

PATHFINDER SCHOOL
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GRADES 7&8
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PATHFINDER PRESS

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2015

PRINCIPAL
ERIC RAY
ASST. PRINCIPAL
JANET MCDOLE

WELCOME (BACK) TO PATHFINDER!!

While students and parents continue to enjoy their summer, the Pathfinder office is in full swing getting ready for the upcoming school year. It is hard to believe I am starting my third year as principal. Ms. McDole is returning for her 6th year as assistant principal. We have had many changes to address. We had to say farewell to quite a few of our staff and also welcome others to fill their shoes. We are excited for those leaving as they look forward to a new life journey. We are also excited about the influx of new staff that will be joining us. In light of this we continue to prepare for the upcoming school year so we can be ready to go for **the first day of classes, which is September 8th.**

As mentioned in the email that was sent earlier, we had to change our Open House date from September 3rd to September 10th. This was due to a conflict with our first home football game. **The new Open House date is September 10th, beginning at 6 pm.** This time will be used for parents to follow a mini-schedule of their child's day to get a brief introduction from the teacher about the course, classroom policies, grading practices, and any other pertinent information the teacher needs to share. Students do not need to attend Open House. Please respect the fact that this time is not meant to address specific issues regarding students. If you believe it is necessary to do this, please schedule an appointment with the teacher or contact the office to schedule an appointment if you need to meet with multiple teachers at the same time.

Since we will not be having Open House before school starts we feel it is necessary to have an orientation session for our new 7th grade students and any new 8th grade students. **We will be hosting a Pathfinder Orientation on Wednesday, September 2nd at 6:30 pm.** The evening will begin with a 30-minute presentation for parents and students regarding the logistics and offerings at Pathfinder. Following this session, students and parents will be able to do a self-tour of the building, locate classrooms, and also practice opening their lockers. Of course, Ms. McDole and I will be available to answer questions or to simply say hi to those who want to introduce themselves to us. Unfortunately, teaching staff will not be available at this time, but you will be able to meet them at the Open House the following week. If you are unable to attend feel free to stop by any weekday, with the exception of Labor Day, from 8 am – 4 pm in order to familiarize your child with the building. Keep in mind the office will be closed for lunch from 12 noon – 1 pm. Returning 8th graders and their parents are welcome to attend the orientation, but essentially the same information will be shared that was shared at this time last year.

For all students, a packet of information will be sent during the week of August 24th that will include your student's class schedule and other pertinent information you will need for the upcoming school year. **Please remember to bring your student's schedule to the orientation session.**

Be sure to peruse this newsletter for other important information and dates. Otherwise I look forward to meeting you on September 2nd or on September 10th.

Enjoy!!

Eric Ray
Pathfinder Principal



DATES TO REMEMBER FOR AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

Tue.	Aug. 25	Welcome packets mailed out w/schedules
Wed.	Sept. 2	6:30pm Pathfinder Orientation
Tue.	Sept. 8	1st Day of School Full Day
Thur.	Sept. 10	6:00-8:00pm Open House *Reproductive Health & Washington DC Info Meetings to follow at 8
Fri.	Sept. 11	8th Grade Laptop Distribution
Tue.	Sept. 15 (A-K)	7th Grade Laptop
Wed.	Sept. 16 (L-Z)	Distribution 6:30 pm
Fri.	Sept. 18	Picture Day
**Homecoming is Friday, October 2, 2015		
Fri.	Oct. 23	Picture Retakes

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH INFORMATION

7th Grade Parents:

Immediately following Parent Night on September 10 there will be a meeting in room 303.

A packet regarding our reproductive health classes will be in the October newsletter. This packet will include a synopsis of the curriculum for each grade level as well as an exclusion form.

BUS SCHEDULES

You will be receiving a postcard in the mail with your student's bus information. This information will be mailed later in August.



LUNCH PERIODS

A Lunch : 11:31 - 11:58 AM
B Lunch : 12:28 - 12:55 PM

LUNCH PERIODS will be discussed during 4th period on the first day of school.



FOOD SERVICE

Lunch and milk prices for the 2015-16 school year are as follows:

Breakfast \$1.85
Lunch \$2.85
Milk \$.55



Free and reduced lunch information will be sent home with students the first week of school. Students who were on the program last year may use those same services for the start of this school year. **HOWEVER, a new application must be submitted each school year**. Please submit that form to the Pathfinder office. One final note: students will no longer be allowed to carry negative balances in their lunch accounts. Please keep a close eye on your student's balance using the MiStar Parent Connect Portal.

DON'T MISS THIS

PATHFINDER ORIENTATION

An opportunity for students new to Pathfinder to come in to find their classes, try their lockers, etc. will be available on Wednesday, September 2 at 6:30pm. An informational meeting for parents & students to learn some general information about Pathfinder will begin at 6:30pm. The informational meeting will take place in the cafeteria. This orientation is intended for incoming 7th graders and new 8th grade students. ALL are welcome!

PLEASE make sure your student's immunizations are current! You will be notified if your student is in need of updated immunizations.



SCHOOL HOURS!!!

Our school hours will be:

Monday - Thursday 7:40AM - 2:49 PM
Friday 7:40AM - 1:21 PM

Dismissal for half-days will be at 11:14 AM

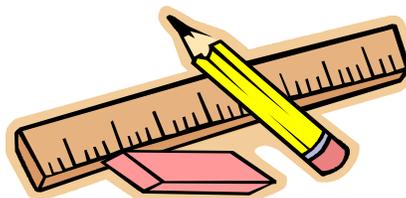
WELCOME PACKETS

Welcome packets will be mailed out the week of Aug. 24. They will include your student's schedule and other important information.

PATHFINDER OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Thursday 6:45AM - 3:45PM
 Friday 6:45AM - 2:45PM

Parents & Students -Mistar Parent-Connect & StudentConnect will be available (without schedule information) on Monday, August 17. The schedule component will be open late in the week of August 31.



FAREWELL & WELCOME

FAREWELL to the following staff members that will no longer be at Pathfinder.

We wish you all the best of luck!!

Brooke Johnson (Spec. Ed.), Terry Price (ELA), Marybeth Miller (ELA), Karen Bradley (Spanish), Kathy Racine (P.E), Joshua Killom (Spec. Ed.), Polly Reeder (Spec. Ed.), Merrie Mulka (Spec. Ed.)

Please WELCOME the following staff members to Pathfinder:

Jeff Carlson (P.E.), Leah Tice (Spec. Ed.), Jarrett Cogswell (ELA), Elizabeth McHugh (Science/SS), Brad Brus (Spec. Ed.), Sofia Sirchia (Spec. Ed.)

STUDENT HANDBOOK

Please review the Student Handbook with your child found on the Pathfinder web page under the Pathfinder School tab .



LAPTOP ROLL-OUT

Seventh grade students will be receiving their laptops on September 15 or 16. More information will be passed along at a later date.

Pinckney Community Schools
2015-2016 Board of Ed. Mtg. dates

All meetings are held in the Pathfinder Development Center (Rm 419) at 7:00pm.

9/17/15	2/04/16
10/1/15	3/03/16
11/5/15	4/07/16
12/3/15	5/05/16
1/07/16	6/02/16

IMPORTANT FIRST DAY INFORMATION

The first day of school is **Tues., Sept. 8**. It will be a full day with classes starting at 7:40 a.m. and ending at 2:49 p.m. Students will attend all seven class periods.

LUNCH PERIODS will be discussed during 4th period on the first day of school.

STUDENT EMERGENCY INFORMATION SHEETS

In your welcome packet you will be receiving a printout of information that is currently on file. We ask that you make necessary changes, additions, deletions and have your child return the printout to his/her 1st hour teacher by September 11. It is essential that all information is current in the event we need to contact you. Also, because most of our communication is done via email, it is very important that you include (or verify) your current email address.

SCHOOL PICTURES

KAISER STUDIO will be here on September 18 to take pictures. There will also be a picture retake day on October 23rd.

Picture order envelopes will be sent home in your welcome packets. Students not purchasing portraits will be photographed for the yearbook and school identification purposes at no charge, and picture packages will be made only for those making payment on picture day. Students who wish to order two or more packages must indicate this to the photographer before having their pictures taken. Also, indicate on the prepay envelope which packages are desired. Make checks payable to **KAISER STUDIO**.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Supply lists are available online. Simply go to the Pathfinder Website and look under the "Parent" tab on the left side of the page.

PATHFINDER OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, September 10 from 6:00 – 8:00p.m. Look for your student to bring home more information as the date draws near.

MEDICATION

Medication must be brought to the office by a parent and an authorization form signed before we can dispense any medication to your child. The medication must be in its original container with the child's name, name of medication, and dosage on the label.



SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT INFORMATION

Our school improvement team will soon begin working diligently, focusing on areas such as student achievement and professional development. The team itself is comprised of teachers, student and family resource personnel, administrators, a board member, students, and parents. The perspective and insight that each individual brings to the table is invaluable to our efforts. If you as a parent are interested in becoming an invested member of our team, please contact Mr. Ray. Further details regarding the time and date of our first meeting will be provided to all interested participants via email.

PATHFINDER ATTENDANCE LINE 810-225-5210



Don't forget to use the Pathfinder attendance line to report your child's absence and/or tardiness! Info needed -

- ◆ Student's Name
- ◆ Name & Relationship of Person calling
- ◆ Date & Reason for Absence

***EACH SCHOOL HAS ITS OWN SEPARATE ATTENDANCE NUMBER**

7th Grade Coach

Miss Smith

734-878-2037

Pathfinder Girls Volleyball Try-outs

8th Grade Coach

Miss Madill

810-225-5242

**Mon. Aug. 31st: 3:15pm-5:30pm &
Tues. Sept. 1st-Thurs. Sept. 3rd:
3:30pm-5:30pm**

Any 7th or 8th grade girl who is interested in playing volleyball during the 2015-2016 school year is welcome to try out!



**You will need a current physical to try out.
The physical must be performed on or after
April 15, 2015 – no exceptions.**

Other important Information:

- It is important to be there every day of tryouts in order for the coaches to make a fair evaluation of your attitude, teamwork, and volleyball skills.
- Wear comfortable athletic clothes that meet the school dress code.
- If you make the team, you are committing to practice Monday through Thursdays from 3:15pm to 5:30pm.
- There will be 15 -18 girls that make each team.
- The players who make the team will be required to buy a uniform t-shirt (about \$12) and wear a pair of their own black shorts for our uniform.
- The best place to be picked up by after try outs and practices is in the back parking lot by the "Pathfinder Gym & Pool" entrance.
- Our volleyball practices and games are scheduled until the end of October.
- We usually have 5 home and 5 away games. We travel by school bus to away games and back.
- Games are usually scheduled on Mondays and Wednesdays and both teams are expected to attend both matches. Games start at 4pm (7th grade) and end around 6:30pm (8th grade plays second).
- Knee pads are optional during try-outs.

Players need to turn in the following documents* to coaches at the beginning of try-outs on August 31, 2015: *(please note the first day of try outs starts a bit earlier to collect paperwork)*

1. Documentation of a physical completed on or after April 15, 2015.
2. A "Pinckney Community Schools Athletic Participation Fee Registration" form with a check for \$100. Pinckney Community Schools has a middle school sports fee of \$100. Please make checks payable to Pinckney Community School. If a player doesn't make the team, the check will be returned.
3. A "Concussion Awareness Educational Material Acknowledgement" form

**All forms can be found online by going to the PCS (or Pathfinder) homepage and under the Quicklinks, click on "Athletics" > scroll down to "Athletic Forms & Registration" (in blue) and click > in the upper right corner click on "Forms & Docs" > click on Printable Forms & Docs > click on each form and print as needed. We will have extra copies at try-outs for you to fill out if you are unable to find/print any of the documents needed. We accept any physical form signed by a doctor, it doesn't have to be the one available from MHSAA.*

**FAMILY EDUCATION RIGHTS
AND PRIVACY ACT (FERPA)**

There are times when various professional, alumni groups, the military services, colleges and universities, citizens (via Freedom of Information Act), and other similar groups request directory information on our students. The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act provides for this information to be released unless parents or eighteen-year-old students notify the school in writing that they do not want directory information released. Therefore, unless we receive written notice that any or all such directory information is not to be released to appropriate groups or associations, the following information will be provided:

1. Name, address, telephone number; 2. Date and place of birth; 3. Major field of study; 4. Participation in school activities; 5. Dates of school attendance; 6. Honors and awards; 7. Other similar information; e.g. alumni association, height and weight of athletes, honor roll members, and information generally found in yearbooks.

Please notify Pathfinder by Friday, Sept. 18 should you request such information not be released. Please use the form below.

Cut along this line

Please do not release any of the following 2015-2016 student information to groups or associations as listed in the FERPA notification above of this Aug./Sept. 15-16 parent newsletter.

Do **not** list any of the checked information:

_____	Name, address, telephone number	_____	Date and place of birth
_____	Major field of study	_____	Participation in school activities
_____	Dates of school attendance	_____	Honors and awards
_____	Other similar information; e.g., alumni association, height and weight of athletes, honor roll members, and information generally found in yearbooks.		

STUDENT NAME (please print)

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE

DATE

**RETURN THIS FORM TO THE PATHFINDER SCHOOL OFFICE NO LATER THAN FRIDAY,
SEPTEMBER 18, 2015**

Interested in the 8th grade trip to Washington DC & Philadelphia?

Registration is still open!!



Fall Fundraising Opportunities

1. FunPasta

- Brochure Sales: 9/10 - 9/28
- Online sales from 9/10 to Saturday - 10/31.
- Get your fundraiser packets from Mrs. Johnson at the meeting or by emailing wjohnson@pinckneypirates.org
- Students names will only be entered for online sales if they sign out a fundraiser packet or a parent emails Mrs. Johnson that s/he wants the student to be included.

2. Busch's Cash for Education

- Cards available for sign out at meeting
- Busch's donates up to 5% for all purchases at any Busch's store for your student
- Contact Lori Scott lscott@pinckneypirates.org to request cards or more information.



Informational Meeting

September 10 -Pathfinder Cafeteria

- Immediately following Parent Night

Did you attend the Spring meeting?
Fundraising/Scholarship information will be passed out at the beginning of the meeting



Look for more information from your social studies teacher!

Registration/Trip Packets coming home September 9. Cost, dates, sample itinerary included in the packet.

Questions? Contact Lori Scott at lscott@pinckneypirates.org

Interested in learning more?

Visit the Pathfinder DC website at www.pathfinderdctrip.cweebly.com

Pinckney Schools Online Services

Do you want to know your child's grades or the balance in his/her lunch account or what they are spending their money on at lunch? This and other information is available on our website. Simply go to www.pinckneyschools.org and click on the "MiSTAR – Parents" link found under Quicklinks on the left hand side of the screen. You will not be able to access the site until August 17th (some tools will not be available such as schedule and gradebook until after August 31st). If you don't know your PIN and Password, click on "Need your login information?" on the login screen and follow the directions. If we have the correct email address in your profile then you should receive an email with your PIN and Password. Remember: It is a good idea to change your password once you login. If for some reason you cannot access your account simply send an email to: help@pinckneyschools.org. Be sure to include your name, the email address you would like to have linked to the account and the names of your children. Ask for an updated MiSTAR PIN and Password. This process is not automated so it may take up to 48 hours before you receive a response. Your patience is appreciated.

WASHINGTON DC INFORMATIONAL MEETING

8th Grade Parents:

Immediately following Open House on September 10 will be a meeting in the cafeteria regarding this year's Washington DC trip.



BREAKFAST AT PATHFINDER

The cafeteria will be open for breakfast every day from 7:15 a.m. – 7:35 a.m. for all students. The cost of breakfast is \$1.85 and all choices will include an entrée, fruit or juice, and milk. Students who qualify for free or reduced lunch will automatically be eligible for free or reduced breakfast. Reduced breakfast is \$.30.

The procedures for students interested in breakfast at Pathfinder are:

1. Arrive to school (buses will release students at 7:15)
2. Go to locker and drop off coat and bag upon arrival.
3. Go to the cafeteria for breakfast.
4. Eat and clean up.
5. Go back to locker & pick up books and materials necessary for the start of the school day.
6. Go to class.

Students will be able to access their lunch accounts to pay for breakfast. If you need information about how to access your child's lunch account, please send an email to help@pinckneyschools.org.

If you have questions, please contact the Pathfinder kitchen at 810-225-5225 or the Food Service office at 810-225-5627 or 5628.