

# THE COOP SCOOP



Jesse rising 2nd grader

## School Opening 2021

Pioneer Springs is eager to welcome students back to campus on Tuesday, August 31st. Because attendance on campus is the most effective means of teaching and learning, both **students and staff will be required to wear cloth masks indoors\*\*** for at least the first two weeks of school to promote on-campus learning for *all* students. At least half of Pioneer Springs students are currently ineligible for a vaccine. Further, a remote learning option has yet to be approved for charter schools by the general assembly which means wearing cloth masks while indoors prioritizes the goal of safely opening the campus and continuing school without interruption. One of the benefits of opening later than other area schools has been observing other districts and the [practical results of their choices regarding mask protocols](#), observations that reinforce that the indoor mask mandate is the best course of action at this time.

As we did last year, Pioneer Springs will follow the data regarding the virus and is influenced by [CDC recommendations](#) as well as the guidance provided through the [Strong Schools NC Public Health Toolkit](#). Last year's experience navigating Covid also led to the recognition of the importance of [local data](#) and internal metrics --how well we manage viral spread within our school community-- which practically means we all, parents, students, and staff, have an active role to play in creating optimal conditions to keep school open and all students on campus. This includes timely communication about potential illness between parents and the school as well as keeping students home when they or any member of their household is unwell or has been exposed.

It has been some 17 months since PSCS has been fully operational and the staff is eager to welcome students back to campus. While the situation requires continued flexibility as conditions change, the school commits to revisit operational protocols, including the mask mandate, every two weeks to ensure we are responding to current data and making those choices that allow for the most uninterrupted and optimal campus experience for students. Biweekly updates will be printed in the *Coop Scoop*.

What, then, will the start of the year practically look like?

- All staff and students\* will wear cloth masks indoors; no masks are required when outdoors.
- No health screening prior to drop off; families are asked to assess student health and keep them home when they feel unwell, have a fever, or any member of their household feels unwell or has been exposed or diagnosed with Covid.
- Continued use of layered protections in school buildings including regular cleaning and disinfection and EPA air filters in all classrooms.
- 10 day quarantine for positive cases only (student or staff); the school will communicate with exposed families and staff so they can take their appropriate next step rather than quarantining an entire cohort.
- *Fall Call to Adventure* and *Spring into the Woods* trips are back on the calendar! Pioneer Springs is actively partnering with the various destinations to ensure we honor their Covid protocols and keep students safe.
- **\*\*Families with immune-compromised students** or other unique situations that **prohibit attendance on campus** are invited to contact Becky Friend at 704.494.0777 or at [beckyf@pioneersprings.org](mailto:beckyf@pioneersprings.org) to make alternate arrangements for the start of school.
- **\*\*Students with doctor-recommended mask exemptions** should turn in a physician-signed waiver to Glenda Cheek at 704.494.0777 or [glendac@pioneersprings.org](mailto:glendac@pioneersprings.org). Students who turned in a health waiver for mask exemptions last year do not need to turn in additional paperwork but are asked to contact Glenda to reissue the waiver on campus.

## What's coming up...

### August

12

Mr. Randolph's Bday

13

Deadline to return books and computers

14

Ms. Gail's Bday

24-30

Staff Development

31

**First Day of School**

31-2

Kinder staggered entry

**September**

3

First Day all Kinder

4

Ms. Toni's Bday

6

**Labor Day No School**

## Connect

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

[Instagram](#) [Youtube](#)

Please email us photos of how you are pioneering this summer!

## Tutoring:

Click here for a list of PSCS staff members who are available for Summer tutoring.

Click here for more information about renting space at PSCS

Click here to order spirit gear

Link for all meetings:

[pioneerzoom.com](https://pioneerzoom.com)

If you still have books/ computers from last year please return them before August 13



## Supply Lists

Can be found on our website. [Click here](#) to access lists for all grades.

## Back to school is a great time to link your shopping!

Get linked up to support Pioneer Springs TODAY. If you plan to order from Amazon or shop at Harris Teeter, please be sure to link to PSCS!!

**AmazonSmile**-When you link your Amazon account to AmazonSmile, .5% of your eligible purchases will be donated to Pioneer Springs. To link your account:

- Sign in to smile.amazon.com on your desktop or mobile phone browser.
- From your desktop, go to Your Account from the navigation at the top of any page, and then select the option Your Amazon Smile.
- Select a new charity by clicking the Change Charity button, and then typing Pioneer Springs Community School in the search box.
- Click Select.

**Harris Teeter VIC**-When you link your Harris Teeter VIC card, they also give a percentage of your sales to Pioneer Springs. NOTE: You must re-link every year, and you can link to up to 5 schools!

- Sign into your Harris Teeter account at <https://www.harristeeter.com/user/#/app/user/login>.
- If you don't have an account, you can create one here.
- Once logged in, scroll down to Together in Education.
- In the search field, type in Pioneer Springs, or use the Pioneer Springs number 1692.

## 2021/22 Fall Call to Adventure and Spring Into the Woods

2021/22 *Fall Call to Adventure* and *Spring Into the Woods* Camps. These two adventures are immersive field trips directly related to grade-level learning expeditions. Please see below for the locations, dates, and total cost of the two experiences.

[Click here to pay the Adventure Fee](#)

We are excited to offer our students the opportunity to participate in these hands-on adventures again this year. Adventure Fees are calculated based on the cost of your student's grade level-adventures.

Students attending the *Fall Call to Adventure* Trips must have a minimum payment of \$50 submitted no later than September 20, 2021. The final payment will be due no later than March 1, 2021 for students attending the *Spring Into the Woods* Expedition.

If there is financial need, please contact Mr. Chris to request an Adventureship application form.

*Due to financial commitments made to the host facilities, **Adventure Fees are nonrefundable.***

***If your family carried over a portion of the Adventure Fees from 2019/20 due to cancellations due to Covid, the credit amount will be applied to your student's fees.***

Our 2020/21 2nd-3rd grade Spring Into the Woods Camps will once again be 1 night while 4-10th grade camps will be 2 nights. These are adventure-filled, high-intensity camping trips, including environmental education classes, canoeing, rock climbing, hiking, campfires, and much more.

We will need several parent chaperones to volunteer for these trips. If you are interested in serving as a chaperone, please watch for upcoming volunteer training dates. Fall Call to Adventure permission slips will be sent home at the beginning of the school year..

Fall Call to Adventure Trips	Spring Into the Woods Camp	Adventure Fee
K-Charlotte Nature Museum, Nov. 5	K-Evening Camp Adventure at PSCS, May 20	\$100
1-Carolina Raptor Center, Oct. 21	1-Campout at PSCS, June 3-4	\$100
2-Latta Nature Center, Nov. 1	2-Camp Weaver, April 7-8	\$100
3- Schiele Museum, Nov. 9	3-Camp Weaver, April 7-8	\$100
4- Reedy Creek Nature Center, Sept. 24	4-Camp Caraway, May 11-13	\$150
5- McDowell Nature Center, Oct. 1	5-Camp Caraway, May 11-13	\$150
6- Camp Caraway Day Trip, Oct. 15	6- Mountain Trail Outdoor School, April 20-22	\$200
7- Wing Haven Gardens, Oct. 5	7- MTOS, April 20-22	\$200
8- Catawba River Keepers, Oct. 8	8- Barrier Islands, March 21-23	\$200
9- Snow Tubing, Jan. TBD	9- Nantahala Outdoor Center, May 4-6	\$200
10- Snow Tubing, Jan. TBD	10- Camp Henry Outdoor School Backpacking Adventure, Apr. 27-29	\$200