



PIONEER CONNECT

September 2022

PIONEER CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT, YORKSHIRE, NY

Dear Pioneer Community Members:

The Pioneer School Board has begun the search process for a new Superintendent. The Board has met with our consultants from School Leadership, LLC, and all search activities have been scheduled. An important next step in the process is to create a Superintendent Profile, using information gathered from stakeholder group meetings and an online survey.

The survey takes about 5 minutes to complete and can be found at www.surveymonkey.com/r/pcsupt. The survey will remain open until September 30th, 2022.

On Wednesday, September 28, the consultants will be in the district meeting with stakeholder groups designated by the board. These groups will include

representative students, faculty and staff, administrators, and members of the school community. The consultants will collect information about the district such as perceived leadership challenges for the future and desired professional experiences and personal characteristics stakeholders would like to see in the next superintendent.

As part of this outreach, the Board of Education cordially invites you to attend an in person Open Community stakeholder meeting on Wednesday, September 28, from 6:00-7:00 p. m. in the High School Auditorium. The purpose of this meeting is to assist the board in establishing criteria for the selection of the new Superintendent of Schools.

At this meeting, you will have an opportunity to meet the search consultants and learn

more about the process. Most of the meeting will be devoted to hearing participant responses to three prompts: (1) What is it about the Pioneer schools and the larger community that would attract a proven educational leader to the district?; (2) What do you see as the immediate as well as the longer term leadership challenges the next Superintendent will face?; and (3) What are the desired professional experiences and personal characteristics that you would like to see the next Superintendent bring to the position?

Feedback from the stakeholder groups and the online survey will be analyzed by the consultants who will prepare a summary report for the board to review in October. At that time, the Superintendent Profile will be approved by the board. This profile will identify those characteristics and skills that our staff, students, parents, and community identify as

being critical to the success of the new superintendent and will be used by the consultants and the board as decisions are made about the applicants.

The board is facing the most important task of any school board in replacing its chief school officer. We appreciate it if you will be a part of this process.

Thank you, in advance, for providing important information for the board's consideration.

Melissa Nocera-Collins
President
Pioneer Board of Education



Scan this code to take our Superintendent Search Survey

Opening Week



WELCOME, NEW PIONEER STAFF!

Pioneer School District welcomes a bumper crop of new staff this year.

ARCADE ELEMENTARY

Leah Rattermann, OT
Courtney Muth, Special Education
Samantha Hunt, 3rd Grade
Morgan Tackentien, 3rd Grade
Jenelle Nyitrai, 4th Grade
Courtney Guidie, 1st Grade
Brigid Insley, 3rd Grade
Jolene Evanock, Special Education
KC Drzewiecki, 1st Grade
Allison Minton, Art
Andrew Farnham, Counselor

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Margaret Brinkworth, 6th grade consultant teacher
Amanda Fuller, Teacher Aide
Morgan Gosciak, 6th grade consultant teacher
Dustin Hardman, 15:1 grade 7/8 consultant teacher
Carrie Hirsch, 6th grade math/science teacher
Samantha Jordan, cafeteria monitor/aide
Sarah Lawson, 5th grade 15:1 special education
Emily Lyons, 8th grade consultant teacher
Kari Marowski, 6th grade long-term substitute consultant teacher
Sarah Marsh, 8th grade long-term substitute French teacher
Amy McCown, teacher aide
Candace Metlak, 15:1 6th grade teacher assistant
Brittani Mroz, 7/8 15:1 special education (ELA)
Rachel Mulholland, 6th grade long-term substitute math/science
Tristen Owens, teacher aide
Elizabeth Pyc, 6th grade 15:1 substitute special education
Alyssa Simon, school psychologist
Megan Weber, physical education teacher
Bella Addesa, teacher aide (BOCES)
Cindy Krug, counselor (BOCES)
Cheryl McElheny, teacher assistant (BOCES)
Amanda Struck, teacher aide (BOCES)



DISTRICT NEW STAFF:

Melanie Korzeniewski, Assistant Director of Special Education

HIGH SCHOOL

Justin Baker, agriculture teacher
Justin Uhteg, long-term substitute social studies teacher
Tyler Wende, social studies teacher
Kristina Pierce, English teacher
Christina Herman, consultant teacher
Matthew Gian, consultant teacher
Marie Tedesco, teacher aide
PeggySue Piatek, greeter

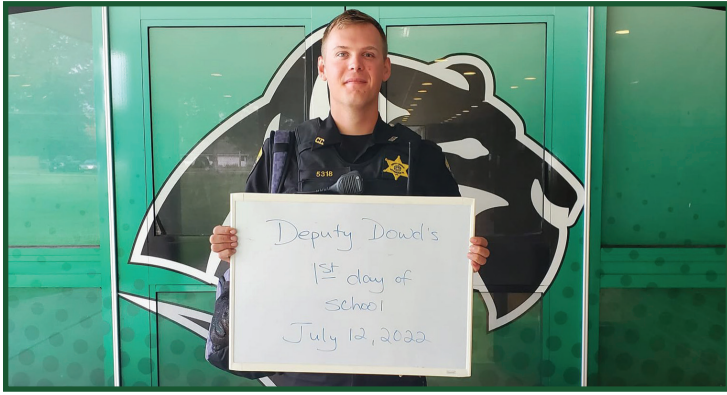
DELEVAN ELEMENTARY

Kayleigh Jordan, psychologist
Trevor Nourse, school resource office
Laura Clark, kindergarten
Joy Horbachewski-Cary, 2nd grade
Grace Thompson, 3rd grade
Emily Reagan, 3rd grade
Krista Sealy, 3rd grade
Caleb Palmatier, UPK physical education
Morgan Redmond, special education
Amber Terhart, reading specialist
Katie Morris, teacher aide
Amber Bigelow, teacher aide
Lynette Meyers, teacher aide
Amanda Knorr, teacher aide
Tamantha Tingué, greeter
Aubrey Dudke, BOCES counselor
Kalene Sieckmann, BOCES speech therapist
Melissa Rhodus, BOCES occupational therapist



Morgan Tackentien (left) and Brigid Insley are recent Pioneer grads who are now on the teaching staff.

MEET PIONEER'S NEW SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS



Deputy John Dowd is the new SRO at Pioneer Middle School.



Deputy Trevor Nourse is shown with students from Mrs. Bartz's class at Delevan Elementary.

Forming a bridge between the school and community, and building relationships with staff and students, are two goals of the School Resource Officer (SRO) program at Pioneer School District.

Cattaraugus County Sheriff's Deputy John Dowd was named over the summer by the Pioneer Board of Education to succeed Deputy Joe Miller, who departed after five years for his native school district, Portville.

Deputy Dowd is originally from Youngstown, NY, and graduated from Lewiston-Porter Central School. He worked for the Town of Niagara Police Department in 2016, moving to the Cattaraugus County Sheriff's Department in 2020, following a one-year activation in Japan with the U.S. Marine Corps.

"I have never been an SRO, and I'm excited about Pioneer because it's a large school district with many students that I hope to build positive relationships with," Deputy Dowd said.

Asked what philosophy he hopes to bring to serving Pioneer, Deputy Dowd said he would continue forging partnerships

and bridging the gap between the Sheriff's Department and the community. "I want to build friendships with employees, students and parents, and to collaborate on how to make our communities safer and stronger while educating each other," he added.

"Our sheriff's office has done an amazing job with staying community-involved, especially with the SRO programs, and I hope to be a helpful asset for the Sheriff's Department and school community," Deputy Dowd said.

Deputy Dowd will be stationed at Pioneer Middle School.

Meanwhile, Deputy Trevor Nourse joins Pioneer as the SRO at Delevan Elementary.

Cattaraugus County Sheriff's Deputy Trevor Nourse has joined Pioneer School District as a School Resource Officer. He will be stationed at Delevan Elementary School.

Deputy Nourse recently introduced himself to the Delevan family:

"Greetings everyone!" Deputy Nourse said in a recent message to the school.

"This is the first time our building will

have a solely dedicated Sheriff's Deputy to act as its Resource Officer. To introduce myself, I have served with the Cattaraugus County Sheriff's Office for over four years and am excited to be serving the community in this new capacity.

"I attended school at Delevan myself and am a graduate of Pioneer Central Schools (Class of 2012). I hope to get to know all of you and provide you with the reassurance your children will have a safe place to learn and grow.

"You will be seeing me regularly around campus and at school events where I can hopefully provide a new resource for your children's success. I was also recently certified as a Child Passenger Safety Car Seat Technician and would like to utilize my training to make driving with your kids as safe as possible. Please see me at student drop-off this year or contact the office if you would like to set up an appointment."

Pioneer's other School Resource Officers are Deputy Anthony Ellis and Officer Jared Benkelman of Arcade Police Department.

DELEVAN CLASS SOLVES READING MYSTERY

Mrs. Rebecca Clinch's kindergarten class at Delevan Elementary has a book with "secret stories" that went missing! Her class hired Detective Reading to see if he could find their missing book. School Resource Officer Deputy Trevor Nourse assisted the detective and even lifted fingerprints off the briefcase. He then tested a fingerprint of one of the students that was "acting suspicious". Not a match! The students suspect it was the mouse that came to school from the story, "If You Take a Mouse to School" by Laura Numeroff. They are not 100 percent certain but the book was found and is back in the classroom safe and sound! Whew!!



WHAT IS YOUR SUPER POWER?

Delevan Elementary's theme this year is "Superheroes". At our opening meeting with our principal, Mrs. Giannicchi, she gave each staff member a red cape that asked "What is your superpower?"

Our staff superpowers are now displayed in the hallway for all to see and read!



SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION WEEK IS OCT. 17-21

Oct 17-21 is School Board Recognition Week in New York State to recognize school board members for their commitment to New York public school children.

Recognizing school board member service should be a year-round endeavor, but designating one week to highlight these volunteers' efforts ensures they receive some of the thanks they deserve. School Board Recognition Week is an opportunity to raise community awareness and understanding about the crucial role school board members have within a school district.

School board members take on one of the most important citizen responsibilities: overseeing the education of the community's youth. Boards of education guide their local school

systems and ensure public schools are flexible and responsive to the needs of the community. School boards are comprised of volunteers, most of whom do not receive any compensation for their service.

They are individuals within the community who dedicate their time to improving public education. School board members statewide collectively oversee nearly 2.3 million K-12 students and \$85 billion in budgeted spending.

Pioneer School District salutes the tireless effort of its school board members: Melissa Nocera-Collins (president), Edward McCarthy (vice president), Linda Rule, Darla Schwab, Angela Wiseman, Mark Kless, Wendy Warner Burch, and Denise Urbino.



SCHOLASTIC BOOK SALE RESULTS IN BOOKS, BUILDING KITS FOR DELEVAN

This past June, Delevan Elementary held a Scholastic Book Fair as part of the school's G.L.A.M. Night. The book fair was extremely successful, and over 300 books have been purchased for the library from the Scholastic Dollars earned from the fair.

Librarian Jenna Driver also purchased Constructa building kits for the students to create and build with. Pictured are Mrs. Tatlow's kindergarten students during their STEAM class in the library. These Constructa kits are a great addition to the library's hands-on learning!



Members of the Pioneer Board of Education are advocates for children in the community. Front row: Angela Wiseman, Darla Schwab, Melissa Nocera-Collins, Linda Rule. Back row: Edward McCarthy, Wendy Warner Burch, Mark Kless, Denise Urbino.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS MAKE HUGE SUMMER GAINS

Pioneer School District's current capital improvement project made great strides during a summer when the weather was optimal.

Nick Titus, Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds/Maintenance, said the biggest changes include the foyer and entrance of Pioneer High School. The area was expanded and a security vestibule added. A lighted marquee with video screens is also up and functioning.

The foyer also received a new floor, ceiling, and doors to the auditorium. A new greeter area will funnel all traffic to the middle. Mr. Titus said work will continue on the finishing touches.

In the district office, heating and ventilation work was completed just before the start of the 2022-23 school year. Also, the entire roof on the high school was replaced.

At the middle school, the Library Media Center was gutted and completely rebuilt, resulting in a space with abundant natural brightness through a large skylight.



The makeover is complete at Pioneer Middle School Library Media Center.

The other areas of middle school renovations involved the classrooms for Visual Arts and Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS) which were fully reconstructed, Mr. Titus said. He added that HVAC work in the middle school gymnasium was highlighted by the replacement of two rooftop units.

Arcade Elementary saw the removal of carpeting in the kindergarten and 1st grade

wings as well as the auditorium. The work involved asbestos removal, and the installation of replacement flooring. Also, HVAC work at Arcade included the removal of aging equipment at the library and cafeteria and replacing it with more efficient systems.

"The Delevan asbestos abatement and new vinyl plank flooring work was largely wrapped up last summer allowing us to house our elementary summer school as well as BOCES summer school there this year," Mr. Titus said.



The new high school foyer is a hit.

DELEVAN'S NEW GYM CLIMBING IMPROVEMENTS ROCK!

Delevan Elementary Physical Education teachers Mr. Courtney Taylor and Mrs. Lisa Selbert gave the rock wall at Delevan Elementary a fresh new look for the new school year.

Mrs. Selbert explained, "We use it for UPK-4th grade classes for Physical Education. Before we redid the rock wall, it was just gray. Now there are mountains painted for the kids to climb!"

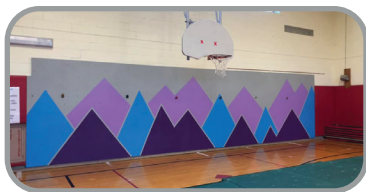
"They are very excited to be able to use it in some of our upcoming units," Mrs. Selbert added.



The before...



A work in progress



Almost ready...



Complete! Let the climbing begin!

ARCADE 'PANTHER PATROL' AIMS TO HELP AID FELLOW STUDENTS

As Arcade Elementary starts off the year, we have some exciting Student Council news.

Panther Patrol is a program that is revitalized by the AES Student Council, and the role of council members is to be helpful to students who are arriving in the morning that may need some guidance to their classroom.

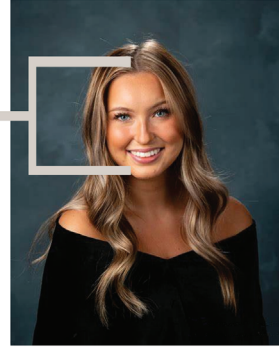
"This allows our veteran students a chance to help our new students be familiar with the school and creates a comradery that is of value to all ages," said Jessica Zymowski, Student Council advisor.



due
October 11
2022

Class of 2023 SENIOR PHOTO INFORMATION

head size
must be
1 to 1.5
inches



no hats, props, animals,
shirts with writing, both indoor &
outdoor photos are accepted

Your full name _____

Clubs/Activities/Sports/Hobbies that you want
included under your senior photo: _____

Senior quote: (must be appropriate for school):

Senior photos must be emailed to rwrotniak@pioneerschools.org
All emails will be acknowledged for confirmation. If you do not receive
a reply, please assume that I did not get your photo.

Each senior is responsible for getting their own yearbook photo. The
deadline for senior photos takes place months before school photos
are taken. If you need a photo taken, *please see Mrs. Wrotniak in*
A132 before September 29.

Senior photos can be emailed at the original size, no need to crop,
as we will crop in order to fit into the template that we use. NO
snap chat or screenshots allowed due to the low quality. The
yearbook program rejects low quality photos, so we will notify
you if the photo you submitted is not high quality.

Optional: Baby photos can be emailed as well to rwrotniak@pioneerschools.org

Questions? Please email or text Renee Wrotniak at 716-697-3213.

NOBODY HERE BUT US...SWIMMERS?

Members of the girls swim team pose during their annual chicken barbecue fund-raiser held on Parent-Student Orientation Day at the high school Sept. 7.



ATHLETICS WALL OF FAME WELCOMES LOCK, MORSE



Lisa Morse competes for the Panthers in shot put.



Tony Lock was a state champion in wrestling.

Multi-sport standouts Lisa Morse (Class of 2004) and Tony Lock (Class of 2012) have been named to the 2022 class of the Pioneer High School Athletics Wall of Fame.

Morse played soccer and track & field. She was an ECIC 1st team All-Star in soccer in 2003; team captain and MVP in both indoor and outdoor track, and is school record-holder for shot put and weight throw (indoor) and shot put and discus throw (outdoor).

Morse competed at the state meet for indoor track, finishing third in the shot put, and in the state meet for discus throw, also finishing third.

Morse was named the winner of the Kenneth Kittleson Award for outstanding senior, and was the fourth-ranked academic performer in her class.

After high school, Morse attended St. Francis University, where she was a three-time conference champion for shot put. She holds the college's discus throw

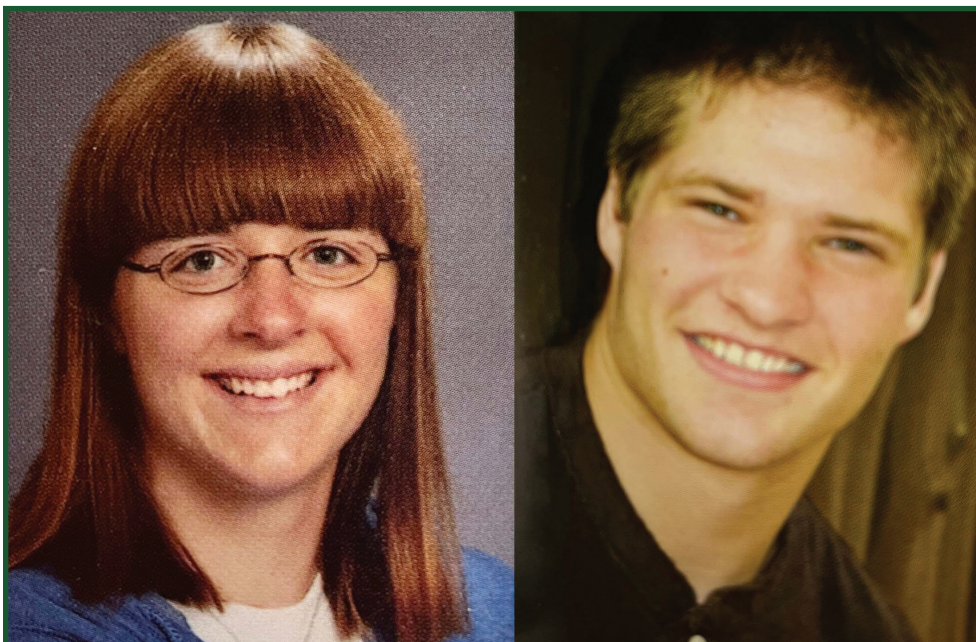
record, and was the recipient of several All-Conference and Scholar-Athlete honors between 2006 and 2008.

Lock was a five-year starter for the Pioneer varsity football team from 2007-2011. For 2010-11, he was named Section VI Defensive Player of the Year and Olean Times-Herald Defensive Player of the Year. He is Pioneer's career leader in tackles with 303.

In wrestling, Lock was a five-year varsity standout and team captain from 2009-2012. He was a Senior National Champion and Senior New York State champion in 2012, state runner-up in 2011, 4th place in the state meet in 2010, and a three-time Section VI champion. He is Pioneer's all-time wins leader with 196.

Lock earned a full wrestling scholarship at the University of Buffalo and was a two-year starter on the wrestling team. His career was cut short by injury. He holds a Bachelors Degree in Environmental Science and a Masters Degree in Earth Science Education.

Both Lisa Morse and Tony Lock will be honored before, during and at half-time of Pioneer's Homecoming Game on Sept. 23. Their images will join those on the Athletics Wall of Fame inside the high school. Congratulations to these Forever Panthers!!



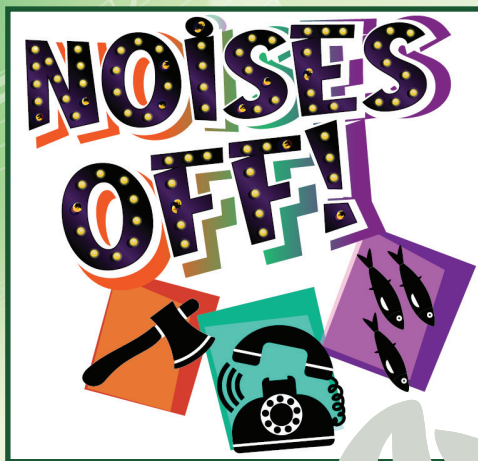
BOARD OF EDUCATION

Melissa Nocera-Collins, President
Edward McCarthy, Vice President
Linda Rule, Darla Schwab, Denise Urbino,
Wendy Warner Regan, Mark Kless, and Angela Wiseman

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION

Dennis Ford, Interim 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
Carol Townsend, Interim 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



FALL PLAY IS 'NOISES OFF'

Rehearsals are already underway for the Pioneer High School Fall Play, *Noises Off*.

Students are preparing the stage for a spectacularly funny production filled with physical comedy and a colorful cast of characters. Tickets can be purchased anytime at <https://our.show/phs/noisesoff>.

The performances will be Thursday, November 17, at 7:00 p.m., Friday, November 18, at 7:00 p.m., and Saturday, November 19, at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are \$9 presale, \$11 at the door.

Please contact Victoria Tomasulo at vtomasulo@pioneerschools.org with any questions!