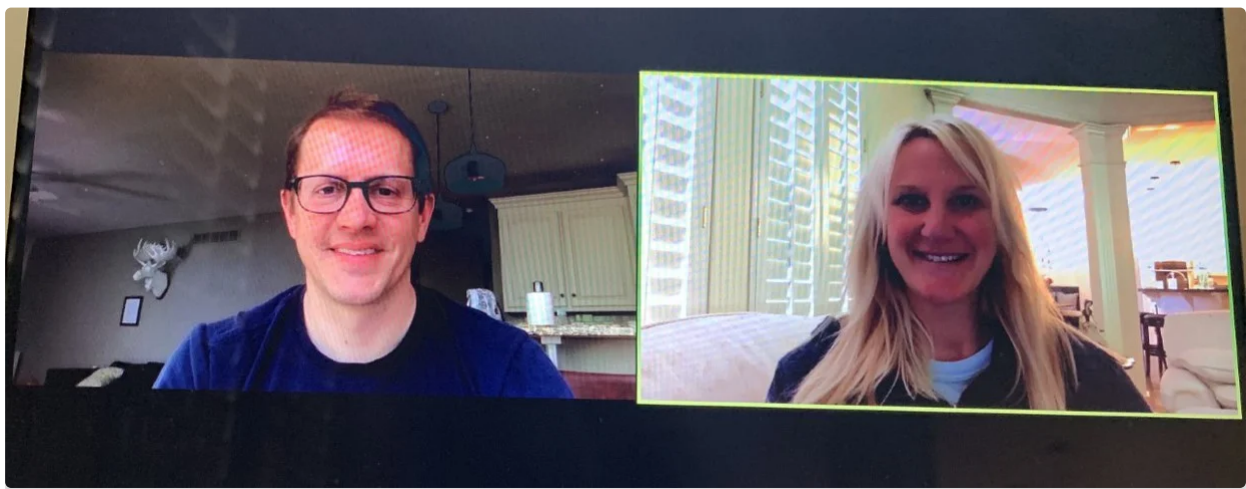


# From the Desk of Phoebe Lewis

Friday, May 8th, 2020



## Dinner Conversation : How Student Leadership is Morphing for Generation Z

*"I see leadership differently than my parent's generation does."*

Those are the words of Brandon, a college sophomore, who ended his semester at home when the entire student body at Vanderbilt University left due to COVID-19. The coronavirus is changing us, and Brandon believes it is only accelerating a change that was taking place already.

These days, I hosted a virtual meeting with students, ages 17 to 22, the ones I now call a "parenthetical population." Just as they were making major decisions about their futures, their proms, their graduation speeches, and their careers, everything was put on hold. In times like these, people tend to reflect more about life, about people, and about what they believe. Here is a summary of their responses when we began talking about being a leader today.

### **1. How do you see leadership differently than older generations?**

I think my parents' and grandparents' generations see leadership as a position to fill and a responsibility to fulfill. I see it as activism. Even Millennials colored within the lines when they were students on campus. We feel leadership is about making changes to corruption, waste, misspending, and the mistreatment of marginalized people.

### **2. Is your activism like the past activism of the 1960s?**

There are some similarities. Fifty plus years ago, people marched and demonstrated for equal rights and against corruption. Some call us "neo-activists," and we are taking on those and other issues, like student-loan debt and immigration reform. One difference may be that neo-activists today pay homage to the past but are more intersectional in perspective. (Over half of the students today who

identify as an activist are involved in seven or more causes.) We believe many issues intersect and reinforce each other. We see how #BlackLivesMatter and #MeToo overlap. There's greater solidarity.

### **3. So, do you not believe in serving in a formal leadership position?**

No, it's not that. It's just that too often we see that position as merely a figurehead or that the system is corrupt. It doesn't offer us a voice. So, we often would rather influence in more of a grassroots way. I'd rather influence my residence hall without being an R.A.

### **4. How are conservative activists different from progressive ones?**

It's funny. Very often, both want the same thing but differ on how they think they can achieve the goal. Villanova Professor Jerusha O. Conner [says](#) that conservative activists tend to focus on changing individual hearts and minds as a key accomplishment, while neo-activist progressives focus more on changing institutional policy. I think she's spot on.

### **5. Doesn't student leadership and activism hinder your academic experience?**

I'm sure some teachers and parents are scared we are distracted from classes or are wasting our time. But our group chats seem to tell us there is no negative impact from our sit-ins or marches or organized protests. In fact, those of us who are active are actually doing better in class because we are connecting theory to practice. It's helping us become stronger students and critical thinkers.

### **6. What do you wish educators would do to support your leadership?**

We think most administrators view us as annoying. We're a painful disruption to the schedules they hold sacred. But we just want to be heard. We know we represent a risk to how they appear to stakeholders in the community. It doesn't have to be that way. Maybe they could start by attending a club meeting or a gathering to listen to us. Another start could be more counselors and bigger counseling centers.

### **7. When a college makes a change in response to activists, do you feel you've succeeded?**

Yes, in a sense, we do. Probably the most classic example was when the University of Missouri mounted a huge protest to a racist campus culture. It began with 11 students and grew into thousands. It was called Concerned Student 1950. It resulted in the resignation of the university president and chancellor. We don't want violence. We don't want a "we/they" culture. We want things to get better, and we feel letting the status quo remain will allow nothing to change. Many of our administrators were once college students who felt the gap between them and those in power. Now that they're in power, they seem to not want change and to instead hold on to the power.

### **8. How do you think most from Generation Z choose to influence?**

Two things come to mind. First, we know we are customers. Schools want our money (or our parent's money), so we take advantage of the fact that we can display that the customer isn't happy. Second, we have a smartphone and know we can use smart technology to spread our message as fast as anyone else through social media. Maybe faster. We will use this as long as it gives the average person influence.

### **9. Is this the wave of the future?**

I don't know. One day we'll grow older, and who knows what new technology will appear. I do think we'll always need good leaders, whether or not they hold a position. I think generational change comes before social change. When we're older, I'll be curious to see if we carry these values with us into adulthood. I hope we do, and I hope it draws us all closer.

## **Tech Tip**



[Why Is the Tik To... nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com)

The TikTok app is popular with kids. There are a number of growing safety concerns and privacy issues with the TikTok app that parents should know about.

## Live Zoom Lessons for Next Week

Seventh Grade Spanish

Speech/Drama: All Grades

Math: Sixth Grade

Seventh Grade: ELA (WEd/Thur)

## Teacher Appreciation

Thank you to Jessica Ellis and PTO for the wonderful Bundt Cakes and E Gift Cards to our teachers. It was amazing. Thank you parents for helping with Memory Monday. The teachers felt so much love this week.

## Calling all 6th Graders

Your weekly Assignment slide is attached. This is for the current school week. A new link is posted to canvas (in your core class apps) each Monday by 9:00 am. Parents we will share this link with you here in order to give you a check and balance on work completed by your students.

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1APJ0nz4W\\_gsb6u9BmG-ltQgdHI\\_AKVh75Jce0Dm\\_4Ds/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1APJ0nz4W_gsb6u9BmG-ltQgdHI_AKVh75Jce0Dm_4Ds/edit?usp=sharing)

## 8th Grade Recognition

The end of the school year is approaching, which will mark the completion of middle school for your child. As much as we would have hoped to celebrate these eighth graders as planned on May 21, we could not end this school year without recognizing and celebrating all of their success in middle school. We plan to share a special video to celebrate our eighth grade class on May 21. We wish this class success in high school and wanted them to know how special they are to Pleasant Ridge! We miss them. Much Much Love

## Notes from our Nurse

Letters about immunizations will be coming to most 6th grade parents. Your student may have already received these vaccines; if so, please email or fax a copy of the shot record to me at

[bhorton@bluevalleyk12.org](mailto:bhorton@bluevalleyk12.org) or 913-239-5749. (You may be able to check these records on patient portals). If your child still needs the vaccines, please get them when you can- I know well-child visits are not currently being done.

Thanks,

Bonnie Horton, MSN, RN

## 6th grade Weekly Work



6th Grade eLearning Homework.pdf

Download  
260.3 KB

## School Supplies: End May 10

### **SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR ARE ON SALE NOW!**

**This year they've been upgraded to include QUALITY, name brand products like Crayola, Scotch Tape, 3M Post-It's, and Sharpie!**

We know the end of the school year is looking a little different this year, but it's time to start thinking ahead to the 2020-2021 School Year! School supplies for next year can now be ordered at [www.pleasantridgepto.com](http://www.pleasantridgepto.com). Save yourself time, and the hassle of running from store to store trying to find what you need! **Deadline to order is June 10th**, and pre-purchased kits will be ready for pickup at Roundup at the Ridge.

While ordering supplies, you can also [Power Up the Ridge](#) and become a [PTO Member](#) for the 2020-21 school year.

Want to order school supplies for an **incoming 6th Grader**? Get connected with the PTO? The best way to be in the know, make purchases, and volunteer is to create a free account on [www.pleasantridgepto.com](http://www.pleasantridgepto.com). Already registered on our PRM PTO website, but need to add another student? Follow the steps below:

1. Click Login/Register
2. Sign in.
3. Click "My Account".
4. Click on Family Information. On the 2nd page, click 'I have another student'. **Remember to use their current 2019-20 grade.**

**Please contact April Kempton at [april\\_kempton@hotmail.com](mailto:april_kempton@hotmail.com) with any questions.**

## Registration dates set for 2020-21 school year

Mark your calendar! Registration for the 2020-21 school year will open on May 13. Please note this date is later than usual to give staff and families time to prepare during these extenuating circumstances.

- **Returning student registration for the 2020-21 school year:** Registration for returning early childhood and K-8 students opens on May 13, 2020. High school registration opens July 8, 2020. ParentVUE login and password are required.
- **Fee payments for the 2020-21 school year:** Fee payments for early childhood and K-8 families open on May 13, 2020. High school fee payments open on July 8, 2020. To provide needed

flexibility for families with changing financial situations, fee payment will be open through July 30.

Registration is required every year to review/update information about your child(ren) including phone, email, emergency contacts, health data, etc. By completing your registration, you confirm that your child(ren) will return to school in August.

## From the PTO

UPDATE! LOCATION CHANGE!

Pie Five is permanently closing the Pie Five location at 135th and Metcalf so we are moving our fundraiser to the Pie Five in Olathe on 119th.



### PIE FIVE "TAKE OUT Fundraiser"

**Where:** Pie Five-Olathe NorthRidge Location

15404 W 119th Street

Olathe. KS 66062

**Phone:** 913-782-0580

**When:** Wednesday, May 13

**Time:** 2pm-9pm

**Click Here for details:** <https://www.groupraise.com/events/143366-pleasant-ridge-middle-school-at-pie-five>

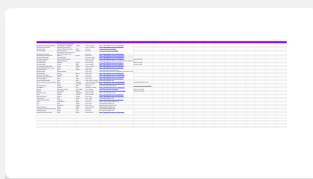
**Let's make this last fundraiser of the year our biggest yet for PRMS!! Please help us promote this fundraiser by sharing the link with friends, family, and neighbors! We appreciate YOU!**

**You can do curbside, order and pickup inside, or order online and opt for delivery!**

**Place your order here at this link on May 13th:** <https://www.piefivepizza.com/locations/olathe-northridge/>

**If you place your order online use the promo code: EATEARNKC.**

**THANK YOU for supporting PRMS!**



[PRMS staff office hours](#)

[docs.google.com](https://docs.google.com)

## Tech Problems?

During our BV's Continuous Learning Plan some students may experience technology issues. If your student has issues, please work with our BVCare services to get them resolved. Instructions on how to access BVCare can be found at the link below.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1NqxKlVI-VqtASIPmL73aq4743jsFFGpcDoVzia8b8hQ/edit?usp=sharing>

## Communication

Please follow our Pleasant Ridge PTO Website:

[www.pleasantridgepto.com](http://www.pleasantridgepto.com)

Facebook for PTO:

Pleasant Ridge Middle School PTO

Facebook for PRMS

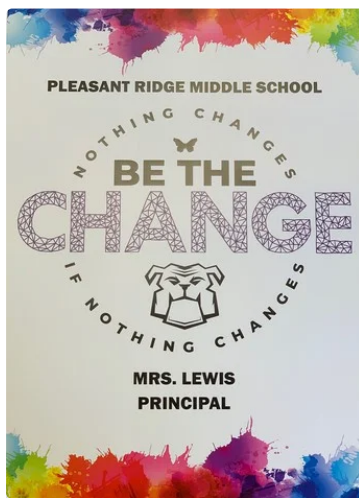
[facebook.com/prmsbulldogs](https://www.facebook.com/prmsbulldogs)

Twitter for PRMS

@PleasantRidgeMS

PRMS Website:

<https://district.bluevalleyk12.org/schools/Middle/PRM/Pages/home.aspx>



## Pleasant Ridge Middle School

 Facebook

 @PleasantRidgeMS

Mission:


As a team, we will create a respectful, student-centered, and learning focused environment.

Vision:

Relentless pursuit of each student's success

 9000 West 165th Street, Overla...

 [plewis@bluevalleyk12.org](mailto:plewis@bluevalleyk12.org)

 913-239-5700

 [district.bluevalleyk12.org/scho...](https://district.bluevalleyk12.org/scho...)