

The Power of the Parent: how to interpret standards-based report cards

It's report card season for K-8 students! Report cards are delivered via email. Pioneer Springs uses standards-based grades for elementary and middle school students. Standards-based grades provide more insight into achievement and the learning process than traditional grades. Traditional grades average scores from across the learning process, which can make it difficult to know if a C grade, for example, reflects early struggle followed by mastery, or middling progress throughout learning. Standards-based grades, on the other hand, report how a student's current mastery of concepts and skills compares to typical student achievement by the end of the year. Standards-based grades, furthermore, report on specific skills related to a subject. You can find more information on how to interpret standards-based grades and how to interpret them [here](#).

Teachers use a variety of assessments—from quizzes, projects, and writing samples to class discussions and observations—to assign standards-based grades. While standards-based grades provide more precise insight into your student's academic performance, grades are only a snapshot. We hope that you will talk with your students about what they're learning at school, go over the work they bring home, and attend parent teacher conferences in early December to gain more insight into your student's growth and how you can support it.



Are you looking for ways to help your middle or high school student? Check out [6 Tips to Support Teens in School](#).

You are invited to The Power of the Parent: Pioneer Springs 101 Q&A Session, from 6:00-7:00 on Wednesday, December 13

Research shows that when families and schools have a strong partnership, students benefit. What do you need to know in order to have a stronger partnership with Pioneer Springs? Perhaps you have been wondering about what sets charter schools apart from traditional public schools, or maybe you would like to learn more about our curriculum materials including iReady and magnetic reading. Get answers to your questions at this Q&A event!

The discussion will be from 6-7 pm. Students and younger siblings are welcome to join us. Childcare will be provided for children ages 5-10.

We will collect questions ahead of time. [Please fill out this form to RSVP, submit your questions, and to sign-up for childcare.](#) We hope to see you there!

IMPORTANT DATES & ITEMS TO NOTE

- 22-24 Nov: Thanksgiving Break
- 27 Nov: Staff Development – NO SCHOOL for students
- 28 November, [UNC Charlotte campus visit](#)
- 8 Dec: The Wizard of Oz at 6pm
- 9 Dec: HS Astronomy Star Gazing Party
- 12 Jan: K-12 [World Heritage Day](#)
- Fridays at 10 AM: [Administrative Open Office Hours](#)
- [Academic & Events Calendar](#)

WINGS is sprucing up the Castle Kitchen to make it nice for the staff. WINGS is asking for donations, as well as volunteer help. [Click here to join the project!](#)

K-5 End of Trimester Celebrations

It's hard to believe we are a third of the way through the school year! On Thursday and Friday elementary students shared the things they have been learning in math, science and environmental literacy with their families and significant adults.



Kindergarten's presentation, "If you find a leaf..." explored the role that leaves play in meeting the needs of plants and culminated in a family art project.



First Grade shared their "Race to Zero Waste project" and taught their families about the importance of reducing waste..



With their "Find your pitch" project, Second Grade explored the physics of sound by making kazoos.

K-5 End of Trimester Celebrations



Third Grade shared their Forces and Motion projects.



Fourth Grade students led families through part of a typical school day, including Math Boot Camp and their environmental stewardship projects.



"Mathmania!" was Fifth Grade's celebration of all things math, including skits, cafes and student-created games.

The Davis House: a Queen Anne style historic monument, by Anna Petty, a 10th grade Green Humanities student



The Davis house is a well known location at Pioneer Springs. Although today it is used to house some of the lower grades, it has a lot of rich history from long before.

The Davis house was built in 1903 by Neil Barnett. It was used as a farmhouse by Silas Davis. They grew a variety of crops such as corn, cotton and oats. Along with crops, they raised livestock including cows, goats, horses, sheep, pigs, and fowl. Silas and his wife Nancy Davis raised 10 kids in the property, who helped with farm work and most likely attended school at the nearby Croft building, which Silas helped expand on his own.

PE at Pioneer Springs

My name is Tosha, and I currently teach Pre-K-8 PE at PSCS. My professional background is in nursing, and I have been licensed as a nurse since 2009. My approach to PE is largely derived from my knowledge gained from working in healthcare, so I make it a point to teach PE in a way that enables students to be educated on how to take care of their bodies and make healthy choices. I try to incorporate education on things such as healthy eating habits, and the importance of regular physical activity, and focus on exercise routines that can be performed without the need of any equipment.

To meet the state standards for PE, I incorporate a variety of games that have physical demands in line with meeting those objectives. I also try to incorporate accountability by having the students "grade" themselves based on how they feel they performed in PE in relation to certain goals related to the activity of the day, and expectations for general conduct and sportsmanship. This is done with a self-assessment board that the students can touch on the box that correlates with their self-assessment as the class concludes.

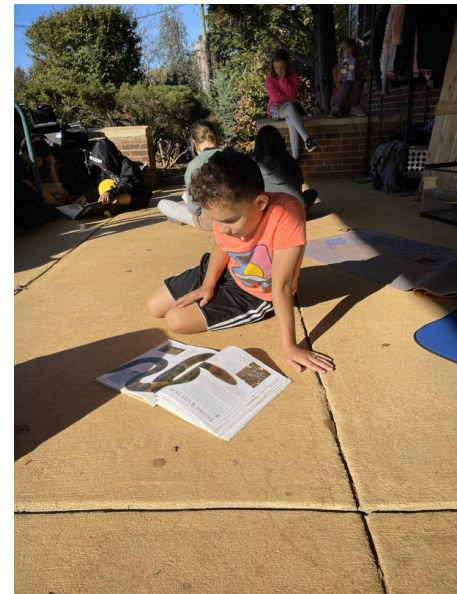


Classroom Happenings



Ms. Jess and Ms. Meghan's 5th graders built a bridge, explored with binoculars and magnifying glasses, and completed a scavenger hunt during Environmental Literacy.

5th grade spent some Drop Everything and Read time in the sun.



Mr. Jose joined 8th grade PE for dodgeball.