



# 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.

September

2008-09 Issue One

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## ATTENTION WEBSITE NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIBERS

Everyone is receiving a paper copy of the first newsletter to make sure that you have the Yahoo Groups subscription instructions. This Yahoo Group will keep you updated with school announcements and other information as well as the monthly PTSO Newsletter— *The Pioneer News*.

In order to receive these benefits you must send an email to:  
[A2PioneerAnnouncements-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto: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](mailto: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.

This information will be printed at the bottom of every newsletter for future reference.

Everyone who handed in a form at registration will be taken off the postal mailing list after this issue. If at any time you want to add your name to the electronic group, register with the above email address and inform your class secretary so that she can change your information on her postal mailing list.

Thank you for helping to keep our production costs down and saving some trees in the process.

Here's to a great year,  
 Laurie Adams - Pioneer News Editor

## From the Principal's Desk

Dear Parents,

Welcome back! I hope your summer was one that included lasting memories for you and your family. Even as the 2008 school year is already in full swing, I am excited to return for a second year at Pioneer High School. We are determined to continue to provide a safe, secure, orderly, and welcoming environment for every student at Pioneer. Because we are confident that our environment is conducive to learning, our staff is able to place a concerted emphasis on providing the best academic curriculum to our students.

(Continued on page 3)

### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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

Welcome back to another school year – the PTSO looks forward to working with all of you to make this a banner year for all.

**MANY THANKS** - To all of the Book-Pulling Volunteers and Registration Volunteers! During mid-August and Registration, many of our parents and students gladly contributed their time to the painstaking and strenuous process of pulling the textbooks for all Pioneer students. This could not happen without the generous aid of all of the volunteers. Volunteers also assisted school administrators during Registration. The PTSO and Pioneer staff extend heartfelt gratitude to all of you. By preparing the books in this way, hours are shaved off of the Registration process for all of the families; it's a great help!

If you were unable to help this time but would like to be part of the process next fall, please email Kathy Robenalt at [wroben3357@aol.com](mailto:wroben3357@aol.com). We also help with the book gathering process at the end of the school year and always need help with this, too.

**MEETINGS** - Please review the information about the upcoming PTSO meetings. You will also be receiving a postcard you can post on your refrigerator that lists the fall meetings. Conferences will be coming soon; information is listed here with the details.

Plan to come to the first meeting on Sept. 16 and meet our administrators as well as learn from students about some of the organizations and opportunities for student involvement. **NEW THIS YEAR:** Principal Michael White will be attending the PTSO meetings from 7:00-7:30 pm to be available to answer any of your questions/concerns and to provide updates on school goals. Be sure to arrive early to meet him and to take advantage of this opportunity. Regular meeting time start is 7:30 sharp.

**NEW NEWSLETTER FORMAT:** We are trying to be “green” so please remember that, if you checked the “NO” box on the newsletter form during Registration, you will NOT be receiving a newsletter via US mail. You may find the newsletter each month on the school website; if you sign up to get an email notification, it's as easy as one click to read the newsletter. Instructions are elsewhere in this newsletter.

**SCHOOL APPAREL NEWS:** We are trying to have school apparel available for purchase every Friday during lunch. Watch for more details soon about where. **ALSO,** new white Pioneer t-shirts are coming!

**VOLUNTEER INFORMATION:** We are putting together all of our new volunteer lists and you will be hearing from us soon if you signed up to help with Conferences. We also received a handful of new folks interested in serving on the PTSO Board – thank you! We will be in touch very soon.

If you are interested in serving as Treasurer for the PTSO starting next school year, our current Treasurers Michele and Eric Macke will be happy to train you this year. You can email Michele at [macke@aaps.k12.mi.us](mailto:macke@aaps.k12.mi.us).

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. Watch for some new names! We welcome all volunteers.

## From the Principal's Desk (cont'd)

In aligning our traditional curriculum with the new State High School Content Expectations, we have been able put together a sound academic program for all students. We have added educational technology, new textbooks, academic manipulatives and new teaching strategies, such as differentiated instruction, to support our curriculum.

With that said, we feel all students, regardless of their academic level, may be challenged and receive one of the best educations in the country. Our staff will continue to work on all areas of the Pioneer High School Community to ensure the best for our students.

Your contributions and suggestions are welcome in this effort to improve our school. I look forward to seeing you at PTSO meetings this year.



Michael D. White  
Principal

## News from the Career Center

### *College Visits*

Every year, Pioneer hosts many admissions representatives from colleges and universities throughout America and Canada. The visiting colleges are coming to meet with seniors and juniors interested in learning more about their institutions.

There are several important purposes for colleges to visit. The colleges come to Pioneer because they know we graduate quality students who choose the colleges that they represent. They come to speak with Seniors interested in applying to their schools and answer any questions they might have. They speak to interested Juniors who are beginning the college search process and want to learn more about different schools.

When college admissions officers visit, they come to the Career Center to meet the students. Students need to have a pass signed by the teacher of the class they will be missing. Students present the pass when they arrive at the Career Center for the visit and their class attendance is excused.

The list of dates and times of colleges visits will be posted on the Pioneer website on the Career Center page. The list will be updated weekly. The list will also be posted on the hallway wall leading into the Counseling Area. The upcoming visits will be announced on the morning announcements and emailed to the families who subscribe to the Pioneer email announcements.

Joyce Williams 994-2116 [willia14@aaps.k12.mi.us](mailto:willia14@aaps.k12.mi.us)

## Counseling Corner

Welcome Back students and a special welcome to students and families who are new to the district. Counselors worked very hard to make sure students were placed in the classes that they asked for last spring. Please be aware that schedule changes are very difficult due to lack of space and reduction in staff.

Valid reasons to change classes are:

Missing an academic class

hole in schedule

double booked

already had the class

senior who needs the class to graduate

Changing your mind about an elective, not liking teacher or wanting to be with friends are not valid reasons and will not result in a schedule adjustment. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

CR Deadline is Thursday Sept 11. Ms Jacquette is at Pioneer every Tuesday and Thursday from 10am-noon to answer questions about CRs and online classes. The last day to ADD/DROP a class is Friday, September 12.

Seniors - Please review the packet of information that was mailed home to you this summer with your transcript. We will begin accepting applications in the main office on Monday, September 15. If you complete your application online please fill out an orange sheet in the main office and attach it to the counselor page. We cannot send out your transcript or recommendation unless you do your part and submit the proper information to the main office. Please be sure you handed in the PINK release of test score form to the records office to ensure that Ms. Marshall knows if she should include your test scores along with your application or not. At this point we do not do online recommendations so please do not have colleges ask us to do recommendations online. We will send paper copies to the schools you apply to. If you have questions see your counselor.

Juniors and sophomores - The PSAT is Saturday October 18. Listen for announcements as to when to register for this practice SAT. Information about this year's standardized test is available in the career center or on line at ACT.org or Collegeboard.com.

Freshmen - We hope your year has started off well. Please let us know as soon as possible if you are overwhelmed or in a class that is too difficult. We will be coming to your classes soon to inform you about clubs offered at Pioneer or activities you may want to get involved in.

Many students and parents have been asking about why their counselor was changed from last year. Pioneer High School lost 300 students with Skyline opening this fall. It was necessary to shift students so that they were distributed equitably among the 10 counselors. This will happen for the next three years as Pioneer reduces in size. We will try to disrupt as few students as possible, but as we lose counselors and as we lose students we have no choice but to shift counselor caseloads. Please remember that counselors are available to service all students who need support at Pioneer, however, the counselor of record is responsible for scheduling classes and making sure transcripts are accurate. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact your student's counselor.

Have a great year and we look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,  
The Counselors

## Media Center News

Serving the needs of our students is what it is all about – from pleasure reading interests to providing information that extends learning beyond the classroom walls.

Our doors open for student services at 7:15 a.m. every day of the week. Monday through Thursday an after school program begins at 3:30 p.m. and ends at 4:30 p.m. Our after school program is not available on Fridays or prior to any scheduled vacation day in the school district calendar.

Services before school begins include: checking out materials; computer usage for research or printing assignments; and assistance with information requests. Students utilize the Media Center during our school day to work independently, in small groups, or with their entire class. Student Lunch hour use is by advance reservation. After school students are free to seek academic support, research a school assignment, read a daily newspaper or magazine, and enjoy our leisure reading area. An asset to our after school program is that staffing is with a certified Media Specialist.

One of our instructional focuses is to help Pioneer students develop research and information access skills. Studies indicate that the integration of Media Center resources with classroom assignments has been proven to increase academic achievement. The Media Center staff is team focused on your student success. Tours of the facility are available during Pioneer's Capsule Night or Parent / Teacher Conferences.

Our staff team: Mrs. Young, Department Chair; Mrs. Locke, Media Specialist, Mrs. Reader, Media Specialist; and Mrs. Rollins, Media Clerk look forward to working with our students this school year. If you have any questions or concerns during the school year please feel free to request assistance from any staff member in the Media Center at 994-2160.

## New Student Welcome

Welcome, new transfer and world exchange students. It is my pleasure to assist you with your move to Ann Arbor and Pioneer High School.

I have had the great pleasure of meeting many of you and your family members during registration and again at our get together on August 27th, 2008 at the Neutral Zone teen club in downtown Ann Arbor.

For those of you that I have not yet met, welcome and please let me know how I can assist you during these first weeks in your new school. I personally believe that you will thrive in Pioneer the sooner you get connected to other new students, club activities, sports (either as a spectator or as a participant) and/or our fabulous music department and theater guild.

If you need help getting connected, please let me know and I will do what I can to make things easier for you. Your success is very important to those around you and the school administration. I have been meeting a number of students during the lunch period in the large gym and you are more than welcome to be apart of that group if you have not found a lunch buddy.

We will be planning a pizza luncheon within the next two weeks to give you another opportunity to meet the newest Pioneers, like yourself. Be on the lookout for details.

Finally, it would be very helpful for me to have your e-mail address so that I can keep you informed of important school events and future get-togethers. Please e-mail me at: [zinserb@hotmail.com](mailto:zinserb@hotmail.com) so I can add you to our contact list.

My very best wishes to you and yours. Stay close and keep the lines of communication open between you and your child(ren) especially during this transition period.

Sincerely,

Barbara Zinser, Parent Volunteer

(734) 330-7398

## 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.

**Meetings** of the Booster Club will be held 4 times during this academic year: Sept. 22, Nov. 17, Feb. 16, and May 18. Meetings are held in the Athletic Classroom at 7:00 pm. All are welcome to attend.

**Please note:** Attendance by at least one representative from each team is highly recommended, in order to keep everyone informed about Club news, Athletic Dept. policies, and upcoming events. Representation at all four meetings is also required for participation in next May's lottery for fundraising opportunities.

Stop by the Corner of Stadium and Main on UM football game days to meet Booster Club members and student athletes, working together to promote activities and raise monies for our program. Highlights this fall include a dunk tank and fun games, along with delicious food from Tio's! We are pleased to be collaborating with Skyline Athletic Boosters in our booth – helping them to learn the ropes.

**New fundraiser "TO-DO PROMO PADS".** The Booster Club is selling a to-do pad that includes over \$150 in coupons from local merchants, chances to win gas and vacations, to-do list pages, and Pioneer Varsity sports team Fall schedules. Cost for this: **just \$15**. Please call the Athletic Office (994-2151) if you are interested in purchasing one of these handy pads, they can hang on your refrigerator or carry one in your car for easy access to the coupons and schedules. Why not get two for your family? Look for details soon on how to get this information from the website. Thanks in advance for your support! Your student athletes appreciate it.

Please direct any questions to Kathy at 734-369-3366 or Natalie at 734-995-0797.  
Go, Pioneers!

## Youth On Board

Did you know?

\*Michigan nonprofit law enables youth ages 16 to 18 to have a voting seat on a nonprofit board of directors or advisory committee. Since 1999, the Youth Empowerment Project (YEP) has trained and placed over 140 teens on the boards or advisory committees of over 17 nonprofit organizations or public institutions. YEP is committed to maintaining equally beneficial experiences for both the youth and the nonprofit organization (NPO).

\*Is your student interested?

\*This fall's Youth on Board Foundations Orientation will be held at 5pm on Thursday, September 18th, 2008 at the YEP & Youth Senate offices (202 E.Huron, #101, Ann Arbor, MI 48104). This Orientation is required for anyone interested in the YOB program. Here the youth and his/her parent can learn what an NPO is, the responsibility of both teen and parent while serving on the board or advisory committee of an NPO, and the

time commitment for being involved with YOB. Youth who attend this meeting will also have an opportunity to attend Basic Leadership Training (BLT) on Wednesday, October 8th, 2008.

If interested, we need your student to send an email to: [yob@youthempowerment.com](mailto:yob@youthempowerment.com) with: name, age, grade, school, leadership roles, email, and phone number by Tuesday, September 16th, 2008.

\*Have more questions??

*Contact: Website	<a href="http://www.youthempowerment.com">www.youthempowerment.com</a>
Email	<a href="mailto:yob@youthempowerment.com">yob@youthempowerment.com</a>
Phone	734.761.3005

Note: If you know of a local nonprofit that might be interested in participating and having 2 youth voting seats on their board, please encourage them to contact us using the above information!

## Basic Leadership Training

**BASIC LEADERSHIP TRAINING: Wednesday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2008**  
**Pre-Registration by Tuesday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

Is your child a leader in his/her school or community, such as: Student Council, Key Club, Youth Senate, Red Cross, Scouts, etc.? If so, the Youth Empowerment Project's (YEP) Basic Leadership Training (BLT) was designed for your student!

BLT supports student leaders by helping them to understand their individual leadership styles, develop communication and teamwork skills, and identify solutions to school and/or community problems. There is also an emphasis on their involvement in the nonprofit community, allowing students to learn about what a nonprofit corporation is and the many different types that exist in our community.

### ***Is your student interested?***

This fall's BLT will be on **Wednesday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2008** (this is a school half-day) from **1-5pm** at the **YEP/ Youth Senate offices** (202 E. Huron, Suite 101, Ann Arbor, MI 48104). **NOTE:** BLT is required for students participating in Youth On Board. We will start with a quick lunch and follow with a valuable session of training where students will gain useful skills for their leadership positions. There will also be an option of attaining BLT certification, in which case there will be a small fee at a later time.

If your student would like to participate he/she needs to send an email to [blt@youthempowerment.com](mailto:blt@youthempowerment.com) with their **name, age, grade, school, leadership roles, email, and phone number** by **Tuesday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2008** by **5pm**. After we receive this information, your student will receive a registration form asking for their commitment, your consent, and a confirmation of their transportation and attendance. This form will be due on **Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2008** by **5pm**.

### ***Have more questions??***

Contact:	Website	<a href="http://www.youthempowerment.com">www.youthempowerment.com</a>
	Email	<a href="mailto:blt@youthempowerment.com">blt@youthempowerment.com</a>
	Phone	734.761.3005

*Note: If your student wants to attend, but is unable to do so, please have them send an email to [blt@youthempowerment.com](mailto:blt@youthempowerment.com) with the above information and a note saying they would like to be informed of another opportunity.*

## Youth Senate Walk-a-thon

**\*Join the Annual Youth-Led Fight Against AIDS Walk-a-Thon, Sunday, Oct. 12th!\***

Sub-Saharan Africa is home to 64% of all people suffering from AIDS and by 2010, one-in-three children will be orphaned due to AIDS-related deaths. Help make a difference by joining the Youth Senate's Fight AIDS in Africa project annual "Walk-Away AIDS" Walk-a-Thon, Sunday, October 12th from 2:00 to 5:00. The walk begins, come rain or come shine, at Huron and Pioneer and ends at Community High for music, food and awards! The money raised will be given, in the form of small grants, to NGOs in Western Africa for youth peer education AIDS prevention programs.

Students, siblings, and parents are welcome! \*Also, starting this year, your son or daughter's sports team or student organization can receive 25% of the total sponsorships collected by their members to use toward their group's own cause! \*The Walk-a-Thon is a great opportunity to build family, student group, and community spirit while contributing to the welfare of our global community.

Pick up sponsor forms from your school office, library, or online ([www.youthempowerment.com](http://www.youthempowerment.com)), and start saving lives today! Call the Youth Senate Office for further information - 761-3005.

## News from the Pioneer Choirs

86 vocal music students, 14 staff, and 3 children spent seven days making music together at the National Music Camp for the 32nd year this August.

14 staff included eleven Pioneer alumni, all over 21, and six music degrees. Students received the equivalent of nine weeks of vocal music instruction in our seven days together. One of many highlights of the week included the first public performances of the Skyline Band and Choir. Their solid performances were rewarded with standing ovations for those small groups of freshmen by all the bands and choirs from Huron and Pioneer. The class of 2009 did exceptionally well continuing our tradition of outstanding senior leadership. Their responsibilities include planning and running evening activities, serving as cabin leaders, leading morning calisthenics, and making younger campers feel welcome and happy to be at camp. There were 34 seniors at the Pioneer Choir Camp, our largest group ever: Michael Barbour, Maya Bassett-Kennedy, Gabriel Casher, Alina Charniauskaya, Evan Clark, Thomas Cramer, Clare Eisentrout, Spencer Finegold, Stephanie Garris, Claire Gaynor, Genevieve Goldberg, Charlotte Grenier, Alyson Halpert, Chelsea Hanson, Morgan Hertz, Jenny Herzog, Allison Hettmer, Alex Kulick, Sonya Major, Ryan McCoy, Haley McNabb, Iliana Mendoza-Nava, Daniel Merritt, Michael Metcalfe, Morgan Minger-Szyniszewski, Ashley Park, Max Rasmussen, Alexander Rigney, Rory Scott, Olivia Songer, Cassie Stanzler, Andrew White, Kyler Wilkins, and Emma Zinn.

## News from the Pioneer Orchestra

The Pioneer High School Music Department will present a Chamber Music Concert at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, October 16 in Schreiber Auditorium of Pioneer High School, Ann Arbor.

The concert will feature the Pioneer Symphony Orchestra, A Cappella and Bel Canto Choirs, plus other traditional choral music by extracurricular groups.

Admission is free and the public is invited to attend.

POPS Meeting -- All parents are invited to attend the next meeting of POPS, the Pioneer Orchestra Parents' Society. The meeting is at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 7 in the Orchestra Room. Come and meet Mr. Glawe and learn more about the orchestra programs and events.

## Student Election Inspectors

Pioneer High School will AGAIN be very involved with presidential politics! We have provided *state-certified Student Election Inspectors* for the 2000 and 2004 Presidential elections, the 2006 Michigan Gubernatorial race and, most recently, the 2008 Michigan presidential primary. We will be sending approximately 100 students to the polls this November, too, so the excitement is building! Mrs. Claire Dahl, American History teacher at Pioneer, is again serving as the school liaison to the City Clerk's Office. Working at the polls is a fabulous way to perform community service, gain inside knowledge of the electoral process, network into the local political scene and earn some cash! We're proud of the Pioneer students who have signed up for this incredible opportunity and will "man" the polls on Election Day. Watch for a listing of the polling places to which they have been assigned so that you can give a "thumbs up" to the Pioneers when YOU cast your vote for President on November 4, 2008!

## All Senior All Night Party 2009



To **ALL** Pioneer Parents...

Please take a moment to read about the wonderful Pioneer High School tradition of the All Senior All Night (ASAN) party. **KEEP READING EVEN IF YOU DON'T HAVE A SENIOR THIS YEAR!** While the ASAN is for 2009 Pioneer graduates, you'll want to ensure that the party continues so it will be available when *your* student is a senior. This will be the 14<sup>th</sup> year of the ASAN at Pioneer. We hope we can count on you to help keep the tradition going strong.

**WHAT:** An all night graduation celebration with fabulous food & beverages, music, valuable raffle prizes, favors for all, games, activities, and entertainment.

**WHEN:** June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009... graduation night. Party check-in is from 10:30 to 11:30 p.m. and all grads stay until 5:00 a.m.

**WHO:** 2009 Pioneer graduates **ONLY**.

**WHERE:** Pioneer High School gyms, auditorium, corridors, courtyard, cafeteria, and planetarium... All magically transformed with spectacular decorations.

**HOW:** Donations and volunteer help from the entire Pioneer community are essential for the party to be possible and successful.

**Purpose** — The primary purpose of the party is to enable students to celebrate their successes and have fun with friends, *in a safe and secure environment*. Statistically, graduation night has the highest number of student fatalities nationwide. Please help keep our kids safe!

**Funding** — The major source of funding is through the **Pioneer ASAN Grocery Program**. Participating stores are Busch's, Hiller's, Kroger, Meijer, and Whole Foods. All Pioneer families can help raise money for the party by participating through one or several stores. There is no cost to participate! Additional funding comes from generous donations by area businesses and Pioneer parents.

\*\*\* **Participate in the Grocery Program** by submitting an order form & check to Ann Marie Jensen, or contact her at 996-1439 / [annmariejensen@msn.com](mailto:annmariejensen@msn.com).

\*\*\* **Volunteer to help with the party** by contacting Cathy Pardon at 662-1576 / [cpardon@comcast.net](mailto:cpardon@comcast.net).

\*\*\* If you're interested in joining the ASAN planning and operations group, please attend an open meeting on Wed. Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at 7 p.m. in the Pioneer cafeteria.

\*\*\* Other ASAN questions? Contact Myra Court at 971-4864 / [courtmyra@comcast.net](mailto:courtmyra@comcast.net) or Julie Weintraub at 662-8339 / [julesww@aol.com](mailto:julesww@aol.com).

## PSAT 08-09 Testing Information

Pioneer students will join candidates all over the world as they take the Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test / National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test at Pioneer High School on Saturday morning, October 18. Testing will begin at 8:00 am in alphabetically assigned rooms; students will finish between 11:00 and 11:30 am. The price for the test and the follow up reports will be \$20.00. Waivers are available for qualifying students.

PSAT sign up begins Monday September 15, 2008. Payment should be made in the General Office during regular hours. Cash or check made payable to Pioneer is acceptable. At sign-up the PSAT candidate will receive test strategies information and a sample PSAT test plus a list of scholarships available through the test. Registration will close on Friday October 10 at 3:00 pm. No further registrations will be taken after that time. Standbys can come to the Pioneer on the morning of the test for a fee of \$30.00 if space is available. Students with a religious or school related conflict on October 18 may inquire in the Career Center about alternate possibilities. (NO GUARANTEES).

The PSAT/NMSQT is a national test that is administered by high schools in October. The PSAT/NMSQT is divided into five sections (two Critical Reading, two Math, and one Writing). College bound juniors should take the PSAT/NMSQT for the following reasons: 1) It's good practice for the SAT, and gives the student an idea of how they'll score on the SAT. 2) Students can see how their academic skills compare to college bound students across the country. 3) Students whose scores are exceptionally high are recognized by the National Merit Foundation. This recognition can lead to scholarships.

Students taking the PSAT/NMSQT are given a "Student Bulletin". This publication contains valuable test-taking tips and a practice test. Students who read the bulletin and take the practice test are better prepared for the PSAT, and they get higher scores.

The results of the PSAT are available in mid-to-late December. Students receive scores for Critical Reading, Math, and Writing. While scores for each section range between 20 and 80, the average score for each section is approximately 49. For National Merit purposes, the three scores are added together to determine the Selection Index. The National Merit Foundation recognizes students with Selection Index scores in the top five percent; students who have Selection Index scores in the upper one half of one percent become National Merit semifinalists.

The best PSAT preparation is doing the sample test and a good night's sleep.

Joyce Williams, External Testing Coordinator

## Workshops for High School students Fall 2008

### Crafting the College Essay & Application

**Grade 12.** More students are applying to college than ever before. While no one can guarantee what college you'll get into in this ultra-competitive time, strong and well-written essays can often make the difference. How you present yourself in the entire application is also telling. What does your application say about you? We will discuss what makes a good essay and application and how to strengthen what you have written. Bring the essays or applications you have started. If you haven't begun, this class will get you going. Instructor: Liza Atreya, editor and consultant. 1 class. Fee: \$45 (\$54)

ID# 1338.501 9/27 Saturday 11:30AM - 1:00PM Clague, Media Center

ID# 1338.502 10/18 Saturday 1:30PM - 3:00PM Tappan, Media Center

### SAT/ACT Essay Workshop

**Grades 10-12.** Tackle the essay section on the SAT and ACT tests with confidence! You learn how to organize and write a persuasive essay within the allotted time. Each section of the essay will be thoroughly discussed. You also practice writing an essay and will receive instructor feedback about ways to improve your writing for the test. Instructor: Great Lakes Educational Group staff. 1 class. Fee: \$65 (\$78).

ID# 1335.501 10/18 Saturday 9:00AM - NOON Clague, Media Center

ID# 1335.502 11/22 Saturday 9:00AM - NOON Tappan, Media Center

### SAT Test Preparation Workshop

**Grades 10-12.** Students find the SAT test less intimidating after taking this workshop! Students learn about what the SAT measures, develop test-taking strategies and also practice with real SAT questions. Instructor: Great Lakes Educational Group staff. 1 class. Fee \$65 (\$78).

ID# 1330.501 10/11 Saturday 9:00AM - NOON Clague, Media Center

ID# 1330.502 11/15 Saturday 9:00AM - NOON Tappan, Media Center

### ACT Test Preparation Workshop

**Grades 10-12.** Come and get more prepared for the ACT test. In this workshop, you learn specific strategies for dealing with each section of the test and this will definitely help you to successfully take the ACT test. Instructor; Skills Development Inc. staff. 1 class. Fee: \$85 (\$102).

ID# 1329.501 10/7 Tuesday 5:30 PM-8:30 PM Pioneer, Room E106

ID# 1329.502 11/20 Thursday 5:30 PM-8:30 PM Pioneer, Room E106

***Parents and students are faced with a myriad of choices about college. Here are workshops to give you a jumpstart in finding colleges and paying for college.***

### Finding the College That Fits

Identify the resources in your family's search for the right college. Parents & Students attend together. Instructor: John B. Boshoven. 1 class. Fee: \$29 (\$35)

ID# 1337.501 10/21 Tuesday 7:00PM - 8:30PM Community High, Media Room

### Paying for the College that Fits

Families will learn about sources of aid, including FAFSA, College Scholarship Search Profile, and scholarship searches. Parents & Students attend together. Instructor: John B. Boshoven. 1 class. Fee: \$29(\$35)

ID# 1341.501 10/28 Tuesday 7:00PM - 8:30PM Community High, Media Room

***Register online at [aareced.com](http://aareced.com) or mail registration form (available online and in the Fall 2008 catalog) to or drop off at Rec&Ed office. For more information, call Ivy Juan at 734-994-2300, ext.53248.***

# The Pioneer News

Ann Arbor Public Schools  
2555 South State Road • Ann Arbor • MI • 48104  
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](mailto: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, OCTOBER 3, 2008 2:30PM**

To:

Non-Profit  
US Postage  
PAID  
Ann Arbor, MI  
Permit No. 140

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:

**9/20 HOMECOMING DANCE 10/2 FIRST INTERIM PROGRESS REPORTS MAILING  
10/7 PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES 11/11 & 11/12 PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCE SIGN-UPS**

## Important DATES Mark your Calendar!

### September

9/15 Homecoming Spirit Week through 9/20  
9/16 OG Lunch Meetings with Freshmen, Classrooms  
9/16 PTSO 'Meet the Administrators' Little Th-7:30 PM  
9/20 Homecoming Dance, Cafeteria 9PM - 11:30 PM  
9/22 Athletic Booster Club Mtg., 7:00 PM  
9/24 Student Count day (Semester 1)  
9/26 First Interim Progress Period Ends  
9/27 U of M Home Football vs. Wisconsin  
9/30 \*\*\*Rosh Hashanah begins at sunset - 10/1  
9/30 \*\*\*Id al-Fitr (End of Ramadan) - 10/1  
9/30 Friends of PHS Choirs - B108, 7:30 PM

### October

10/2 First Interim Progress Reports Mailed Home  
10/4 SAT Testing (Includes Subject Tests) SHS, 7:45 AM  
10/4 UM Home Football vs. Illinois  
10/6 Choir Informance—Pio Singers-Schreiber, 7:30 PM  
10/7 Parent/Teacher Conferences (Arena Style) 5- 8 PM  
10/7 POPS-Pioneer Orchestra Parents - B116, 7:00 PM  
10/7 Choir Informance—Cantando-Schreiber, 7:30 PM  
10/8 Early release day— Students released at 12:35 PM  
10/8 \*\*\*Yom Kippur begins at sunset through 10/9  
10/11 UM Home Football vs. University of Toledo  
10/14 PBA-Pioneer Band Assoc. - B126, 7:30 PM  
10/16 Chamber Music Concert - Schreiber, 7:30 PM  
10/17 Freshmen Elections, 4th Period  
10/18 Pioneer Band Car Wash  
10/18 PSAT Testing - PHS, 7:45 AM - 1:00 PM  
10/21 PTSO 'ABC's of Testing' Little Theatre, 7:30 PM  
10/23 MEAP Testing, 9th Soc Studies, late start other grades

10/25 ACT Testing, HHS Only, 7:45 AM - 1:00 PM

10/25 UM Home Football vs. Michigan State University

10/28 MEAP Testing, 9th Gr. Soc Studies Make Ups

10/28 Friends of PHS Choirs - B108, 7:30 PM

10/31 End of First Marking Period

### November

11/2 End of First Marking Period

11/3 SAT Testing - PHS, 7:45 AM - 1:00 PM

11/4 NO SCHOOL for Students/Teacher learning day

11/4 General Election Day

11/6 POPS-Pioneer Orchestra Parents - B116, 7:00 PM

11/8 First Marking Period Grades Mailed Home

11/8 Th Guild's 'Miss Saigon', 7:30 PM

11/9 Th Guild's 'Miss Saigon', 2:00 PM

11/11 BPA-Band Parent Assc Mtg - B126, 7:30 PM

11/13 Parent/Teacher Conferences, 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM

11/14 and

11/15 Th Guild's 'Miss Saigon', 7:30 PM

11/15 UM Home Football vs. Northwestern

11/16 Th Guild's 'Miss Saigon', 2:00 PM

11/17 Athletic Booster Club Mtg., 7:00 PM

11/18 PTSO 'Nuts & Bolts of College Planning' Little Th, 7:30 PM

11/26 Thanksgiving Break through 11/30

For updates to the calendar, go to:

<http://ical.aaps.k12.mi.us:16080/pioneer>