

CHANNAHON SCHOOL DISTRICT #17



PIONEER PATH SCHOOL

Dan Nyalka, Principal
24920 S Sage Street
Channahon, IL 60410

BUILDING WORLD CLASS THINKERS

2023-2024 SUPPLEMENT TO THE DISTRICT STUDENT HANDBOOK

Arrival~ 8:20-8:35am

Dismissal~ starts at 3:05pm

**First lunch 11:15am
Second lunch 11:45am**

Anderson, Sandi	3rd/4th Grade Teacher's Aide	sanderson@csd17.org
Butts, Patti	3rd/4th Grade Teacher's Aide	pbutts@csd17.org
Clarke, Robyn	Music Teacher	rclarke@csd17.org
Colyott, Angela	4th Grade Teacher	acolyott@csd17.org
Daletski, Mishel	4th Grade Teacher	mdaletski@csd17.org
Erickson, Sherri	Librarian	serickson@csd17.org
Feeney, Madison	Speech Pathologist	mfeeney@csd17.org
Geldean, Nancy	SOWIC Teacher's Aide	ngeldean@csd17.org
Griffiths, Amy	CAB Teacher	agriffiths@csd17.org
Hammerstein, Sue	Office Aide	shammerstein@csd17.org
Harvey, Tracy	4th Grade Teacher	tharvey@csd17.org
Hertzmann, Jennifer	Cross Categorical Teacher	jhertzmann@csd17.org
Hibner, Kathleen	4th Grade Teacher	khibner@csd17.org
Huddleston, Emmie	3rd Grade Teacher	egeijer@csd17.org
Huey, Jennifer	Cross Categorical Teacher	jhuey@csd17.org
Johnson, Jennifer	3rd Grade Teacher	jjohnson@csd17.org
Jonen, Julie	Long-Term sub	jjonen@csd17.org
Laken, Kristen	P.E. Aide	klaken@csd17.org
Laurich, Denise	4th Grade Teacher	dlaurich@csd17.org
Luebbing, Brenna	Reading Specialist Teacher	bluebbing@csd17.org
Milles, Janine	3rd Grade Teacher	jmilles@csd17.org
Moralis, Audrey	4th Grade Teacher	ahanouw@csd17.org
Noriega-Strike, Cristal	CAB Teacher	cnoriega-strike@csd17.org
Norris, Hannah	CAB Speech	hnorris@csd17.org
North, Bridget	SPED Director for CSD17	bnorth@csd17.org
Nyalka, Dan	Principal	dnyalka@csd17.org
Obediah, Maggie	Social Worker	mobediah@csd17.org
O'Leary, Erin	Intervention Aide	eoleary@csd17.org
Panice, Jennifer	CAB Program Administrator	jpanice@csd17.org
Pelton, Lisa	Kitchen site manager	lpelton@csd17.org
Peterocelli, Samantha	3rd Grade Teacher	speterocelli@csd17.org
Psinas, Holly	Administrative Assistant	hpsinas@csd17.org
Ralphs, Claire	CAB OT	cralphs@csd17.org
Reichenbach, Robert	Day custodian	rreichenbach@csd17.org
Thomas, Diane	Night custodian	dthomas@csd17.org
Truesdale, Bridget	3rd Grade Teacher	btruesdale@csd17.org
Verbic, Megan	Art Teacher	mverbic@csd17.org
Watkins, Anna	ELL Teacher	awatkins@csd17.org
Westerhoff, Geraldine	Cross Categorical Teacher	gwesterhoff@csd17.org
Zadel, Tammy	P.E. Teacher	tyzadel@csd17.org
Zima, Tanya	3rd Grade Teacher	tzima@csd17.org

PIONEER PATH SCHOOL 2023-2024 SUPPLEMENT TO THE DISTRICT STUDENT HANDBOOK

From the desk of Dan Nyalka, Principal of Pioneer Path School: It is every child's right to learn to his/her full potential and the staff of Pioneer Path School is dedicated to fulfilling this right. We believe that children learn in a situation where love and understanding are coupled with mutual respect - students for adults, adults for students. Children need to know what they can and cannot do and that they will be treated fairly, equally, and consistently.

Some rules and regulations are necessary in every gathering of individuals to ensure safety and harmonious living. We will all - students, teachers, administrators - exercise good manners and obey safety rules. PIONEER PATH STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO BE RESPECTFUL. Please note the following guidelines.

RULES: We have 3 school rules, Be Safe, Be Respectful, & Be Prepared

ARRIVALS: The circle drive of Pioneer Path School is designated for busses and emergency vehicles only. Parents may park on Sage Street. All parents need to enter and exit through the front entrance. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION AND PLEASE DO NOT PARK IN THE CIRCLE DRIVE.**

BUS STUDENTS: All bus students will enter through the doors on Sage Street and proceed directly to their classrooms from the bus. The first bell rings at 8:35 a.m. *If students arrive after 8:35 a.m., they need to report to the office and are marked tardy.*

CAR RIDERS, WALKERS, BIKERS: These students are to enter the building through the Tryon Street gym entrance under the canopy. Staff members will monitor the entrance. **PLEASE DO NOT DROP OFF STUDENTS BEFORE 8:15 A.M.** For safety reasons the Tryon Street door will not be open until 8:15 a.m. **This entrance is used for morning drop-offs and after school car riders only.** Your cooperation is needed in this matter.

As parents are dropping off their children at the gym door, please be aware that if a school bus is stopped with the Stop Arm out, it is against the law to go around the bus. Motorists may proceed after stopping for a bus if one of the following occurs: the bus resumes motion, the bus driver signals the motorist to proceed, or the flashing lights are turned off and the stop arm signal is no longer extended.

DISMISSAL: Dismissal time begins at 3:05 p.m. No one will be allowed to take students from the school busses at dismissal time. This is to protect students and to keep bus schedules on time.

Each bus rider is assigned to a bus and a bus stop. Any *permanent* changes for any reason must be approved **IN ADVANCE** by the Transportation Director, Mr. Grosso. His office is located in the District Office at Pioneer Path School, 467-4315. You may not switch different buses this school year. **A note must be sent to the office EVERY time you deviate from your permanent transportation schedule.**

If you find it necessary to pick up your child at dismissal, guardians will need to send a note to school stating who is picking up the child so he/she can exit through the Tryon Street gym door. If a signed note is not received, any person requesting that a child leave with them (other than the legal guardians or custodial parent), will be asked to wait patiently while a phone call is made to verify the request. In joint-custody situations the residential parent will be contacted to verify the request.

CAR RIDERS, WALKERS AND BIKERS will be dismissed through the Tryon Street gym door under the canopy. Same procedure for "drop-off" applies. Legal guardian or custodial parent must provide written permission stating your child will be a walker, bike rider, or car rider on a specific day. **STUDENTS AND ADULTS ARE ASKED TO PLEASE FOLLOW THEIR DIRECTIONS.**

Members of the faculty will be on duty to maintain safety procedures. **STUDENTS AND ADULTS ARE ASKED TO PLEASE FOLLOW THEIR DIRECTIONS.**

Drivers, please be patient! It is worth the extra few minutes that you have to wait when you think a small child might be hurt because you were in a hurry.

EARLY DISMISSAL: For the protection of students, we will enforce the following policy when it is necessary for children to leave school before dismissal. Legal guardian or custodial parent must provide an early dismissal request *in writing* to the teacher, stating the date and time of dismissal, the reason and who will be picking up the student. Students will be called to the office by the principal or secretary for early dismissal.

Students will not be dismissed from the office after 2:45 p.m. If you need to dismiss your child after 2:45 p.m., you must follow the car rider dismissal procedure at the Tryon Street gym door.

REPORTING ABSENCES:

In accordance with the District Handbook, after the 3rd absences a doctor's note will be required to return to school. This will help to improve communication and assist the teacher in understanding current student needs. Absences can be reported on the Pioneer Path School Hotline number, 521-2191. Please request homework at that time. You can request for parent pick-up that will be available in the foyer cubbies or you can arrange to have it sent home with another student. When arranging for work due to a vacation absence, please contact the teacher to develop an effective and agreeable plan. When students miss school they miss the opportunity to learn with their classmates.

Birthday's:

Due to allergies please refrain from sending in food for birthday treats/celebrations. Non-edible treats may be handed out, but not necessary. For invitations given out during the school day we ask that either the entire class is invited, or all girls or all boys invited. Teachers are unable to give out other students personal information.

DRESS CODE:

Pioneer Path School strives to provide all students with a safe and decent learning environment. Students should be dressed in clothing appropriate for instruction at school. Appropriate dress is defined as clothing that covers the torso from the shoulder to mid-thigh and is not revealing. Shoulders and midriff must be covered. Spaghetti strap/tank tops may not be worn without another shirt over it. It is recommended that short sleeved shirts be worn so that shoulders are always covered.

Flip-flops and sandals can be dangerous to children's feet while moving around the building and while out at recess. Close-toed shoes (gym shoes) are preferred. Inappropriate dress is defined as immodest clothing which disrupts the learning environment. Student choice of clothing can disrupt the learning environment when it is representative or suggestive of violence, illegal acts, drug/alcohol/tobacco use, offensive/obscene gestures/ pictures, gang affiliation or devil/cult worship. Clothing or accessories containing any of these items are strictly prohibited and will not be allowed. At social events, the dress code is strictly enforced. Students violating the dress code policy shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action as per School Board Policy 7:160.

Response to Intervention (Rtl) Services:

Rtl services are provided for those children at Pioneer Path who have deficits in reading, language arts and math. Children are placed in the program after reviewing educational data to determine their instructional level. Parents will be notified if their child is in need of additional support and the child will remain in the program until data shows they are performing at grade level. Rtl services are also provided for social-emotional or behavioral concerns. Strategies are always coordinated and implemented in the classroom first, but if a student continues to struggle behaviorally or socially, then a more specific plan may be implemented to assist the student by teaching identified social skills and guiding them to practice those skills throughout their school day. Plans are individualized to address the student's needs. Some common interventions used for social emotional or behavioral Rtl include daily progress charts, Tier 2 Social Skills groups, or individual social work services.

*Please visit the District website, (<http://www.csd17.org>) and click on the Response to Intervention tab on the left side for additional information regarding Rtl services.

STUDENT RECORDS: School student records are confidential. State and federal law grants students and parent/guardians certain rights, including the right to inspect, copy, and challenge school records.

The information is kept current, accurate, clear and relevant. Each student has a permanent and temporary file assigned to them.

The permanent file includes: Basic identifying information, academic transcripts, attendance records, and accident and health reports. The temporary file includes: Family language background, intelligence and aptitude scores, psychological reports, achievement test reports, teacher anecdotal records, disciplinary information (suspension, expulsion, etc.), special education files, 504 plans, verified reports or information from non-educational persons, verified information of clear relevance to the student's education.

TELEPHONE: The office telephone may be used for emergency calls only. We expect students to be responsible for their actions. Classrooms will not be interrupted with messages for students. Emergency messages will be given to students as soon as possible, but without interference to classroom learning or academics.

DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES:

To discipline with authority is to give life to learning - in developing a positive school climate, the positive approach to discipline takes into consideration the beauty of each student and provides an opportunity for each student to take an active part in his/her academic planning. Pioneer Path School will provide a safe place where students can feel needed, valued and responsible. Students need to learn how to act and speak with respect for each other. It is the school's responsibility to help develop students who can be productive in society. In such an environment, students are responsible for their own behavior, academic success, and failures. Actions are owned by the individual student. They cannot blame the environment, parents or peers for their own behavior. Each student has the ability to choose. All students have the right to be in school. With this right comes the responsibility to respect the rights of other students and to become actively and productively involved in their own academic learning. Such an atmosphere creates a joint effort to learn, relate and experience.

Classroom teachers begin each school year by organizing the classroom and setting guidelines (rules and consequences). Teachers will hold students accountable for following school-wide rules. Teachers will follow their classroom management plan, track behavior and reward positive behavior. Students are involved in discussions of these practices; and teachers model the behaviors. Parents are informed about the procedures used. Positive reinforcement is used at Pioneer Path School. However, when students choose not to follow the class procedures, consequences will occur. These consequences may begin with a simple reminder of the rules to the student. If a student chooses to continue behaviors that are not acceptable, those consequences will increase to such things as time out periods, loss of recess, in office lunch period, calls to parents, visits to the Principal's office, Behavior Plans, and suspension.

Recent occurrences in our society have resulted in schools taking a strong stand on verbal and/or implied threats. Students cannot make verbal and/or implied threats to teachers and/or students that could alarm, disturb, or interfere with the orderly operation of the school. Statements such as "I'll kill you", "I'm going to hurt you", or any comments that may be construed as threats to the safety of our students and staff members will not be allowed. Similarly implied threats will also be taken seriously. "Kidding around" about hurting or shooting others is not appropriate in our society and will not be allowed in our school.

Please contact Mr. Nyalka (815-467-4312) if you have questions or concerns.

LUNCHROOM ETIQUETTE:

Students enter the lunchroom in line. Those purchasing hot lunch proceed through the line, get their food tray and then give their lunch card to the employee. Those purchasing milk only, go through the same line. Students are given time to eat before dismissal. Students are expected to remain seated and finish eating before leaving the lunchroom. Food or drink may not be taken from the lunchroom. Students are responsible for cleaning up after themselves. Pioneer Path School operates a closed campus. Students are expected to eat lunch at school unless other arrangements are made between the parent and the principal.

Student conduct in the lunchroom shall be consistent with the standards of good eating habits and table manners as practiced at home. Students will be allowed sufficient time to eat lunch. The time not used for eating will be spent in play and/or quiet relaxation either outdoors or in a classroom. **CAUTION!** - NO POP or ENERGY DRINKS. PLEASE REFRAIN FROM SENDING CARBONATED BEVERAGES TO SCHOOL. ALSO, PLACING CARBONATED BEVERAGES IN THERMOS CONTAINERS CAUSES THEM TO LEAK. THERE ARE A VARIETY OF DRINKS AND PACKAGING OPTIONS ON THE MARKET. PLEASE HELP US IN THIS MATTER.

RULES FOR LUNCH AND OUTDOOR RECESS:

The following guidelines are for your child's own safety. Please review them with your child and make sure he/she understands them.

1. Walk at all times in the school.
2. Raise your hand for help or to get out of your seat.
3. Use indoor voices only.
4. Eat only your own food. Do not trade with someone or share anyone else's food.
5. Clean your area before you leave including the floor.
6. Keep hands and feet to yourself.
7. Respect other students. No rough play such as tackling, pushing, fighting, etc.
8. Line up when the bell rings.

GENERAL GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES:

1. Students are not allowed to carry weapons or other items considered dangerous to themselves or fellow students.
2. Personal items are not to be brought to school without the special permission of the Principal. Cell phones, iPads, iPods, Smartwatches, Video games, etc., are not permitted due to the potential for distraction, theft, or damage. Cell phones must remain turned off and kept in backpack. **Students are not allowed to make or receive phone calls or text messages during the school day.** Cell phones will be confiscated and held in the school office if used during the school day. Any items held in the office will be released to (parents/guardians) only.
3. A student may be allowed to leave his/her classroom only with the permission of his/her teacher.
4. There is to be no chewing of gum in school.
5. Students not engaged in a school activity after school hours are required to leave the school grounds immediately.
6. No abusive language will be used on school property or while under the supervision of school officials.
7. There will be no fighting at school.
8. Students will conduct themselves in a polite, orderly manner wherever they are. They will have respect for school and personal property of other students.
9. Running in school (except for P.E. classes) is not permitted at any time. Keep to the right in the halls.
10. Students do go outside at lunch time whenever possible. PLEASE DRESS YOUR CHILD WARMLY AND APPROPRIATELY.
11. It is necessary to check your child in or out through the school office when he/she is coming late or leaving early. PLEASE CALL THE SCHOOL WHEN YOUR CHILD IS GOING TO BE LATE OR ABSENT.
12. Students may not bring promotional items (such as Girl Scout cookies, Band candy, etc.) to school to sell.
13. Students should not bring money to school unless it is for a specific reason.
14. Any projects that are too big to bring to school on the bus, will also need to be picked up when the assignment is completed.
15. Students and parents are discouraged from returning to school after dismissal to retrieve any materials.