

PINEWOOD PRESS

SEPTEMBER 2025

Pinewood Family –

Welcome to a new school year! We are one team focused on one dream-high reading achievement for everyone. This is our moon shot! Working together we can make sure all Pinewood Panthers are readers!

- Thank you for coming to our Welcome Back Night. It was wonderful to get to see so many of you, and make sure you had information about classes and teachers for this year.
- Thank you for getting your students to school on time each day. Our doors open at 8:30 AM each day and breakfast is provided. Students need to bring their iPad to school each day and ensure it is charged. Students lose learning time if their iPads are not fully charged each day. Insurance for the iPad is available for \$20. This covers accidental damage or loss and is much less than the replacement cost. See additional information sheet attached.
- Thank you for making sure your contact information is correct in Infinite Campus. It is so important we have current phone numbers and email. You can make changes on the Parent Portal in Infinite Campus or email changes to erin.jessen@ops.org.

We are including several pieces of important information for you in this newsletter hoping that it will be a handy reference for you this year. We are in the office from 8:00 – 4:30 each day, and our phone number is **531-299-1940**. Please feel free to call or email with any questions or concerns.

The teamwork between home and school is the key as we work to become life-long learners, high achievers, and responsible citizens. We are all learning many new things together this year.

Kristi Reinsch

LOOKING AHEAD!

No School: September 1st, October 3rd, October 16th, October 17th

Individual Picture Day: October 18, 2025

School starts at 10:50 A.M.: September 23rd & October 28th

NO PREK: September 12 & October 10th

TRAFFIC & PARKING LOT TIPS

1. The circle drive on the south (Sorenson) side of the school is for daycares and buses **ONLY**. Please help us keep this clear.
2. PreK families should park in the east lot, and Kindergarten families should park by the kindergarten door on the west side.
3. When the lot is full, please just wait in line with the other cars. This line moves very fast once school dismisses at 4:05. **Please be patient.** We have been averaging 11-15 minutes to get all students dismissed and loaded into cars. Thank you for your cooperation!



STUDENT BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays are very special days for our students. We know how exciting it is to celebrate with school friends. Students can bring **store bought, individual** items for passing out to classmates for their birthdays. We ask that the student or parent drop these treats off at the office so the teacher can choose the best time to share with the class. Our students have many different schedules, along with testing and other important activities, so it is difficult to plan birthday celebrations. Giving our teachers the flexibility to choose the best time to hand out treats lets us continue to allow this fun tradition.

We also encourage you to save other birthday items such as balloons, cards, or gifts from home. If these items are delivered to school, we will hold them in the office until the end of the school day. These items, while fun and special for our students, can be very distracting. We appreciate your help and understanding.

Please Join PTO!

Parents- We want YOU to be a part of our school! PTO provides many fun activities, events, and financial support for our students, as well as support to our staff here at Pinewood. Remember- joining the PTO does not commit you to volunteering a large amount of time. We DO want you involved, but the time commitment is totally up to you- we know that many of you are busy, busy parents- so do what you can! Please email Kristi.reinsch@ops.org if interested.



ATTENDANCE

Our Pinewood Panthers have been doing great with their attendance so far this year! Way to go! We do need to work on students being in class and ready to learn by **8:50 AM**. Please call the office if your child will be absent or has an appointment so we can mark them correctly for attendance. If your student comes in late without a call, you will receive a robocall from the district. You can call 531-299-1940 24 hours a day and leave a message. Thank you for your help ensuring Pinewood Panthers are here on time!

SEESAW

Parents-

We are using SeeSaw as a **large** part of our communications again this year. You can send messages directly to the school and your student's teachers, and you will get messages and updates as well. It works on your phone, tablet, and /or computer. Please join Pinewood on SeeSaw. Email your student's teacher or Mrs. Reinsch at Kristi.reinsch@ops.org to get started.

Lunch & Recess Schedules

Kindergarten: 11:20-11:55 (Weiss/Parks)

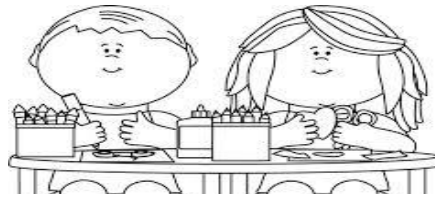
2nd: 11:40-12:15 (Kennebeck/Fox)

1st: 11:45-12:20 (Keith/Gutierrez)

3rd: 12:05-12:40 (Bradford/Wolfe)

4th & 5th: 12:05-12:40 (Dugan & Human)

4th: 12:10-12:45 (Chambers)



Gifted and Talented Education (G.A.T.E.)

Hello! My name is Jamie Jank, and I am the GATE facilitator at Pinewood. The GATE mission is to identify gifted and exceptionally talented students in 3rd, 4th & 5th grades, nurture their social/emotional development and enhance their curriculum experiences so these unique individuals may reach their fullest potential. For these students, I provide specialized instruction through a curriculum framework focused on problem-solving, creative thinking, critical thinking, inquiry, math & literacy.

I look forward to every Cycle Day 4/9 when I get to work with Pinewood Panthers. If families have any questions, then please connect with me.
Jamie.Jank@ops.org





Student iPad Information

~ **Students are responsible for bringing a fully charged iPad and charger to school every day.**

It is good practice to charge your iPad overnight so that it will be fully charged each morning.

~ **Charging cables and the power cube are not covered by Apple Care or iPad insurance.**

Students are responsible for covering the cost if damaged, lost, or stolen. See below for costs.

Do not lend chargers to other students or friends. If the borrowing student loses the charger, the owning student is still responsible for the replacement cost.

~ **The iPad cover we provide must always stay on the school iPad. Do not use your own cover.**

The iPad case is not covered by Apple Care or the iPad insurance.

Do not write or put stickers on the cover.

If there is damage to the cover, you will be charged for a replacement.

~ **Students can purchase insurance for \$20 by cash, check or card anytime during the school year. This covers the iPad if it is lost or stolen, or if it needs to be replaced due to damage. THIS IS PAID YEARLY. See the link below for information on paying for iPad insurance.**

<https://www.ops.org/site/default.aspx?PageType=3&DomainID=4&ModuleInstanceId=309&ViewID=6446EE88-D30C-497E-9316-3F8874B3E108&RenderLoc=0&FlexDataID=161699&PageID=1>

***The student is responsible for the cost of the iPad if it is lost or stolen with no insurance.**

***If your screen is cracked or broken, please see our technology department to assist.**

iPad and iPad Equipment costs (for students)

• iPad replacement	\$567.95
• iPad cover replacement	\$ 89.00
• iPad charging cable replacement	\$ 17.50
• iPad charging power block replacement	\$ 17.50

If you have any questions about information on this page, please contact 531-299-1940

REMEMBER THE TENNIS SHOES EACH DAY

Your child needs to wear comfy tennis shoes to exercise safely in school/recess and in P.E. We understand when the weather is warmer, your child may want to wear sandals to school. If so, please encourage him/her to bring tennis shoes and leave them in the locker or bring shoes in the backpack each day. Please assist us in helping your child to be successful and continue to safely exercise.

Attendance Matters...

Every Minute Counts

Arriving Late/Leaving Early Daily	Learning time lost In a year
5 minutes	2.09 days
10 minutes	4.20 days
15 minutes	6.17 days
20 minutes	8.40 days
30 minutes	12.59 days
60 minutes	25.19 days

Help your student have the best chance of success.

Attend daily, on-time, all day!

Drop-off Helpful Hints

~Doors open at 8:30 a.m. Between 8:30-8:50 a.m.,

- PreK students need to be dropped off and picked up at the PreK door.
- Kindergarten students should be dropped off at the kindergarten door, and older siblings can go in this door as well.
- After 8:50 a.m., all students will need to enter the main doors.

~All parents who have received either a PreK or Kdg. parking pass, please read the back side of the pass for instructions.

Attendance Matters

Creating Good Attendance Habits Helps
Students Succeed at School.

September is
Attendance Awareness
Month

#schooleveryday

Please call the school if your child will be absent. Our attendance line is available 24 hours a day. If your child has a medical or dental appointment, please send them with a note from the provider. This is the only way a student will be marked excused for an appointment.

The attendance line is **531-299-1940**.

2025-2026 Pinewood Staff

Principal.....	Kristi Reinsch
Instructional Facilitator.....	Tish Rasmussen
Secretary.....	Erin Jessen
Pre-K.....	Courtney Helvey
	Grace Iverson
Paraprofessional.....	Thaw Paw
	Tina Wagner
	May Edward Toe
	Emmeline Moeller
Kindergarten.....	Rebecca Weiss
	Tia Parks
Paraprofessional.....	A'Myrah Johnson
	Diana Moeller
1 st Grade.....	Evelyn Gutierrez
1 st Grade.....	Kelly Keith
2 nd Grade.....	Megan Kennebeck
2 nd Grade.....	Meghan Fox
3 rd Grade.....	Liz Bradford
3 rd Grade.....	Lesley Wolfe
4 th Grade.....	Mark Chambers
4/5 th Grade.....	Amy Dugan
5 th Grade.....	Jody Human
Special Instruction.....	Sabra Moon
	Lindsay Ledesma
Paraprofessional.....	Ann Perrigo
	Kaw Shee
Early Childhood Special Instruction.....	Emma Bartek
Art.....	Annette Lahowetz-Giboo
Librarian.....	Susan Young
Library Paraprofessional.....	Ariel Briesacher
Physical Education.....	Christopher Boro
Vocal Music.....	Rebecca Gibson
Band.....	Nestor Herszbaum
Strings.....	Christian Schuerman
ESL Resource.....	Delany Bell
Paraprofessional.....	Maria Rodriguez
Guidance Counselor.....	Brooke Hagenau
Speech.....	Ellie Moody
Gifted and Talented Facilitator.....	Jamie Jank
Nurse.....	Timara Kroeger
Health Paraprofessional.....	Linley Zahm
PAC Facilitator.....	Karen Dueling
Cafeteria Manager.....	Jane Gurney
Cafeteria Assistants.....	Darryl Vaughn
	Jackie Washington
Security.....	Ronnell Madden
Head Engineer.....	Roy Nelson
Night Custodian.....	Connie Murphy
Birth to Age 3 Home Visitor.....	DeeDee Thakola
3 Year to 4th Grade Family Facilitator.....	Mary Ellyn Dunn
Early Childhood Community Coordinator.....	Claire Cordes
Head Start Family Support.....	Monica Payne
Psychologist.....	Christina Zaruba

Staff can be emailed by using firstname.lastname@ops.org

Help Kids Balance Their Media Lives

From phones and tablets to streaming movies and YouTube, tech and media are everywhere. Kids love easy access to shows, games, and information. Parents and caregivers love that kids can learn on the go (and stay busy when dinner's cooking). But it's easy to overdo it when the phone never stops pinging and the next episode plays automatically. Families can keep media and tech use in check by following a few simple practices.

Check out these 5 tips

1

Create screen-free times and zones.

Help kids take breaks from tech by limiting screen time in bedrooms, during study time, or at the dinner table.

2

Try parental controls.

Set content limits that make sense for your family. Alongside conversations about healthy media habits, use features such as content filtering, privacy settings, and time limits offered by the apps and platforms your family uses to help manage access and exposure to media.

3

Establish clear family rules.

Decide together what kind of media and tech is OK -- and when it's OK to use it. A family media plan can help get everyone on the same page.

4

Watch and play together.

Choose quality, age-appropriate media to enjoy with your kids. Visit commonsensemedia.org to find shows, games, and more.

5

Help kids identify healthy behaviors.

Practice talking about feelings -- both physical and emotional -- during screen and non-screen activities.



MEDIA BALANCE & WELL-BEING

*We find balance
in our digital lives.*

commonsense.org/education
GRADES K-5 FAMILY TIPS: MEDIA BALANCE & WELL-BEING
Shareable with attribution for noncommercial use only. No remixing permitted.



1

PINEWOOD SCHOOL AS HUB

PLAY & LEARN



SEPTEMBER 2025



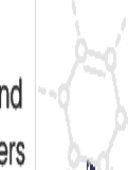
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Labor Day No School	2 Play & Learn 9-10:30 am	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 Play & Learn 9-10:30 am	10	11	12	13
14	15	16 Play & Learn 9-10:30 am	17	18	19	20
21	22	23 Family Socialization 2:30-4 pm	24	25	26	27
28	29	30 Play & Learn 9-10:30 am				

DeeDee Thakolo - Home Visitor
Mary Ellyn Dunn - Family Facilitator
Claire Cordes - Community Facilitator

Free Early Childhood Program for Families/caregivers of children ages 0-5

Play & Learn/Family Socialization Groups: Parents and caregivers of young children (birth-5) are invited to bring their children to our group to play, read, create, and explore! Parents/caregivers stay with their children to play with all the toys & activities in the Pinewood Panther Den.

Come join us and meet other families at our school.



PINEWOOD SCHOOL AS HUB

Highlight

CAR SEAT SAFETY TIPS



- The safest place for your child is the back seat
- Buckle up every time!
- Make sure your child is in the appropriate seat for their age and size
- Check your car seat manual and vehicle manual to ensure proper installation
- Make sure straps are snug and chest clip is at armpit level
- Do not place your child in a car seat with bulky winter clothing
- Never leave your child unattended in a vehicle
- Your child's car seat should not move more than one inch when pulled at the point of installation
- When in doubt, have your carseat checked by a certified child passenger safety technician. Find your nearest tech [HERE](#)

Visit [SAFE KIDS](#) for more tips!

September is
Child
Passenger
Safety Month!
Here are some
tips to keep
your precious
cargo safe!

THANK YOU
For following
pick up and
drop off
expectations &
keeping
Pinewood
students safe!

Brought to you by Pinewood School as Hub

IMPORTANT NUMBERS AND LINKS

www.ops.org

<https://pinewood.ops.org/>

Pinewood office: 531-299-1940

Pinewood attendance line- 531-299-1947

School lunch menu:

<https://district.ops.org/DEPARTMENTS/District-Operational-Services/Nutrition-Services/Menus/Breakfast-and-Lunch-Menus>

<https://web.seesaw.me/>

<https://www.schoolcafe.com/> (school lunch application)

OPS Transportation: 531-299-0140

Omaha Schools Foundation (Kids Club): 402-502-3032

<https://opsfkidsclub.org/>



Student Information Packets

We are encouraging families to sign up for the Parent Portal through Infinite Campus. Infinite Campus provides a portal for students and parents to use that allows them to see attendance, grades, report cards, immunizations and more. It also allows you the ability to update your information as soon as possible. You will need an activation code to create your account. Email Mrs. Jessen at erin.jessen@ops.org to get your activation number. See the information below with directions on how to set up your Portal account. Thank you for helping us create less paper and have more accurate information.

Directions for logging into the Parent Portal

1

Find and download the application from Google Play, Amazon Apps or App Store. *With the app you can choose to receive PUSH notifications!*

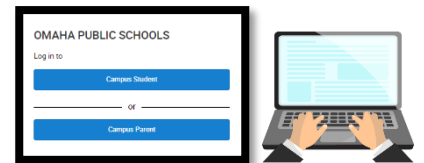
NOTE: To use the app, mobile devices must be on an Android version of 4.4 or later and iOS devices must be on a version of 9.0 or later.



OR

Visit campus.ops.org through a web browser.

Select CAMPUS STUDENT or CAMPUS PARENT (Guardian)



2

Already have an account?

1. Enter your **Username** and **Password**.
2. To enable app PUSH NOTIFICATIONS, select **"Stay Logged in"**
3. Click Log In

Don't have an account?

1. Click **New User?**
2. Enter your **Activation Key** and then **Submit >>>>**
3. Enter a **Username** and **Password** and click **Submit**

>>>>No Activation Key?

Contact our main office at (531) 299-1940 between 8am-3pm M-F or email erin.jessen@ops.org.



3

Notifications are available **through the mobile apps**. You may need to enable notifications on your device as well, in addition to the app settings.

1. Before you log in, mark **Stay Logged In** to receive notifications.
2. After logging in, click the **user menu** in the top right and then click **Settings** and **Notification Settings**.
3. From there, indicate which types of notifications you would like to receive and set the threshold for notifications. For example, indicate if you only want to receive Assignment notifications if the score is below 70%.
4. Click **Save**.

SEPTEMBER 2025

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

	1 NO SCHOOL Labor Day	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 Vision Screening PreK-4 th	10	11	12 NO PRE K	13
14	15	16 PTO MTG 4:30	17	18 Lead Screening PreK	19 4 th & 5 th Nebraska City	20
21	22	23 LATE START DAY! 10:50 start	24	25	26	27
28	29	30 3 rd Grade Lauritzen				

PLANNING AHEAD

Student Led Conferences October 16 & 17