

Pioneer Elementary

Student/Parent Handbook

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Colorado Springs, CO 80918

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www.Pioneer.asd20.org

MISSION STATEMENT AND WELCOME LETTER

Principal's Message

Welcome to a new school year at Pioneer! For those of you who have attended Pioneer Elementary in the past, we are glad you are returning. New families, we are pleased to have you join us. Your child's success in school is enhanced when there is a mutually supportive effort between the home and school staff. Your support and involvement are needed and always welcome at Pioneer. There are many ways for you to be involved in your child's school experience, including opportunities to volunteer, attending awards assemblies, participating in PTO and Title I school wide events and joining your child for lunch. This is the beginning of my third year at Pioneer, and I am once again looking forward to working with you and our staff to provide an awesome learning experience for your child. I appreciate your contributions and ideas on how Pioneer can become an even better school, so please don't hesitate to contact me for any reason.

Brian Casebeer
Office phone: 234-5010
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District Mission

The mission of Academy District 20 is to educate every student in a safe and nurturing environment and to provide comprehensive, challenging curricular and extracurricular opportunities that meet the unique needs of every individual by expanding interest, enhancing abilities, and equipping every student with the knowledge, skills, and character essential to being a responsible citizen of our community, our nation, and the world.

Our Mission

At Pioneer, we are a safe and nurturing community where every child is known and empowered to reach their highest potential in academic and character development through differentiated and rigorous instruction.

Academy District 20 is committed to a learning and working environment free from any form of violence and abuse including, but not limited to, actions, words, or insults toward our students, staff, and parents. It is a matter of mutual respect.

ATTENDANCE

School Hours 8:15 am -3:15 pm. Students are allowed to enter the building when the first bell rings at 8:09.

REPORTING AN ABSENCE

Absences and Tardies

If your child is not going to be at school, please call the office at 234-5000 and report it before 8:00 AM. If you would like to pick up missed schoolwork, you may request it when you call. Teachers will make every attempt to provide that for pickup in the office by the end of the day. If you leave a message, please include your child's name, the teacher's name and the reason for the absence. If calling in a tardy please leave your student's lunch choice.

In accordance with Colorado state law, it is the obligation of every parent to ensure that every child under his/her care and supervision who has attained the age of seven years, and is a registered student in Academy District 20, receives adequate education and attends school. Regular student attendance is expected of all students.

Students should only be absent from school in case of illness, unusual family situation, or emergencies. If a student is absent and no call has been received from a parent or guardian, the district's automated system will contact the parent. Punctuality is one of several self-disciplines the school encourages in its students. Parents of students with repeated tardiness or absences will be notified and a conference may be held. Repeat offenders may be placed on an attendance contract and may be reported to truancy court.

Early Pick-Up from School

We discourage students being picked up during school hours. However, if a student must be picked up a parent or legal guardian **MUST** sign the child out through the office. You will be asked to show your identification. Anyone other than a parent/legal guardian picking up a student must be listed as an emergency contact in Infinite Campus and have prior authorization from the parent to pick up.

ATTENDANCE/TRUANCY

"Habitual truant" shall be defined as a student who has reached age six by August 1 and is under age seventeen and who has four total days of unexcused absences from school in any one month or ten total days of unexcused absences during any school year. Absences due to suspension or expulsion shall not be counted in the total of unexcused absences for purposes of defining a student as "habitually truant."

In order to reduce truancy, parents/guardians of all students shall be notified in writing at the beginning of each school year of their obligation to ensure that all children of compulsory attendance age attend school. The school shall establish a system of monitoring individual unexcused absences. When a student fails to report on a regularly scheduled school day and school personnel have received no indication that the parent/guardian is aware of the absence, school personnel shall make a reasonable effort to notify the parent/guardian by telephone. A plan shall be developed for a student who is at risk of being declared habitually truant with the goal of assisting the child to remain in school. When practicable, the student's parent, guardian or legal custodian shall participate with district staff during the development of the plan. Appropriate school staff shall make reasonable efforts to meet with the parent or guardian to review and evaluate the reasons for the student's truancy. In accordance with law, the district may impose appropriate penalties that relate directly to classes missed while truant.

ALLERGIES

More and more of our students are coming to school with allergies – some life threatening. We have students with severe/life threatening nut allergies at Pioneer. In order to provide a safe environment for these students, a nut free table is available in our cafeteria. A friend may be invited to sit at this table if they have purchased a school lunch. Our school lunches are prepared nut free. All of our classrooms are labeled "nut protected," and these classrooms have specific restrictions regarding food for snacks, parties and special events. Please see **Parties, Birthdays and Snacks** section for additional information.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURE PROCEDURES

Students may be dropped off and picked up in the drop off zone on Woodland Hills Drive. Students should not be dropped off before 8:00 am unless they are in a before school club or having breakfast.

Handicapped Parking and Fire Lane Area

Please remember that the designated handicapped parking spaces are for use by those with handicapped parking tags or plates. We do have students and parents that qualify to use these parking places and the spaces need to be kept available. Do not park by a red curb or fire lane **EVER**. Emergency vehicles must always have access to our parking lots.

For Those Who Walk

1. Always use the sidewalks.
2. Respect other people's property by not taking short cuts.
3. Always use crosswalks where available.
4. Proceed directly to school and from school.
5. **REFUSE TO GO WITH A STRANGER.**

Bicycles, Scooters, or Skateboards

Children in grades 1-5 may ride bicycles to school if parents have instructed them with bicycle safety instruction. Helmets should be worn. Bikes are to be **WALKED** on all school and park sidewalks and should be locked to the bicycle racks. The school is not responsible for the safety of bicycles brought to school. Bringing a bike to school is a privilege. Students who choose to disobey the bicycle rules may lose the privilege of riding to school.

Bus Students

ONLY REGULARLY SCHEDULED BUS STUDENTS ARE ALLOWED TO RIDE THE BUS. Riding the bus is a privilege. Improper conduct will result in loss of that privilege. Bus passes will only be issued to students whose parents have made appropriate arrangements by sending a signed request to the school office allowing enough time for the pass to be written. The student cannot make these arrangements over the phone. We must have a signed written request. Additional information is available in Academy District #20 School Board Policy EEB-R.

ASSESSMENT AND TESTING

Assessment of students' skills is a critical part of the teaching-learning cycle at Pioneer. Teachers use informal observation, teacher-made tests and a variety of formal tests to identify what students know and what they need to learn next. Benchmark tests are administered three times yearly to ensure that students are on track to achieve end of year goals in reading, writing, and math.

The Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) assessments will be administered to students in the state of Colorado. All students in grades 3-9 complete the English Language Arts (ELA) CMAS assessment, all students in grades 3-9 complete the Math CMAS assessment.

In the spring, in addition to CMAS ELA and Math assessments, the following assessments are given to students:

- 4th & 7th grade students take the CMAS social studies assessment (3 year assigned rotation).
- 5th, 8th and 11th grade students completed take the CMAS science assessment.

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE “IMAGINATION IN EDUCATION”

Imagination in Education Before and After School Care program for students is offered on the Pioneer campus. This fee-based program is available for students who may need child care before school 6:00 AM – 8:10 AM and/or after school, 3:15 PM-6:00 PM. Call IIE for information on holiday and summer hours. Their onsite number is 592-0415. The main office number is 598-2095.

BREAKFAST/LUNCH PROGRAM

Breakfast is served from 7:40 AM – 8:15 AM every school day for \$1.40. Student lunch may be purchased for \$2.60 which includes milk or juice. Four lunch choices including salad bar are available to purchase with cash or from the student's account. Students bringing a lunch from home may purchase milk, chocolate milk, juice or bottled water. Please make checks out to Pioneer Elementary School. Please send money in advance of need. Parents are always welcome to join their child(ren) for breakfast or lunch. Please call the school before 8:45 AM to order an adult lunch at a cost of \$3.65. You may check your child's lunch account or pay for lunches online at PayForIt.net. All prices are subject to change.

Please do not send your child with energy drinks for lunch or snacks.

CHARACTER EDUCATION PROGRAM

Pioneer celebrates thirteen character traits throughout the school year. Each month Pioneer focuses on particular character traits and encourages students to demonstrate those traits throughout the month. If a student is noticed exemplifying the traits, they receive a colored paper heart and recognition at the monthly assembly. We invite you to discuss the character traits with your child and help them find ways at school, home, and in the community to demonstrate these admirable traits. Below is a list of all the traits and their months of celebration.

August/September - Respect and Responsibility

Respect - Respect is an action word. When you are respectful you treat others, yourself and the environment with honor and kindness. When you are respectful, you remember to treat others how you like to be treated.

Responsibility - Being responsible means being dependable, keeping promises, and honoring your commitments. It means you accept the consequences for what you say and do.

October - Courage

Courage - Courage is doing something in spite of how scary it may be. It's the required bravery to try again and carry on.

November - Loyalty

Loyalty - Loyalty means giving support, service and contribution to others. Loyalty means looking outside of ourselves to help others. When we support and stand by others, we are being loyal. Some children may have the idea that loyalty to a friend means not “telling on them” or “keeping quiet” or even lying to protect them when they've done something wrong. Be careful of this false loyalty. A truly loyal friend will always act in the friend's best interest to keep them safe and help them make good choices, even if it's hard.

December/January - Justice and Citizenship

Justice - Justice means standing up for what is right, even when it is not popular. Think of all of the people who have changed the world for the better because they have stood up for what is right.

Citizenship - Citizenship means taking action and being involved to help make home, school, and the community a better place.

February - Hope

Hope - Hope is a powerful emotion. It is the feeling that tomorrow will be better than today and that events will turn out for the best. Hope keeps us going; keeps us trying and tells us "I will be successful". Hope is an emotion we can feel for ourselves and even give to others. Hope keeps us persevering and seeking out the best in others.

March - Honesty and Integrity

Honesty - Honesty means always telling the truth, even when it's difficult.

Integrity - Integrity means doing what is right, because it is right, even when no one is looking.

April - Love and Compassion

Love - Love is the feeling of being intensely concerned for another person. It requires a self-sacrificing regard which seeks the well-being of another. Some say love is the most important of all emotions.

Compassion – Compassion is putting love into action. It is helping others in need and acting with kindness. Compassion is being moved to help better another person's circumstance.

May - Excellence and Perseverance

Perseverance - Perseverance means working at something even when, and especially when, it becomes difficult. It means even when you feel like quitting, you keep trying.

Excellence - Excellence means challenging yourself to do better; making good choices that help you to reach your goal. Excellence means always giving your personal best and raising your bar until you reach your goal.

COMMUNICATION

Parent/Teacher Communication

Pioneer's website is the "go to" place for parents to feel connected. The front page includes upcoming events, announcements and a school calendar. This website contains links for all clubs and activities, as well as a link for Pioneer spirit wear, which is now available to order online throughout the school year. Click on the dial pad for students and parents, where links to teacher pages are found and so much more. These pages will guide you to more information and helpful links. Classroom teachers have individual ways of communicating with parents. This could be weekly newsletters posted to the teacher/grade level webpage, sent home with students or communicated through regular emails. Please visit the Pioneer website at: www.pioneer.asd20.org. Please like us on Facebook!

20 Alert

20 Alert is the email/text notification system that is used by Academy District 20 and Pioneer to send messages to parents and the community. Through this system we will communicate important events, changes to schedules or emergency information.

Emergency Information

Emergency contact information for your child must be up to date. Please keep your home, cell phone, work and emergency contact phone numbers current by updating them through the Infinite Campus Parent Portal regularly.

Injuries

If a child is sick or injured, he/she will be sent to the office. A student who is injured at school (playground or elsewhere) will be given basic first aid. Parents will be notified of any serious injuries such as head injuries, potential broken bone, etc. A district nurse is assigned to Pioneer on a limited basis. Therefore, health room personnel will notify parents to pick up their student for outside medical evaluation when warranted. If the school is unable to reach a child's parents, we will contact the people listed as emergency contacts. 911 will be called when needed.

DOG AND PET POLICY

No dogs are allowed on the campus between 7:30 AM–4:30 PM. Please do not bring your pets on campus when you come to drop off or pick up your children. The noise and movement of excited children can startle even the gentlest of pets. A child could very easily be injured under these circumstances and the safety of all our students is of utmost importance to us as it is to you.

DRESS CODE

1. Hats and baseball caps are not allowed to be worn inside the building, except on "spirit" days," and sweatshirt hoods must be down.
2. Shorts and skirts must be at least fingertip in length.
3. Shirts showing skin in the mid-torso or shoulder tops are not permitted (no midriff shirts, spaghetti straps, muscle shirts, tank tops, etc.) No underwear should be exposed.
4. Any gang related clothing, or clothing that can be interpreted as such, is not permitted. No sagging of pants.
5. Clothing with inappropriate language or pictures (as determined by building administration) is not allowed.
6. Students should always wear comfortable, appropriate footwear and clothing for PE days and other such activities.
7. Backless slippers and flip flops should never be worn due to the danger they pose to your child during recess.
8. Shoes with embedded wheels can only be worn with the wheels taken out.
9. No perfume or cologne is to be worn by students.
10. Weather conditions should determine a child's apparel because children spend a part of each day outside playing. ALL students will be expected to go outside for daily recess unless the temperature drops below 20 degrees Fahrenheit (including wind chill).

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11. An administrator may request a student be sent home or clothing be brought from home, if it is determined that their clothing and/or hairstyle is considered a distraction to the learning process.
12. Due to the age of our students, makeup is discouraged. If worn, it should be minimal.

If clothing is determined to be disruptive to the learning environment, the student will be asked to turn an inappropriate shirt inside out, put on a jacket/sweatshirt or call home for a change of clothes.

HEALTH AND MEDICATIONS AT SCHOOL

Medications at School

If your child will be receiving medication at school (prescription or non-prescription), a district Permission To Administer Medication form needs to be filled out and signed by you as well as your child's medical provider. Parents must transport all medication to and from school at the elementary level. This includes prescription and non-prescription medications such as cough drops, Tylenol, throat lozenges, etc. Asthma inhalers are typically kept in the health office for use by students. They may be carried by the student only when an additional form Asthma Inhaler - Self Carry Contract has been filled out and signed by the student's medical provider, you, your student and the school nurse. All forms are available in school office or on line at <https://www.asd20.org/Schools/pes/Info/Look/Pages/default.aspx>. If the student mishandles the inhaler, and/or the safety of other students is at risk, the school nurse/ administration will be calling the parent to re-consider the appropriateness of them self-carrying. Prescription/non-prescription medication must be in original containers with correct dose and directions on label.

Health Care Plans

Academy School District 20 encourages Health Care Plans for any student who needs a medical procedure done at school or has a health condition that needs to be closely monitored. Examples may include: Asthma, Severe life threatening allergies, etc. Please have medical providers fill out the necessary forms (in the school office or on line at <https://www.asd20.org/Schools/pes/Info/Look/Pages/default.aspx> prior to the start of each school year. Contact your school nurse if your student has special medical needs that may require a Health Care Plan not available on line. Examples may include: Diabetes, Bleeding disorders, Heart conditions, G-tube feedings, etc.

Illness

Please do not send your student to school if he/she is ill. Students with one or more of the following symptoms should be excluded from school until symptoms have resolved: Has a fever of 100.4 or higher, if student does not feel well enough to participate comfortably in usual activities, repeated vomiting, diarrhea, constant runny nose, congestion, frequent coughing, possible communicable diseases, undiagnosed rashes, etc. A complete list of the District 20 Illness Guidelines is available at the school office or on the Pioneer web site. If your child has a fever with other symptoms they must stay home until fever/symptoms resolve without the use of medicine for 24 hours. We do not have health clinics in our schools. Our health room paras and secretarial staff have been trained in limited first aid and medication administration. School nurses have multiple schools they are responsible for and are not in any one school full time.

Immunization

If your child has had any immunizations over the summer, please send an updated copy to the school for staff to add to his shot record. The school nurse / staff will be checking the immunization records on all students to see if state requirements have been met. Current state immunization requirements are listed on the district website.

Communicable Diseases

If your student has a communicable (contagious) disease / condition please let the secretarial staff or health room para know. Examples are chickenpox, strep throat, head lice, scarlet fever, fifth's disease (slapped cheek appearance), meningitis, measles, impetigo, scabies, etc.

Vision and Hearing Screenings

Screenings are done for students according to Colorado State guidelines. The vision screening done at school is a very basic screening. We, along with the medical community, recommend that all school children receive yearly comprehensive eye exams with an eye specialist at your expense. The basic screenings done at school do not take the place of these more complete exams. Please contact your school nurse if insurance is an issue. Also, if you suspect a hearing problem, please let your school nurse know and if indicated, we will arrange a more thorough exam with our district audiologist. If you do not want your child to be screened at school for either vision or hearing please notify your school nurse in writing in advance of your school's screening date and supply a copy of your child's latest report from his doctor.

HOMEWORK POLICY

Academy District Twenty believes that homework is an extension of the classroom and is a vital part of each student's education. Homework develops study habits and self-discipline needed by all learners. It also establishes a direct line of communication which helps parents to remain involved with their child's progress on a consistent basis. The following are minimum daily homework requirements.

Kindergarten..... 10 minutes on homework, plus 10 minutes nightly reading
1st Grade..... 15 minutes on homework, plus 15 minutes nightly reading
2nd Grade. 20 minutes on homework, plus 15 minutes nightly reading

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3rd Grade.....	25 minutes on homework, plus 15 minutes nightly reading
4th Grade.....	30 minutes on homework, plus 20 minutes nightly reading
5th Grade.....	30 minutes on homework, plus 20 minutes nightly reading

LOST AND FOUND

Please write your child’s name inside all personal possessions including lunch boxes or lunch bags. A lost and found area is located just outside the cafeteria. We encourage you and your child to check the Lost and Found frequently. Articles not claimed will be donated to a charitable organization.

CLASSROOM SNACKS, PARTIES, AND BIRTHDAYS

In order to maintain a safe learning environment for all of our students at Pioneer including those with life threatening allergies, we have some restrictions on when and where nut products can be served. Students may only have peanut products at lunch because students with peanut allergies sit with friends at a peanut-free table. All students in a nut protected classroom clean their hands before returning to class after eating snacks or lunch.

Classroom Snacks

Pioneer restricts products containing nuts in the classroom for snacks. No food containing nuts or processed in a plant containing nuts will be allowed in the classroom. There may be children with life-threatening food allergies in your classroom, so it’s important to read the labels and check with your child’s teacher(s) to make sure snack foods are safe for all children in the classroom. Thank you for your cooperation with our efforts to keep all our children safe at school.

Holiday Parties

Occasional classroom parties help kids relax and socialize. Most of the time allocated for a seasonal party will be used to play games and make crafts. Pioneer has three parties each year which include fall, winter and Valentines’ Day. All materials for the parties including a healthy snack and drink for each party will be provided by Pioneer. No food or drink treats will be purchased or supplied by families. Parents with students who have severe allergies will be consulted to ensure student safety.

Birthdays

In order to promote health and ensure consistency at Pioneer, **no outside food or drink items will be served as birthday treats. No exceptions.** Instead, students will be recognized during morning announcements and invited to select a special item from the Principal. Also, no food or drink items will be sent home as birthday treats.

PLAYGROUND RULES

- Boundaries** - Students are to stay within eyesight of the adults in charge at recess. Students must ask permission to leave the recess area/playground. All games are to be played in appropriate areas; sports games must be played on the field or basketball court.
- Behavior** - Play fairly, in a friendly manner, and for fun. **In order to play a sport or competitive game, students must get permission from an adult first.** Any unsportsmanlike behavior will require the student to sit out or leave the game.
- Play Structures** - All equipment must be used the way it was intended.
 - Slides** - Go up the ladders, go down the slides. Slide down on your bottom first, exit the area quickly for the next student. DO NOT stand on the slide. One student at a time on all slides.
 - Monkey Bars** - DO NOT sit on top, DO NOT jump off, no “chicken fights”.
 - Dome** - Climb only on the dome, do not push or pull other climbers.
 - Swings** - Swing straight on your bottom only. Do not twist swings or jump off. Only one student on the swing at a time. Students may count “toes-up” to free up swings. (Number of counts depends on grade levels)
- Games and Play** - Only appropriate equipment provided by adults may be used at recess. Please do not bring sports equipment from home. Playground monitors will determine if play is safe and will redirect students if they feel it is not. Take turns. No ball hogging.
 - Soccer** - No hands except for goalie. Only one goalie per team can be used. When the ball goes out of bounds, it is thrown back into the center of the field.
 - Flag Football** - Players must play two hand touch only. No tackling, shoving or tripping.
 - Basketball** - Play on the basketball court. Follow all appropriate basketball rules (age appropriate). No stealing the ball out of an opponent’s hands.

POSITIVE BEHAVIOR INTERVENTION SUPPORT (PBIS)

Pioneer is a Positive Behavior Intervention Support School (PBIS). Students can earn blue Respect Tickets for displaying one of the 3 R's (Respect Self, Respect Others, Respect the Environment). They use 20 of these tickets to complete a Punch Card. Students trade punch cards periodically at the prize cart for rewards such as books, toys, lunch with a principal, or other fun activities with select staff members.

REPORT CARDS AND CONFERENCES

Pioneer Elementary staff is committed to frequent communication among students, teachers, and parents. Standards-Based Report Cards are completed by classroom teachers at the end of each quarter and by the Art, Music, P.E., and Spanish teachers at the end of each semester. Parent/Teacher Conference are held at the end of the first and third quarters. These conferences provide an individual opportunity to discuss your child's progress with the classroom teacher. All parents are requested to attend. Teachers are available for additional conferences when needed. Report cards are available to parents electronically through the Parent Portal at 4 pm the day prior to parent conferences and at the end of the year.

MULTI-TIERED SYSTEM OF SUPPORTS

Pioneer incorporates Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) which is designed to improve educational outcomes for all students. MTSS is a prevention-based framework of team-driven, data-based problem-solving for improving the academic and social emotional learning outcomes of EVERY student through family, school, and community partnering and a layered continuum of evidence-based practices applied at the classroom, school, district, region, and state level. More information can be found on the District website at the link provided: <https://www.asd20.org/departments/ls/currinst/mtss/Pages/default.aspx>

SECURE BUILDING

All schools in Academy District 20 are secure and all exterior doors are locked. At Pioneer, visitors are asked to enter through the main front doors once they ring the doorbell and are given access by school staff to the secure vestibule. For safety, we enter one family at a time. A driver's license is required to receive a visitor's pass into the building. Pioneer uses the Raptor system that scans a driver license to create the photo visitor pass.

TECHNOLOGY POLICIES

In order for students to have Internet access, parents must respond to the network user agreement online, using their Infinite Campus Parent Portal login. The default is set to YES, meaning parents allow students to have Internet access. To find instructions, go to www.asd20.org and choose Logins from the dial pad, click on Extended Parent Portal.

The understanding and appropriate use of technology is essential for 21st Century Learning. At Pioneer, we are committed to preparing students for lifelong learning. Please refer to Board Policy IJND at <http://www.boarddocs.com/co/asd20/Board.nsf/Public#>, which details the rules governing the use of district and personal technology resources while on and near school property.

TOYS AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Personal items not directly related to student learning should not be brought to school. These items include, but are not limited to, electronic or battery-operated items, sentimental keepsakes, toys, skateboards, in-line skate, any sports equipment, any items looking like a weapon, etc. Students may not bring toys or sports equipment to school unless a teacher asks students to bring a particular object for the purpose of sharing on a special day or for a classroom project. When items are brought in for a special day or a special project, teachers will provide specific instructions/expectations regarding the use and storage of these items. The school is not responsible for ANY personal items brought to school which become lost or stolen.

Cell phones

We know some parents provide their students with cell phones to facilitate communication before and after school. In order to maintain our learning environment, cell phones MUST be turned off and kept in a closed and zipped pocket of the student's backpack during school hours. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that the device is turned off and out of sight during unauthorized times. Violation of this policy and/or use that violates any other district policy may result in disciplinary action and confiscation of the electronic communication device. A conference between the parent/guardian, student and school personnel may be required in the event an electronic communication device is confiscated. For additional information, see Board Policy JICJ. If you need to get a message to your child during school hours, please call the school office and we will see that the message is delivered.

Personal electronic devices

A personal electronic device (PED) may include an e-reader (like Kindle Fire), smart phone, iPad, iPod, tablet, laptop or netbook. The opportunity to use a PED at school is a privilege. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that the device is turned off and out of sight during unauthorized times. Violation of this policy and/or use that violates any other district policy may result in disciplinary action and confiscation of the electronic device. A conference between the parent/guardian, student and school personnel may be required in the event an electronic device is confiscated. Pioneer will not be responsible for the damage or loss of such items.

VISIT OR VOLUNTEER

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We strongly encourage parents and community members to visit or volunteer at Pioneer Elementary. **All visitors and volunteers MUST sign in at the office and will receive a visitor or volunteer badge.** Student safety and security are our number one concern. All parents are required by Academy District 20 to have a background check through District 20 to volunteer. Check with the office for more details and additional requirements for non-parents. Parents with non-school aged children are asked to make other arrangements for their child/ren when volunteering in the classroom or the teacher workroom.

Parents new to Pioneer need to attend a volunteer training with building administration before volunteering.

When visiting or volunteering in the school, please park in the school parking lot in the front or the west bus lot. Parking on a side street is also an option. The bus lot on the west side of the building is off limits for parking from 7:45-8:35 and 2:45-3:30 and any time along the curb areas. Violators may be ticketed.

SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE (SAC)

The School Accountability Committee is a group of parents, staff and community members who meet quarterly and provide important input and feedback to the principal about school goals and school policies. We always welcome any parent who desires to serve on our SAC. Please call the school office to get more information. One or two members of Pioneer's SAC also serve on the District Accountability Committee (DAC). Pioneer's PTO serves as our SAC.

PARENT-TEACHER ORGANIZATION (PTO)

We believe that children benefit when parents are involved in school activities. The PTO brings together the talents of parents and teachers to create a positive and supportive learning environment. Activities include helping with fund raising events, volunteering in classrooms, providing enrichment activities, and providing additional materials and supplies for the school. All parents are encouraged to join the PTO and support its many worthwhile activities. Like the Pioneer PTO on Facebook! The Pioneer PTO email address is: pioneerelementarypto@gmail.com

WEATHER RELATED INFORMATION

Snow Days/Inclement Weather: Academy District 20 will make a decision by 5:30 AM about closing school. You will be notified by 20Alert via email/text about closures, delays, and early releases. If school is canceled due to weather, all school events will also be canceled INCLUDING Imagination in Education Before and After School Program.

Two Hour Delayed Start: If adverse weather conditions appear to be developing during the 5:30 AM decision time, the Superintendent may delay the start of school for two hours. Local TV and radio stations will be informed by 5:30 AM that the starting time for all Academy District 20 schools will be delayed for two hours. School will begin at 10:15. Breakfast will not be served and all morning clubs and activities will be cancelled. Bus pick up will be delayed two hours.

Early Release: If school is in session when a storm develops during the day, a decision may be made by 10:30 AM to send students home early. School will be dismissed approximately two hours early and bus drivers will make their regular runs in the usual sequence. Local TV and radio stations will broadcast early dismissals. Please make prior arrangements for your child's care if you will not be home. Students will be released at any time to parents who believe the weather conditions warrant that their child be taken home.

Delayed Release: In the event that inclement weather during release time causes a delayed release, the following D20 Alert will be sent to parents:

"Pioneer is now in **DELAYED RELEASE OF STUDENTS** due to **Inclement Weather**. Parents please **WAIT IN CARS**. Students stay in **CLASSROOMS**. We will release when it is safe for students to be dismissed."

Indoor Lineup/Indoor Recess: ALL students will be expected to line up outside classroom doors before school and go outside for daily recess unless the temperature drops below 20 degrees Fahrenheit (including wind chill). The American Flag will be on the flagpole located in front of Pioneer if the temperature allows for students to line up outside in the morning. The American Flag will NOT be hanging if the temperature is too cold and students will line up inside before school begins.