



January 2022

Auburn School District #408

Pioneer Elementary

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Message from Mr. Mac, Pioneer Principal

Happy New Year Pioneer Elementary and welcome to 2022! I hope you enjoyed a wonderful holiday season and winter break.

The return to school following winter break provides a wonderful opportunity for students and staff to reconnect and continue building positive relationships. January is an important time to help students grow and measure their academic progress. This information will show us where they are at and will help guide our steps throughout the remainder of the year.

Your child’s regular attendance at school is important to their academic and social/emotional growth as a learner. Thank you for ensuring your child attends all day, every day when they are healthy and cleared for school. We are glad to be back from break and look forward to continuing a great school year of learning together!

Paul McKenzie – “Mr. Mac”
Principal, Pioneer Elementary



Test To Stay

The Auburn School District has created an optional “Test To Stay” program for students. This was sent to Pioneer families recently. However, here is a brief highlight...

Test To Stay is an optional service for students. This service is being piloted at Pioneer, and will soon be offered in other ASD schools. If a child has been exposed to COVID while at school, that student would be eligible to be tested for COVID while at school. In order to have their child tested for COVID at Pioneer, a parent would need to first fill out the [consent form](#).

Test To Stay is not an option for COVID exposures that happen outside of school. *For more details about Test To Stay, please read the letter on the last page, or see more information [here](#).*

Again, this is an optional program. The goal is to provide a convenient service to families, support health/safety measures and keep students in school as much as possible.

UPCOMING DATES:



- **Monday, January 3, 2022:** PLC Late Start - 9:45 a.m. Start Time
- **Monday, January 10:** PLC Late Start - 9:45 a.m. Start Time
- **Monday, January 17:** No School - Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
- **Monday, January 24:** PLC Late Start - 9:45 a.m. Start Time
- **Monday, January 31:** PLC Late Start - 9:45 a.m. Start Time
- **Monday, February 7:** PLC Late Start - 9:45 a.m. Start Time
- **Monday, February 14:** PLC Late Start - 9:45 a.m. Start Time
- **Monday, February 21:** No School - Presidents' Day Holiday
- **Tuesday, February 22 to Friday, February 25:** No School - Mid-Winter Break
- **Monday, February 28:** PLC Late Start - 9:45 a.m. Start Time

Cold Weather At Recess

During the winter months we need help from parents to make sure children are dressed warmly for cold temperatures. When students come to school in shorts and t-shirts or thin sweatshirts, it causes them to be uncomfortably cold during recess. Please make sure your child wears warm clothing and a jacket with a hood to school. Unless the weather is too extreme, students will be outside at recess which provides them time to exercise and socialize. Thank you for your help in this matter.



Changes in Contact Information

In order for us to communicate effectively together, we need your current phone number(s), email address and home address. Stop by the office today, or give us a call, if you need to update your contact information. Additionally, if you want to add someone to your emergency contact list who can pick up your child from school, please stop by the office to update your form.

Thank you for your assistance!

Inclement Weather and Emergency

As winter weather approaches, Auburn School District will announce information regarding operation of school during snow/ice/emergency conditions through a variety of tools such as:

- School Messenger
- ASD Website: www.auburn.wednet.edu
- FlashAlert: <http://flashalert.net/news.html?id=4203>
- ASD Facebook page: www.facebook.com/AuburnSchools
- ASD Twitter page: <https://twitter.com/AuburnSD?scrlybrkr=3aaefb93>
- Radio and TV stations

Sign-up Today

Make sure your e-mail and telephone number are up-to-date so you do not miss out on inclement weather/emergency notifications or other important school information.

- Sign up for FlashAlert (see link above)

Home Emergency Plan

Each family should have a plan covering what to do when children arrive home early due to an emergency situation. For example:

- What is the best route home if your student cannot be delivered to the normal bus stop?
- Where would they go if you are not at home?
- Who would care for him or her until you arrived?
- Is there someone your student could call to receive help?

* For more information on Inclement Weather and Emergencies, [CLICK HERE](#).

Parking Lot Safety

When driving through the parking lot, please help us ensure safety for all by doing the following:

- Avoid cell phone use while driving your vehicle
- Follow the 5-mph speed limit
- Drop off and pick up your child at one of the three designated vehicle zones (blue, red, green)

While walking, please use crosswalks and sidewalks and remind your students to do the same.

Vehicles cannot always see students, especially if they dart between cars or cut across the parking lot.



Pioneer ASB Announces Our

2021-2022 Officers!



President
Breanna Ibarra Gutierrez



Vice President
Jacob Ruiz



Treasurer
Cory Austin



Secretary
Kathya Rios Lopez

Attendance News for January

Dear Families,

Thank you for your support in helping to keep your students healthy and to getting them to school on time every day.

As a reminder, on Tuesdays through Fridays the school grounds open at 8:25 am for student arrival. School begins at 8:45 am. On PLC Late Start Mondays, school grounds open at 9:25 am and school begins at 9:45 am. Getting to school on time helps your student establish and practice school routines. Your student is able to eat breakfast in the classroom and participate in morning classroom routines.

Keeping your students healthy is important to us! Here are some things to talk about with your student at home.

1. Wearing a mask appropriately – over your nose and chin – at school.
2. Encourage your student to practice social distancing.
3. Encourage your student to wash their hands with soap and warm water or use hand sanitizer frequently.

Wondering when to keep your student at home? Monitor symptoms if your student is not feeling well.

- No student may come to school if any of these COVID-19 symptoms are present:
 - Fever of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher
 - Cough
 - Loss of taste or smell
 - Chills
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Fatigue
 - Headache
 - Muscle or body aches
 - Sore throat
 - Congestion or runny nose
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Diarrhea

If you have any questions, please reach out to us at school. Thank you,

Sincerely,
Rachel Collins
Assistant Principal

NOTES FROM THE HEALTHROOM

STOP THE SPREAD!

If your student is sick or has been exposed to someone with COVID-19:
PLEASE KEEP THEM HOME!!!

The Omicron variant is extremely contagious and is spreading in Auburn rapidly. We really want to keep our schools open, so we need your help to reduce the transmission of this virus as much as possible. If your student has ANY of the following symptoms, please keep them home and call the school for guidance: Fever, shortness of breath, muscle or body aches, loss of taste or smell, cough, congestion, runny nose, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, headache, fatigue, or sore throat. If your student has been exposed to somebody that has tested positive for COVID-19, please call the school for guidance prior to sending them to school.



COVID VACCINATIONS

Did you know that if your child is fully vaccinated and does NOT have symptoms, they might not have to quarantine if they are exposed to someone with COVID-19? If you are interested in having your child vaccinated against COVID-19 discuss it with your child's healthcare provider. Or you could visit www.vaccines.gov to find more information about the COVID vaccines and boosters. This website can also help you find a location to receive your COVID vaccine.

COVID TESTING

Finding a COVID testing site with available appointments has been a challenge recently. Unfortunately, schools are still unable to accept home administered tests as proof of a negative test prior to allowing students with symptoms to return to school. Here are some of the most available testing locations:

Curative Testing Trailers: Open Mon-Fri 7:30am-3:30pm

Auburn Memorial Stadium Parking Lot, 4th St NE, Auburn, WA

Rainier Middle School Parking Lot, 30620 116th Ave SE, Auburn, WA

For more information about Curative or to book a testing appointment, please visit <https://curative.com/>.

UW, SKCPH, VRFA Testing Site: Open Mon-Sat 8:30am-5:30pm

2400 Perimeter Rd, Auburn, WA - (206-477-3977)

REGISTER ONLINE: <https://www.solvehealth.com/book-online/pyvwPg>

WALGREENS PHARMACIES

You can make appointments for both PCR and Rapid Antigen Testing, and the website is offered in English and Spanish. Simply go to the following website:

<https://www.walgreens.com/findcare/covid19/testing>

Kelly Benshoof, MSN, RN
School Nurse

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT NEWS!

Hello Pioneer Families,

You can now find my Family Engagement Notes for the month at our Family Engagement Café website - <https://www.auburn.wednet.edu/Domain/2849>.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Guadalupe (Lupe) Macias Rivera
Family Engagement Liaison

Dear Pioneer Families:

Thank you for supporting the COVID-19 protocols in our schools. Everything you do helps keep schools open and slows the spread of the virus.

Our community efforts have paid off in slowing the spread of the virus. However, the number of unvaccinated students having to quarantine due to close contact to positive cases is severely impacting student attendance.

Public Health-Seattle & King County has approved a program called Test to Stay. Test to Stay allows unvaccinated students without symptoms who are defined as school-related close contacts to test negative twice in a 7-day period with a modified quarantine so they can continue to come to school, rather than fully quarantine for 10 days.

The ASD is excited to have this opportunity to keep students in classes. We will be gradually implementing Test to Stay throughout the district. Pioneer will be the pilot site for school staff administering Test to Stay tests.

Test to Stay will allow hundreds of students to be able to safely continue attending school and we are very excited about the prospect of keeping more students at school.

Families must provide consent for students to be tested by school staff. To provide testing consent please complete this [form](#).

Information about the ASD testing program is available [here](#).

Thank you again for all you are doing to keep our students, staff and community healthy.

Sincerely,

Paul McKenzie
Principal
Pioneer Elementary

Counselor's Corner

These first few weeks in January provide an opportunity for students to get back into the routine of school. You play an important role in ensuring consistency and structure at home for your child. Below are ideas of things to include in daily routines for children:

- *Morning routine* (put clothes on, brush teeth, eat breakfast – at home or school)
- *After school routine* (eat a snack, complete homework, show parent school folder/papers, play with siblings-friends-family, eat dinner)
- *Night-time routine* (pick out clothes for next day, tidy up bedroom, prepare backpack for school, brush teeth, take a bath/shower, read)
- *Limiting screen time* (...for TV, computer, tablet and phone use. Screens should be turned off 30 minutes before bedtime and not allowed in children's bedrooms.)

Routines and consistency support students' health and learning. Thank you for partnering with us to ensure your child is set up for success at school!

Ms. Narwhal
Janice Nordland, MSW
School Counselor

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.