

The Coop Scoop

Pioneer Springs....where learning comes *naturally!*

www.pioneersprings.org

Grounding ourselves in our commitment to academic excellence

A message from PSCS' Director, Dr. Rebecca Friend



[Pioneer Springs's mission](#) has four pillars: cultivating curiosity and excitement about knowledge, holistic education, nurturing a community of learning, and nature integration. Of those pillars, the most ambitious, perhaps, is the tenet that we-- students, parents, faculty--will function as a "community of learning" to achieve common goals. That the idea of community is qualified, *a community of learning*, is

"Our singular focus is on being a quality school where students achieve academic excellence."

significant. Our community enjoys celebration, fellowship, shared experiences, even personal connections but, at the heart of it all, it is gathered in the support of learning. I've heard many times that Pioneer Springs is more than a school and I believe that.

As we begin the 2023-24 school year, however, our singular focus is on being a quality school where students achieve academic excellence. The PSCS faculty enters this year with a clear and ambitious commitment to individualized instruction, and to achieving expectations that are both grade-level appropriate and challenging. We are committed to supporting students through quality instruction and research-based practices as well as partnering with families in support of achievable expectations and the growth of every student.

We need your help to make this ambition a reality--we ask that you commit to setting high academic expectations for your own student(s), to making time in your family schedule for daily homework and reading, and to collaborating with us toward reaching your student's highest potential. We look forward to welcoming your families for [orientation on August 17th or 18th](#) and on the first day of school on the 22nd.

Important Dates & Items to Note

August 17-18

Covenant Conferences, teachers will email with more information

August 17-18

On-Campus Orientation, [Click Here for More Information](#)

High school schedules will be distributed at orientation.

August 22

First Day of School. Be on the look-out for class assignment emails this week



School Start and End Times & Carpool Information

[Click Here](#)

Academic and Events Calander

[Click Here](#)

**See shooting starts this weekend
Perseid Meteor Shower peaks this
Saturday night and Sunday at dawn**



Every July and August Earth passes through the dust and debris that Comet Swift-Tuttle left behind when it passed through our orbit in 1992. When dust and small rocks from the comet hit the Earth’s atmosphere, it burns up, creating meteorites. An abundance of meteorites is known as a meteor shower. The meteor shower caused by Comet Swift-Tuttle is called the Perseid Meteor Shower because the shooting stars appear to originate from the Perseus constellation.

The Perseid Meteor Shower is the most spectacular meteor shower of the year, both because the large volume of debris creates many meteors, and because warm summer nights make for pleasant stargazing.

If you’d like to enjoy the Perseids, you can look for shooting stars any clear evening in July and August. Increase the odds of seeing a meteorite by finding a dark sky area (this is a great excuse to go camping), going out during a new or waning crescent moon, and timing your viewing for peak star fall. This year the Perseids will

peak just before dawn on Sunday, August 13. [Learn more here](#). If you catch a falling star on camera, share it with our community– we’re @pioneersprings on Instagram or you can use the tag #pioneersprings.

**Register for Extracurricular Activities
by Friday, August 25**



Students will have an opportunity to pursue academic and athletic excellence in our fall extracurriculars.

Pioneer Plus activities include Odyssey of the Mind, Chess, Theater, and Science Olympiad. Pioneer Plus teams will meet on Wednesdays from 4-5 PM, August 28-December 15. We’re in need of coaches to make this a success! Email Michele Rothschild (micheler@pioneersprings.org) with any questions, and to sign-up to coach. [Register for Pioneer Plus here](#).

Scholars in grades 7-12 who are in good academic standing are eligible to join our competitive athletics program. Teams include archery, cross country, basketball (men’s and women’s teams), and esports. For more information, email Nick Kaylor (nickk@pioneersprings.org). [Click here to register for a team](#).

Camp Smiles

In late July a lively group of young thespians attended Theater Camp, where they had a wonderful time exploring the art of performing. Reflecting on their experience, Lincoln (5 years old) noted “Being a little monkey is my favorite!” while Oliver (10 years old) shared “I loved the improv games and getting to act silly.” Students will have more opportunities to experience theater in Connects and Pioneer Plus this school year!





Supporting Math Success

In the ever-evolving landscape of math education, parents are pivotal in nurturing their student's mathematical growth. As math classrooms shift from rote memorization to a deeper understanding of concepts and practical application, here are some valuable tips for families to empower their children's math success during their elementary, middle, and high school years:

- 1. Cultivate a Positive Attitude in Yourself:** Your attitude towards math matters. Express enthusiasm and curiosity, and avoid negative math-related comments. Your positivity can shape your student's perception of the subject.
- 2. Forge Real-World Connections:** Make math relevant by connecting it to everyday activities. Baking, shopping, and measuring ingredients provide opportunities to grasp concepts like fractions, decimals, and units of measurement.
- 3. Engage in Math Talk:** Initiate open-ended discussions about math. Ask questions that encourage your student to explain their thought processes, fostering deeper mathematical understanding.
- 4. Provide Homework Support:** Be available to assist with homework--encourage independent problem-solving first. Guide them through challenges, emphasizing the importance of understanding the approach.
- 5. Incorporate Math as a Family:** Integrate math into family activities. Board games involving counting and strategy, for instance, create a fun math-learning environment.
- 6. Encourage Curiosity:** Create an environment where questions are welcomed. If you're unsure about an answer, explore it together. This promotes a growth mindset.
- 7. Emphasize Problem-Solving:** Focus on problem-solving strategies rather than solely the correct answer. Teach your child to approach challenges from different angles.
- 8. Celebrate Achievements:** Acknowledge your child's math accomplishments, whether it's mastering a challenging concept or improving skills. Positive reinforcement boosts confidence.
- 9. Collaborate with Teachers:** Maintain open communication with your child's math teacher. Attend parent-teacher conferences to discuss progress and gain insights into effective support strategies.

By incorporating these strategies into your family's routine, you can help your student not only navigate the changing landscape of math education but also develop a strong foundation in math that will serve them well throughout their academic journey and beyond. Remember that each child is unique, so adapt these tips to suit your child's individual learning style and needs. Together, as a supportive team, you can foster a love for math and equip your child with essential skills for the future.