



The Pioneer News

Pioneer High School will welcome, value, educate, guide, and inspire all students as they develop the skills and knowledge necessary to be responsible, contributing citizens who can achieve growth and success.

December

2008-09 Issue Four

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PIONEER PARENTS	2	From the Principal's Desk
PTSO STUDENT STORE	2	So you think you're done with school? You have worked hard the past three years, you have all the credits to graduate, and you have filled out and mailed all your college applications, and received your acceptance status. Now is the time to kick back and relax. What I have just described is "senioritis".
NEW STUDENT WELCOME	2	By taking it easy or coasting your senior year, you are developing habits that are likely to do more harm than good as you begin the next level towards your career. In fact, according to the College Board website:
CLASS OF 2012 FUNDRAISER	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As many as half of all college students do not have adequate preparation, and are required to take remedial courses. More than one quarter of the freshmen at four-year colleges and nearly half of those at two-year colleges do not even make it to their sophomore year.
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HOSPITALITY TODAY NEWS	3	Many colleges and universities require that your counselor send your first semester grades to the colleges to which you applied. This becomes a very important part of your application. Colleges and universities look for two things: 1) Are the grades the same or better as when they mailed the acceptance letter, and 2) are the rigorous courses you had listed on your application, still on your class schedule. The saddest thing for a counselor or class principal to receive is a letter rescinding a student's acceptance from a college or university. Parents, please encourage your senior student to attend class and provide their best work until graduation.
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ART DEPARTMENT HOLIDAY SALE	4	Michigan Merit Exam (MME) and the Michigan Promise Scholarship for the Class of 2009 One more reminder, please make sure your student has taken the MME tests. According to Board policy, a student cannot receive an Ann Arbor Public Schools diploma if these tests are not taken. This test will be offered again in early March to twelfth graders who either never took the test or did not receive valid MME scores (Level 1, 2, 3, or 4) in one or more MME subjects (reading, writing, mathematics, science, and social studies). The Michigan Promise Scholarship for the class of 2009 is as follows:
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ATTENDANCE OFFICE IMPORTANT INFORMATION	5	<u>2009 Graduates who receive scores of 1 or 2 on the reading, writing, mathematics and science portions of the MME:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> State will notify student of eligibility. Student will register online after notification. Student must apply in the first two years after graduation. Money will be dispersed as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$1,000 for the first academic year. \$1,000 for the second academic year. After successful completion (2.5 GPA) of a two-year program or having earned half the credits toward a degree, a final payment of \$2,000 will be dispersed.
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ALL SENIOR ALL NIGHT	7	<u>2009 Graduates who do not meet the MME requirements:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> May still qualify for the \$4,000 Promise Scholarship after successfully completing two years of college or vocational school and maintaining a 2.5 GPA (Grade Point Average).
COUNSELING CORNER	7	For further information, visit the MDE-Michigan Merit Exam web site. You can find this page by typing MME in your web browser. An additional resource is your student's counselor.
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Robert Kinel
12th Grade Class Principal

Get School Information via EMAIL— FREE!— Subscribe to PIONEER Announcements

The Yahoo Groups Internet Announcement Service for Pioneer families is open for subscription. This FREE service allows the Main Office the ability to send out school announcements and other information to anyone who chooses to "subscribe" to the group. To subscribe, simply send an email to A2PioneerAnnouncements-subscribe@yahoogroups.com (you do not need to send a subject nor a body to the message). You can unsubscribe at any time by sending an email to A2PioneerAnnouncements-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com. Please note that the group is for announcements only. Replies to messages sent via the group will not be forwarded to subscribers, nor will they be answered by anyone. We are very excited about the extra benefits this additional communication tool offers our Pioneer families!

Important Information for Pioneer Parents

Our Oct. and Nov. meetings regarding preparing for college testing and college applications were well-attended and a lot of information was shared. If you missed the meetings, you can get the details from the website. <http://www.a2pioneer.org/pioneer.parents/publications>

Watch your mail for a postcard listing the dates of upcoming meetings in the second semester.

We hope to have directories ready soon. Watch for an announcement about them.

Thanks to Mr. White for coming to the PTSO meetings from 7-7:30 in order to address any questions parents might have. Please remember that he will be available at the rest of our meetings, too.

Please contact any of the Board members if you ever have concerns, questions, or great new ideas about how to make Pioneer a better place for our children. Our contact information is on the last page of the newsletter.

PTSO Student Store

The PTSO store is open to sell snacks to students and staff during the lunch break. We sell foods that fit the nutritional guidelines set forth by the Wellness Committee of the AAPS administration. The store is located in the cafeteria and is staffed by volunteers who work one or two days a month. Proceeds from the store fund teacher mini grants.

If you are interested in helping send an email to pbranam@comcast.net. subject: PTSO volunteer.

Patty Branam
Volunteer Coordinator
PTSO Store

New Student Welcome

If you have just transferred to Pioneer I want to say "hello" and "welcome". My name is Barbara Zinser and I am a parent volunteer who would be happy to help you during your transition to the school.

Perhaps you'd like to join a club, participate in a sport or just want to meet other new students like yourself during the lunch hour. Please let me know and I will do what I can to help you get connected.

Plans are already underway for a second semester Pizza Luncheon in your honor. We will make every attempt to reach you but to be sure that you will get an invitation, please contact me at zinserb@hotmail.com. I look forward to meeting you and wish you much success in your new school.

Sincerely,
Barbara Zinser, Parent Volunteer
(734) 330-7398

Class of 2012 Fundraiser

A Class of 2012 shirt would make a nice holiday gift for your Freshman.

Shirts in a variety of sizes are available at the reduced price of \$7 in the Class Office.

Call your class secretary, Jane Burton, 994-2128 to reserve one, or stop in before December 19th.

Curriculum Night –February 10, 2009

If you are a parent of a current 9th, 10th or 11th grade Pioneer student, mark your calendar now to attend the next Pioneer PTSO meeting on February 10, 2009 when the counseling staff will be available to discuss the curriculum and answer specific questions from parents regarding their students' schedule for the 2009-2010 academic year. We will meet in the Media Center at 7:30 PM for a short introduction to the curriculum and then break out into a number of classrooms where individual counselors will take your questions and deal with grade-specific issues of course selection. This event will take place 1 week before course selections are to be turned in by your student. The parents who attended this event last year went away with a much clearer understanding of the courses offered at Pioneer and who should be taking them. It will help parents have a more meaningful discussion with their children regarding the courses they are selecting and what courses are needed for high school graduation.

Hospitality Today News

Students in the Hospitality Today class are having interesting days.

Local field trips have been a dynamic way to learn about food resources in our community. The class has visited Ann Arbor's Farmer's Market to view fresh produce of local growers, Big George's to learn about the green roof and latest kitchen technology and Washtenaw Dairy to see how donuts were made using trans fat free oil. At Pioneer, students toured and observed the large food production service of Chartwell's Food Commissary.

In school, students are learning their way around the kitchen and have prepared a variety of dishes from scratch including pancakes, bacon and eggs, soups, pizza, cakes and pumpkin pie. Recently they baked cookies for the Pioneer teachers to enjoy during their in-service training day. Other classroom activities have included interviewing US veterans to hear about their culinary experiences in the armed forces, hearing a representative from Conlin Travel speak about the thriving travel industry and learning about Johnson and Wales Culinary Arts School scholarship opportunities for students that complete the National Restaurant Association Certificate of Achievement.

We are currently preparing to serve a holiday luncheon for the Pioneer staff. Students are trying out recipes and costing out ingredients to make the final menu. They are learning about preparing food on a large scale and catering an event.

Students who are interested the opportunities of the rapidly growing hospitality industry are encouraged to speak to their counselors or Mrs. Suter in D214. There are still a few openings for next semester.

Hospitality Fundraiser

Parents & staff ,

Sharpen your kitchen knives.

Did you know that it is safer to use a sharp knife than one that is dull?

Please help the Hospitality Today program raise money for various competitions and field trips.

Bring your knives to Arbor Vacuum located at 1226 Packard, Ann Arbor Michigan.

Sharpen 1 knife for \$3.00 or 2 Knives for \$5.00

No knives are to be brought to school or to be carried by a student.

Please present this coupon so that the Hospitality Today will get all proceeds.

Thank you for your support.

Marilyn Suter

Hospitality Today

Theatre Guild News

FutureStars 2009

Building on the success of last year's FutureStars 2009, Pioneer Theatre Guild students will be presenting another exciting competition this year, which will involve the performance and judging of songs from 4 different genres. Directed by University of Michigan Dance student and PHS Alum Sadie Yarrington, and University of Michigan Theatre students Desi Oakley, Amanda Choate and Han Park. FutureStars 2009 will feature 4 preliminary competitions on January 9 and 10, with the final competition being held on Saturday, January 17. Our celebrity guest judges always add an extra element of excitement to the final show, selecting the top 5 finalists in each show, with audience applause determining the winners. Last year's finals drew over 1200 people. Don't miss one of Ann Arbor's winter highlights- a great opportunity for the whole family to enjoy some singing, dancing and some of our best young local talent and help determine who will be FutureStar 2009!

All Performances are in Schreiber Auditorium.

PRELIMINARY COMPETITIONS:

- Friday January 9, 7 p.m. "Now on Broadway"
- Friday, January 9, 9:30 p.m. "On My iPod" (students only)
- Saturday January 10, 7 p.m. "The times, they are a 'Changin'" (Songs from the late 60s/early 70s)"
- Saturday, January 10, 9:30 p.m. "Love Stinks" (students only)

Tickets: \$5 (general admission, on sale one hour before each show)

Final Competition: Saturday, January 17, 7:30 pm

Tickets: Adults--\$12,
Students, Seniors, PHS Staff---\$8 (general admission, on sale one hour before the show)

PATRON SEATING AVAILABLE (reserved, premium seating-- no waiting in line) \$25

Please visit our website at www.ptguild.org or contact Susan Hurwitz, the producer, 395-0041 for more information. To order Patron Tickets, email <ptguild@gmail.com>

Art Department Holiday Sale

The Pioneer High School Art Department will hold its annual Holiday Sale on December 12th between 7:30 AM and 3:00 PM in room E-103. This year's sale will feature many fine pieces of ceramic pottery and beautiful jewelry items at recession-busting prices.

Michael Benedict
Pioneer High School
Art Department Chair
734-994-2165

December CR & Online Class Planning

If a student is planning a Community Resource course or Online course for 2nd semester, December is the month to complete an application. Applications are available in the counseling area or online on the Community High School web site at www.communityhigh.org. See Ms. Jaquette in S152 during lunchtime on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The deadline to submit CR and online applications is Thursday January 22, 2008.

Athletic Booster Club Information



The Pioneer Booster Club's mission is to support athletic and academic excellence in all student athletes. There are over 30 sports teams available to our students. These create smaller communities, afford a way for parents to get to know each other, and help students develop discipline and make long lasting friends.

The meetings of the Booster Club in second semester will be Feb. 16 and May 18 at 7 pm in the Athletic Classroom. Please send a rep for your sports team.

We want to extend a big thank you to Doug Wanty of O & W Distributors who generously helped the Booster Club with water in both the Pioneer Concession Stand and at the UM Corner football games. This was a great help to us - thanks, Doug!

The annual Gala details will be coming soon. Please mark your calendar for Friday, March 27. This is always a fun occasion and a good way to show your support of your athletic programs.

Attendance Office Important Information

Greetings from the Attendance Office!

I'd like to introduce myself as your new Attendance Office secretary and remind you of the student attendance policy at Pioneer. The attendance office takes calls for student absences from parents or legal guardians when the student misses school for any reason. Please review the student handbook for a list of excusable absences.

When a parent calls in, they should provide the student identification number, student name, date of absence, hours of absence, and reason for absence. The caller should also identify her/himself and indicate their relation to the student. Calls from students are NOT acceptable. If you are unsure of the exact hours your student will miss, please notify us after the fact with the exact information. It will make my job much easier!

Calls regarding absences should be made within 2 school days of the absence. To excuse an absence more than 2 school days old, the parent must call the applicable grade office within 2 weeks. The grade offices cannot change attendance for any period older than 2 weeks. For example, an absence on November 15th must be reported on or before November 29th. FYI, the grade office numbers are: 9th – 994-2128, 10th – 994-2145, 11th – 994-2141, and 12th – 994-2130.

With the holiday season upon us, the grade office secretaries would like to remind parents that extending the winter holiday break by one day or more requires prior approval by the Grade Principal. Your student may pick up an Extended Absence Request form from the Grade Office to get any extra days off approved. If this procedure is not followed, the extended time off will not be excused, and make up work will not be accepted for credit. This form is also required when a student plans to be absent for 3 or more consecutive days during regular school.

We are in the process of reinstating the phone call out system for unverified absences. In the meantime, parents should be aware that they can check their student's attendance at any time by online access to PowerSchool. PowerSchool also contains grade information. A PowerSchool logon and password was provided to each family on their student's Quarter 1 grade report. If you have questions about how to access attendance and grade information on PowerSchool, please contact your student's grade office.

There is also a PowerSchool guide available online at :

http://www.aaps.k12.mi.us/powerschool.home/powerschool_family_access

Thanks for helping me out. Please stop in and say hello!

Hanna Melangton, Attendance Office Secretary

News From the Pioneer Choirs

Three members of the Pioneer Choirs were selected for the State Honors Choir through auditions at Pioneer High School Saturday, December 6th: Elizabeth Goldstein, Ryan McCoy and Vaishnavi Premkumar. The auditions consisted of memorized performances of portions of four pieces. Those three students will join students from the entire state to perform at the Michigan Music Conference in January in Grand Rapids. Elizabeth was selected for the mixed chorus, Ryan for the men's chorus and Vaishnavi for the women's chorus. In six weeks the three will learn an additional four pieces. Dr. Richard Ingram was the conductor for the Region C Honors Choir and will conduct the State Men's Honors Choir in January.

News From the Pioneer Orchestras

Members of the Pioneer High School Orchestras will participate in "Celebrity Servers", a fund-raising event from 5 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 16 at the Big Boy Restaurant (Lohr Road location, near Kohl's). The orchestra students will play music and help the servers to take orders and deliver meals. A portion of the proceeds and 100 percent of the tips will benefit the upcoming orchestra trip to New York City, which includes coaching by members of the New York Philharmonic. ***Come have dinner and support these talented students!***

Concerto winners:

The Pioneer High School Music Department would like to congratulate the following winners of the annual Concerto Competition:

Skye Hookham- Xylophone/Marimba

Christopher Fleming- Euphonium

Jessica Zhang- Piano

Dana Wilson- Horn

Alvin Siu- Piano

Olivia Klein- Violin

Ashley Park- Piano

These talented musicians will perform as soloists in the school's Concerto Concert in April, accompanied by the Pioneer Symphony Orchestra.

Media Center News

The PHS Media Center would like to encourage Pioneer parents to support reading in the home by giving your son or daughter a 'Gift of Reading' this holiday season. Create life long memories by having a 'Family Read-In' a couple of times each month. Reading benefits students in many ways. It is well known that reading increases the vocabulary level. Reading opens the world to the curiosity that exists in everyone. Help your child to connect with reading by selecting books that will capture their interests. If you are stumped on what to buy, the following websites have highly recommended books for all ages:

American Library Association (ALA)

<http://www.ala.org/ala/awardsgrants/booksprintmedia/reftechadultbks/index.cfm>

Listing ALA award-winning books, authors, illustrators with the ALA ribbon of approval.

International Reading Association Children's Book Council Joint Committee

<http://www.reading.org/resources/tools/choices.html>

Available lists include: Young Adults' Choices, Children's Choices, & Teacher's Choices.

Students have access to a community rich in reading venues. The Ann Arbor District Library card is available at no charge to residents in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Access to their wonderful collection provides a 'no cost' reading gift and extends a variety of services to our students after the end of a PiHi school day.

All Senior All Night Party 2009

Calling ALL Pioneer Parents... Although you may not have a senior this year, your help is needed to plan and produce the 2009 ASAN party for graduating seniors. Volunteers are being recruited for the day & night of the event, but we still need parents to step up and help to plan the party.



Event coordinators Julie Weintraub and Liz Sturgis are looking for two more parents to help lead the way. **Our next planning meeting is January 13th at 7:30 p.m. in the principle's conference room...Please join us!** **If you have any questions about this, call Julie at 662-8339. This is a great tradition that we hope continues for years to come.**

Thank you to all parents who are participating in the Grocery Card Program that funds this event. Your support is needed and appreciated! It's not too late to help by participating and it costs nothing to do so! If you wish to buy a card for yourself or as a holiday gift, please contact Ann Marie Jensen at 996-1439, or email her at annmariejensen@msn.com. All others questions about the ASAN party may be directed to Julie Weintraub at 662-8339, or email her at JulesWW@aol.com.

Counseling Corner

As first semester comes to a close please be sure your child's schedule is correct before the start of second semester. There have been second semester additions to the Pioneer teaching staff to alleviate crowding in some of our classes. Your (son/daughter) may have a new teacher second semester as a result of these changes. We are confident the smaller class sizes will benefit your student and are unable to honor requests to change teachers.

Please make an appointment with your counselor prior to Friday, January 23, 2009 if you have problems with your second semester schedule. The last day for drops/adds to your second semester schedule is January 30. However, counselors will be involved in course selection for next year starting on January 28 so the opportunity to make changes during the first week of the semester will be very limited. Please take care of your schedule prior to the end of first semester!

Many students and parents are finding Power School very helpful for keeping track of grades and missing assignments. If you or your student has lost their Power School ID please contact your counselor.

Seniors – It is not too late to apply to college. Please see your counselor for options. Please remember to check the career center for scholarship opportunities as well. There are fee waivers available for applications and for standardized tests. Please check with your counselor and see if you and your child qualifies for a fee waiver.

Juniors – PSAT results will be distributed the week before winter break in the Little Theater at lunchtime. There will be short presentation, and then students can pick up their results. If students do not get the results at their scheduled time then they cannot pick them up until after winter vacation. Please listen to announcements to find out when you can pick up your schedule.

We are beginning to plan for scheduling for next year. Counselors will be going into classes as soon as second semester begins. We will work on student's Educational Development plans (EDP's) and then go through course selection sheets and assist them in picking the appropriate classes for next year. Please be sure you talk with your student about classes and encourage them to talk with their teachers about what courses which courses would offer them the most success. The students will have the opportunity to schedule their classes at school and we will open up the website to allow students to schedule their classes at home as well. The deadline for entering courses for the 2009-2010 school years is Friday, February 13th.

The PTO meeting on February 10th at 7pm in the Media Center will be devoted to curriculum discussion and course selection for current 9th, 10th and 11th graders. Please plan on attending. Counselors will be available to answer questions.

Important website to remember: www.washtenawchildren.org (for internet safety information).

Thank you
The Counselors

The Pioneer News

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Pioneer High School General Office: 994-2120

2008-09 PIONEER HIGH SCHOOL PTSO BOARD

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Non-Discrimination Policy: No person shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination in any educational program or activity available in any school on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, creed, political belief, age, national origin, linguistic and language differences, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, height, weight, marital or familial status, or disability.

Pioneer PTSO News items are to be submitted *via email* to Laurie Adams at adamsl@aaps.k12.mi.us, via campus mail to **Laurie Adams Skyline HS**, or left in the *PTSO mailbox* in the main mailroom before 2:30 pm on the deadline dates indicated below. The PTSO sends the *Pioneer News* via bulk mail to all Pioneer families. The *News* usually arrives within a few days of mailing, but the US Post Office will not guarantee a timely delivery. Bulk rate mail can take as long as 3 weeks to be delivered, so please make sure your most time-sensitive announcements and events are submitted WELL IN ADVANCE of your event date!
NEXT DEADLINE
FRIDAY, JANUARY 9, 2009 2:30PM

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US Postage
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Ann Arbor, MI
Permit No. 140

To:

Look for the PTSO on the PIONEER Website:

<http://www.aaps.k12.mi.us/pioneer.home>

Parent Volunteer Opportunities — Contact PTSO or Grade Office to Help: 1/29 FIRST SEMESTER GRADES MAILED HOME 2/14 WINTERFEST DANCE

Important DATES Mark your Calendar!

December

12/11 Second Interim Progress Reports Mailed Home
12/11 Winter Orchestra Concert - Schreiber, 7:30 PM
12/13 ACT Testing - PHS & HHS, 7:45 AM - 1:00 PM
12/19 Winter break at end of day through 1/4/09

January

1/5 School Resumes
1/9 Future Stars Prelim-Broadway Shows, Schreiber, 7PM
1/9 Future Stars Prelim-On My iPod, Schreiber, 9:30 PM
1/10 Futures Stars Prelims-Times They are A-Changin', 7PM
1/10 Future Stars Prelim-Love Stinks, Schreiber, 9:30 PM
1/13 Incoming 9th Curriculum Night (non-public) 6:30 PM
1/13 Incoming 9th Curriculum Night (all schools) 7PM
1/14 Jazz Band Concert, Schreiber Auditorium, 7:30 PM
1/16 MLK, Jr. Assembly, Schreiber, 2nd per., All School
1/17 District Band Solo/Ensemble
1/17 Future Stars Finals, Schreiber, 7:30 PM
1/19 Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday - No School
1/20 1st and 2nd Period Exams
1/21 3rd and 4th Period Exams
1/22 5th and 6th Period Exams
1/22 CR Deadline (Semester 2)
1/23 7th Period Exam and Make up Exams
1/23 Semester One Ends
1/24 SAT Testing (Includes Subject Tests) PHS, 7:45 AM
1/26 Teacher Inservice Day - No School for Students
1/27 Second Semester Begins
1/27 District Solo/Ensemble, Schreiber, 7:00 PM
1/29 First Semester Grades Mailed Home
1/30 Last Day to Drop or Add Classes

1/30 Theatre Guild's On the Verge, Schreiber, 7:30 PM
1/31 District Choirs Solo/Ensemble
1/31 Theatre Guild's On the Verge, Schreiber, 7:30 PM

February

2/5 Winter Band Concert, Schreiber Auditorium, 7PM
2/6 Class Meetings - 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th
2/7 ACT Testing, PHS & HHS, 7:45 AM - 1:00 PM
2/9 Winterfest Spirit Week
2/9 NAAPID Day
2/10 PTSO 'Curriculum Focus', Little Theatre, 7:30 PM
2/11 Student Count Day (Semester 2)
2/13 Symphony Serenades
2/13 Student/Staff Basketball Game, Big Gym
2/14 Winterfest Dance, Cafeteria, 9:00 PM - 11:00 PM
2/16 Teacher Inservice Day - No School for Students
2/19 Orchestra Night (District-Wide), Hill Auditorium, 7 PM
2/20 Black History Month Assembly
2/20 Mid-Winter Break Begins at End of Day through 3/1/09
2/20 Third Interim Progress Period End

For updates to the calendar, go to:
<http://ical.aaps.k12.mi.us:16080/pioneer>