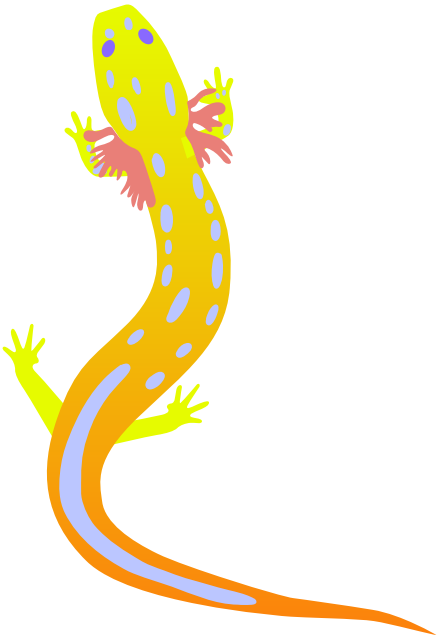
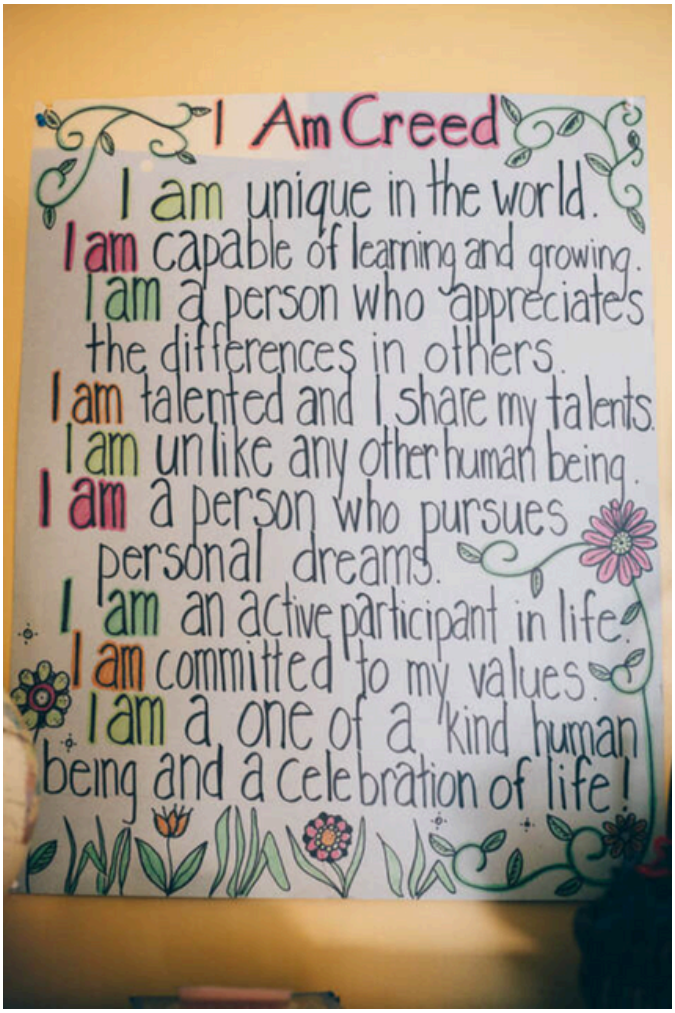
COOP SCOOP
18 August 2024
A PSCS NEWSLETTER
pioneersprings.org

I am Creed

Elementary and middle school students recite the "I Am Creed" every day. What does the creed mean to you? How does your family live into these values? Share your answer on social media! Tag #pioneersprings





IMPORTANT DATES & ITEMS TO NOTE

- 19 August: Board meeting
- 19-22 August: Back to school, orientation
- Student Driver Information will be shared at Orientation
- K-12 supply lists
- Who to Contact and When
- Academic & Events Calendar

You are invited to Orientation & Covenant Conferences



Students and families are invited to join us for **Orientation August 19-22, (click here** for the schedule). At Orientation you will meet your teaching team, get an overview of what students will be learning this school year, and meet other students and families from your class. You can also pick up your carline tags, buy previously loved boots, and connect with representatives from WINGS, our homegrown PTO. See you there!

Students flourish when families and schools have a strong partnership. **At Pioneer Springs one of the first steps in building that partnership is the Covenant Conference**. At the Covenant Conference, teachers and families get to know one another. Families share information about how their student learns best, and teachers share their goals for the coming school year. Some teachers find that Covenant Conferences are most effective when they happen before the start of the year, while other teachers prefer to get to know students before meeting with families. Be on the lookout for information from teachers about scheduling Covenant Conferences in the coming weeks.

How to help your student transition from summer break to school



Summer break is a time for exploring the outdoors, pursuing hobbies, catching fireflies, swimming, getting lost in a good book, and enjoying lots of unstructured time. Transitioning back to the routines and structures of the school year–with early wake-up times, loads of afterschool activities, homework, and the structure of school–can be a big transition for many students and families. Here are some ideas to smooth that transition:

Ease back into bedtime routines and morning wake-up a few days before the start of school. Minimize after school activities as much as possible in the first few weeks of school. Ask your student(s) "What are you wondering about this year of school?" to open a conversation about how they are feeling, what they need to know to feel confident, and about their goals for the year.

Create a daily after school routine with your student(s) and set clear expectations. When will they work on homework (Right after school? Following a snack break? Once sports practice is done?), where will they do homework, and what materials will they need? Be sure to include read-aloud and/or family reading time in your routine, as well as time to play games that are fun for your family and work math skills..

Set clear boundaries around devices. When your student is at school, it is vital that they are able to be fully present so that they can focus on academics, and on socializing with their friends who are at school. Help your student maintain device boundaries by refraining from calling or texting them while they are at school

We are looking forward to the start of the best school year yet, and are excited to welcome your student(s) to campus on Monday, 26th of August.

This is an important announcement regarding students who will be attending 7th or 12th grade for the 2024-2025 school year:

Students coming into 7th or 12th grade are required to provide updated vaccination records, as there are additional vaccination requirements that occur at these grades. Please submit vaccination records to registrar@pioneersprings.org. Alternatively, a hard copy can be delivered, in person, to the front office.

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

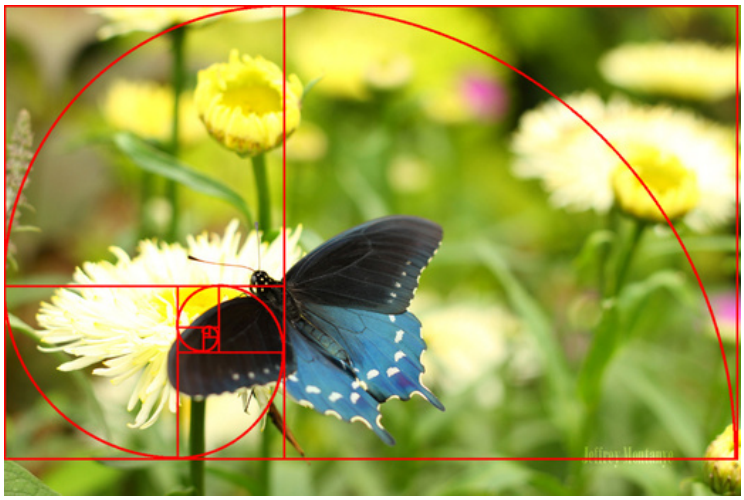
Getting ready for kindergarten: a day in the life of



Starting kindergarten is exciting. For many children, kindergarten is their first experience of being at school all day. You can help your child prepare for the transition to kindergarten by talking about what they will be doing at school Here's what a typical day looks like:

8:00-8:30, Morning Play: academic concepts are reinforced through free choice play
8:30-9:00, Morning Mindfulness: calendar, group counting, letter review and sight word review, songs, and mindfulness activities
9:00-9:30, Small Group Activities (called "MTSS"): teachers and co-teachers work in small groups with students to enhance their knowledge of reading and math
9:30-10:30, Math: exploring number concepts, addition and subtraction within 10, shapes, etc. through play with hands-on materials--we go outdoors for math as much as possible!
10:30- 11:00, Outside Playtime
11:00-11:25, Lunch
11:25-12:15, Connect Classes: students attend one connect class per day, including PE, Art, Drama, and Environmental Literacy
12:30-1:00, Drop Everything and Read (DEAR) Time: students and teachers explore books and read silently and independently.
1:00- 2:00, Reading: students will learn to identify letter sounds, sight words, print awareness, blend sounds to make a word, fluency, reading comprehension and so much more.
2:00-2:10, Quick Snack: granola bar, fruit, outdoors
2:15- 2:45, Social Studies: students will gain an understanding of local history, geography and community members.
2:15-2:45, Science: basic structure of plants and animals (arms, legs, leaves, stems, roots), plant and animal needs, forces & motion, introduction to weather
2:45- 2:55, Closing Circle: talk about our day
3:00- 3:30, Dismissal

Marvelous Math: Games that keep math skills strong



Here are some fun puzzles and games to build math fluency and number sense this summer. Once your family has completed these activities, challenge your student to create games or puzzles of his/her own!

- Elementary-spot as many patterns as you can on a nature walk, in the grocery store, or on a drive. What is the pattern? What shapes does the pattern use? Do they tessellate?
- Middle School-create a parabolic curve math art project
- High School-Directions: Fill in the boxes with any numbers that make the equation true.
- equation.....

Get Outside!: Sending your student to school ready for outdoor learning



Because Pioneer Springs is a school that focuses on environmental education, classes spend a great deal of time outdoors in all kinds of weather. Here are some steps you can take to ensure that your student is prepared for outdoor learning:

- Help your student stay hydrated by ensuring that s/he brings a full water bottle to school every day
- Dress for the weather, send your student to school in layer so they are comfortable throughout the day; remind the to bring a raincoat on wet day
- Prepare for sun with a hat and sunscreen
- Consider using bug spray, and remember that staff and volunteers cannot apply sunscreen, bug spray, or any other topical creams, lotions or spray on students

Variety is the spice of reading, by Tanya Blumenfeld, Third Grade Lead Teacher

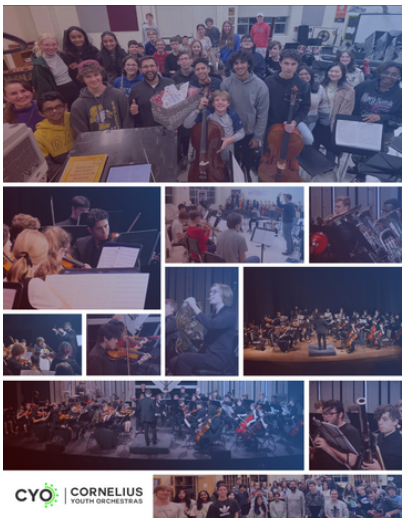


A great way to instill a passion for reading is by exposing your child to a variety of reading materials. By exposing your child to different types of reading materials such as short stories, a book of poems, nonfiction books, magazines or even audio books, it will help keep things interesting and your child may be more motivated to read. In addition, have your child read everything they come across in their environment. Give them the grocery list when you are shopping. Have them read the signs when driving. Write out the directions to a favorite summer family spot and have them read them to you. They can read the recipe when you are cooking together. Not only will this aid in developing reading skills, but it will also demonstrate how reading is valuable and has purpose in all areas of life.For teens, you can encourage reading by embracing the notion that all reading is good reading-supply your teen with the reading material of their choice including novels, magazines, comics, or graphic novels.

Recommended books:
Kindergarten *Ish* by Peter H. Reynolds, *The Way Home in the Night* by Akiko Miyakoshi
First grade *And I Mean it, Stanley* by Crosby Bonsall, *Cloud Tea Monkeys* by Mal Peet
Second grade *How to Save Your Tail* by Mary Hansen, *13 Storey Treehouse* by Andy Griffiths
Third grade *Alvin Ho* by Lenore Look, *Poppy* by Avi
Fourth grade *Real Friends* by Shannon Hale, *Frindle* by Andrew Clements
Fifth grade *The Great Greene* Heist by Varian Johnson, *I Lived on a Butterfly* by Marjorie Agosín
Middle School *A Comb of Wishes* by Lisa Stringfellow, *Song for a Whale* by Lynne Kelly
High School *The Little Prince* by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, *Mindset: The New Psychology of Success* by Carol S. Dweck

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Do you have an aspiring musician or a child who wants to be an aspiring musician? Check out the Cornelius Youth Orchestra



The Cornelius Youth Orchestras provides exceptional educational classes and performing ensembles for our community youth to learn from our team of Charlotte Symphony musicians. Aspiring student musicians looking to try a new instrument and experienced players looking for an advanced orchestra experience all have a place in one of our wide variety of CYO programs! Learn more and register today at https://www.corneliusyouthorchestras.com/auditions/

Workday Smiles: Salamander Scramble!

This week, along with professional growth and training, staff broke up into teams to build connections, explore how they bring the PSCS mission to life, and create a strong sense of community through navigating daily challenges together in the Salamander Scramble designed by Quest Keeper Margaret Bonds!













Workday Smiles: Salamander Scramble!



