

# WEEKLY WARRIOR

Official Newsletter of Philomath High School

## Friday Night Lights Kicks Off with a Bang

What a perfect way to start the football season! Our first Friday Night Lights home game delivered everything we could have hoped for and more.

The evening began with an energetic tailgater where students showed off their creative Hawaiian-themed outfits while enjoying great food, fun, and games. The tropical spirit carried right into the stadium as our team dominated Newport High School with an impressive 49-0 victory.

The halftime show was a special highlight, featuring a collaborative dance performance between both Newport and Philomath teams that brought everyone together in the spirit of friendly competition. Our pep band kept the energy high throughout the game, with Mrs. Mattson adding her rhythmic flair on the drums.



Graduate EVERY student and transition each of them into a job, training, or college.



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# Dates to Remember

## September

17<sup>th</sup>

Back to School Night (6:45 - 8:00pm)

19<sup>th</sup>

Home Football Game Student Tailgater (5:30 - 6:30pm)

19<sup>th</sup>

Glow Dance (9 - 10:30pm)

## Family vs. Student Challenge: Would You Rather?

Each week, our students tackle a fun "Would You Rather" question in the library. Now we're curious—do families think the same way as our students?

We'll be featuring the weekly question in our newsletter and comparing the results between our student body and our parent community. It's a lighthearted way to see where we align and where we might have different perspectives!



This week's results from students will be shared alongside your responses. Use the QR code below to cast your vote and see how your family's choices stack up against our students.

Check back next week to see the comparison results and participate in our next "Would You Rather" challenge!



**Congratulations to Senior Ezra Smith for being selected as a semi-finalist in the National Merit Scholarship Program.**

Ezra is one of 16,000 semi-finalists which is less than 1% of U.S high school seniors. Over 1.3 million juniors in about 20,000 high schools entered the 2026 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2024 PSAT which serves as the initial screening for program entrants. Ezra will now compete to become a National Merit Finalist and a chance at a \$2500 scholarship.

Way to go Ezra, we are very proud of your achievement!

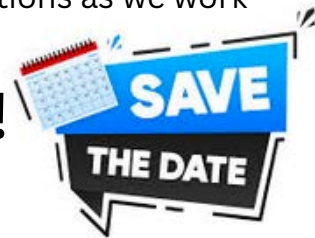
# Administration Connects with Students on Campus Expectations

This week, our administration team met with students to review important policies and expectations outlined in the student handbook. These productive conversations covered a wide range of topics including personal electronic device use, attendance and tardies, athletic and activities eligibility, class drop procedures, hall pass protocols, parking lot guidelines, advisory and extended lunch periods, generative AI use, our expectation of kindness, and appropriate behavior at sporting events.

The meetings provided an excellent opportunity for open dialogue between administration and students, ensuring everyone has a clear understanding of our campus guidelines and expectations. Students engaged thoughtfully in these discussions, asking great questions and demonstrating their commitment to maintaining our positive school culture.

We appreciate our students' receptive attitudes during these important conversations as we work together to create the best possible learning environment for everyone.

## Get Ready for College Application Week!



### October 6-9th

Mark your calendars – College Week is almost here! From October 6th through 9th, we're transforming our campus into a college preparation hub designed to support students on their journey to higher education.

### What to Expect

Throughout the week, we'll have representatives from several colleges visiting to meet with students, answer questions, and share information about their programs. Whether you're exploring options or have already narrowed down your choices, these visits are a perfect opportunity to make valuable connections. Here are a couple of the planned events:

- Completing applications with the support of colleges
- Help to write essays
- The Common App Workshop



### Don't Miss Out!

College Week represents an incredible opportunity to get ahead on college planning, connect with representatives, receive personalized help, and have fun while doing it!

# Welcome Our New Exchange Students!

We're thrilled to welcome Cecilia Milesi from Italy and Nico Mayo Carrasco to our PHS community for the 2025/2026 school year! These brave and adventurous students have traveled far from home to experience American high school life, and they're eager to learn about our culture while sharing their own unique perspectives and traditions. Please take a moment to introduce yourself, show them around campus, invite them to join clubs or activities, or simply strike up a conversation—your friendship and kindness will make all the difference in helping them feel at home here at PHS.

**Name:** Nico Mayo Carrasco

**Grade:** 10th

**Hometown:** Las Rozas, Spain (outskirts of Madrid)

**Reason for Exchange:** He is excited to learn English!

**Ways he'll be involved:** Nico will be on the Cross Country Team in the fall and is considering participating in other sports too.

**Greatest hope for the exchange:** His hope is to gain independence and maturity, as well as strengthen his English skills.

**Hobbies:** In Spain, he loves to play tennis and have fun with friends!



**Name:** Cecilia Milesi

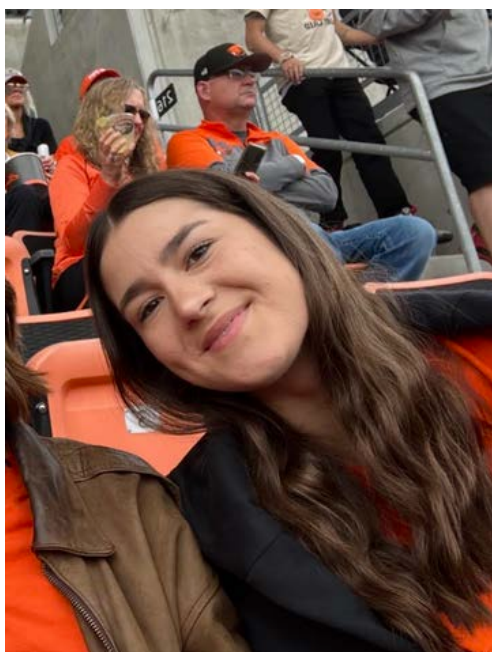
**Grade:** 11th

**Town:** Rive d'Arcano, Italy (largest city near is Udine)

**Why did you decide to do an exchange?** Because I think it would be a decision that was useful for growth and learning a new culture.

**What is your greatest hope for this year?** To return home with a new perspective and maturity.

**Hobbies:** Cecilia loves to jog and enjoys being outside in nature. She likes to cook and hopes to share that with her host family. Cecilia would like to participate in athletics or clubs so that she can get to know people.



# Navigating AI in the Classroom: A Clear Path Forward

As artificial intelligence becomes increasingly integrated into our daily lives, our school is taking a proactive approach to help students learn appropriate and ethical AI use while preparing them for their future.



**Understanding AI Types** It's helpful to distinguish between general AI and generative

AI. General AI includes tools like GPS navigation, recommendation systems on Netflix, or spam filters in email—these analyze data and make decisions. Generative AI, however, creates new content like text, images, or code. Tools such as ChatGPT, Claude, or image generators fall into this category and are the focus of our classroom guidelines.

**Our Traffic Light System** To provide clear expectations, we're implementing a simple traffic light system for assignments:

● **Red Light** - No AI Allowed Students cannot use generative AI tools. These assignments focus on demonstrating individual knowledge, original thinking, or skills that require personal development.

● **Yellow Light** - Proceed with Caution Students may use AI for specific purposes like brainstorming ideas, checking grammar, or clarifying concepts—but the core work must remain their own. Think of AI as a writing tutor, not a ghostwriter.

● **Green Light** - AI Welcome Students can freely incorporate AI tools as part of the learning process, often focusing on how to use these technologies effectively and ethically.



Some teachers may communicate these guidelines without the visual stoplight, but will clearly indicate which category applies to each assignment.

Our goal is to ensure students graduate not just as consumers of AI, but as informed users who understand both its potential and its limitations in academic and professional settings.

# ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES

## Volleyball Improves to 1-1



Photo Credit Philomath News

Philomath High's volleyball squad bounced back from an opening loss with a clean three-set sweep over Warrenton. Coach Whitney Thomas highlighted sharper offensive play, with standout performances from seniors Shaylee May and Taylor Hudson, plus 33 assists from Avery Smith. The victory marked the Warriors' first of the season and showed signs of momentum building.

## Boys Soccer defeats Elmira 8-0



Photo Credit Philomath News

Philomath's boys soccer team kicked off the season in dominant fashion, overwhelming Elmira 8-0. Junior Jacob Hernandez led the charge with four goals, while Sammy Hernandez opened the scoring with an early penalty. The match ended in the 75th minute under the mercy rule, showcasing the Warriors' sharp execution and strong teamwork.

## PHS Athletic Events Next Week

### Monday, September 15

- JV Girls Soccer vs North Salem 4pm

### Tuesday, September 16

- Volleyball @ Junction City
  - 4:30pm JV and Jv2
  - 6pm Varsity
- Girls Soccer vs Junction City
  - 4pm Varsity
- Boys Varsity Soccer @ Junction City 4:30pm
- Boys JV Soccer vs Stayton 5:30pm

### Thursday, September 18

- Boys Soccer vs Gladstone
  - 4pm Varsity, 5:30pm JV

### Friday, September 19

- Varsity Football vs North Bend 7pm, JV Football 4pm

### Saturday, September 20

- Volleyball Varsity @ North Marion Tournament, JV and JV2 @ Junction City Tournament
- Cross Country @ The Mook XC Invite- Alderbrook Golf Course

# ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES

## Girls Soccer starts season 3-0



Photo Credit Philomath News

The Philomath girls soccer team pushed its record to 3-0 with a 2-0 win over Gladstone, led by sophomore Kya Bolton's pair of goals. Lightning forced officials to end the game early, but since play had reached the second half, the result was made official. Coach Mat Phelps praised the squad's attacking energy and noted Bolton's impressive scoring streak of seven goals in just three matches.

## Boys and Girls Cross Country successful and muddy at Ultimook Race



Photo Credit Philomath News

Philomath sophomore Cassidy Smart conquered the tough Ultimook cross-country course, finishing first out of 205 runners with a time of 19:08.1. Her victory propelled the Warriors to second place in the girls' team standings, continuing their strong tradition at this challenging event. On the boys' side, senior Leo Pausch took sixth, while junior Galen Murch earned 12th, marking his first sub-17-minute 5K.

## Information

Below you will find links to corresponding sites that will provide you with current information for athletics and activities.

### OSAA

- Game schedules; dismissal, departure, and return times; rosters; coaches contact information, etc.

### PHS Athletics Page

- Calendar, sports registration, athletic forms, athletic handbook and policies, athletic fundraisers, etc.

### Athletic.net

- XC and Track and Field meet information.

### Philomath News

- Local coverage about Warrior sports.

**Please note that game times are subject to change, so please check schedules prior to scheduled events.**

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