



PIONEER MIDDLE SCHOOL
PANTHER POST

Week of December 6, 2021

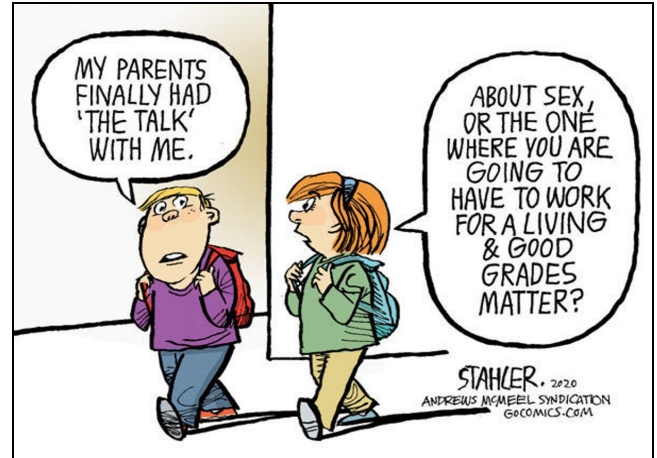
“All students will learn and grow academically, socially, emotionally and physically!”

*“Middle school is used as shorthand for a time when things change.
It’s a time a lot of kids feel like they don’t even have one good friend.”*

~Rebecca Stead

Dates to Remember

- ~~December 6: School Council Meets at 7:00PM~~
- December 8: Pizza Lunch
- ~~December 9: Winter Concert at 7:00PM~~
- December 13: School Council Meets at 7:00PM
- December 17: Ugly Sweater Day
- December 22 - January 4: Christmas Break
- January 5: Classes Resume
- January 10: School Council Meets at 7:00PM
- January 25: Opposite/Backwards Day
- January 31: PD Day -- No School for Students
- February 2: Groundhog Day
- February 7: School Council Meets at 7:00PM



Items of Note

This month’s **School Council meeting has been rescheduled** to next Monday, December 13 at 7:00PM. Contact Patrick Wilbur if you would like to join us via video conference.

Grades 7 & 8 **Complementary courses** are designed to give students an opportunity to explore various fields of study prior to entering high school. These explorations include not just possible fields of study in high school and beyond, but also career-related and community-minded skills. These courses include Woods, Foods, Mad Science, Computers, Community Connections, Art, Drama, and, for those who choose it, Band. Students take two courses per 10-week term. So over the course of the year, Band students take four of these courses and non-Band students take six.

Since March of 2020, students have experienced a significant disruption to their education. Extended periods of at-home learning and absences due to illness have impacted overall student achievement. Our annual screening tests in reading and math have borne this out, indicating **lower levels of reading comprehension and computational skills** than we typically see in our students. In an attempt to catch students up, we are maximizing time spent in Language Arts and Mathematics, increasing time spent on these subjects by an average of 55 minutes per week each. You can do your part by encouraging your children to read at least 15 minutes per night and by playing games that include numbers, like card & board games. You can extend this by discussing what you are reading and talking about numbers (e.g. grocery shopping together).

