

THE COOP SCOOP

Back to School Plans



Pioneer Parents,

We're into the final preparations for school; we've got just over a week to go before the magic begins. As we approach the final countdown it seems beneficial to review the fundamental expectations that will inform our partnership as parents and teachers. For us, the clear focus is rigor, relevance, and relationship.

I know you recognize that, if students are to grow, they must be challenged. We should all expect that the start of school means an investment of time and energy, just as if we were on campus. Let's start the school year with the shared expectation that your students are in school and we all--teachers and parents--expect them to be online, engaged, and active on a daily basis.

So, too, I know that you recognize that the traditional means by which we have educated students are simply no longer applicable. We have to teach within the context of our everyday lives and instruction must be relevant to our students here and now. Perhaps most importantly, I know that in choosing Pioneer Springs, you choose community and you value the work it takes to build that community, including open, two-way communication and a commitment to shared problem-solving. Our emphasis on community will help us avoid the frustrations and 'burn out' that can accompany remote learning and we should all expect to proactively communicate, and often, toward ensuring that your student is getting what s/he needs.

I know I speak for my colleagues in saying that we are eager to see your families again and ready to meet the start of school with rigor, relevance, and positive relationships. We hope to see you on the 27th for materials pick up day and we EXPECT to see your student on September 1st.

*Respectfully,
Becky Friend*

Rigor:

- Teachers will hold synchronous meetings a minimum of 3 times per week; online meetings are intended to promote a continued sense of community and give students real-time access to their instructors.
- Teachers will post assignments to the Google Classroom on a daily basis which parents and students can access at any time.
- Teachers will provide families with all materials they will need to navigate the first six weeks of school. Pick up is scheduled for the 27th.
- Teachers will take daily attendance based on a student's participation which may include synchronous meetings, the completion of an assignment, or login to an assigned digital tool.
- Teachers will benchmark all students K-9 in reading and math during the 3rd week of school, at the midpoint, and in early May toward formal monitoring of student progress.

Relevance:

- Teachers will record acquisition (new content) lessons and make available to families to access in their own time. Recordings allow students to re-engage in material, clarify thinking, or see a lesson missed due to illness/absence.
- Associate teachers will connect with families on a weekly basis for 'check ins' to ensure students are on track and offer any needed assistance.
- Teachers will work with families to problem-solve around possible conflicts with scheduling, assignments, or other potential challenges.
- Focus Fridays will be reserved as asynchronous for all students to allow time to catch up on weekly assignments or seek support.

Due to the large number of requests PSCS will likely have to limit the number of devices per household.

Relationship:

- The school will publish the Coop Scoop on a weekly basis to inform families of current and upcoming events.
- Teachers will send class newsletters/email once a week to set the stage for instruction in the week to come.
- Teachers will define office hours and respond to emails within 48 hours to work with families.
- Associate teachers will assist with any technology issues experienced by students/parents so that scholars have continuous access to instruction.
- The school will make a wi-fi hotspot available externally on campus so that families can reliably access the internet if needed.
- The school will host a remote learning resources page on the website that provides tutorials and other resources to support families.



What's coming up...

August 17-26

Orientation and PSCS Covenant conferences with teachers

25-31 Staff Development 27

Instructional materials pick up day

September 1

First day of School!

23

Community will be notified of possible next learning phase based on health data and direction from state leadership

October 9

End of remote learning for first six weeks (tbd)

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[Learn more about Pioneer HOME -our virtual learning option!](#)

Materials Distribution Day Reminder

Pioneer Springs will hold a drive-thru Materials Distribution Day on Thursday, August 27. This is your opportunity to pick up instructional materials, workbooks, handouts, etc. needed during the first weeks of remote instruction. Distribution Day will be held rain or shine.

Pickup Times

Last names beginning with:

A-M: 10:00 - 10:30 N-Z: 10:30-11:00

Please arrive during your allotted time to help with efficient traffic flow. Please do not arrive before the start of your pickup window.

Pickup Locations

- K-2nd grade use the Red Barn Driveway
- 3rd and 4th grade use the Croft Schoolhouse Driveway
- 5th-9th grade use the Asbury Driveway
- If you have students at more than one building, drive through each building's line.
- School-owned technology for all grades will be distributed at Asbury

Please display your student's name and teacher (or "K" for kindergarten) on your dashboard. We ask that drivers stay in vehicles during the entire process. Staff will place bagged materials either in your trunk or in your car through an open window. Please note that Bob Beatty Rd is one-way during pick-up hours; enter Bob Beatty Rd from the south entrance (at the Davis Store) and proceed north.



The PSCS fruit orchard- planted by students and pollinated by bees from our hives- is bearing the first **fruits** of their labor!

[Click here for Supply Lists](#)

Hive Update

The Hive is nearing completion! Next week we will continue with final touches, landscaping, and inspections. Our new Hive furnishings are coming soon for classroom set-up to begin. Although our initial furniture set-up will accommodate minimal students in each building to meet social distancing requirements, we will be utilizing Smith Systems collaborative classroom furniture in the new Hive classrooms which will meet our needs well into the future. [Click here to watch a short video to learn more.](#)



Today's Hive photo features, Nature Curriculum Coordinator, Chris Simeral with a female box turtle from the surrounding woods. Chris marks box turtles found on the PSCS campus for tracking purposes, and this was a newcomer to our campus. Welcome, Miss Turtle!

Please read
the PSCS
Covenant



Ms. Rachel's rendering of the Croft House.

We can't wait to welcome you all back there in person! Until then, please take a look at Pioneer HOME our virtual learning option for 2020/21.

Learn with us at home, Pioneer HOME

HOME: Holistic Online Meaningful Education.

If and when PSCS moves to a hybrid model that includes in-person learning, your family will have the option of continuing learning at home with the new Pioneer HOME.

Click here to learn more. If you have any questions please **reach out to Ms. Becky**

[Check our Facebook page on Monday for a mystery video!](#)