



Good evening PSPA Middle Grades Students and Parents,

Hope you are having a wonderful weekend. For those of you who are football fans, I hope that your teams are doing well, and you are enjoying the start of the season. For those of you who are not, I hope that the weather was nice enough for you to get out and enjoy!

Here are some updates for this week:

### **TECHNOLOGY-ALL STUDENTS**

We want to update you on technology usage and a new policy we are implementing:

**Sixth Graders** will begin having after school access to their computers starting tomorrow, September 9. Students are still responsible for bringing their laptops home to charge on a daily basis.

**All students** will have access to their computers shut down at 10:00 pm each night and then reactivated again at 7:00 am each morning, including weekends and holidays. This will begin tomorrow, September 9. Our students need to get good sleep and not having computer access will help with that. Be sure to work with your child on time management so they complete whatever they need to outside of that time.

### **iREADY UPDATE**

I know that many of our students are excited about iReady and are ready to get started, but we are having difficulty getting that together. Ms. Johnson (and Ms. Yencha at the elementary school) is working hard to get it up and running, but we are waiting on others to do what needs to be done on their end. We will keep you updated on the status.

### **DRESS CODE**

With the school year in full swing, I wanted to once again mention our dress code. It is very specific as to what the students can and cannot wear to school. Please work with us so we do not have to call you to bring your child a change of clothes.

This past week, we had a number of students wearing cargo shorts. Remember that cargo shorts and cargo pants are not permitted under our dress code.

We also had a number of students who needed to call home on Spirit Wear Day on Friday because of dress code violations. Please remember on those days, as well as Dress Down Days, students must follow the expectations in our dress code.

 **PSPA Dress Code 2024/2025**

### **WASHINGTON DC TRIP-8TH GRADERS**

Attention 8th grade parents! We will be having a virtual parent meeting for the Washington DC trip on Thursday, September 12th at 6:00PM. We will be reviewing the trip, which will be March 13-15, including a sample itinerary, costs and potential fundraising. Students will be bringing home fliers with the link to the meeting this week. If you have any questions, you can reach out to Mr. Hensler. [jhensler@pinespringsprep.org](mailto:jhensler@pinespringsprep.org).

### **MESSAGE FROM THE PSPA PTO:**

We are getting ready for our Middle School Lock-Ins! Click the links for more information:

7th Grade Lock-In on Friday, September 13th: Click here -> <https://bit.ly/3T93BgN>

8th Grade Lock-In on Friday, September 20th: Click here -> <https://bit.ly/4e9tmWf>

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PTO Membership Information:

PSPA PTO seeks to involve ALL families and staff through membership and a variety of optional activities, events, and initiatives as we SOAR TO NEW HEIGHTS! Join the PTO to be a part of the numerous ways we support our teachers, staff, students, administrators, and families! Last year, over 54% of Pioneers joined the PTO. Please help us reach this goal again!

Our PTO membership is ANNUAL, so we encourage all families/staff to join each year! Any level of involvement is welcomed. Membership does not obligate you to attend PTO meetings, volunteer, or fundraise; it is simply a tax-deductible donation to the PSPA PTO that supports our many contributions to our one-of-a-kind school!

Click here to join -> <https://bit.ly/JoinPSPAPTO>

### ***Student Vendors at the Holiday Shop***

Are you a young entrepreneur and want to showcase your business and sell your handcrafted items? Back again this year at the Holiday Shop, the PTO will accept applications from middle school students who are interested in selling their handmade items. If you have any questions, email the PTO at [info@psppto.org](mailto:info@psppto.org). Applications are due by Monday, September 30th!

[Apply Here](#)

[Student Vendor Terms and Conditions](#)

## **HALLOWEEN DANCE**


Join us for our first annual [Middle School Halloween Dance](#) on September 27th in our middle school gym. Enter, IF YOU DARE, through the gym doors for a ghoulish good time from 6-8 p.m. Tickets will be on sale soon and there will be plenty of haunting sweets and treats for sale at our concession stand - CASH ONLY!

All proceeds will benefit our Pioneers traveling to Europe!

You can find more information and the permission slip [here](#).

## **ATHLETICS**

We have had a great start to our Fall Athletics season. Here is a link to our tentative schedule for the upcoming week. If things change, we will let you know.

 [Pioneers Athletics Weekly schedule 9-9 - 9-13.pdf](#)

## **FROM OUR PBL COACH**

Please click on the [linked document](#) to view the current Project-Based Learning units our students are working on.

## **POSITIVITY PROJECT**

This week, our school will focus on the character strength of **Open-Mindedness**. This means being willing to consider new ideas and try new things. It involves looking at situations from all sides and not jumping to conclusions.

Open-mindedness is about seeking out and fairly weighing evidence, even if it goes against our own opinions or goals. Open-minded people listen to different viewpoints, including those that are less popular. They are often good listeners and provide balanced advice, which makes them great friends and confidants. This strength helps individuals form meaningful and lasting relationships.

To practice and encourage the character strength of open-mindedness at home, please visit the Positivity Project's mobile-friendly [P2 for Families](#). There, you will watch a video clip together and discuss a quote and three questions related to open-mindedness.

Thank you for your support!

Thank you for your continued support!

Sincerely,

Glenn Dansky  
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Lauren Johnson  
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[\*\*8th Grade Plan Book\*\*](#)

[\*\*7th Grade Plan Book\*\*](#)

[\*\*6th Grade Plan Book\*\*](#)