



PIONEER CONNECT

Winter 2021

PIONEER CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT, YORKSHIRE, NY



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SPRING SPORTS SIGN-UPS

Spring I and Spring II sport sign-ups are now open and continue through Feb. 19.

Football, Girls Volleyball and Cheer are scheduled to start March 1.

Co-ed track, Softball, Baseball, and Boys Varsity Tennis are scheduled to start April 19.

See the Athletics tab on the school website to sign up through FamilyID at <https://www.familyid.com/organizations/pioneer-central-schools-athletics>

PIONEER CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT, YORKSHIRE, NY



NO-COST MEALS EXTENDED THROUGH END OF 2020-21

In light of the continued recovery during the COVID-19 pandemic, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has announced that funding has been extended for schools to continue to serve meals at no cost (breakfast and lunch) through June 25, 2021, or until available funding runs out.

For Pioneer, this means all students will continue to be served breakfast and lunch daily at no charge. For students on days where they receive onsite instruction, meals will be provided free-of-charge at each school cafeteria.

For hybrid students on remote instructional days and for students that receive 100 percent remote instruction, a drive-up curbside location will be continued at the Pioneer Middle School.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS:

Q: Who is eligible to receive free meals?

A: All students enrolled in our school district as well as all children in the community under 18 years of age.

Q: How will students access school meals on their remote learning days?

A: Prepackaged breakfast & lunch meals will be available weekdays for pick-up from Pioneer Middle School Curbside Service from 11am-1pm.

Q: Will milk or snacks be free if my student brings a lunch from home?

A: No, only a complete reimbursable meal is free. Please refer to the district Food Service Department's webpage (<https://www.pioneerschools.org/o/pioneer-csd/page/overview--25>) for more information.

Q: How do we pay for double meals or a la carte snacks?

A: We encourage you to add funds to student accounts through www.myschoolbucks.com. This eliminates the need for students to carry cash. In addition you may pay with cash or checks with the student's full name listed in the memo section. Make checks payable to Pioneer School Lunch.

If you have questions regarding free or reduced eligibility for your child(ren)'s meals please contact Cate Pritchard at (716)492-9347 or via e-mail cpritchard@pioneerschools.org or Cyndi Landis at (716)492-9349 or via e-mail clandis@pioneerschools.org.



Class of 2021 Local Scholarships and Awards

Pioneer High School's Local Scholarship Booklet has been distributed to all seniors either in class or electronically. Please see Mrs. Duttry in the high school main office if you would like another copy. All applications are due to the guidance office no later than February 11th at 3:30pm. Seniors can also find additional local and national scholarship opportunities on the Pioneer High School website under the 'Guidance Office' tab. Please contact counselor Kali Supplies in the guidance office if you have any questions!



SCHOLAR ATHLETE AWARDS – FALL TEAMS AND INDIVIDUALS NAMED

The following Pioneer High School teams and athletes were named winners of the Scholar-Athlete Award for Fall 2020:

Scholar Team Awards

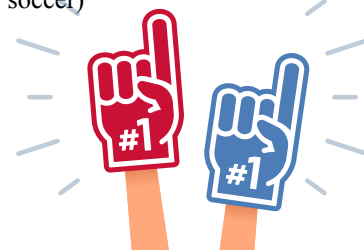
- Boys Soccer* – Sarah Lawson (coach)
- Girls Soccer* – Tim Hirschbeck (coach)
- Field Hockey* – Brandi Pettit (coach)
- Girls Swimming* – Amy Shephard (coach)
- Boys & Girls Cross Country* – Mary Doud (coach)

Scholar Athlete Fall Individual Honorable Mention

- Grant Wright (boys cross country); Nathan Schwartz, Gaven George (boys soccer); Harley Ersing (field hockey); Cheyenne Titus (girls cross country); Jillian Byers, Paige Tittel (girls soccer); Madison Snayczuk (girls swimming)

Scholar Athlete Fall Individual Award

- Allison Kopinski (girls soccer)



PARENT UNIVERSITY TRAININGS AVAILABLE VIA ZOOM

Parent University, a series of free Zoom-based monthly trainings provided by C-A BOCES, will be held throughout Spring 2021. Times are from 6:00-7:00pm on the Thursdays indicated below.

All sessions will follow a similar format and structure. The beginning of the session (15 minutes) will offer connection and support. The rest of the session will be focused on education and new learning (40 minutes). The closing of the session will be designated to sharing new resources and questions-and-answers.

Details are as follows:

Feb. 25: Help Me Homeschool This session will provide support for families regarding 'pandemic' schooling, allow parents and caregivers to discuss the challenges of shifting from virtual, hybrid & face to face learning and offer technology support/Q&A. Register: <https://caboces-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEtcOivqDIjHdJv7n5nbUc2SZrRgpXPpUrp>

March 25: Social Emotional Learning (SEL) for Parents & Caregivers This session will provide an overview on Social Emotional Learning (SEL) and the five SEL competencies. Parents and caregivers will explore the importance of SEL within their child's education, as well as in the home. Join us to learn some specific SEL strategies and resources that can support students and their wellbeing. Register: <https://caboces-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcqqf-uupjMqHN13R11IL6iXYLTdRpc8yxoj>

April 22: Resilient Families This session will provide parents and caregivers with a basic understanding of trauma & the brain, and how both impact development and learning. In addition, we will learn about 'protective factors' and how specific strategies can help to build resilience in your child(ren). Register: <https://caboces-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJIscuCtqz0tH9ediaw37xaGqOv0KWNtdd>

May 20: Practicing Wellness; Self-Care for Caregivers Parenting is hard work, especially so during 2020! It is essential that parents and caregivers have the tools they need to maintain wellness through self-care and stress management. Parents & caregivers will connect with one another and learn simple steps that can improve physical, mental & emotional wellbeing. Register: https://caboces-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYkd-yoqj4jHdbTiYqbFHm1vKMLHhJlgG_m

June 24: Go Away Anxiety! Anxiety is the #1 mental health diagnosis in youth. Learn what happens in the brain when anxiety takes over. Daily tasks, relationships and learning can become extremely difficult when anxiety is present. Join other parents & caregivers in learning about explicit steps they can take to support children/youth who are struggling with anxiety. Register: https://caboces-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAlcuypz0vHftFhcu-66Lr_1tpNngGnq

For more information or questions, please contact Katie Mendell (Kathryn_mendell@caboces.org). 716-353-0456



'CLUE' TO BE PRESENTED VIRTUALLY BY DRAMA CLUB

Pioneer Drama Club is proud to announce that we just successfully held our first virtual auditions and made our cast list for our production of Clue on Stage.

We have a cast of 11 students, including Aiden Adessa, Nick Tillinghast, Evelyn Steiner, Leah Johnson, Samantha George, Sydney Wilton, Grace Schmidt, Jack Devitt, Shaylyn Owens, Amber Chapman, and Olivia Stromecki.

For now, all of our rehearsals will be virtual, but we plan on eventually filming the various scenes to create a video that can be livestreamed for a small fee to audiences in the comfort and safety of their own homes.

Rehearsals will begin in January, and we are hoping to begin filming in February, with a possible release date in March or April, depending on safety protocols. Advisors Miss Cotton and Miss Tomasulo are so excited to begin this production, and we know the students are as well!



ADAPTIVE ART CLASS A SEASONAL SENSTATION

Students in the Adaptive Art Class of Pioneer High School teacher Stacey Lechevet recently had fun with some holiday-related projects.

“My adaptive art students are on a ‘C Track’ schedule, and meet every day,” Ms. Lechevet said. “We work on a variety of projects designed to enhance both cognitive and practical skills. We enjoy brainstorming different approaches to ideas and tasks as a team, and with the help of excellent teaching assistants, we have a safe, fun, and creative experience!”

In the weeks leading up to the holidays, the class worked on winter-themed projects. “I try to develop lessons that use readily available materials, which is especially helpful to remote learning,” Ms. Lechevet said. For example, students might reuse cardboard cereal or cracker boxes for projects such as ornaments or dioramas.

“We also use found natural materials,” she added. “We painted pinecones to look like pine trees. By using recycled or found materials, the students gain a different perspective, and view of everyday things with a more creative mindset.”



Evan and Mrs. Radke create a recycled shoebox landscape diorama.



Jacob works on making a pine cone look like a pine tree.



Sam's festive card says it all.





Remote learner Evan created this snow globe from a jar, incorporating a pine cone/tree.



Krystal was especially pleased at the outcome of her project.

PIONEER CORPS RECEIVES GENEROUS GRANT

Pioneer Corps recently received a grant of \$1,000 from Navient Community Fund. We are grateful for their generosity as we continue to support individuals and families within our school community. Pioneer Corps has been serving the community for over 20 years, with the mission of connecting people with resources and providing immediate assistance on a case-by-case basis, as funding allows. Funding is almost entirely provided by the Pioneer School District, and community, and grants such as this one are deeply appreciated, as they allow us to serve even more people within our community.



Pioneer FFA Chapter Report

Trevor R. Hulton- FFA Reporter

“As we mingle with others, let us be diligent in labor, just in our dealings, courteous to everyone and, above all, honest and fair in the game of life.” This quote is a portion of the FFA closing ceremonies, and although COVID-19 has modified the operations of the Pioneer FFA Chapter, members are still working to achieve their goals and live by the quote above. FFA members have been experiencing a school year that will go down in the history books while writing their own chapter in FFA history.

FFA members kicked off the year with an October meeting that involved some friendly competition while completing a Pumpkin Challenge. Students were given a box of supplies and were tasked with creating a protective covering for their pumpkin so that when it was dropped from the bucket of the tractor it did not break. While some pumpkins ended up smashed in the parking lot, others survived the fall. However, all members enjoyed putting their creativity skills to work!

Our October meeting concluded with a tractor pull that allowed students to socially distance, while cheering on their peers to see who could pull the tractor the furthest down a track.

Next up for Pioneer FFA members was the annual Fruit and Cheese Sale. The sale may have looked very different this year with online ordering and drive-thru pickup, but it was very successful. We would like to extend a sincere thank you to everyone who supported our sale this year. Your support is greatly appreciated and will be instrumental in the future success of our chapter. We are looking forward to getting back on the road and attending conventions and competitions as soon as it is safe to do so!

Finally, FFA members are beginning to prepare for our annual Leadership Development Events. Although these contests will be hosted through virtual platforms this year, we look forward to being able to participate and represent Pioneer against other schools in the Western New York Region.

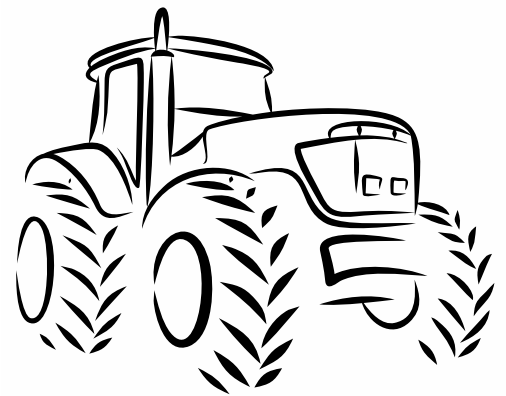
Spring is always a busy time for FFA members, and this year will be no exception! Stay tuned for the results of these contests in the coming months!



FFA members participating in the tractor pull during our October meeting.

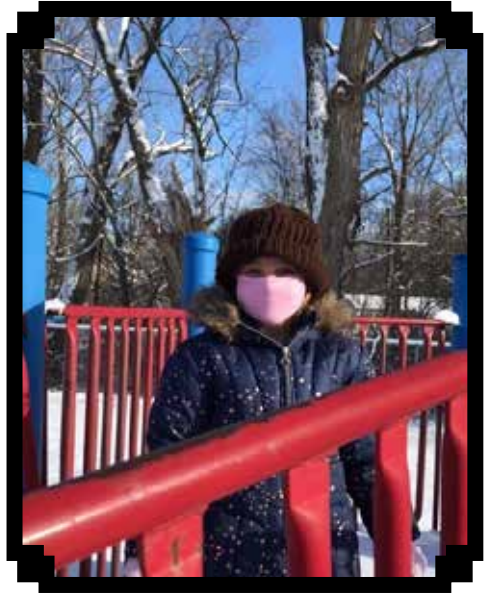


Customers going through the line in the first ever drive-thru fruit sale.



SNOW MUCH FUN

Students in the 1st grade class of Mrs. Jessica Almeter at Delevan Elementary enjoy fun in the snow on the one of the few days this winter when there was actually enough white stuff around to play outside.



CHRIS PURTELL NAMED TO ATHLETICS WALL OF FAME

Chris Purtell has been inducted into the 2020 class of the Pioneer School District’s Athletic Wall of Fame.

Purtell, a member of the Class of 2001, starred in three sports for the Panthers—football, wrestling and track and field. In football, he was a two-time first-team Class A All-League pick and Big 30 All Star. Other gridiron honors include first-team All-Western New York, first-team All-State, and Section 6 Class A Defensive Player of the Year.

In wrestling, Purtell was a two-time Section 6 champion at 215 lbs., third in his weight class at the state championships, an Ilio DiPaolo Award winner, and a Big 30 All-Star with 126 career wins.

In track, Purtell was a sectional finalist in the hurdles, ranks among Pioneer’s top 10 in the 400 meters and hurdles, and was named the Ken Kittleston Award Winner for his athletic and academic achievements.

Purtell continued his football career at Hobart College, where he was two-time team captain and received Liberty League defensive honors. He was selected to the second team NCAA Division 3 Academic All-American

and ESPN East Region Defensive Player of the Year. Academically, he was named the college’s Outstanding Political Science Major, and was a member of the Beta Gamma Sigma MBA Honor Society.

At Pioneer, Purtell was a member of some of the most dominant football teams in school history under then-coach Larry Slanovich. Current Panthers varsity head coach Jim Duprey nominated Purtell for enshrinement.

“Chris Purtell is a most deserving recipient of the Pioneer Wall of Fame honor,” Duprey said. “He was a tremendous three-sport athlete and a great student while at Pioneer. He went on to have a standout college football and academic career at Hobart College. Chris is one of the very best all-around student-athletes in Pioneer school history.”

Chris lives in Amherst with his wife Nikki and daughters Ava and Jodie.



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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.



MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS SHOWER PINES RESIDENTS WITH CARDS

Pioneer Middle School students recently crafted several dozen holiday cards that were sent to help brighten the holidays of residents of The Pines in Machias.

