PIONEER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Success Begins at Pioneer!!

Address: 624 Pioneer Rd. | **Phone:** 208-414-3131 | **Fax:** 208-414-3198 | **Bus Barn:** 208-414-0148

www.weiserschools.org

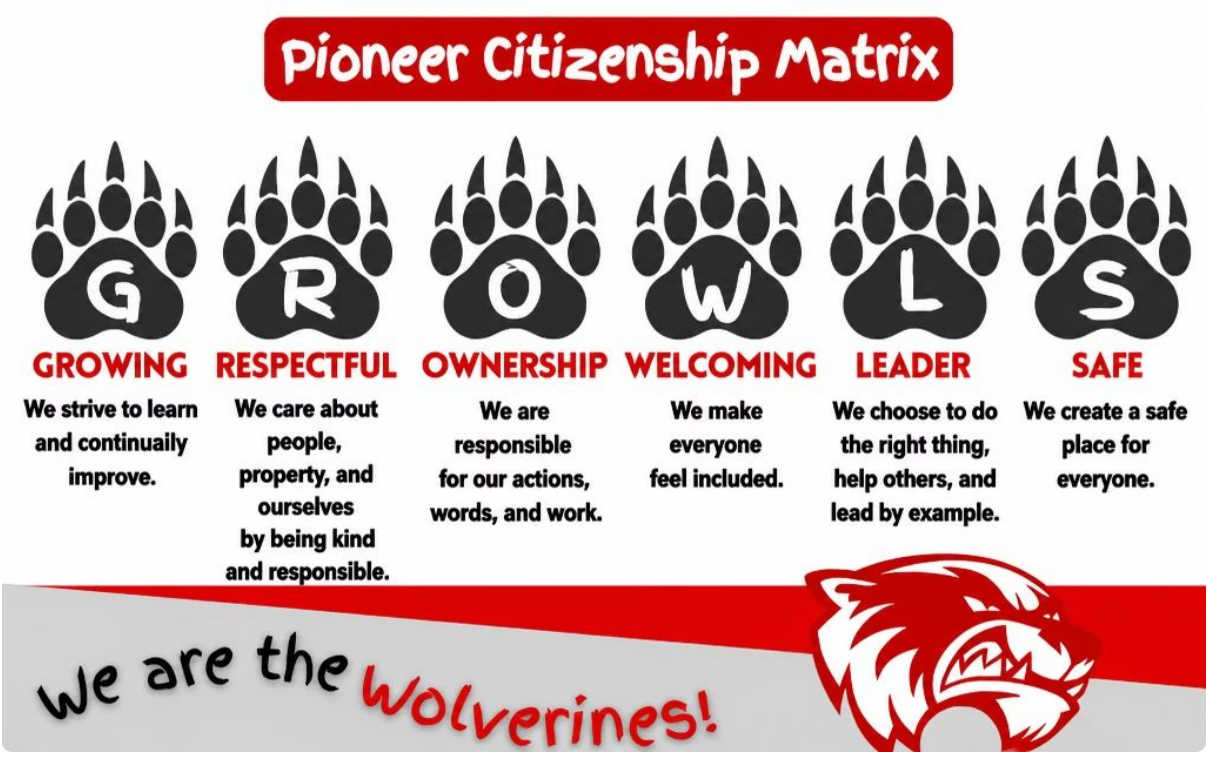
STUDENT/PARENT HANDBOOK

Please keep this handbook for future reference

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Welcome to Pioneer School! We are thrilled to have you join our Wolverine community. Our mission is to inspire growth through continuous learning and responsible citizenship, and our vision is to cultivate the highest-achieving and most inclusive rural school district in Idaho. We look forward to partnering with you this year — please review this handbook to familiarize yourself with our policies and procedures. Let's make it a great year!

Eric Davis, Principal



CITIZENSHIP MATRIX

01

We are Growing through continuous learning.

02

We show Respect for ourselves and others.

03

We take Ownership of our actions and learning.

04

We create a Welcoming environment for all.

05

We become Leaders by setting a positive example.

06

We ensure a Safe space through responsible choices.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

School begins at 8:15 AM and ends at 3:35 PM.

Arrival

Playground supervision begins at 7:45 am. Please do not allow your child to arrive before 7:45 AM if walking or being dropped off – there WILL NOT be any supervision.

Doors open at 7:45 AM for breakfast.

Students arriving after 8:15 must check into the office before going to class.

Departure

****Parents must establish a way for their children to go home each day, and your child's teacher must know how they are to get home every day. If there is a change in plans YOU MUST SEND A NOTE OR CALL THE SCHOOL. If not, your child WILL BE sent home their designated way. Messages called to the office will be delivered to teachers by 3:00 PM. Calls must be received by the office no later than 2:45 p.m. to ensure time to get the message to your child.***

Students being picked up must be picked up by 3:40 PM.

No student may leave school during the school day unless they are signed out in the office.

Please make sure your child knows how they are to get home each day, and that they should not leave with anyone they do not know.

For the safety of our students, PLEASE DO NOT drive into the visitor parking area in front of the office when picking up or dropping off children before or after school.

SCHOOL POLICIES

ATTENDANCE

Good attendance and punctuality are extremely important lifelong traits. The Weiser School District requires students to be in school a minimum of 90% of the time. Please refer to District Attendance Policy (3020/3040) for details.

Steps to follow in case of absences:

1. Please call the office by 8:20 a.m. on any day your child will be absent.
2. Make-up work will be sent home once your child returns. Please notify the teacher at least a day in advance if you know your child will miss school — homework requests are not necessary until the third day of absence.

BULLYING

Bullying, harassment, intimidation, or menacing is strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated. Students found in violation may face discipline up to expulsion and/or referral to law enforcement. Per Weiser School District policy, "harassment, intimidation or bullying" means any act that substantially interferes with a student's educational benefits and has the effect of:

- A. Physically harming a student or damaging a student's property;
- B. Knowingly placing a student in reasonable fear of physical harm or damage to property; or
- C. Creating a hostile educational environment.

BICYCLES, SCOOTERS, SKATES

Bikes, scooters and skates are not to be ridden on school property once the student arrives at school. Skate shoes must be replaced with regular shoes while at school. The school is not responsible for the loss of or damage to these items.

CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

Parent-Teacher Conferences are held formally in the fall and spring. If you need to meet with your child's teacher or the principal, please contact them in advance to schedule an appropriate time.

BUS TRANSPORTATION AND BEHAVIOR

Bus riding is a privilege — students must follow all transportation rules or face the following consequences (contact the bus supervisor at 208-414-0148 with questions):

Verbal Warning

Verbal warning by the driver to change behavior. If no change occurs:

Step 1

Driver will document incident and warning.

Step 2

Driver documents incident and warning and contacts parent (in writing or by phone)

Step 3

Driver documents incident, principal is contacted, parent is contacted, student receives up to a 3 day bus suspension

Step 4

Driver documents incident, principal is contacted, parent is contacted, student receives up to a 5 day bus suspension

Step 5

Driver documents incident, principal is contacted, parent is contacted, student receives up to a 30 day bus suspension

After Step 5: Student loses bus privileges for the remainder of the school year. The bus supervisor or principal may move a student to any step based on severity.

DISCIPLINE PLAN

Pioneer School emphasizes positive behavior through rewards, character coupons, and positive office referrals aligned with our G.R.O.W.L.S. Citizenship Matrix. Each teacher maintains a classroom discipline plan — ask your child's teacher for details (District Policy 3330). When expectations are not met, we use a 4-level tiered consequence system to ensure fair and consistent responses:

LEVEL 1

Examples:

- Calling out/blatting
- Off-task behavior
- Minor disruption
- First-time noncompliance
- Horseplay

Response:

- Redirect / Proximity
- GROW/SL/whisper
- Refocus Sheet
- Reset Time

LEVEL 2

Examples:

- Repeated L1 issues
- Refusal / Defiance
- Unsafe behavior
- Inappropriate language
- Dishonesty

Response:

- L2 Refocus Sheet
- Buddy Room Refocus
- Parent contact
- Document pattern

LEVEL 3

Examples:

- Aggression
- Bullying
- Property damage
- Elopement
- Major disrespect

Response:

- Office Referral
- Admin Parent Contact
- Restorative follow-up

LEVEL 4

Examples:

- Fighting
- Credible threats
- Leaving campus
- Imminent danger

Response:

- SRO/Office Immediately Called
- Admin/SRO removal
- Immediate parent contact

SRO(School Resource Officer)

STUDENT DRESS CODE

It is the position of the Weiser School District that the appropriate and acceptable appearance of students is essential to a positive learning environment. Students are expected to dress in a manner that is suitable for school and appropriate for the weather. Students are expected to take pride in their dress, grooming, and general appearance. In all areas of the school, students must dress modestly and in good taste. Parents are expected to take responsibility for their children's attire. Inappropriate attire includes, but is not limited to:

- A. Hats, hoods, bandannas, or other head gear in the building.
- B. Transparent clothing is prohibited.
- C. Clothing with logos, words, or pictures that are vulgar, disrespectful, sexually suggestive, or profane; or that advocate violence, prejudice or tobacco, alcohol, or other drug use.
- D. Tube, midriff, tank tops, half shirts, cutouts. (Tops must have at least 3 inches of material covering the shoulder, show no cleavage, and must be full length covering the midriff.)
- E. All hemlines should be no higher than 3 inches above your knee.
- F. Pajamas, boxers, slippers.
- G. Clothing that may be gang related. Gang related attire includes, but is not limited to: hats, bandannas, or articles of clothing with writing, markings, or symbols of gang affiliation. Flying "colors" or wearing a single color of gang affiliation. Sagging pants, extra-long belts or other paraphernalia. Building administrators will follow recommended guidelines as set by local, state and federal law enforcement.
- H. Face paint is prohibited.

Students may be given clothing to change into or parents contacted if students are found to be in violation. Consequences can range from a change of clothes to off-campus suspension.

See Policy #3255

SCHOOL PROGRAMS & RESOURCES

TECHNOLOGY & DEVICES

Chromebooks, iPads, and other technology are available in the library, computer lab, and classrooms. Students must follow the District Technology Use Policy (3275), using devices appropriately and handling them with care. Misuse or damage may result in loss of privileges and/or financial accountability.

While on campus, cell phones must be turned off and kept in backpacks; use during the school day requires prior staff permission. Smart watches and other communication devices are subject to the same policy. Violations will result in devices being held by staff and must be retrieved from the office by a parent or guardian.

PARENT PORTAL

Parent Portal gives families online access to report cards, attendance, and contact information through the district website at ***www.weiserschools.org*** *(Parent/Student tab → Parent Portal). An email address, username, and password are required to log in.*

PROGRAMS & SPECIAL EDUCATION

Pioneer students participate in: Wonders (Reading), Eureka Math Squared, Special Education, Counseling, Computers, Library & Accelerated Reader, Music, Physical Education, English Language Acquisition, and Art. Special education services include Developmental Preschool (ages 3–5), K–3 specialized instruction, Speech Therapy, and Occupational Therapy — contact your child's teacher or Family Support/Solutions team with any concerns.

HEALTH, SAFETY & GENERAL INFORMATION

HEALTH CONCERNS

Staying inside: *A note from home is required for your child to stay inside during recess. If they need to stay inside more than three days, a doctor's note is required.*

Illness Return to School Policy: *Students must be free of vomiting, diarrhea, and fever for a full 24 hours without medication before returning to school.*

Medication: *All medication must be brought in by an adult with a completed Medication Permission Slip on file. Medication must be in the original prescription container and kept in the office.*

Accidents: *The Weiser School District does not carry automatic injury insurance for students. Parents are encouraged to obtain private insurance; contact the school for details.*

PERSONAL ITEMS

Students should leave personal property not used for school purposes at home. Toys are not to be brought to school unless specifically requested by the classroom teacher for a special activity or event. Bringing toys to school can lead to distractions, loss, damage, or disagreements between students. Items not allowed at school include weapons, knives, dangerous objects, matches/lighters, and Pokémon or trading cards. Consequences range from confiscation to suspension and/or law enforcement referral. We appreciate your support in helping us maintain a safe and focused learning environment for everyone.

SAFETY, WEATHER & ACADEMICS

Idaho requires monthly fire drills and periodic lockdown drills — review procedures with your child. In case of early dismissal, ensure your child knows what to do. Dress students appropriately for weather; students may stay inside during extreme cold or wet weather. Idaho learning standards are at ***www.sde.idaho.gov****. We encourage 20 minutes of nightly reading.*

GENERAL SCHOOL INFORMATION

PARKING AND CHILD LOADING

Use the loading lane along Pioneer Road for drop-off and pick-up. Do not stop in the driving lane — the drop-off lane is for quick loading only. Drive slowly around the school, and share these procedures with anyone picking up your child.

SCHOOL VISITATION

All visitors must sign in at the office and receive a VISITOR'S PASS before entering classrooms or the playground.

If picking up your child after school, please wait outside or by the office.

To eat lunch with your child, notify the teacher or office.

We discourage visits by non-enrolled students during school hours; they are welcome during lunch.

GENERAL SCHOOL INFORMATION (CONTINUED)

FIELD TRIPS & PARTIES

If you need to take your child home during a field trip, sign them out at the office prior to the trip. Students may only be released to parents when away from school.

Classroom parties and birthday celebrations must be arranged with the teacher in advance. Please be mindful of food allergies — do not send treats containing nuts or nut by-products.

COMMUNICATIONS & RESOURCES

Keep all contact information current — updates via Parent Portal or the school office. Spanish-speaking parents may call anytime; Pioneer School uses Infinite Campus for announcements and emergencies. Supply lists are on the district website — contact the office for help. Our PTO supports school programs; visit Weiser Pioneer PTO on Facebook.

DISTRICT POLICIES

SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

Breakfast: 7:45–8:15 AM. Lunch available daily — balance limit of 5 days. Pay via Lunch Program, Bill Pay, or myschoolbucks.com (208-414-0723). K–3 students participate in the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program.

ASSESSMENTS & MEDIA

Student names and/or photos may occasionally appear in media or on the school website. If you do not want your child included, indicate this on the permission form. All students take the Idaho Reading Indicator (ISIP) in fall and spring; third graders also take the ISAT in spring. Assessment is part of the school program with no opt-out provisions, and reports are sent with report cards no later than June 15th.

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are welcome — contact your child's teacher in advance. All volunteers must sign an annual confidentiality agreement (available in the office) and follow the school dress code.

ATTENDANCE POLICY – Policy No. 3040 (Adopted 4/20/2023)

Students must attend a minimum of **90% of the time** per Idaho law (§ 33-202). See Policy No. 3040.

UNPAID SCHOOL MEAL CHARGES – Policy #8245 (Adopted 11/12/2012, Amended 2024)

Parents are responsible for meal costs. Families may apply for **free or reduced-price meals** annually — no student will be denied a meal, but parents are responsible for any debt incurred. Students with deficit accounts may not charge à la carte items. Parents are encouraged to monitor balances at myschoolbucks.com. Contact: Weiser School Lunch Program, 925 Pioneer Rd., 208-414-0723.

TITLE-I PROGRAM & PARENT RIGHTS

HEAD LICE – WSD Policy 3523 (Adopted 12/11/2023)

Head lice are common among school-aged children. The **school nurse** oversees lice prevention and management. Parents are encouraged to perform regular lice checks at home. If lice are found, parents will be notified immediately and asked to begin treatment. Students will not be sent home early for lice provided treatment has begun, and will not be excluded for nits only. The District will not conduct mass screenings. Avoid head-to-head contact and sharing hats, combs, or hair accessories.

TITLE-I PROGRAM AT PIONEER

Title-I is a federal program supporting economically disadvantaged students. With ~60% of students qualifying for free or reduced lunch, Pioneer is a Schoolwide Title-I School — funds support **any** child needing assistance, intervention, or enrichment, and are used to hire staff and fund programs like Wonders.

All students and parents must sign the Internet Access Conduct Agreement (Policy No. 3270) annually. Violations may result in revoked access and disciplinary action.

FERPA RIGHTS & TITLE I-A

Under FERPA, parents and eligible students (age 18+) have the right to inspect education records within 45 days, request amendments to inaccurate records, consent to disclosure of information, and file complaints with the U.S. Dept. of Education (Family Policy Compliance Office, 400 Maryland Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20202).

As a Title I-A school parent, you may request your child's teacher qualifications. You will be notified if your child is taught 4+ consecutive weeks by an unlicensed teacher. Our goals: meet state IRI targets, achieve Federal annual growth, and close achievement gaps among at-risk subgroups.

Your input matters — contact us to share suggestions for Title-I spending or to join the parent advisory committee.

SCHOOL-HOME COMPACT

It is the Mission of the Weiser School District to promote High Achievement and Responsible Citizenship among ALL students. We understand that it takes cooperation, communication, commitment, and teamwork between EVERYONE in the learning community in order to achieve this mission.

TEACHER / SCHOOL — I will:

1. Provide high quality and challenging curriculum and learning opportunities for all children.
2. Promote a positive relationship with every child and every family.
3. Provide regular communication with families (including school and child progress). Report cards/ISIP progress sent quarterly.
4. Promote a safe and supportive school environment.

Signature on official form only.

STUDENT — I will:

1. Be cooperative and give my best effort at all times.
2. Complete all assigned work to the best of my ability.
3. Accept responsibility for my effort and behavior.
4. Be Safe! Be Respectful! Be Responsible!

PARENT — I will:

1. Promote a positive relationship with everyone in the school community.
2. Make sure my child is to school on time and in school whenever possible.
3. Help my child with and support homework expectations.
4. Support school expectations and promote student safety, positive behavior, and responsible citizenship.