



# PIONEER Connect



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# High School Welcomes New Assistant Principal

**Michael Jansma Jr.** has been appointed as assistant principal at Pioneer High School.

Mr. Jansma was approved at the October 6 regular meeting of the Pioneer Board of Education. He takes over for former assistant principal John Collins, who resigned at the end of summer to become principal at Baker Academy.

Mr. Jansma was scheduled to begin his new position on Thursday, November 5. He holds certificates for School Building Leader and School District Leader. He earned his

education degrees at Canisius College and SUNY Buffalo.

In the area of education supervision, Mr. Jansma has been a summer school principal at Lancaster High School. He also served as an administrative intern at Attica High School, where he also started his public education career as a math teacher. He has also managed the Town of Attica's recreation program since 2014.

Mr. Jansma resides in Bennington.



## Class of 2021 Local Scholarships and Awards

Pioneer High School's Local Scholarship Booklet will be available to seniors throughout the month of November. The booklet is a collection of applications for various scholarship organizations through our school and local community. Scholarships will help to lessen the impact of tuition costs.

### Seniors may obtain a copy of the booklet in the following ways:

A copy will be emailed to all seniors on Friday, November 13

A copy will be posted on the Class of 2021 Guidance Page on Microsoft Teams on 11/13

A paper copy will be delivered to all senior English classes throughout the week of 11/16

Pioneer High School would like to thank all local scholarship organizations and committees that continue to offer these opportunities to our students. All applications are due by Thursday, February 11, at 3:30 p.m.

*Please contact Kali Supples in the high school guidance office with any questions.*



## So far, so good for Arcade and Delevan Elementary Schools

Pioneer Elementary Schools are thriving during this unprecedented time. Most recently, we were able to add virtual homework help before and after school to help parents, who need live help at home. Students can Zoom in (as needed) to meet with a teacher assigned to their grade level to ask questions about work, have skills reinforced, and get additional instruction. If you want more information about virtual homework help, please see your child's teacher.

*If you have any questions or concerns regarding hybrid or virtual learning, please contact your child's principal.*

# Shirley Burch Heads List of Retirees

Shirley Burch says she remembers her starting salary when she joined the Pioneer Central School District 44 years ago.

“\$2.70 an hour. And I had to pay for a babysitter out of that!”

Mrs. Burch retired from her position as cafeteria manager at the middle school on Thursday, October 8. She said she will miss her “second home.”

“I don’t want to leave,” she said. “But I feel it is time.”

Principal Melissa Prorok estimated that, over 44 years, Mrs. Burch has prepared and distributed 3.7 million lunches and 770,000 breakfasts. During the Covid-19 pandemic, Mrs. Burch helped prep, package, and distribute more than 95,000 meals.

Fellow Pioneer Food Service staff were on hand to surprise Mrs. Burch on her last day. She said she was touched by the greeting cards with goodbye messages from students and staff. Ms. Prorok then proclaimed it *Shirley Burch Day* over the PA announcements.

Mrs. Burch shared her message of thanks over the PA. Ms. Prorok presented Mrs. Burch with a key to the school, and said she is welcome back anytime.



**SHIRLEY BURCH (at left in photo above) is presented a key to the Middle School by Pioneer Middle School Principal Melissa Prorok.**

## Other Retirees

Arcade Elementary Second Grade Teacher **Amy Lewis (AT NEAR LEFT)** retired on Friday, October 23, after 31 years. She has been an elementary teacher at both the Arcade and Delevan Elementary Schools. She is joined by her husband, **Tom Lewis (AT FAR LEFT)**, who stepped down from the Pioneer Board of Education after nine years. He is also a former vice president of the BOE.



## Upcoming Events (all dates are tentative due to pandemic)

- November 11 - NO SCHOOL - Veterans Day
- November 12 - High School Concert, 7 p.m.
- November 13 - Half Day for Grades UPK-4, Dismissal at 11:30 a.m.
- November 24 - Parent-Teacher Conferences (NO SCHOOL for Students)
- November 25-27 - NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Recess





## Halloween at the Middle School

## Giving Tree Will Look Different This Year . . .

Pioneer School District's Giving Tree program, which has been in place nearly 20 years, is among the many traditions being affected by COVID-19.

Pioneer PRO (Panthers Reaching Out) has sponsored the program, through which local families in need are identified and donors anonymously purchase gifts for children based on their ages, wants, and needs.

PRO advisors Tina Treichler and Louise Herrick said the Giving Tree is seeking donations and sponsorships for 2020. Sponsorships are as follows:

- Elementary - \$65
- Middle School - \$75
- High School - \$90

Another option is just to give a donation in any amount of your choice. The deadline is Friday, November 13.



**Please make checks payable to: Pioneer Giving Tree. Please send your sponsorships/donations to: Pioneer Giving Tree, c/o Pioneer High School. P.O. Box 579, Yorkshire, NY 14173. Attention: Louise Herrick.**

## Thank You, Veterans!



Veterans show off the cards they received from Pioneer fifth graders. Pictured left to right are: Ron Ashworth, John Lindsley, Dave Keller, and Bud Ruger.

## January Regents Exam Week Cancelled



The January 2021 administration of the High School Regents Examination Program is cancelled due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, according to the state Education Department.

Officials said this cancellation applies to all Regents Examinations that had been scheduled for the January 2021 Regents Examination period. No decisions have been made regarding the June and August 2021 administrations of Regents Examinations or any of the other State assessment programs.

Pioneer High School principal Mark Schultz said the traditional January Regents exam period this year will be a normal week of instruction.

Officials said the exams could not be administered safely, equitably and fairly across the state given where the pandemic currently stands.

They said they will continue to monitor applicable data and make a decision on other state assessment programs as the school year progresses, being mindful of the evolving situation.

Officials also said they will propose new assessment requirements that students must meet in order to earn high school diplomas, credentials, and endorsements at the December Board of Regents meeting. These modifications apply to all students who are completing a secondary-level course of study or make-up program in January and are scheduled to participate in one or more of the January 2021 Regents Examinations.



Veteran's Day is a wonderful opportunity to honor and recognize all of those that have served our country in war or peace. Pioneer fifth grade students chose to celebrate local veterans by making cards, which were then delivered to some exceptional local citizens at the Arcade Vets Club, who have made the ultimate sacrifice. Their incredible service of devotion hasn't gone without notice and their commitment and loyalty to our extraordinary country is second to none. In the midst of so much uncertainty, it was great to put some focus on love and loyalty for our great nation and all those that have served.

## One Capital Project Ends; Another Waiting in the Wings

The Pioneer Central School District is nearing the end of one capital improvement project and on the verge of starting another.

The Pioneer Board of Education met in regular session on Tuesday, October 20. Jeff Nunn of architects Gordon Jones Associates gave a report on the capital project just finishing up, as well as the new one approved by district voters last June.

The most recent project -- conducted over the last two years -- saw the replacement of the high school/middle school access road, as well as the south parking lot at the high school. Both access lanes from County Line Road were also replaced, as well as the high school drop off lanes. The high school office/nurses suite/guidance office also received a new HVAC system and lights.

In the new 2020 capital project, voters approved a plan for \$21.2 million in updates, \$14 million of which is committed to the high school. The facility's roof will be replaced. The gymnasium locker rooms are to be refurbished, and upgrades are also planned to the auditorium stage and the foyer/entrance. The foyer entrance will have more room for events and safety enhancements, and will have both an exterior and interior redesign.

At the middle school, the Family and Consumer Sciences room and the art classrooms will be renovated. Upgrades are also planned for the library media center.

The district's capital project is scheduled for review by the state Education Department starting in December, and, if approved, could go out to bid in February. Bids are scheduled to be opened in March. According to officials, work is projected to start in June of 2021 with completion possible by the Fall of 2022.

## Frisbee Golf



**FIFTH GRADERS** at the Pioneer Middle School practiced their Frisbee golf putts during physical education class. All of this frisbee fun was, of course, done at a safe distance!



### **FamilyID: Sports Registration Made Easier**

The Pioneer Athletic Department is excited to announce that we are now offering the convenience of online registration through **FamilyID** ([www.familyid.com](http://www.familyid.com)).

**FamilyID** is a secure registration platform that provides you with an easy, user-friendly way to register for our programs, and helps us to be more administratively efficient and environmentally responsible.

When you register through **FamilyID**, the system keeps track of your information in your **FamilyID** profile. You enter your information only once for each family member for multiple uses and multiple programs.

You can register your family by visiting: <https://www.familyid.com/organizations/pioneer-central-schools-athletics>

# FFA Food Sale Forges Ahead!

Although Covid-19 has changed many aspects of our day to day lives, the Pioneer FFA is excited to still put on our annual fruit and cheese sale.

We are featuring five types of products for this year's annual sale -- citrus, cheese, meat, nuts, and honey.

Our fruit and nuts are from Florida and California, and the cheese is from Kutter's and Cuba Cheese, both local companies. Croghan Bologna is famous from FFA Camp Oswegatchie, and the honey is from Pioneer FFA's own beehives.

New this year is maple bacon cheddar cheese, brittle bites, honey-roasted pecans and mixed nuts.

We are also offering 2/5 bushel boxes of navel oranges and pink grapefruit. Our citrus mix has also changed this year. This year, our citrus mix will include mandarins in addition to the traditional navel oranges and grapefruit. This year, we are only able to offer 2/5 mix boxes. The 4/5 mix boxes are not available.

Horseradish cheddar has been discontinued.

Please contact any FFA member to place your order. Profits from these sales help fund the following activities: NYS FFA Convention, National FFA Convention, Agriculture Literacy Day, Oswegatchie Education Center, and community service activities.

**We expect delivery the week of December 14.** Pick-up will be a drive-through style this year. No one is to enter the school building. Please follow signage when you arrive at the high school and your order will be brought to your vehicle. Students will call you or leave a message to confirm pick-up times. Thank you!



**Sorting Fun!**



UNIVERSAL PREKINDERGARTEN STUDENTS in Mrs. Dryndas' class at Delevan Elementary School are shown completing a name sorting project using alphabet soup.

# Pioneer Central School District

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**PHOTOS NEEDED!** -- Attention students, parents, teachers and coaches: The Pioneer High School 2020-2021 yearbook is looking for your help to make this year's edition unforgettable. **Upload pics of Pioneer High School students to be used in the yearbook.** Go to <https://images.jostens.com> & enter ID no. 415467672 to submit pics.



**Halloween Fun  
at Delevan**

**HALLOWEEN ACTIVITIES** at Delevan Elementary included dressing up in fun costumes and pumpkin paintings. Pictured painting their pumpkins are two students from Mrs. Asquith's third grade classes.