



PIONEER MIDDLE SCHOOL
PANTHER POST

Week of January 10, 2022

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

“It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent that survives. It is the one that is the most adaptable to change.”

~ Charles Darwin

Dates to Remember

- January 10: School Council Meets at 7:00PM
- January 25: Opposite/Backwards Day
- January 26: Grade 6 Band Virtual Showcase at 7:00PM
- January 31: PD Day -- No School for Students
- February 2: Groundhog Day
- February 7: School Council Meets at 7:00PM

Items of Note

Happy New Year! In March of 2020, who would have thought we'd still be dealing with COVID? Yet, here we are with a new variant and new protocols to follow. We appreciate your continued support as we follow these protocols developed by the province and school board. If you haven't read it already, you are strongly encouraged to review the most recent [COVID update from Wild Rose School Division](#). It contains much of the information you and your child need to know before classes start on Monday, including a change in masking protocols.

This new masking protocol will see students masking in class, even when seated and facing the same direction. Students need to be prepared for this change and we appreciate parents' support as we apply this new expectation. Teachers will still work to provide opportunities for students to have mask breaks while maintaining social distancing. Of course, students will not be required to mask during physical activity nor during outdoor activities. As always, students choosing to mask during these times will be supported in their choice.

In order to comply with masking requirements and to avoid crowded hallways, the school will be implementing the following temporary changes:

- asking that students arrive no earlier than 8:20AM and leave promptly at the end of their day;
- put on masks before entering the school;
- students promptly make their way to their home room classroom; and
- we eat & drink only in our classrooms.

These new procedures are put in place to avoid congestion in common areas like hallways. They will also help to alleviate an issue we were experiencing prior to the break in that more and more students were not masking properly or at all while in hallways.

Teachers continue to be prepared to provide work for students who are absent due to illness or short-term isolation. Work will be posted for them in Google Classroom. Keep in mind that work posted is often the independent activity portion of the in-person lesson. Which is manageable for a student missing a few days of classes. Students who are absent for extended periods (beyond a couple weeks) will find it challenging to maintain their studies in this format. If a student is going to be away for an extended period, parents need to be prepared to be highly involved in their child's learning. For periods of 2-4 weeks, please speak with the teacher well in advance. If a student is going to be absent beyond that, teachers can recommend resources and learning activities, but they cannot be expected to provide robust ongoing instruction for these extended periods, as their focus needs to remain on in-person teaching & learning activities.

Again we are very appreciative of your understanding of the challenges the school faces and of the efforts we've made to follow the guidelines we've been given while still trying to make the school a place students want to be. We need to continue to be flexible & adaptable as our situation and protocols change.