

Spring 2023 Updates & Highlights

... more FFA/Toy Show

The PBL FFA chapter hosted their largest fundraiser of the year in February at PBL High School. The Annual FFA Farm Toy Show, held Saturday, February 11th, was the 34th year for this event and is always a favorite for locals and visitors. Dealers set up their toys and exhibits in the gymnasium of the high school and guests are invited to browse, purchase, and/or reminisce about the toys from their younger years. The day's events included a children's tractor pull, silent auction, and concessions were available. The Farm Toy Show is a great indoor family activity and admission is FREE.

PBL's FFA chapter also hosts local fundraisers throughout the year. During the summer they host a summer camp for 4th & 5th graders to create kids' interest in agriculture. In the Fall the student group hosts a fresh fruit sale with goods delivered in early December.

Any student that takes Ag classes at PBL high school can be a member of FFA. The 3 Agriculture teachers at PBL— Aaron Slack, Mike White and Kirsten Wyatt, also serve as FFA advisors.

The Paxton FFA Chapter has had some shining stars throughout the years: 4 FFA State Presidents (3 in the previous 10 years), 38 American FFA Degree Recipients, and 201 State FFA Degree Recipients. In the past, Paxton/PBL's FFA chapter was often made up of students that were from farming families. Today's chapter looks different with many students having no prior farming familiarity. At PBL, students in 9th-12th grades can take Ag classes and be in FFA. Typically the average number of PBL students in FFA each year is between 88-100, but the current school year has 179 members. The large increase is partially due to recent generous funding by the Illinois Department of Ag which allows any student in the State of Illinois to have their membership dues paid.

...more PBL HS Math Team

The Math Team placed first overall at Regionals on Saturday. Congratulations to the following teams that placed first: Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2, Precalculus, Freshman-Sophomore 8-person, Freshman-Sophomore 2-person, Junior-Senior 2-person, Calculator, and Orals.

Congratulations to individuals who placed in the top five:

In Algebra 1: 1st place Dylan Otto, 2nd place Kayden Vance, and in a 3-way tie for 4th place was Tyler Cole, Tobias Shurr, and Johnny Rodeen.

In Geometry: 1st place Samantha Hewerdine, 2nd place Tanner Graham, in a tie for 3rd place was Aubree Sawyer and Karley Putnam, 5th place Sydney Pickens.

In Algebra 2: 1st place Jazz Anders, 3rd place Ethan Bruens.

In Precalculus: 1st place Ephraim Johnson, 2nd place Jeremiah Ager, and in a tie for 4th place was Ty Graham and Chase Ratcliff.

...more BOOK-A-MONTH

We have had tremendous support for our annual book-a-month program - what started as a hope to raise \$2000 five years ago, is now a program that is on fire with support last fall totaling \$9000. We couldn't be providing our Pre-K thru 5th grade students with a book of their own each month without this support. Businesses also contributing support with \$500 (each) in matching donations include: Buckley State Bank, Country Financial - Tim Marriott, The Frederick Community Bank, Foster Mechanics, Hudson Drug Shop, Just Hamburgers, Monical's Pizza of Paxton, Paxton IGA, and Shields Auto Group.

...more Leadership Change /
McClure Retirement

Duley to succeed McClure as superintendent of PBL school district

April 21, 2022



Travis Duley, who has been principal of Paxton-Buckley-Loda High School for eight years, will be the PBL school district's next superintendent.

By WILL BRUMLEVE
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PAXTON — The Paxton-Buckley-Loda school district's next superintendent will be Travis Duley, who has worked in the district for 20 years, including the last eight as principal of PBL High School.

During a special meeting Wednesday night, the PBL school board approved a three-year contract for Duley to serve as associate superintendent for the 2022-23 school year — Superintendent Cliff McClure's last — and then begin serving as superintendent upon McClure's retirement on June 30, 2023.

"Mr. Duley has served the last 20 years in various roles here at PBL, including being an integral member of our administrative team," McClure said. "Given his experience, ties to our communities and passion for educational excellence, I anticipate a seamless transition of leadership."

Duley has been principal of PBL High School since March 2014 and previously was a business teacher at PBL High School for 12 years. Before transitioning into administration, Duley served one year as the elected president of the PBL Education Association teachers' union. Duley also coached the varsity girls' basketball team and had other extracurricular assignments.

A native of Lexington in McLean County, Duley began his career in public education at Mt. Pulaski High School as a business teacher. Duley — who lives in Loda with his wife, Mindy, and their three children — holds a bachelor's degree from Illinois State University and master's and specialist degrees from Eastern Illinois University.

"It is an honor and privilege to be selected as the next superintendent of schools of Paxton-Buckley-Loda CUSD No. 10," Duley said in a news release from the school district announcing his promotion. "I am grateful and humbled by this opportunity. Twenty years ago, I came to PBL as a young teacher looking for an opportunity. Since then, I have had the privilege to serve as a teacher, coach, sponsor, advisor and principal. Each of these roles afforded me the opportunity to serve our students, school and communities. During this time, PBL became my home and I have built relationships with many of our community members. As I transition into this new role, I look forward to continuing to serve the students of PBL and building new relationships with more stakeholders. I am also excited to work with students, staff and community members to lead PBL into the future."

...more Home from New Orleans /
PBL HS Band



...more Flight & Space Unit

Mrs. Pondel: What do you like best about Flight & Space?

-My favorite part about flight and space is when we learned about the way astronauts eat, and how many calories they must consume -Cyenna C

-I like how we get to kind of experience what they have to do while they are in space and like what they have to eat and stuff like that and for flight. I like it because you invited people here and they talked a lot about their experiences in space.

-Kandyce C.

-I really liked how it was more hands-on. All of the lessons are fun but this one was really fun. -Brooks H.

Mrs. Pondel: If you do not plan to be a pilot or astronaut what have you learned that you might use in life or another career?

- I could be an engineer. - Lili M.

- I plan to be an engineer, so I know that what I learned will help in the future. (depends what kind of engineer I want to be) -Nolan B.

- I can use math and what we learned about wind to help me in my architectural career. -Carson L.



...more PBL Mentoring

1. **Fighters** (*we don't back down from challenges*)
2. **Committed** (*we're committed to helping our mentees do better in all aspects of life*)
3. **Compassionate** (some of our kids are going through a lot and we have to be compassionate to help "EMPATHY")
4. **Helpful** (we help our mentees academically, emotionally, and comically)
5. **Leaders** (we set good examples for not only our mentees but everyone)
6. **Experience** (We have been through Jr. High and our own struggles to help our mentees grow)

The highlight of the second semester was taking our mentees to Old Orchard Bowling in Savoy to bowl and eat pizza! Many of our mentees in the program have never been bowling. *Everyone had a great time and we look forward to hosting one more end-of-year get-together before school is out.*