

PENDER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

February/March 2020

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Wednesday, February 19th, 2020

3:00-9:00 p.m.

The Scholastic Book Fair will be taking place during conferences in the library. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Books make great Valentine gifts and Easter gifts. Make sure to stop and shop during conferences.



Greetings from Jason Dolliver

Superintendent



January 22, 2020

Dear Parents, Students, and District Stakeholders,

Twenty-twenty ... another decade is underway! When I was a kid, I remember thinking that the year 2000 was a long way away. Here we are in 2020. Time goes too fast!

I have a few items to share with you. First is something that isn't necessarily new news, but it will officially happen in a couple of weeks. On February 5th or 6th, Pender will be publicly recognized as a 2019 ESEA National Distinguished School at a ceremony in Atlanta, Georgia! Pender received this award due to exceptional student performance and academic growth for two or more consecutive years. This is quite an honor for Pender Public Schools. Everyone who has contributed to PPS's success in the last few years should feel proud of their efforts. That includes parents, community members, and all other district patrons. In particular, students and staff members should be proud of their efforts. PPS was 1 of 100 schools in the nation to receive this recognition. In other words, this isn't something that happens all that often.

Five staff members will be in attendance to accept the award. The ceremony will be broadcast online, so anyone interested in watching will be able to do so. When more details about the specific date, time, and broadcast are available, they will be shared. It is important to note that while in Atlanta, the staff members in attendance will also be able to participate in professional development activities. These activities are designed to help Pender in ways that can make us even more successful.

Anytime an award of this nature is earned, there are a couple of important things to do. First, it is important to celebrate. As I alluded above, this award is special. It took a lot of hard work, commitment to excellence, perseverance, and grit to get this award. Celebration is important! Maybe more important, however, is to use the recognition as a springboard for future success. While we should all be proud of what has been accomplished, we should also never be satisfied with the status quo. Pushing forward and striving for more is vital and what makes a good organization great. My challenge to all district patrons (staff, students, parents, community members, etc.) is to use this recognition to accomplish even more. While I'm not exactly sure what more is, I know each and every one of us can get better at what we do. Whether that is delivering a lesson, preparing for a test, helping a student prepare for a test, sharing something with a student that might help them learn something new about life, or anything else, we can all do a little more. Let's keep things rolling and not settle for where we are!!

Next, I wanted to talk about the weather and its impact on school. First and foremost, I want district patrons to know that I take the responsibility of modifying the school day or the schedule for school related events due to weather very seriously. Student safety is of the utmost importance. In fact, it is the District's number one priority. Every student and staff member that walk through PPS doors on a daily basis are important. They are important to me, and I know they are important to all of you. Keeping them safe always is and always will be something that is at the front of my mind.

When the weather conditions make travel hazardous, my stress level rises significantly. That is because I want to make the best decision that can be made, and that decision is often times not at all easy. There are seemingly an endless number of factors to consider, and I do everything I

Greetings from Jason Dolliver

Superintendent



can to analyze all of them when making the decision to start on time, start late, end early, cancel, or anything else. I want district patrons to know I do my best, and I always strive to keep everyone safe.

One piece of information I would like to make very clear is that parental judgment is understood and respected. That is the case all of the time, but that is especially true when the weather makes travel hazardous. Student attendance is important, and they need to be here whenever school is in session unless there are circumstances that prevent that (sickness, family emergency, etc.). The weather is another one of those circumstances. Parents have the right to make a decision that is best for their child or children. If that decision is to keep a child home due to the weather when school is in session, we will understand and work through that situation in the best way we can. I think everyone knows this. I simply wanted to make sure that was indeed the case.

Finally, we are entering the difficult stretch of the school year. The newness of the school year is gone, the holidays are in the rearview mirror, there are very few scheduled breaks in the near future, and the academic rigor begins to increase. These along with other factors can make this a challenging time for schools, staff members, students, and parents. I just wanted to encourage everyone to work through the challenging times, stick together, and choose to make everyday successful. In the end, I wholeheartedly believe that every day we have a choice to make it productive. If we all intentionally make the choice to make every day productive, we will get through this challenging stretch of the school year with no problems. I'd like to thank you in advance for your efforts now and throughout the rest of the 2019-2020 school year.

As is always the case, anyone with questions, comments, or concerns are, as always, encouraged to contact me. I can be reached via phone at (402) 385 - 3244 ext. 2310, email at jadolli1@penderschools.org, or in person at the school.

See you all soon and GO PENDRAGONS!!!

Dr. Jason Dolliver, Superintendent

Greetings from Eric Miller

High School Principal



Hello Pendragons! I am hoping this letter finds you all in good spirits as we enter the last couple months of winter. It is hard to believe but as we enter February and early March our Winter sports seasons will be winding down with Conference, District, and State competitions. Please make sure to view the activities calendar for all of these events going forward. Don't hesitate to call with any questions as well. Weather can always play a factor and things may need to be rescheduled.

This time of year I will begin to put together the schedule for the 2020-2021 school year. As we increase our numbers with the larger classes moving in from the elementary, Mr. Nixon and I have worked hard to put together the best possible schedule for all students to be successful and take the classes they want. As is the case, not all students will be able to take all the electives they want but we will work hard to give them the best options possible. This time of year Mr. Nixon will begin meeting with the students to put together their 20-21 schedules. Students are updating their Personalized Learning Plans (PLP's) and trying to pinpoint their best options for their future. We invite any parents who are interested in seeing what their kids may want to take to stop in and talk with Mr. Nixon during Parent Teacher conferences.

Speaking of P/T conferences, they will take place on Wednesday, February 19, from 3:00-9:00PM. All parents are invited to stop in and talk to teachers about any concerns or questions they may have regarding their child's grades. We are hoping to have a few other events at P/T conferences this year but will get more information out on that as we get closer to the date. Once again we will have a survey for parents to fill out during PT conferences. This information is vital to that administration and helps us to gather information and possibly make needed changes to the district.

Winter MAP testing will begin for students in grades 7-10 during the week of February, 18! In the Secondary, Measurements of Academic Progress (MAP) tests are taken in the fall and late winter. Teachers use these to help guide students in curriculum and to get them ready for our state's NSCAS tests and the Pre-ACT and ACT in High School. Pre-ACT was already given to the sophomore class in November and will be added this year for the freshman class in the spring. It will take place in April shortly after the Juniors take the ACT. This is new for our district but we feel it is an important step to give our teachers much needed data to support students in their academics. This will also help the freshman class become more familiar with the test that will be used to assess their career and college readiness.

As always, please make sure and check the school calendar for all other activities. There are a multitude of events coming up as your Pendragons participate in winter activities. I look forward to seeing you all out and about as the snow melts and we head towards our spring events.

Take care and see you soon!

Eric Miller
7-12 Principal

Greetings from Kelly Ballinger

Elementary Principal



February 2020

Hello Pendragon Families!

I hope 2020 is off to a fantastic start for you and your family! The New Year has certainly been good to us! We are all actively preparing for some important things that will be taking place in the next couple months here at PES.

MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) and Aims Web testing were completed prior to winter break this year. All students K-6 participated in MAP & Aims Web testing. K-1 students took a reading & math test. 2nd-6th grade students took reading, math and language tests, 3rd-6th grade students added Science as well. MAP & Aims Web tests are designed to give teachers information that in turn can be used to change/individualize instruction for maximum student progress. MAP testing is also great practice for upcoming NSCAS tests as well as a predictor of NSCAS success.

NSCAS testing (formerly known as NeSA testing) is one of the most important things we prepare for each year. ELA, Math and Science tests (for 3rd-6th graders) will be taken during the window of March 16 – April 24. The results of these Nebraska Student Centered Assessment System Tests (NSCAS) are the yardstick by which every school district in the state is measured, so we take these tests very seriously.

You can help us prepare your child for a positive testing experience by assuring he/she is well rested. Helping them make good choices nutritionally is also important so their minds and bodies are fueled and ready. Remind your children testing is an opportunity to showcase how hard they have worked and how much they have learned. Please look for more information regarding specific NSCAS test dates to come home in Thursday Folders in the near future. If you have any questions regarding NSCAS/MAP testing please feel free to give me a call.

We have some wonderful opportunities coming up here at school that will allow time for parents to join student in some educational fun! The Spelling Bee, Read Across America Day, Science Night and our NSCAS recognition assembly are right around the corner. Preschool registration night and Kindergarten Round-Up will be here before you know it as well! Please look for information specific to those events in Thursday folders.

Finally, we are looking for a few folks to share their skills and talents with our students. We are in need of volunteers to help with reading and math interventions. Additional mentors are also being sought for the Pender Teammates Chapter. Donations for the Backpack Food Program continue to be accepted as well. I hope you consider spending some time with us! Please contact the school if you are interested in any of these opportunities or you have any questions. Thank you for all you do to support Pender Public Schools! It's a GREAT day to be a Pendragon!

Kelly Ballinger
Elementary Principal/Special Education Director
Pender Public Schools

Counselor's Corner

With Thad Nixon



Greetings to all! With first semester completed and the beginning of the second I am looking forward to the senior's class final push toward graduation. I am expecting that the students (and parents) are starting to realize that this year has been flying by and graduation is just around the corner. Some students may feel that they are falling behind in their college preparations and getting nervous about completing scholarship applications. I would like to take this time to hopefully ease some of the stress by letting everyone know that communication with me will always be open for any questions and assistance in the college preparation process. I have made many connections with other people and counselors since arriving at Pender that are also willing to assist any student pursue their dreams. I believe that the entire staff, the administration, and the school board have all had a part in creating an atmosphere that will help every student make a smooth transition to whatever their steps after high school are. It's a great day to be a Pendragon!

Seniors...make sure you complete the FAFSA process

Getting financial aid for college involves more than completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Complete each step of the process so that you don't miss out on money for college.

1. **If you haven't already, complete your 2020-21 FAFSA** at FAFSA.gov using 2018 income tax data. Before you start, you and a parent must each get an FSA ID at fsaid.ed.gov as you'll need them to access and sign your FAFSA.
2. **Expect a Student Aid Report (SAR) via an email link.** The SAR acknowledges that your FAFSA was received and lets you know if you need to take further action before the form can be processed.
3. **You might receive a verification notice** from the college(s) you listed on your FAFSA requesting documents to verify your FAFSA information. The college will not process your financial aid until you provide required documents.
4. **Watch for financial aid award notifications.** Once you're accepted for admission to the colleges you listed on your FAFSA, they will notify you of the types and amounts of financial aid they're offering.

Watch your email and student portal carefully for important details about admission and financial aid.

What you need to know about scholarships

Most scholarships are based on academics, but others are based on community service, school involvement, or talent. Some are based on financial need as determined by the results of your FAFSA.

Here's where to look for scholarships:

1. **ScholarshipQuest at EducationQuest.org** houses over 2,000 Nebraska-based scholarships. After you create a profile, you'll be matched with scholarships that fit your criteria.
2. **School counselor's office.** Visit regularly to check on local and national awards.
3. **The college you plan to attend.** Contact the school for a list of scholarships they provide and the application procedures.
4. **National search sites** such as College Board, Peterson's, and Chegg.
5. **Other resources** could include your coach, clubs and organizations, and your parents' employers and civic organizations.

February "To Do" List

Seniors:

- If you haven't already, complete the FAFSA.
- Expect financial aid award notifications from the colleges you listed on your FAFSA.
- Apply for scholarships.



**Preschool
Registration**

Monday, April 6th

5:30 p.m.

Kindergarten Round Up



**Kindergarten
Round Up**

Monday, April 6th

9:00-11:00 a.m.

&

1:00—3:00 p.m.

Information regarding both of these events will be mailed soon.

	Breakfast	Lunch
PreK	\$1.80	\$2.20
K-6	\$1.80	\$2.45
7-12	\$1.80	\$2.70
Adults	\$2.30	\$3.75
Extra Milk or Juice - \$.45		
Extra Breakfast Main (main, yogurt or poptart) - \$.80		
Extra Lunch Main (main or PB&J) - \$1.25		
Extra Lunch Side (does not include vegetables, fruits, or salad bar) - \$.75		
Menus are subject to change.		

Breakfast Offered Daily

Includes: main or poptart or yogurt, cereal, toast and 2 drinks

Lunch Offered Daily

Includes: main, fruit, vegetable, salad bar, 1 drink



February Lunch

3 Breakfast Stick Crispito Spanish Rice Pears Pudding Cup	4 Donut Spaghetti Lettuce Salad Mandarin Oranges Breadstick	5 Breakfast Bites Hot Ham & Cheese Chips Green Beans Peaches	6 French Toast BBQ Rib Tater Tots Broccoli Applesauce	7 Biscuits & Gravy Mini Corn Dogs Mac N Cheese Corn Pineapple
10 Long John Cheeseburger Tri Taters California Blend Fruit Cocktail	11 Coffee Cake Grilled Cheese Mac Salad Green Bean Cass Pears	12 Omelet Sub Hoagie Chips California Blend Mandarin Oranges	13 Breakfast Pizza Taco Boat Spanish Rice Peaches Brownie	14 Biscuits & Gravy Chicken Fried Steak Mashed Potatoes Peas Applesauce
17 Breakfast Sand Chicken Alfredo Broccoli Pineapple Garlic Bread	18 Dutch Waffle Pizza Corn Fruit Cocktail Ice Cream	19 Breakfast Burrito Chili Cinnamon Rolls Pears	20 Biscuits & Gravy Chicken Patty Cheesy Hashbrowns Green Beans Mandarin Oranges	21 No School
24 Pancakes/Sausage Taco Spanish Rice Peaches Pudding Cup	25 Breakfast Stick Tavern Tater Tots Corn Casserole Applesauce	26 Donut Chicken & Noodles Peas Pineapple Bun	27 Breakfast Bites Saucy Sub Broccoli Fruit Cocktail Cookie	28 Biscuits & Gravy Chicken Strips Mashed Potatoes Corn Pears

	Breakfast	Lunch
PreK	\$1.80	\$2.20
K-6	\$1.80	\$2.45
7-12	\$1.80	\$2.70
Adults	\$2.30	\$3.75
Extra Milk or Juice - \$.45		
Extra Breakfast Main (main, yogurt or poptart) - \$.80		
Extra Lunch Main (main or PB&J) - \$1.25		
Extra Lunch Side (does not include vegetables, fruits, or salad bar) - \$.75		
Menus are subject to change.		

Breakfast Offered Daily

Includes: main or pop art or yogurt, cereal, toast and 2 drinks

Lunch Offered Daily

Includes: main, fruit, vegetable, salad bar, 1 drink



March Lunch

<p>2</p> <p>French Toast Crispito Spanish Rice Mandarin Oranges Brownie</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Long John Spaghetti Lettuce Salad Peaches Bread Stick</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Coffee Cake Turkey Club Chips California Blend Applesauce</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Omelet BBQ Rib French Fries Green Bean Cass Pineapple</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Biscuits & Gravy Mini Corn Dogs Cheesy Potatoes Peas Fruit Cocktail</p>
<p>9</p> <p>No School</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Breakfast Pizza Cheeseburger Tri Taters Green Beans Pears</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Breakfast Sand. Goulash Broccoli Mandarin Oranges Bun</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Dutch Waffle Grilled Cheese Mac Salad Corn Peaches</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Biscuits & Gravy Chili Cinnamon Roll Applesauce</p>
<p>16</p> <p>Breakfast Burrito Taco Boat Spanish Rice Pineapple Pudding Cup</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Pancakes/Sausage Chicken Fried Steak Mashed Potato California Blend Fruit Cocktail</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Breakfast Stick Hot Dog Bar Chips Baked Beans Pears</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Donut Chicken Alfredo Broccoli Mandarin Oranges Garlic Bread</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Biscuits & Gravy Pizza Green Beans Peaches Ice Cream</p>
<p>23</p> <p>Breakfast Bites Chicken Patty Tater Tots Corn Applesauce</p>	<p>24</p> <p>French Toast Taco Spanish Rice Pineapple</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Long John Chicken & Noodles Peas Fruit Cocktail Bun</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Coffee Cake Tavern Cheesy Hashbrowns Green Beans Pears</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Biscuits & Gravy Saucy Sub Broccoli Mandarin Oranges Cookie</p>
<p>30</p> <p>Omelet Chicken Strips Cheesy Potatoes California Blend Peaches</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Breakfast Pizza Crispito Spanish Rice Applesauce Rice Crispy Bar</p>			

How to Contact Us

District Office

402-385-3244

On the Web at

www.penderschools.org

On Facebook

Pender Public Schools

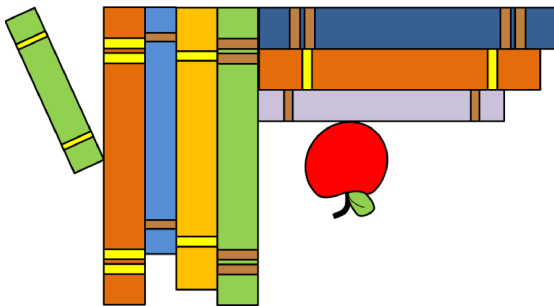
On Twitter

@pendragonupdate

Save your Cubby's receipts and turn them into the school office or place them in the school's box at Cubby's . Cubby's will donate 2% of the total receipts we collect back to the School. Money received will be used to purchase athletic uniforms.



Back To School



Pender, NE 68047

U. S. Postage Paid

Organization

Non Profit

Pender NE 68047

609 Whitney

Pender Public Schools

