

THE COOP SCOOP



Back to School Plans

Fellow Pioneers,

When I wrote my doctoral dissertation on leadership in virtual instructional settings, I never imagined seeing those ideas in action as a necessary response to a global pandemic. Having taught college classes in online formats for better than a decade and coming to PSCS from a one-to-one technology school, my experience of virtual and E-learning was only a shadow of the kind of work the Pioneer Springs staff would undertake this past March. Among all the other things it was-- abrupt, stressful, labor-intensive, time-consuming, riddled with technical challenges-- it was also inspiring. My colleagues' adaptability, creativity, and commitment to students laid the foundation upon which we built our virtual practices.

Just as it was then, we enter the fall with a primary focus on building a sense of community and training students (and parents) to be successful E-learners. What a gift that we were able to 'practice' online learning in the spring--we know what worked and what didn't and that knowledge has informed our plans for the first weeks of school. With one month to go, here are some answers to those questions you may have in preparation for a successful start to the school year.

Cordially,

Becky Friend, Director, Operations and Academics

What should I expect during the first 6 weeks of school?

In order for our students to be successful as E-learners, we'll spend the first two weeks of school simply getting to know them as individuals and building class community. Students will be guided in learning to use online tools in preparation for instructional engagement beginning the 3rd week. We'll also start that week with some benchmarking, math and reading assessments administered remotely which will give us specific information about your child's readiness levels and where to begin individualized and small group instruction.

Where do I get the materials my student will need for success?

August 27th will be materials pick-up day on campus and, while more information will be released closer to that date, you should anticipate that it will look very much like the parent pick-up day held in June. Kits will be prepared by teachers and include everything students will need to access instruction, including textbooks and workbooks. Outside of those materials, please check the grade-level supply lists on the school website for individual student items that will be used throughout the year.

When will I know my student's homeroom and hear from teachers?

Teachers will send out welcome emails the week of August 17th to notify you of your student's homeroom and communicate about events to set the stage for learning, including parent-teacher covenant conference sign-ups and an online parent orientation. Until then, the Coop Scoop and school website continue to be your best sources of information.

What is the Pioneer Springs Virtual Academy? Is this homeschooling?

All students will initially receive instruction in an online format; however, the point at which Pioneer Springs transitions to a hybrid or on-campus model families may choose to continue remote learning for the entire year through the Pioneer Springs Virtual Academy. Students remain enrolled at PSCS and receive instruction through the Google Classroom from their regular grade-level teachers. This IS NOT homeschooling--instruction is provided by PSCS licensed teachers and is in accordance with the state standard course of study. If you have interest in this option please [contact Ms Becky](#).

What resources are available to me for support?

There are going to be challenges along the way--that's a given. Outside the support of your child's teachers, the best resource for assistance is our remote learning page currently being built on the school's website. Content includes information ranging from locations of free hotspot internet access to how-to videos about each of the digital resources we'll use this year to accessing technical support. Look for notification that this page is live in an upcoming edition of the Coop Scoop.

What's coming up...

August

7

Online high school orientation (a link invite will be sent to high school students)

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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[Send us](#) your stories and pics of summer adventure- send us a photo in PSCS Gear and we will send you a sticker!

Supply Lists

can be found on the [forms/materials page](#) on the website under the parent tab.

HIVE Update

Floors in the buildings will be installed this week. Check our Facebook page for a live walk through of the construction..

