

Pioneer Elementary

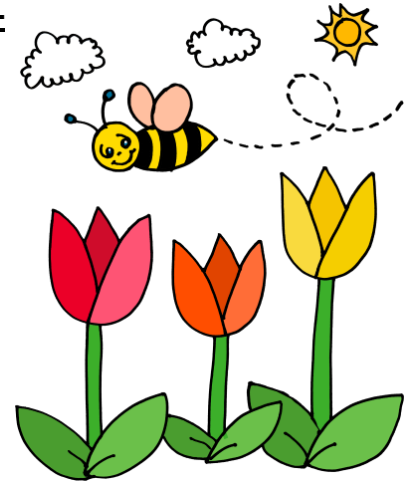


April 2021

Message from Mr. Mac, Pioneer Principal

Pioneer Elementary Families,

Welcome to Spring! This month we begin to see the season change from winter to spring. The sun is out more often, the grass is growing and the flowers are beginning to bloom. In a similar way, spring is a time when we appreciate how far our students have come throughout the year. While there is still more learning and growing to take place, we can look back and see the progress our students have made throughout the year.



Over the next three months (April, May and June), teachers will challenge students toward continued growth in reading, writing, math and other important school related topics. Your child's attendance and participation in daily learning is critical to their success. Thank you for ensuring they are attending school every day.

Some of the ways you can support your child this spring include:

- Attendance in all sessions/meetings with the classroom teacher.
- Attendance in Title Reading and/or English Language classes.
- Attendance in Library, Music and Physical Education classes.
- Monitor your child's school work.
- Reach out to the teacher with questions.
- Review your child's online usage through Securly. Make sure your child is only using the internet for school related activities.

Thank you for partnering with us!

Sincerely,

Paul McKenzie "Mr. Mac"
Principal, Pioneer Elementary

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UPCOMING DATES:

- **Monday, April 5 to Friday, April 9:** No School - Spring Vacation
- **Monday, April 12:** PLC Late Start - 9:10 a.m. Start Time
- **Monday, April 19:** PLC Late Start - 9:10 a.m. Start Time
- **Monday, April 26:** PLC Late Start - 9:10 a.m. Start Time
- **Monday, May 3:** PLC Late Start - 9:10 a.m. Start Time
- **Monday, May 10:** No School - Waiver Day
- **Monday, May 17:** PLC Late Start - 9:10 a.m.
- **Monday, May 24:** PLC Late Start - 9:10 a.m.
- **Monday, May 31:** No School - Memorial Day
- **Tuesday, June 1 to Wednesday, June 2:** No School - Alternate Emergency School Closure Days



Counselor's Corner

How to Talk to Your Child About the News

Adapted from KidsHealth.org

Children hear about what's going on in the world through social media, friends, or adults' conversations. Sometimes the news is uplifting. Other times, children may worry about current events and need an adult to help make sense of what's happening. Help your child understand the news and feel more at ease by taking these steps:

Find Out What Your Child Already Knows

Ask your kids questions to see if they know about a current event or ask what they have heard at school or on social media.

Consider your child's age and development. Younger kids may not grasp the difference between fact and fantasy. Most kids realize the news is real by the time they are 7 or 8 years old.

Follow your child's lead. If your child doesn't seem interested in an event or doesn't want to talk about it at the moment, don't push.

Answer Questions Honestly and Briefly

Tell the truth, but share only as much as your child needs to know. Try to calm any fears and help kids feel safe. Don't offer more details than your child is interested in.

Listen carefully. For some kids, hearing about an upsetting event or natural disaster might make them worry, "Could I be next? Could that happen to me?" An adult's willingness to listen sends a powerful message. It's OK to say you don't know the answer.

Help Kids Feel in Control

Encourage your child to talk. If your child is afraid about what's going on, ask about it. Even when kids can't control an event — like a natural disaster — it can help them to share their fears with you.

Teach your children to be prepared, not panicked. For example, if the news is about a natural disaster, make a family plan for what you might do. If an illness is spreading, talk about ways to protect yourself and others.

Talk about what you can do to help. After a tragic event, finding ways to help can give kids a sense of control. Look for news stories that highlight what other people are doing.

Janice Nordlund
School Counselor

Dear Families,

Welcome to Spring! We are on the final stretch of the school year and we want to share some important tips to help your student be successful with their attendance for April, May, and June.

As a family, here are some things you can do:

1. Communicate with your child's school.
 - a. Post your child's school schedule, online or remote, in your home.
2. Make attendance a priority.
 - a. Establish routines for bedtime, waking up, and attending class.
3. Help your child stay healthy and engaged.
 - a. Monitor your child's attendance and participation. Contact the teacher if you have any questions.

Check out the attached flyer on the last page for more tips.

We encourage you to reach out to the school with questions. We are here to support.

Sincerely, Rachel Collins - Assistant Principal

Mission Statement

At Pioneer we dedicate ourselves to students and their families, to inspire and empower children to achieve their greatest academic and social potential.

Help Your Child Succeed in Elementary School: *Build the Habit of Good Attendance*

DID YOU KNOW?

- Participation in early education programs, like preschool and Head Start, lead to better attendance in kindergarten.
- Starting in kindergarten, missing 10% of school (or just 2 days every month) can make it harder to learn to read and cause children to fall behind in school.
- Good attendance, whether class is held in person or remotely, can help children do well in school, and eventually in the workplace and in college.



WHAT YOU CAN DO

Communicate with the School

- **Contact your child's teacher(s)** and let them know how to reach you.
- **Get and post your child's class schedule** and log in information on the refrigerator or your child's desk.
- **Practice logging in** to virtual classes and make a plan for supporting learning for children. Contact the school if you need help logging in.
- **Ask about the school's attendance policy.**

Make School Attendance a Priority

- **Establish routines** for bedtime, waking up and showing up for class.
- **Identify a quiet place** for your child to do school work. If you have multiple children, make a schedule. Or ask your school or community agencies if they have created places for distance learning, or if noise-canceling headsets are available for students.
- **Develop back-up plans** for getting your child to school or logging in to the computer if you can't be there to help. Find a family member, neighbor or older child who can help over the phone or who can help while wearing a mask and maintaining physical distance. Community-based organizations might also be able to help.
- **When school is in session**, avoid extended family trips and non-urgent medical appointments.
- **Ask your child's teacher** about attendance and tell the teacher any concerns you have.

Help Your Child Stay Healthy and Engaged

- **Monitor your child's attendance** and participation; and contact the teacher to address any concerns.
- **Make sure your child gets the flu vaccine** and other required shots.
- **Find out if your child feels safe** from bullies. Make sure that school discipline policies don't lead to your child becoming disengaged or pushed out of school. If these are problems, work with your school to find a solution.
- **If your child seems bored or anxious** about school, talk to teachers, school counselors, or other parents for advice on how to make them feel comfortable and excited about learning.
- **Ask for help when you need it.** School staff, after-school program providers, and other parents or community agencies are available to help families access online learning, obtain food or housing and address other experiences that make it difficult to attend and participate.