23 August 2024

COOP SCOOP

A PSCS NEWSLETTER

pioneersprings.org

Welcome to the 2024-2025 school year, Pioneer Springs Community!

Over the past couple of weeks, staff has been hard at work preparing to welcome students back to campus by diving into curriculum, planning for environmental education integration, arranging classrooms, and so much more. We are excited for a year filled with engaging learning and challenging academic experiences that help our students grow to their full potential. Here's what you can do to prepare for next week and a great year:

- If you haven't had a chance to meet your teacher, send an email introducing yourself (click for the elementary, middle, and high school teams)
- Pack healthy lunches that include plenty of protein to support hard working brains
- Pack school bags and choose outfits the night before so your morning runs smoothly and you can get to school on time-being on time is essential for your student's learning, and that of the other students in the class
- Next week will be a scorcher-make sure your student has layers, wears sunblock, and brings a reusable water bottle
- Review the arrival and dismissal procedures; be patient, and plan for your drive to take longer than usual
- Have a great weekend as a family, get into nature and celebrate this new beginning!

See you at 8 am on Monday morning!

IMPORTANT DATES & ITEMS TO NOTE

- 26 August: **First day of school**
- 6 Sept: WINGS Welcome Coffee
- Important HS driver information
- Arrival & Dismissal information
- K-12 supply lists
- Who to Contact and When
- Academic & Events Calendar

Our Device & Cell Phone policy has changed

In order to support Pioneer Springs teachers and staff in creating a mindful, engaging learning environment where all students can be fully present in their community of learning, the Board of Trustees has revised the Devices and Cell Phone Policy. You can read the policy by navigating to the Policy section of the PSCS website and clicking on the "Devices and Cell Phones" button. If you need to connect with your student during the school day, please call the office at 704-494-0777 and we will either pass a message to your student, or bring your student to the office to speak with you. Likewise, if your student needs to speak with you, the student will call from the school office phone. Please add the school phone number to your contacts so you know to pick-up should you get a call from PSCS during the school day.

We ask that you support our efforts to ensure that your student, and all students, have the opportunity to be fully present during the school day by discussing the policy with your students, and exploring the positive outcomes of this policy. Students at other schools that have implemented similar changes report that they feel more connected to their peers, and find concentrating on school easier, due to the policy.

Waste Free lunch, a PSCS tradition



As an environmental education school, PSCS strives to reduce waste. Our lunch areas have compost bins. Students dispose of fruit and vegetable scraps in the bins, and learn about composting by caring for the bins as part of their monthly stewardship duties. Additionally, students "pack-out" waste in their lunchboxes so that families know which foods students are not finishing, and can use that information for planning lunches.

You can partner with us in our efforts by packing a waste free lunch, which keeps trash out of the landfill and money in your pocket! Here are some waste-free ideas:

- Pack lunch in a reusable bag, or reuse paper bags
- Use refillable containers-you don't need to buy new, you can upcycle plastic tubs or take-out containers
- Discuss food choices with your student to ensure that the lunch will provide balanced and healthy fuel for learning, and includes food they would like to eat
- Send a reusable water bottle-our students work hard and are outside a lot, so they get thirsty!
- Send durable utensils and washable napkins

You can find more information about waste free lunches on the PSCS website, and by clicking here.

You are invited to a Covenant Conference

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.





Many thanks to **Homewood Suites in Davidson** for their generous donation of our two new picnic tables!

An invitation to volunteer at Pioneer Springs, from Erin Scheichl, WINGS Co-Chair

Volunteers are essential and so appreciated within our community! There's lots of ways to become involved, and PSCS isn't JUST for students!
Here are some of the benefits of volunteering I've experienced:
*When you volunteer directly with your child's class: 1) your child's class friends learn how cool you are, thereby reaffirming to your child that you are in fact an awesome human and not the worst adult ever, 2) you will forever be greeted on campus w "are you ___'s adult" with requests for hugs from these students, 3) you are a godsend to your student's teaching staff allowing their focus to stay on our students.
*When you volunteer during a campus wide event: 1) you give yourself permission to laugh and be silly with students while offering encouragement and support, 2) you become a part of creating the magic, 3) you are a godsend to Staff members who work tirelessly on the logistics to bring our community together with events that enrich, educate and fundraise.
*When you volunteer behind the scenes, whether on campus or from home: 1) you create an opportunity to make connections with other parents and/or staff, 2) you help support our school on your own time schedule perhaps while in your cozy jammies, 3) you reiterate to your child that school is an investment worth our time and energy!
BOLO for ways to engage as a volunteer! 🫶 ErinScheichl
Ready to jump-in? Click here to let us know you are interested in volunteering, or step-up for one of these leadership positions:
Room Parent Coordinator, helps communicate with room parents, and to organize their efforts supporting and appreciating classroom teachers.
Volunteer Coordinator, helps organize volunteers, coordinates volunteers at school-wide events.
Gear Sales volunteers help run gear sales at school wide events.

If you are interested in any of these positions, contact WINGS at wings@pioneersprings.org.



Substitute Teachers are essential to making things run smoothly when teachers need to be out. If you or someone you know is interested in more information on serving in this paid role, please contact Glenda Cheek at glendac@pioneersprings.org.

Orientation & Staff Smiles

















Please check out our **back to school** page to view videos of K-5 orientations