



PIONEER CONNECT

November 2021

PIONEER CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT, YORKSHIRE, NY

NEW SIGN INSPIRES VISITORS TO PIONEER MIDDLE SCHOOL

A new sign is greeting visitors to Pioneer Middle School.

The sign reads: "When you enter this building, you are smart, cared for, tough, kind, wonderful, loved, special, important, respected, amazing, hard-working, safe, brave, extraordinary, strong, understood, super. You are the reason we are here."

The quote was spotted over the summer by Principal Melissa Prorok.

"The quote is to let all students know how important they are when they enter this building," Ms. Prorok said. "It is also a reminder for all who work here about why we do what we do. Ms. Prorok asked a 7th grade math teacher, Kristi Bockhahn,

to make the sign. In early October, the sign was mounted on a brick wall outside of school.

Mrs. Bockhahn is a wiz with cutting vinyl letters, and her work can be spotted throughout the inside of the school. Now her work is on display to the world.

Mrs. Bockhahn said, "It was a combination of getting printed vinyl and then regular vinyl and putting it all together to create the sign. Ms. Prorok found a quote that she knew would be so fitting for Pioneer Middle School. I am always happy to help with great ideas-especially when it helps add to the environment of our building!"



This quotable sign is installed outside the 7th grade wing of Pioneer Middle School

Important Dates!

Tuesday, Nov. 23: Parent-Teacher Conferences

Wednesday, Nov. 24-Friday, Nov. 26: Thanksgiving Recess

Friday, Dec. 24-Friday, Dec. 31: Holiday Recess. School Resumes on Monday, Jan. 3



WEATHER IS COMING

by Ben Halsey, Superintendent

After six years as Pioneer superintendent, I feel it's a good time to share some information and reminders for the upcoming Western New York winter.

Yes – Pioneer will utilize two-hour delays and snow days should the weather dictate that decision. Our remote capabilities and usage are great tools for instruction; however, I will implement a traditional model for dealing with bad weather.

No – Telling me a storm is coming or asking me on Tuesday what my thoughts are for a storm that is predicted for Thursday—these are not influential in my decision-making. What influences me the most, and this may be surprising to some... is the actual weather. When I am up at 3:00 a.m. to begin the evaluation process, that's when I may need some outside feedback.

Two-Hour Delays – Your child's school will have a schedule of what the day will look like when we utilize a two-hour

delay. I suggest having a similar plan for home so that everyone in your family knows what it looks like when school utilizes a two-hour delay. Childcare should be among the considerations for a sudden shift in the schedule.

Bad Weather Happens/But we are open – As urban legend has it, I am from Alaska and I will never call a snow day. School may still happen even when the weather appears lousy. Remember, we are a 250-square-mile district with multiple elevations. There are times we have had three different weather patterns occurring at one time. No matter what part of the district you are from, please plan accordingly.

Weather Early Release - In 16 years as a Superintendent – I have implemented an early release for weather...twice. It has to be an extreme situation for me to utilize this practice and dismiss our buildings early. The logic comes from multiple conversations with highway superintendents over the years who simply say, "We plan accordingly for

school dismissals." Road plowing times and routes are often based on a normal school dismissal time. When schools dismiss early, we often are being dismissed onto roads that are unprepared. More importantly – sending our youngest students back to homes without proper supervision is an unsafe practice.

Wind Chill – When we get to a wind chill of -15 degrees or below – and it is sustained for an extended period of time— consideration will be given to a two-hour delay or closure. A delay is more likely to allow time for buses to warm up and for the sun to warm things up outside. However, without having very many walkers, a "wind chill day" is unlikely. Possible, but unlikely.

Be prepared. Dust off the snow day rituals, and I know there are many to choose from.

Pioneer Superintendent Ben Halsey was recently named the winner of the 2021 Joe Owens Community Spirit Award from the Arcade Area Chamber of Commerce.

BRUSHING UP ON GOOD CHARACTER

Delevan Elementary Students of the Month for the PBIS character trait of Accountability were rewarded with a pumpkin painting activity.



NEWS FROM ARCADE ELEMENTARY

Yoga

One of our after-school clubs at Pioneer at Arcade Elementary is Yoga. The program is led by Mrs. Clark and Mrs. Wolski. The yoga advisors designed the program to provide an opportunity for the children to move. To enhance the program the teachers added a writing component. The students use a feelings log to record their feelings and collect data on how yoga impacts their mind set. Offering yoga after school for our children helps meet the social emotional needs of our children in a creative way.

Reader's Theater

Mrs. Wolski has taken on an after-school Reader's Theater club. During reader's theater students act out literature and learn how bringing writing to life may help reading comprehension and listening skills. The goal of reader's theater is to allow time for children to interact with text outside of the classroom setting. By allowing children the time to connect content read in books to real-life settings, they are becoming deeper thinkers and better readers.



Above: Arcade Elementary students are enjoying an afterschool activity, Reader's Theater.

STEAM Club

Mrs. Zymowski, Miss Fontaine, Miss Steltermann, Mrs. Blesy and Mrs. Sieber have become the STEAM dream team. Each week these teachers work together to plan STEAM activities for third and fourth grade students. The lessons are hands-on and require critical thinking skills. Students that engage in STEAM club work together to learn coding, states of matter and engineering and so much more.

Mystery Science

Why do skeletons have so many bones? Mrs. Jessica Wypij's class engaged in a mystery science lesson about bones. They watched videos to learn about the skeletal system, answered questions and completed a project on bones. Mystery Science is a program that engages students through media and hands-on learning. The students are exposed to multiple methods of learning through the program. Mrs. Wypij uses this program to ensure that her lessons meet the needs of all of her students.

Guided Reading

Guided reading is a component of our reading program at Pioneer at Arcade Elementary. Guided reading groups are based on a child's reading level. Students are grouped together with like students to read books that are all the same within the groups. During the guided reading lesson students may work on fluency, reading comprehension, vocabulary, phonics, or phonemic awareness. These groups allow teachers to closely monitor reading abilities within their classroom. Guided reading happens every day in every classroom.

Rhyme Tyme

Rhyme Tyme is a program that is for UPK students. The students in pre-K engage in Rhyme Tyme activities with our Speech and Language Pathologist, Mrs. Smith. Mrs. Smith works with these early learners to gain skills that will help them become readers. Mrs. Smith makes learning fun and works with students to build their speech and language abilities which will carry over to their ability to read text in the later grades. This month Mrs. Smith was Twitchy the Witch. By making learning fun the students learn the skills that they need to become successful readers.



GREAT STARTS FOR DELEVAN 3RD GRADE

The Third-Grade team at Delevan Elementary have taken a different approach to the traditional morning/bell work when students first come into class in the morning. They have started implementing - *Choose The Way To Start Your Day* choices (CTWTSYD). After students get themselves organized and complete the "to do" section (see chart), they move on to a choice activity listed. This type of morning activity allows the teachers to check in with each student on a personal level and make connections. The choices switch weekly to keep them interested and often includes a craft project. Kids can't wait to get to class!



WILL IT SINK OR FLOAT? A PUMPKIN INVESTIGATION

Students at Delevan Elementary participated in a Pumpkin Investigation while attending STEAM class (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) with Mrs. Jenna Driver in the Library Media Center. Students were tasked with measuring their pumpkins with cubes, counting the number of ribs, estimating the number of seeds in each pumpkin, and determining if pumpkins float or sink. Pictured are students from Mrs. Jennifer Davies's kindergarten class.



AIRGAS AND KOIKE ARONSON HELP EDUCATE FUTURE WELDERS

On October 29, representatives from Airgas and Koike Aronson visited Pioneer High School's Agricultural Leadership and Welding classes.

Shane McMahon, an Airgas employee and Pioneer graduate, and Nick Messer of Koike Aronson talked with students in the Leadership class about what industry is looking for in employees. They explained how they achieved their positions and what struggles they had to overcome to get to where they are today.

Shane and Nick also shared some stories of their travels across the United States and overseas, setting up and selling

their welding/metal fabrication products. Students had many questions for them and learned a great deal about industry.

The visitors also presented to the Welding 1 and Welding 3 classes on the topic of new technologies in the welding industry. Shane and Nick gave real examples of what it takes to run and operate the latest machines, along with qualities they are looking for in employees.

Shane and Nick brought along a robotic welding machine to demonstrate how efficient it can be. They talked about efficiencies with welding and advanced

welding techniques plus calculations that are needed to fabricate and weld a finished product.

The pair demonstrated the robotic welder, then had several students operate the machine.

Agriculture teacher Jonathan Clayson said, "It was a great learning experience for all classes involved. Students gained not only valuable information about a company here in Arcade but also how important education is to succeed in industry. A big thank you to Shane and Nick for their dedication to the students in the Pioneer Agricultural program."



WINNING HALLOWEEN

8th grade

Pioneer Middle School held a Halloween costume contest in which students were urged to dress in character, as an occupation, or in a humorous or spooky style. The winners for each grade are shown.

Celebrity/character: Logan Rogers
Creative: Kailyn Kanner, Bella Staub, Abby Brotka, Ella Pyc
Halloween Spirit: Jaylyn Hastings and Alex Rubeck
Humorous: Stryker Kahle, Takota Smith, Dylan Doty
Occupation: Keegan Redden

7th grade

Celebrity/character: Hayden Snayczuk
Creative: Lillie Perkins
Halloween Spirit: Jocelynn Jankowski
Humorous: Maddie Souter, Shaniyah Lawrence, Gabrielle Heckathorn
Occupation: Michael Neamon



6th grade

Celebrity/character: Maiken Killian
Creative: Dylan Steward
Halloween Spirit: Sophia Delude
Humorous: Megan Boldt, Kenna Carmody, Payton Shuman, Lila Schultz
Occupation: Aaron Morris



5th grade

Celebrity/character: Sophia Lazarz
Creative: Rylan Sentz
Halloween Spirit: Cayden Paglia
Humorous: Malia Vongphacdy
Occupation: Wyatt Holmes



Pioneer Food Service is HIRING!

Do you love working in food service but not the late nights, weekends and holidays? Are you looking for a job that works with school hours? Do you want to be home to enjoy dinner with your family in the evenings? Come join our team!

We offer:

- Flexible schedules: no nights, weekends or holidays!
- Positions have working hours compatible with school schedules for working families!

Call Heidi Miles at 716-492-9347

8th GRADERS TREATED TO HALLOWEEN MATH ESCAPE ROOM

Pioneer Middle School 8th grade students enjoyed an escape room created by their math teacher.

Teacher Kristen D’Rozario masterminded the activity. “I created a mad science lab breakout room with three laboratory riddles to solve. A zombie math equation, chemical mutations riddle and broken DNA all needed to be put back together.

“The storyline was a chemical mishap that changed the teachers to zombies and they locked up the Halloween treats. It was their job to solve the riddles to open a box with a final clue to find the key.”



WORLD LANGUAGE NEWS



- World Language Club is up and running and the first meeting was October 27th. The club set up a great “El Día de los Muertos” paint afternoon after school until 3:15. After watching a short, informative video, students were able to create their own Calavera on canvas. So much talent!
- Sugar skulls and masks were raffled off to six lucky winners as well.
- Be sure to listen to the morning announcements for the next World Language party.
- The 9th annual French Week was November 8-12. Not only did we have our traditional hand-sewn berets, but special French-themed menu items were available Monday through Wednesday that week. Merci to the Pioneer Food Service Department!

GIVING TREE HELPS LOCAL NEEDY FAMILIES

Pioneer High School’s Giving Tree program will once again lend a helping hand at the holidays to families in need. Sponsored by the students and staff members of PRO (Panthers Reaching Out), the program will be structured in the same fashion as last year; they seek monetary donations, rather than individual gifts. You can even sponsor a student; sponsorship are as follows:

- Elementary student - \$75
- Middle School student - \$85
- High School student - \$100

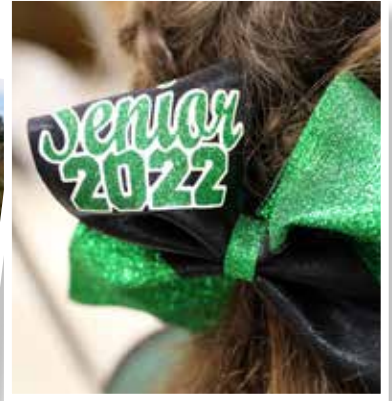


Checks can be made out to Pioneer Giving Tree and returned to Pioneer High School in care of Louise Herrick.

“This format allows us to be able to still help families during these uncertain times,” Mrs. Herrick said.

For more information or to donate funds, please contact Mrs. Herrick at Pioneer High School (716-492-9300 ext. 1360).

HIGH SCHOOL HOMECOMING & PEP RALLY



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LOCAL SCHOLARSHIP INFO AVAILABLE TO SENIORS

Pioneer High School's local scholarship booklet is available to seniors starting this month.

The booklet is a collection of applications for various scholarship organizations through the 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 Nov 18.
- A copy will be posted on the school website and on the Class of 2022 guidance page on Microsoft Teams on Nov 18.
- A paper copy will be delivered to all senior English classes before Thanksgiving break.



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 17, at 3:30pm.

Please contact guidance counselor Kali Supples (716-492-9338) in the high school guidance office with any questions.



HIGH SCHOOL EVENT FOCUSED ON BULLYING

Pioneer High School's Diversity Committee held a bullying prevention workshop that brought together high school administrators, students, and teachers on October 4.

The event was led by guidance counselor Timothy Breen and focused on what can be done to help stop bullying. Students shared their experiences and ideas for supporting high school students who report bullying.

The group also participated in a national bullying forum through the Alberti Center for Bullying Abuse Prevention at University of Buffalo, sponsored by FREE2LUV. FREE2LUV'S mission to ignite change, stand up to bullying, and support mental health through art and celebrating individuality is perfectly aligned with Alberti Center's mission to reduce bullying abuse and change attitudes, language and behavior.

More info on the forum: <https://tinyurl.com/b2ry4j3p>

In November, the Diversity Committee will focus on Native American Heritage Month and host a "What does Diversity Mean to You" Art show Nov. 15-18.