COOP SCOOP

13 September 2024

A PSCS NEWSLETTER

pioneersprings.org

AN INTRO TO THE BASIC SCHOOL: CURRICULUM WITH COHERENCE



At Pioneer Springs Community School, the "Curriculum of Coherence" connects learning across subjects and grade levels, ensuring that students are well-prepared for future academic success.

Vertical coherence means that what students learn in one grade builds on what they learned before and prepares them for what comes next. Programs like Wild Math and iReady Classroom Mathematics help students progress through math with a solid foundation.

Horizontal coherence links learning across subjects. For example, while working on Magnetic Reading, students may read texts that connect to their Mystery Science lessons, showing how subjects like reading, science, and math fit together.

Internal coherence ensures that each subject is organized in a way that reflects its structure. In reading, students progress from basic skills to more advanced comprehension, while in science, Mystery Science introduces core concepts that lead to more complex ideas over time.

Integrative experiences challenge students to apply their knowledge across subjects. Capstone projects or interdisciplinary activities help students see how math, reading, and science come together in real-world situations.

Underlying knowledge ensures that students develop the skills they need for future learning. Our curriculum focuses on building foundational knowledge in math, reading, and science that students will continue to use as they advance through their education.

Through vertical, horizontal, and internal coherence, integrative experiences, and a focus on foundational knowledge, Pioneer Springs provides students with a connected, meaningful education, supported by programs like Wild Math, iReady, Magnetic Reading, and Mystery Science.

IMPORTANT DATES & ITEMS TO NOTE

- 24 Sept-18 Oct: Annual Fundraising Campaign
- 16 Sept: Board of Trustees meeting
- 18 Sept: WINGS meeting, 9am
- 26 Sept & 3 Oct: Volunteer Training
- Arrival & Dismissal information
- Who to Contact and When
- Academic & Events Calendar

A note for families for dismissal: Please keep your car tag visible so staff can retrieve your student safely and quickly.

A strong school-home partnership is the foundation for student success. **At our first Pioneer 101 event of the year**, we will explore ways to build a strong partnership. We hope you can join us on Tuesday, October 1 from 5:00-6:00 pm in the Music Room. **RSVP here.**

PIONEER SPRINGS STUDENTS BEGIN AND END THE DAY IN GROUNDED COMMUNITY



Visit any Pioneer Springs class at 8:30 in the morning , and you will find students and teachers sitting in a circle building community, connecting with one another, practicing mindfulness and exploring social emotional learning. Likewise, classes end the day in a circle reflecting on the day's learning. At Pioneer Springs everyone starts the day with Morning Mindfulness and ends the day with Closing Reflection because we know that mindfulness, reflection, and community all support learning and healthy development. How do you practice mindfulness? Share on social media and tag #pioneersprings

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HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS EXPLORE WAYS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE THROUGH COMMUNITIES IN ACTION



The Pioneer Springs high school experience is unique. In addition to exploring the curriculum through the lens of environmental literacy, all PSCS high school students participate in Communities in Action (CIA). CIA courses meet weekly, and are designed to encourage students to ask how they can leverage their individual academic passions to make a difference in their communities. Students choose from among five communities: The Humanities, Green Cultural Studies; Sustainable Business and Industry; Design the Future: Engineering, Technology, Architectura; The Natural Sciences; and Teacher Apprentice. Within their chosen academic communities, students complete coursework, group projects and individual projects to improve our campus and/ or our surrounding area. Through this process, students develop not only academic skills, but also soft skills, interpersonal skills, and career skills. We are in need of guest speakers who are willing to share career advice, as well as Work Based Learning mentors. If you would like to help make CIA a dynamic and meaningful experience for our students, contact Heidi Magi (heidim@pioneersprings.org).

SHOW YOUR SALAMANDER SPIRIT!



Are you on the hunt for Pioneer Springs spirit wear? We have you covered! You can buy gear in one of two ways:

- Stop by the office to buy Hellbender and Mudpuppy t-shirts, car magnets, stickers, and more
- Check-out our online gear store for t-shirts, tote bags, sweatshirts, hats and sweatpants.
- The online gear store is a pop-up shop created in partnership with Scarlet & Gold. It will be open through October 10, and then will be temporarily closed to restock the shop with new items. Scarlet & Gold donates 10% of profits from online purchases to PSCS.

Are you interested in gear that we do not currently offer? Fill out this form, and we will see what we can do!

COMMUNITY ARTS: AN ALL-AGES PRODUCTION OF THE COMEDY OF ERRORS



The Shepherd Shakespeare Company invites Pioneer Springs students and families to attend The Comedy of Errors on September 21-October 13. This show is appropriate for audience members of all ages.

THIS IS AN IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING STUDENTS WHO WILL BE ATTENDING 7TH OR 12TH GRADE FOR THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR:

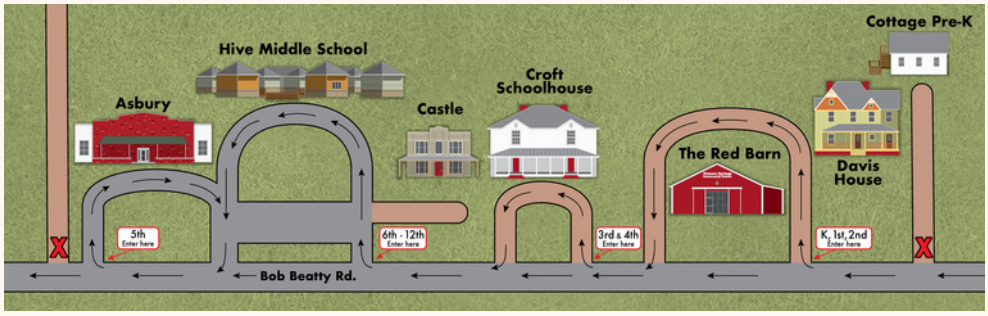
Students entering Kindergarten, 7th, and 12th grades are required to provide updated vaccination records due to additional vaccination requirements at these grades. The preferred way
to submit vaccination records is through this Immunizations Update 2024 Form.
If you are unable to use the form, you may email the records to registrar@pioneersprings.org.
Finally, hard copies can be delivered in person to the front office at the Castle.

Please note that these vaccinations, or a religious/medical exemption, are due no later than 30 days from the first day of school. Students who are out of compliance upon reaching this deadline will be unable to attend school at Pioneer Springs until the appropriate documentation is received.

You can visit your child's doctor or the health department for vaccination information and to ensure your child's vaccines are up to date. If you have any questions, you may email me at ArmanC@pioneersprings.org.

Thank you,
Arman Casini, RN

IMPORTANT AFTERNOON DISMISSAL INFORMATION: ACTION NEEDED



PSCS works hard to ensure afternoon pickup runs safely. We need your family's assistance to ensure dismissal runs quickly and efficiently. Showing up early for dismissal blocks traffic flow on Bob Beatty Rd. and slows down the entire process for everyone. Please do not block the entrances and exits to the buildings.

Dismissal for elementary students begins at 3:00pm. Dismissal for middle and high school students begins at 3:30pm. The best time to arrive to reduce your wait in the car line is the last 15 minutes of each dismissal.

Thank you for your continued patience and cooperation as we start the new school year.

STUDENT SMILES





Ms. Brandi and Ms. Leslie's classes cared for the butterfly garden. They tended the plants and planted milkweed.



Ms. Mary's 1st grade class learned about Sol Lewitt's line art. They created a class inspired collage of horizontal and vertical lines with Ms. Jen.



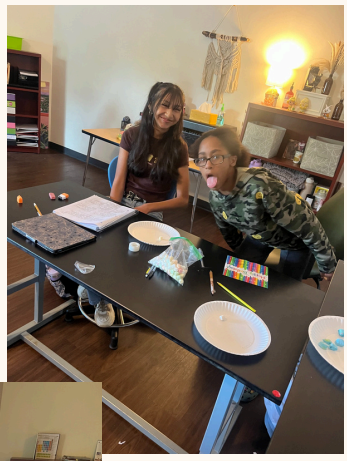
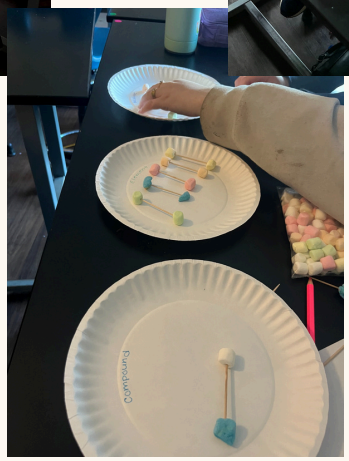
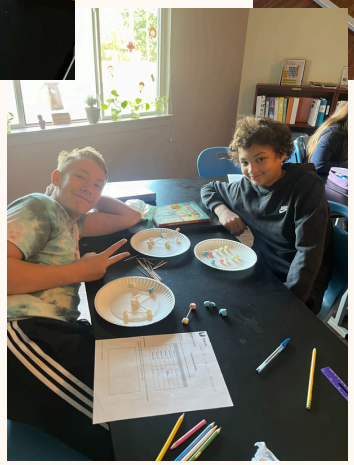
Theatre shenanigans with middle and high schoolers in Ms. Allie's class.



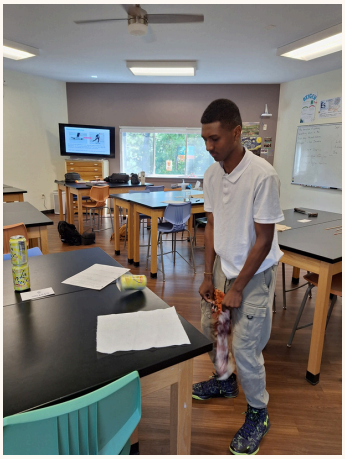
6th graders spent some time reading in nature.

STUDENT SMILES



In Ms. Hannah's 8th grade science class they created elements, compounds, and mixtures using marshmallows!





In this lab, high school Physical Science students in Ms. Shannon's class investigated 6 demos of Newton's 3 Laws of Motion in stations around the classroom. An important concept we discussed was the concept of inertia - which is an object's tendency to resist changes in its motion. Inertia is responsible for that feeling of your body continuing to move forward when the brakes get slammed on in a car. Your body continues to move forward until acted on by another force - your seatbelt! Students used everything from felt, fabric and soda cans to a rolling chair to learn more about this property of all matter.