



Pine Springs

PREPARATORY ACADEMY

October 2, 2024

Greetings Pioneer Families:

This week's weekly message is drafted with a heavy heart as we send thoughts and prayers to the tens of thousands of our fellow North Carolinians who are facing unspeakable hardships and loss in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene. The devastation in the western communities of our state is hard to adequately describe without seeing it with your own eyes.

Pine Springs is accepting donations of food and other necessities that will be delivered to donation centers in the Asheville and Boone area. Highly needed items include bottled beverages (water, sports drinks), non-perishable food, pet food, diapers, wipes, etc. (no clothing please). If you would like to donate you can drop items off at our K-5 building, middle school, or at our Blended Academy location in Apex. For convenience, if manageable, you can give them to a staff member in carline if you wish.

We will be accepting donations through Thursday afternoon as we will be delivering them to western NC on Friday morning.

Parental Engagement Forums

Parent engagement is a critical part of the charter school experience – an engaged, active school community contributes to a charter school's success. At PSPA we have come a long way since 2017 when our first group of 400+ students helped us open our doors. We now have two buildings at our Holly Springs campus, a Blended Academy in neighboring Apex, and even a Virtual Academy that serves students across the state; and there's even more on the horizon with a proposed high school.

With so much happening in the life of our school, we want to provide opportunities for families to get an update on where we are as a school and how we need families to become active participants as we pursue our mission to become the best school of choice in the local community and state. As such, we will be hosting our first in-person Parent Engagement meeting on Monday, October 7th at 6:00pm in the middle school gym. School and PTO leadership will share valuable information on how you can commit to our future success.

For those who can't attend in-person, we will be offering a virtual meeting on Thursday, October 10th at 6:00 pm (link provided below).

<https://meet.google.com/sqd-iidd-uxh>

Or dial: (US) +1 240-252-5304 PIN: 217 826 334#

2025-26 School Calendar

The 2025-26 school calendar has been approved and is available on our website.

<https://pinespringsprep.org/calendar/>

The first day of school for students in the 2025-26 school year will be August 20, 2025. The last day of school for students is May 22, 2026. As is the case every year, the calendar is subject to change throughout the school year. We will do our best to provide advance notice should changes need to be made.

I do want to remind parents that students must report to school on the first day of school, August 20, 2025. Failure to report to school (unless the absence qualifies as an excused absence), may result in your student losing their seat at PSPA as reporting to school on the first day is mandatory. **In recent years we have seen an increase in the number of families who have scheduled trips to be out of state or out of the country during the first week or two of school for reasons that do not qualify as an excused absence. Our school calendar is published many months in advance so that you can plan summer trips accordingly. Simply put, do not make travel plans that conflict with the start of the school year.** The first days of a new school year are very important for students to be poised for success for the entire year.

Annual Veterans Day Breakfast

Our annual Veterans Day Breakfast will be held on Friday, November 8, 2024, from 9:00am – 11:00am in our elementary school gym. This special event is for the parents, guardians, and grandparents of our Pioneer students who have served, or currently serve, in the U.S. armed forces.

Due to the potential number of guests, we must limit the breakfast portion of our morning to just those family members who have served in the military (parents, guardians, grandparents of current PSPA students). After the breakfast portion of our morning, students of veterans who are attending will be invited to join for a special presentation. There will also be opportunities for our Pioneer veterans to visit classrooms at both of our campus buildings after the event.

To assist with our preparations for this event, if your PSPA student(s) has a veteran in their family who can join us for this special breakfast, please RSVP by filling out this online form.

<https://forms.gle/1oBgoSRSz1rvdT5H7>

We kindly ask that you RSVP by **October 11, 2024**.

Spirit Wear Day is October 4

Spirit Wear Day is the 1st Friday of each month. “Spirit Wear” are those PSPA tops such as t-shirts, sweatshirts and hoodies **that are purchased through the PTO or PSPA Athletic Department**. Spirit Wear Day is not a dress down day. Spirit Wear Day is not for the wearing of tops that showcase your favorite professional or college sports team, etc. If a student is wearing a Spirit-Wear top, then they do not have to wear school-uniform bottoms; however, school-appropriate bottoms must still be worn. Pajama bottoms and jeans that are ripped to the point that undergarments can be seen are not allowed. “Short” shorts are not allowed. Leggings are allowed as long as they do not have holes. The requirement for shoes is the same for regular school-uniform days.

While we certainly don't like to do so, we will contact you to return to campus if students are not wearing approved clothing.



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Infinite Campus Parent Portal

If you have not already done so, please make sure you take time to set up your parent account information in Infinite Campus. Information on how to do this was sent out on Monday, 9/16/24.

Sincerely,

Mr. Friend
Head of School