

Putnam City Schools  Foundation

# The Putnam Pioneer

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## Mission Focus: Keeping Teachers Safe



In these strange times, we are keeping our ears open for creative ways to be of service to our District. Yes, our finances may not be where we would like them to be, but we are looking for places to shift your donations from the typical expenditures to emerging staff needs. It is our responsibility to meet our mission in whatever way the district needs, and right now our staff needs us in ways never before seen.

One such example is the school supply packets we were able to provide during the Spring semester thanks to a special call to our donors. We were able to raise **\$4,850** and purchase **2,500** kits for students in need thanks to YOU!

Recently the District came to us with another opportunity to help by providing items for a Teacher Safety Kit. We were able to buy reusable masks and hand sanitizer for everyone who works in Putnam City! The kindness of our donors—YOU—humbles us all. We've had several large gifts, and have even had teachers and staff members donate! **Thanks to all who are helping to keep our staff and teachers as safe as possible as we return to school.**

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## Did you know?

**Helping Putnam City's children can be your legacy**





You care about Putnam City and want to see our children succeed. You know that the Foundation uses donations to make great things happen for those kids, but you're not a millionaire! **How can you be a part of their success?**

**Consider a gift from your will!** This is the easiest way to fulfill your desire to help children as your legacy. All you need to do is include some specific language in your will, and then we will have the chance to turn your gift into flexible seating and professional development for our teachers. You can designate your gift to a particular program or start a scholarship for a teacher or student whose career aspirations inspire you. Click here to learn more [Planned Giving](#).

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## Come Play Golf!

Are you ready to get outside, grab some exercise, and support a great mission all while keeping physically distant? You'll have that chance at our **24th Annual Golf Tournament at The Greens Golf & Country Club** on **September 21st**. Funds raised this year go directly to our mission to enhance and enrich the educational opportunities of children in Putnam City Schools.

We're implementing several things to make sure you are apart from those outside of your team while still being able to enjoy a great day on the course with lunch and snacks provided. Space is limited, so [sign-up today](#) to play.

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## Indoor Recess in the Time of COVID



We made some important changes to our [Indoor Recess Trivia & Game Night](#) this year, but they didn't seem to stifle the fun. Hosted at the brand new **Roughtail Brewing Company**, our guests enjoyed great door prizes, raffle items from jewelry to escape rooms, and a delicious boxed dinner from our favorite Alumni Chef, **Ryan Parker (PC North Class of 2000)**.

Congratulations to **Team PTO Council** (pictured above, upper right) on being the 1st place team! **Team American Pi** and members **Malcolm Maxey** and **Jared Ediger** (pictured above, lower right) won Best Theme and Best Decorated Mask, respectively. Thank you to our event sponsor **WEOKIE Credit Union** and to all our teams for spending a safe evening with us. Next year we'll be

## Endowment Campaign a Success!



Thanks to the generous support of our donors and matching gift from the **Kirkpatrick Family Fund**, we were able to add another \$70,000 to our endowment. The additional funds will form the corpus of a dedicated revenue stream for **CareShare** and **Penny's Closet**. THANK YOU to everyone who donated to this effort. It was a first in our history, and we are so grateful for the support. Children none of us get to meet will benefit from this generosity.

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## What's New with CAST

We are so excited! CAST has a logo! Heartfelt thanks to **Brian Landreth**, the artist who created CAST's logo.



Since the Spring newsletter much has changed in our world. COVID-19 brought distance learning and students were in need of basic school supplies at home. Stepping up to help the Foundation distribute 2,500 supply kits to PC students were **Western Oaks Church of the Nazarene**, **Mayflower Congregational Church**, and **Metropolitan Bible Church**. These front-line workers have our deep appreciation for putting the needed supplies into the students' hands.



We look forward to becoming more involved in the community, hearing your voice, and working to enhance and enrich the educational opportunities of PC students.

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## Hamilton vs. Jefferson

In my studies of US History over the years, I've always been Team TJ (Thomas Jefferson) over Hamilton. Jefferson loved the little guy, played the violin, invented stuff, and was eloquent... Hamilton, on the other hand, was an elitist. [Read more.](#)

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## Adam Jewell, PC North Class of 1999



### *Alumni* **SPOTLIGHT**



### **PCF: Tell us about your work history**

**AJ:** I started my educational career in 2004, returning to my Alma Mater in an AP US History position. From there I spent about 8.5 years teaching US History at Yukon High School. In January of 2013, I transitioned into an Assistant Principal role at Edmond North High School. While at Edmond North, I reconnected with my 8th grade science teacher, **Ms. Deserae Witmer**, who was moving to OKCPS in an Executive Director role. She offered me an Assistant Principal position, and I settled in at Capitol Hill High School. After one year, I was fortunate to move into the Head Principal position at Capitol Hill, and have been there ever since!

### **PCF: What is the most exciting thing about being a high school principal?**

**AJ:** The most exciting thing for me is watching the growth of all the people with whom I get to associate. Whether that be the over 100 faculty members with whom I get to work with on a daily basis, or the 1,300+ students who walk the halls of Capitol Hill. Forming close, professional, and personal relationships with these people has afforded me an opportunity to make a difference in people's lives.

### **PCF: What's the most difficult?**

**AJ:** The most difficult thing about being a high school principal is wishing I could do more for my faculty and students. My students at CHHS face daily struggles that transcend curriculum. We try to do our best to provide wraparound services for all of our students to ensure that their most basic needs are met, so they can focus on education as much as possible.

### **PCF: Did you have any mentors growing up?**

**AJ:** I did have three mentors who greatly influenced my decision to be an educator. One was my 3rd grade teacher at Garfield Elementary in Warren, Ohio. Her name was **Mrs. Albanese**, and she tried

to instill a love for learning with all of her students. She set a high standard for her students and let you know about it.

My second mentor was a high school teacher and football coach at **PC North**, and current principal at Bethany High School, **Mark Melton**. He made his classroom extremely enjoyable, and tied his instruction to building relationships with students. He is also the one who offered me the position at Yukon, where I spent my most formative years building my philosophy surrounding education.

Finally, my Mom, **Kay Jewell**. She is a retired educator, who spent her entire educational career in Oklahoma teaching Emotionally Disturbed students at **PC High School**. Her heart for students is unmatched, she has the patience of Job, and truly believes that every student can learn.

**PCF: What is a favorite memory from high school at PCN?**

**AJ:** My favorite memories of being at **PC North** have to be our legendary pep assemblies, the raucous student section at the basketball games, before it became known as "The Zoo," and our LDI (Leadership Development Institute) retreats. I cherished my time spent at **PC North**, both as a student, and as a teacher. It will always hold a dear place in my heart!

## **ALUMNI CIRCLE**

*How fortuitous that one of the mentors Adam mentioned is also a Putnam City alumnus! **Mark Melton, Putnam City High School Class of 1987**, currently serves as principal of Bethany High School. Here's how he responded to Adam's remarks.*

*"Adam was a great student and athlete, who came from a great family. I could see the talented leader emerging in him as a young student at PCN. When I had the opportunity to hire him to teach and coach at Yukon High School, I jumped at the chance. I am extremely proud of him and the impact he has made on his kids, teachers, and community by becoming a dynamic leader in education."*

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## **Wall of Fame Cancelled - See you in 2021**



Please plan to attend this event in April 2021 when we will honor **Dr. Greg Walton, Putnam City High School Class of 1980**. We will all be so grateful to be together, that it promises to be the best event ever! [Read more.](#)

## Welcome DiAnne Bryant, Chairwoman



**PCF: Tell us about your favorite memory from high school.**

**DB:** My favorite memory is when I was a freshman at **Putnam City High**, we won the state football championship against **Putnam City West** at Taft Stadium in 1977. Barry Switzer was there, as well as coaches from other football programs. They came to watch **Kelly Phelps**, **Bryce Vann**, and **Scott Tinsley** who were the top players in the state. When the Pirates won the game in overtime, our side of Taft Stadium was in an absolute frenzy. The stadium was literally shaking! It was one of the most exciting environments I have ever personally witnessed and I'll never forget that incredible feeling. I was brought back to reality, however, while walking to the car after the game. I saw a childhood friend, who played on the PCW team, sitting by the window on the team bus. He was in anguish and it broke my heart. It was an odd feeling being excited for us and sad for him at the same time.

**PCF: Why do you support the Putnam City Schools Foundation?**

**DB:** I am a firm believer in giving back and contributing to the school district where I was raised, supported, and educated. I am thrilled to serve and support a Foundation that creates and implements visionary programs which enrich students' lives as well as provide much-needed grants to teachers.

**PCF: What is your favorite program that the Foundation supports?**

**DB:** The Foundation is always creating new pathways and programs to improve the lives of all of the district's students and teachers, so it is hard for me to choose just one. My favorite program is one of our core programs, **Early Birds**. **Early Birds** is a school readiness program providing families with tools to teach their preschool age children language, math, and social skills before they enter kindergarten. Our support of this vital program leads to transformational learning for our children.

**PCF: What would you like to see the Foundation work toward during your tenure as Chairwoman?**

**DB:** We would like to see the Foundation have a much closer working relationship with the Putnam City School Board and Administration. The Foundation raises funds which may be used for special projects within the district that might not otherwise be funded. Identifying these needs can only improve the educational opportunities for our students.

**PCF: Do you have a favorite teacher from growing up? Who was it and why?**

**DB:** I have two! My 2nd grade teacher at **Lake Park Elementary**, **Mrs. Smith**. She came mid-year when our original teacher took a leave of absence. She was a sweet and caring teacher, and I loved

when our original teacher took a leave of absence. She was a sweet and caring teacher, and I loved her. Also, my 11th grade English teacher, **Barbara Anderson**. Wow, she was an amazing teacher. Mrs. Anderson was tough, and she expected us to work hard. I learned more in her class than in any class I ever had. Thank you Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Anderson!

**PCF: Were you ever in the principal's office? Tell us!**

**DB:** Not me! I was too afraid to get into trouble, so I stayed out of it the best I could. At least, that is how I choose to remember it!



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## OUR MISSION

The mission of the Putnam City Schools Foundation is to enhance and enrich the educational opportunities of children in Putnam City Schools.

## OUR 3 KEY INITIATIVES

We carry out our mission through these areas: Student Success, Teacher Excellence, and Community Engagement. [Learn more here](#).

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