Staff 8
Music Review 8
Pop Assembly Moments 6-7
Photo Opinion 2
Senior Shout Out 2
Sports 4-5
Welcome Back 1

PHS Administrative Team

Ms. Skahill

Peoria High was my first teaching job after college, and I was hired as a business teacher. After a quarter, I was moved from the business department to the English department and spent 7 years teaching a variety of courses, but always had my sophomore babies. I left to teach at Richwoods for a short three years, and while I enjoyed my time there, there is no place like PHS. I could not be more thrilled to be home.

This year, I am assistant principal to our seniors. I look forward to getting to know them and their goals as they prepare to leave Peoria High and enter the adult world. It is my goal for students to learn, and for our environment to foster that learning in an energized, fun way that can be enjoyed by students and staff alike.

My office is on the second floor, where ICC’s office was in previous years. If my door is open, please peek your head in, I would love to say hi!

I completed my undergrad at Augustana College in Rock Island, IL where I played basketball all four years. My degree was in Business Administration with concentrations in marketing and management and a minor in English - my goal was to work for a professional sports team. (Fun fact: I interned with the Chicago Fire while in school and got to work with all the Chicago professional teams through that experience. I even played Sparky, the Fire mascot, a few times). After a few years, I decided that path was not right for me; I went back to school to get a masters in teaching. With that program, I was able to complete my student teaching in Ireland. Most recently, I finished my second masters in administration which led me to this position. My long term goal is to complete my doctorate.

I am married and have three small children - two girls and a boy. They love lions and will be regular faces at sporting events. I also love traveling, food, and kindness.

Mr. McCormick

My name is Mr. Mic McCormick and I am the Assistant Principal for the Junior class. I was a biology teacher at Peoria High for 2 years before becoming an Assistant Principal this year. My office is on the 3rd floor in room 318.

I grew up in Peoria and went to Richwoods before getting my Bachelor’s degree from the University of Wisconsin at Eau Claire and my master’s degree from the University of Phoenix. I have also taken classes at ICC, Bradley, Eureka College, and Fort Hays State.

In my spare time I garden, hunt and fish.

Ms. Smothers

This is my third year serving the Pride of the City as an assistant principal.

I oversee the Class of 2024, fine arts, foreign language, and the English Language program. Over the summer I was on the move again and am now located in room 156.

Ms. Scott

This is my 1st year as an assistant principal here at the PRIDE OF THE CITY to our Freshman Academy. I specialize in special education and elementary curriculum and instruction. My goal is to ensure students learn and build a foundation to encourage students to be successful learners and to be college and career ready.

My office is in the Freshman Academy Wing, please stop by and give a wave, a hug, or a hello!

I enjoy listening to music, gardening, and doing anything fun outdoors. I have a 4yr old chihuahua named Jaxon Lee.

Mr. Scott

My name is Moiria (Moe) Scott, I am a Bradley Alum, and have worked for Peoria Public Schools for 16yrs. In those years I’ve taught Primary grades for 10 years and was a K-8 Assistant Principal for 6yrs.

I earned 2 Master’s degrees in Educational Leadership and Curriculum and Instruction from Saint Xavier University. I received my undergrad in Early Childhood Education and Special Education from Bradley University.

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Opinion

Editorial Policy

The Opinion has a tradition of as one of the oldest school newspapers in the country. The advisors and editors wish to honor the diversity represented in the school and greater Peoria community. Contributors to the Opinion will be held to basic journalistic principles and standards.

Student editors will work with advisors to develop a content plan. Staff writers will submit planned articles. Any student may openly submit an article for consideration. It is the intent of the editorial staff to produce five electronic issues during the 2021-2022 school year.

It is undeniable that students are protected in their exercise of freedom of expression by the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. Accordingly, it is the responsibility of school officials to insure the maximum freedom of expression of all students.

It is the policy of the Peoria Board of Education that The Opinion has been established as a Peoria High School sponsored forum for student expression. As such, it will provide students an opportunity to inquire, question and exchange ideas.

The Opinion stands behind the policy set in the Speech Rights of Student Journalists Act that states shall be no prior restraint of material prepared for official school publication EXCEPT for material that is libelous, slanderous or obscene; constitutes an unwarranted invasion of privacy; violates federal or state law; and/or incites students to commit an unlawful act. (105 ILCS 80/15)

The freedom of speech does not prevent the school staff editing work to address professional standards of journalism and English. School staff may work with students to edit and revise articles to meet these guidelines. All Opinion staff have been made aware of this act and how it applies to their writing.

No expression made by students in the exercise of their freedom speech or press shall be deemed to be an expression of school policy.

Photo Opinion

What are you most exited about this year?

Dankmarkae Starnes
“To see friends at school and learn something new everyday.”

Yarelli Velazquez
“To play soccer.”

Ameridon Smith
“My Woodruff classes and graduating.”

King Sims
“Being back in person, full time.”

Chaniya Ferguson
“To graduate!!!”

Michael Byrd
“Being in love”

Opinion Staff

Advisors
Ms. Riebel & Mrs. Slutz

Editorial Staff
Seeking Staff !!!

Writers
Mickael Brown

Other Contributors
Students Getting Involved

Besides sports, PHS has several groups and activities. Most of the groups are open and seeking students. Reach out to the advisor to find out about meetings or how students can participate.

KEY CLUB

Key Club is a student-led, high school organization. Our members make the world a better place through service. In doing so, we grow as individuals and as leaders by answering the call to lead, summoning the courage to engage and developing the heart to serve.

CREST (YEARBOOK)

The CREST is the school yearbook. Students are needed to create the pages throughout the school year. See Mrs. Parker for additional details.

SENIOR SHOUT OUT!!

If you are a college bound senior have you completed the green transcript release form handed out at the senior meeting? Pick up a form from the counseling department or check with your English teacher.

Coming soon — FAFSA. Seniors must complete a FAFSA application as part of the graduation requirements. FAFSA is also a requirement to be eligible for Peoria Promise funds.

Are you looking for scholarship information? Sign up for the remind notices from Ms. Mitchell.

OPINION (NEWSPAPER)

The Opinion is published digitally throughout the school year. We are looking for student reporters to contribute articles on activities, sports and news features. Students may also submit feature articles like reviews of movies, music or games. Pictures of artwork may be scanned and submitted as well. We also are seeking comics or cartoon artists. If you have something to say and want to get involved come see Ms. Riebel in 304.

PRIDE TEAM

The Peoria High Pride Team was designed to be a team comprised of strong, motivated individuals that represent the ideals and leadership of The Pride of the City. It is considered an honor to be a member of Pride Team. Each member specifically chosen to create a team of well-rounded individuals who are on the same mission to better this school and community, and you lead by example.

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Use the Book Recommendation Form on the Pride Library website to let Ms. Cloud know of materials you would like to see in the library!

Other Activities in the Library

Meditation Mondays

On Mondays when teachers do not have class in the library, Ms. Cloud will host meditation sessions during lunch. Please quietly join us for some relaxation exercises.

Lion’s Den Book Club

Calling all book lovers! The Lion’s Den Book Club meets the first and third Wednesdays during lunch. Please join us on the Remind App:

Send a text to 81010
Text this message: @ha3898
Use your first and last name so that Ms. Cloud will recognize you!

Gender Studies Alliance

The GSA meets every Thursday at lunch. Join us for support on the Remind App:

Send a text to 81010
Text this message: @b4ck6a
The girls swim team is gaining momentum. This year a lot of new swimmers joined the team. Some are learning how to swim and compete for the first time. As Coach Geraghty said, “it is great to see our team group and have so many swimmers trying something new and giving it their all.” For the first time in several years PHS is able to enter three relay teams because the team has grown. The swim team also is very culturally diverse.

The Lady Lions take out a few moments from practice for a picture.

Golf

The golf team is working at getting lower and lower scores. “We all got low scores in the match against Notre Dame and Richwoods on the 7th,” said junior Ryan Kindred.
IN THE SPOTLIGHT
Senior athletes share their most exciting moment from their seasons so far.

Kammie Hess
~ Volleyball
We won our senior night and gave Coach W her first senior night win.

Tim Petty
~ Football
I pancaked a D1 player against St. Francis.

Saevion Brent
~ Football
I tackled the quarterback against St. Francis.

Boys Soccer
According to senior and one of the senior Captains Cristo Montejoano “we are having a good season so far with a 1-1-2 record.” He went on to say that “everyone is playing hard and giving every match their best.”

Football
The Sophomore football Players get hyped up for the game at the pep assembly.

At the end of the assembly all the football players huddle up.
Mr. Mahan was the announcer at the first assembly. He reminded the student body of the spirit stick competition. The spirit stick is awarded to the class that shows the most spirit at each assembly. The seniors and juniors were at full volume right from the beginning. The juniors plotted a silly string attack on the seniors in their attempt to start the year in control.

The cheerleaders showed their tumbling skills and led the student body in cheering on the lions.

The competitions got serious during the games. Senior Kammie Hess tried to keep her partner upright during the three legged race while junior Krisdon Marston struggled to keep up with her partner.
Student Life
Expand your Playlist by adding Christian Rock

By Mickeal Brown

Everyone has their own unique view on what they think is good music. Like most listeners, different music appeals at different times. Most teens know about Lil nas X, NBA Youngboy, Cardie B and other rappers of our generation. Many students have secret music that gets listened to in private—music I try to keep behind a locked door at the end of a forgotten hallway of my mind. But the thing is not to be ashamed of something that is not to be ashamed of.

One music genre often overlooked is Christian Rock. Many times non-Christian or those who do not identify with any religion will shy from any music associated with Christianity. However, I don’t believe that you have to be a certain religion to listen to music. Music does not discriminate based on your beliefs. I would like to share my playlist from this genre.

The first few songs vary in age but are all from the same band, Skillet. Skillet’s songs have shaped me a lot. The song “Legendary” shares a message that you can be the person to break the glass ceiling. If you have not heard of that phrase, it means that there is not upward boundary but rather anyone can get to the next level.

Two more songs by Skillet are “Not Gonna Die” and “Rise.” Rise examines the morale that it is okay to stand up for what you think is right. The other song’s message is that when you stand up in protest the world will try to break you down.

Many people know the song “Invincible” by Skillet. This song is about people having your back no matter what.

Everyone experiences events and times when you feel like the world is just kicking you in the [backside] and you need something to inspire you to push through. The song “Back from Dead” is a song I use to bring myself back. The song gives a powerful message that even if you feel like you are forgotten by people you can still rise up and own your uniqueness.

The last song, “Resistance”, really speaks to our generation. Together as a group we are “stronger than a hurricane and louder than freight train” as the lyrics suggest. We can be better than the last generation.

So, consider adding a Skillet song to your playlist or give them a listen next time you are in need of something to bring you out of the dark place. Look for some additional playlist suggestions in the next issue.

PHS Crossword

ACROSS
1. Class—Sing, Sing, Sing
4. Our proud principal is...
5. PHS Mascot is the...
6. A group of lions is a...
7. Fall sport—let’s get wet
12. Fall Sport—run the course
13. Fall Sport - hit over the net
14. Fall sport - spike over the net
15. Fall sport - yards to go
17. Mr. XXX is the athletic director
18. His ‘spirit’ is said to peek into classrooms

DOWN
1. They’ve got spirit
2. Class—knowledge of beings, the land, nature
3. The first principal of PHS went on to help start what college?
4. Class—knowing the past and present of communities
9. Fall sport - kick it
10. People who have graduated from PHS are called
11. Class—Reading and Writing
16. Class—the numbers have to add up

Behind the Mask—Teachers

Mrs. Ridley

I have been teaching since January of 2014. I have worked at Pekin High School, Manual, Harrison, and now The Pride of the City. I grew up in Peoria and have lived here my whole life. I attended Woodrow Wilson, Sterling, and graduated PHS in 2004. I teach English II. I am an avid sports fan (Go Cubs and Go Blue!) and have a blonde 9-year-old Chihuahua named Kobe (after Kobe Bryant). I am so happy to be back home at The Pride of the City!

Mr. Ososky

Hi, I am Mr. Ososky. It’s pronounced Oh-sosskey, but you can call me Mr. O if that is easier for you. This will be my first year teaching, and I am excited to be teaching Biology this year. I am from Aurora, Illinois (Party on Wayne), the westernmost suburb of Chicago and second largest city in Illinois. I picked teaching at Peoria, because I wanted to teach in a diverse school district. I went to a local community college before transferring to Western Illinois University, where I got my degree in Geology/Paleontology. A few years later I decided I wanted to teach so I took classes at Northern Illinois University to get my teaching licenses. I am bit of a science “nerd” and I am always on the lookout for what’s new in biology or what discoveries are happening with fossils. I am also a fan of board games; my favorite board game right now is Ticket Ride.

Mr. Schroeder

My name is Mr. Schroeder. I have taught ESL for around 4 years now, but this is my first year in a public school in the US. My first two years of ESL teaching were in South Korea with middle-school students, and the other two years were teaching ESL to college freshmen at UIUC while completing my master’s there. I grew up in the south Chicago suburbs in a town called Lansing but moved to Indiana when I was 20 years old, and then moved to Korea when I turned 25. I came to Peoria because my girlfriend needed to be close to her clients, she is a farrier (makes horseshoes and puts them on the horses) and almost all her clients are in central IL. While I originally wanted to move to Peru or Columbia to teach English there, I was also happy with the idea of working with a Spanish-speaking community here in the states so that she could continue her business.