



# PIONEER CONNECT

Spring 2021

PIONEER CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT, YORKSHIRE, NY

## ***Titus, Tillinghast Named Valedictorian / Salutatorian For Class Of 2021***

Cheyenne Titus was named Valedictorian and Nicholas Tillinghast was named Salutatorian of the Pioneer High School Class of 2021.

*Commencement for the Class of 2021 is scheduled for  
Saturday, June 26.*

The rest of the top 21 students: Jett Forward, Aiden Addesa, Makensey Holmes, Allison Kopinski, Ty Zepp, Harley Ersing, Gaven George, Leah McElheny, Grant Wright, Allison Chitty, Hanna Kessler, Jillian Byers, Brooke Puffer, Marley Fuller, Kaylee Lacy, Madison Snayczuk, Logan Poleon, Alexander Miley, Kati Platt.



*Valedictorian Cheyenne Titus*



*Salutatorian Nicholas Tillinghast*

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Pioneer Middle School therapy dogs Louie and Brinley show their Buffalo Bills spirit.

## ***2021-22 KINDERGARTEN & PRE-KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION INFO***

Pioneer School District is excited to announce registration for kindergarten and pre-kindergarten for 2021-22 at Delevan and Arcade elementary schools.

New kindergarten students can be registered at any time. Please stop by the main office in your child's building for information and forms. All children five years old on or before Dec. 1, 2021 are eligible.

Potential pre-kindergarten students must be four years old on or before Dec. 1, 2021. UPK registration starts May 1. More information available in the main offices of Delevan and Arcade schools.

PIONEER CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT, YORKSHIRE, NY



## **Covid-19 & Its Impact On Pioneer's Annual Vote**

As of the issuing of this newsletter the Pioneer Central School District plans to hold an in-person Board of Education election and budget vote. It will look a bit different.

The vote and election will be held at the Pioneer Senior High School. There will be a designated entry and exit for voters. All voters will be required to wear a mask. Upon entering the designated door for voting you will enter an enclosed area to vote and then exit from another door.

Proper sanitation methods will be used between voters. Two to three voters will be allowed to enter the voting area at a time and social distancing will be maintained by election inspectors. There will be distance markers outside the building.

Voting hours will be 6:30 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. Please consider voting earlier in the day if your schedule allows. Our highest traffic is when students are dropped off and picked up. Busses drop students off in the morning between 7:05 and 7:30 and pick up is 2:00 to 2:30.

Pioneer is closely monitoring all current and future legal developments as they pertain to district elections and budget votes. Due to the spread of the COVID-19 virus and Governor Cuomo's executive orders mandating the closure of all schools and modifications of school elections, the deadlines and procedures stated herein may change as required by law or consistent with further state guidance.

All district residents are encouraged to closely monitor the Pioneer website at [www.pioneerschools.org](http://www.pioneerschools.org) for the most up-to-date information concerning the district's annual vote.

## **Pioneer Board Of Education News**

The nine-member Pioneer Board of Education is elected by the people, and members serve without salary. They represent citizens in policy matters regarding the school district.

Current board members are Melissa Nocera-Collins (president), Edward McCarthy (vice president), Justin Baker, Denise Urbino, Donna Warner, Angela Wiseman, Darla Schwab, Linda Rule, and Mary Lou Merlau.

Elections are scheduled each year on the third Tuesday of May. Terms are staggered and each board member serves a term of five years.

Regular meetings, unless otherwise specified, are held the first and third Tuesday of each month. Until further notice, meetings are held via Zoom.

A portion of each meeting at the beginning is set aside for public comment, in which attendees may address the board for five minutes.

Questions regarding the Board of Education may be addressed to district clerk Carrie Bartoszek ([cbartoszek@pioneerschools.org](mailto:cbartoszek@pioneerschools.org)).

## **Update On Military Ballots For Board Of Education Election**

Military ballots will be provided to military voters to be used for the election of Board members, adoption of the annual budget and public library referenda. A military voter is:

- a) A qualified voter of District who:
  1. Is in actual military service and, by reason of that military service, will be absent from the District on the day of the election; or will be discharged from such military service within 30 days of the election; or
  2. A spouse, parent, child, or dependent of the previously described voter, accompanying or being with that voter, if a qualified voter of New York State and a resident of the District.

Military voters who are qualified voters of the District may apply for a military ballot by requesting an application from the District Clerk. For a military voter to be issued a military ballot, the District Clerk must have received a valid ballot application no later than 5:00 p.m. prevailing time on Thursday, April 22nd. The military voter ballot must be received by the District Clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. prevailing time on Tuesday, May 18th. In a request for a military ballot application or ballot, the military voter may indicate a preference for receiving the application or ballot by mail, facsimile, or electronic mail. All military ballot applications and military ballots must be returned by mail or in person. An application for a military ballot will be available on the District website by March 22nd. For questions regarding military ballots please contact the District Clerk, Carrie Bartoszek at [cbartoszek@pioneerschools.org](mailto:cbartoszek@pioneerschools.org) or 716-492-9305.

# Hs Library Media Center News



Mrs. Stephanie Hogan's Exploratory Media class recently hosted two high-profile guests.

High school guidance counselor Mrs. Judi Emerling brought her border collie, Riley, to class so that the students could learn about dog tricks and pet ownership. The class has been learning about dogs as they read *I, Cosmo* by Carlie Sorosiak, which follows a 13-year-old golden retriever as he and his human best friend enter a dance contest.

The LMC also recently sponsored several make-and-take crafts. Mrs. Hogan and aide Mrs. Donna Neamon had three different crafts in the weeks leading up to Valentine's Day:

- Quilled heartcard
- Book page hearts
- Love Bug



## Athletics Embraces New Seasons

The Pioneer Athletic Department has been dealing with a number of pandemic-related changes, which include delayed seasons, spectator protocols, and fall sports being played in the spring.

Some of the highlights of the winter season now wrapping up:

- Senior diver Justin Halford broke a 36-year-old record with a score of 272.8, only to later break it again with a 300 score.
- The Air Rifle team defeated state defending champion Clarence, and in the process set a new high score for Section VI: 1137.
- The boys bowling team finished 9-1 for a fourth straight divisional crown; the girls finished 6-4.

Now the high school is preparing for a Fall 2 season in the spring for volleyball, football and cheering. May will bring the return of wrestling, baseball, softball, track & field, and tennis. Stay tuned for details on spectator attendance.



## FBLA Holds Successful Fund-Raiser

During the first two weeks of February, members of the Pioneer High School FBLA (Future Business Leaders of American) sold Sweetheart Grams as a Valentine's Day fundraiser.

The money raised by the fundraiser was donated to Tri-County Kiwanis. A \$200.00 check was sent to Tri County Kiwanis on February 12th.

FBLA helps high school students prepare for careers in business through competitions, leadership development, and educational programs. The club also runs the school store. Anyone interested in joining FBLA should contact Mrs. Brush or Ms. Schiener for more information.

*Shown with the \$200 check for Kiwanis is FBLA member Ean Kless.*



# Students Able To Check Out Books From Elementary Libraries

It was wonderful to see students so excited to be able to return to checking out books from the library. The librarians put in a ton of work to make this happen and we appreciate all their efforts.

The students had huge smiles and couldn't wait to open their books up!

Shown with their selections are:

*Nevaeh Jennings*

*Liam Terwilliger*

*Ryan Wojtaszczyk*

--Submitted by Mrs. Jessica Colarusso



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## 100TH DAY OF SCHOOL

Students at Delevan Elementary School recently marked the 100th day of school. Shown are UPK AM and PM students of Mrs. Dryndas, and the 100th day banner crafted by students of Miss Yount.





# PIONEER CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT INSTRUCTIONAL CALENDAR 2021-2022

JULY						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

STU  
STA

STU 20  
STA 20

JANUARY						
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

### SUMMER SCHOOL

### HOLIDAYS/BREAKS

Independence Day Observed: July 5th  
 Labor Day: September 6th  
 Columbus Day: October 11th  
 Veterans' Day: November 11th  
 Thanksgiving Recess: November 24-26  
 Winter Recess: December 24 - 31  
 Martin Luther King Day: January 17  
 Mid-Winter Recess: February 21-25  
 Spring Recess: April: 11-15  
 Memorial Weekend: May 27-30  
 Juneteenth: June 20

AUGUST						
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

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STU 15  
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FEBRUARY						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

### FIRST/LAST DAYS OF SCHOOL

Return to Learn Orientation: September 7  
 Last Day for 9-12: June 13  
 Last Day for Pre-K-8: June 24

SEPTEMBER						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

STU 18  
STA 20

STU 23  
STA 23

MARCH						
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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

### ELEMENTARY HALF DAYS

November 12  
 March 11  
 June 17

OCTOBER						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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31						

STU 20  
STA 20

STU 16  
STA 16

APRIL						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30

### PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

November 23

### STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAYS

New Teacher Orientation: August 17-19  
 All Staff: September 1-2

NOVEMBER						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

STU 18  
STA 18

STU 20  
STA 20

MAY						
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

### GRADUATION: June 25

DECEMBER						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
			1	2	3	4
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19	20	21	22	23	24	25
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STU 17  
STA 17

STU 17  
STA 17

JUNE						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
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19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

### REGENTS EXAMS

### NYS EXAMS GRADES 3-8

ELA - March 29-31  
 Math - April 26-28

### MANDATORY

November 10  
 January 12  
 February 16  
 March 2  
 May 11  
 Make-up  
 March 30  
 May 25

TOTAL STU DAYS 184  
 TOTAL STA DAYS 186

Board Adopted: 02/02/2021

## Middle School Therapy Dogs Featured On Channel 2 News



Pioneer Middle School therapy dogs Brinley and Louie were recently featured on Channel 2 News daybreak edition.

The dogs help students during counseling sessions, reading time or when they need a pick me up. Dogs visit on Fridays. The dog therapy program started 13 years ago with Lucy, then Mike. Now the torch has been passed onto new generations. Counselor Lynne Roth told Channel 2 the dogs not only have a knack for sniffing out treats, but also sensing when a child is in need of the love and reassurance only a trained pet can provide.

Pat Cooney, a school psychologist, established the program and cited a wealth of research showing dogs reduce stress and anxiety—more important than ever in the pandemic era.

Original therapy dog Lucy is nearing retirement, so she is showing sister Brinley how to take over the reigns, or the leash in this case.

Their handlers say the therapy dogs are used as incentive for students showing improvement, or in a reading program in which they've proven to be great, impartial listeners.

## Tech Corner – Windows Update

Pioneer's Instructional Technology Services (ITS) Department has issued an update regarding the expiration of Windows licensing.

District laptops running Windows must connect to the Pioneer network to validate the operating system license at least once every 180 days. Some students who are fully remote learners are getting close to hitting that limit.

Any remote student laptop that has not been connected to the Pioneer network in the last 180 days will need to do so to revalidate its Windows license. Students may bring their device in for ITS to check, or they can simply connect to Pioneer's WiFi from a school parking lot to revalidate this license.



## SUBSTITUTE WORKERS NEEDED

Pioneer School District is hiring substitutes and regular staff in many areas, including cleaners, food service and aides. Visit [www.pioneerschools.org/page/employment](http://www.pioneerschools.org/page/employment) for information, civil service applications, and fingerprinting requirements.

Jeannene Wagner, *Director of Human Resources*, can be reached at 716-492-9326.







*Newly minted Eagle Scouts Rob & Ryan Snyder pose with their parents, John Snyder and Maggie Vossler.*

## **Rob Snyder, Ryan Snyder Achieve Eagle Scout Status**

Eagle Scout is the highest achievement or rank attainable in Boy Scouts of America (BSA). Since its inception in 1911, only four percent of scouts have earned this rank after a lengthy review process. The Eagle Scout rank has been earned by over 2.5 million youth. Some of the requirements to earn the Eagle ranking include:

- Demonstrating Scout Spirit by living the Scout Oath and Scout Law
- Earning at least 21 merit badges (including the 13 required - First Aid, Citizenship in the Community, Citizenship in the Nation, Citizenship in the World, Communication, Cooking, Personal Fitness, Emergency Preparedness OR Lifesaving, Environmental Science OR Sustainability, Personal Management, Swimming OR Hiking OR Cycling, Camping, and Family Life)
- Completing a service project for an organization other than the Boy Scouts of America
- Successfully completing the Eagle Scout Board of Review.

Arcade Boy Scout Troop 55 is led by Dr. Dale Deahn. He is assisted by John Mayer and Caleb Lehman. Ryan and Rob Snyder are seniors at Pioneer High School. They began their involvement with Scouts while in elementary school, with the Arcade Cub Scout Pack. They are the sons of John Snyder of Holland and Maggie Vossler of Arcade

Ryan Snyder's Eagle project was removing old concrete formations at the Arcade Elementary School playground that were an attractive nuisance for students. The areas were regraded, and two flowerbeds were created. Rob Snyder's Eagle project was creating and installing a Disc Golf course at the Arcade Park.

The boys appreciate the assistance of many teachers, leaders, adults, and fellow Scouts that helped them complete their Eagle projects and attain the rank of Eagle Scout.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Melissa Nocera-Collins, President  
Edward McCarthy, Vice President  
Justin Baker, Mary Lou Merlau, Linda Rule, Darla Schwab,  
Denise Urbino, Donna Warner, and Angela Wiseman

**CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION**

Benjamin Halsey, Superintendent of Schools  
Nicholas Silvaroli, Assistant Superintendent  
William Weidner, Director of Athletics  
Michael Irizarry, Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Technology  
Jean Vallance, Director of Special Education  
Mark Schultz, High School Principal  
Melissa Prorok, Middle School Principal  
Mellisa Devitt, Arcade Elementary Principal  
Tiffany Giannicchi, Delevan Elementary Principal  
Jeannene Wagner, Director of Human Resources

ECRWSS Postal Patron  
*or Current Resident*

## **PIONEER STUDENT-MUSICIANS TAKE PART IN SOLOFEST**

The Pioneer Music Department had many wonderful student-musicians participate in the ECMEA (Erie County Music Educators Association) Solo Festival in January. Based on their high scores, several of our students who auditioned were accepted into All-County Bands and Orchestras.

***Elementary (gr. 5-6) All-County Musicians:***

Neil Boldt- clarinet,  
Ethan Weber- viola,  
and Riley Ruhland- double bass.

***Junior High (gr. 7-9) All-County Musician:***

Messina Maul- cello.

***Senior High (gr. 10-12) All-County Musicians:***

Liberty Nappo- violin,  
and Layla Boyer- violin.

We are all very proud of our musicians and their great accomplishment during this challenging year!

*Middle School student Ethan Weber is shown preparing for the ECMEA Solofest.*

