

PIERCE POINTER

Gary Buslepp, Principal

Judith Gaffrey, Assistant Principal

September 2008

VIEW
from the
OFFICE

Dear Pierce Parents,

On behalf of the entire John D. Pierce Middle School staff, “**Welcome to the 2008-2009 school year.**” Our students (and families) will recognize many familiar faces when they return to classes on Wednesday, September 3rd.

However, we extend our best wishes to **Nancy Eckert** (English Language Arts), **Marianne Vukas** (Life Skills & Guided Study), **Kevin Cole** (Head Engineer) and **Robert Reader** (Hall Monitor) in their new assignments and ventures.

Please join us in welcoming to Pierce: **Julie Drew** (English Language Arts), **Sharon Lumley** (Chinese), **Dona Reynolds** (Life Skills), **Caroline Scott** (Mathematics), **Michelle Stackpoole** (English Language Arts/Academic Assistance), and **Tom Zaglaniczny** (Head Engineer). Late breaking staffing additions will be acknowledged in the October issue of the *Pierce Pointer*.

During the first quarter, student-teacher **Jenee Jones** (Wayne State University) will work with **Mary Carey** (Drama).

Please be sure to read **Mrs. Gaffrey’s** (Assistant Principal) letter emphasizing student behavioral expectations on the next page. These guidelines are also found in the student planner that’s given to every student on the first day of school (courtesy of the Pierce PTO).

During the 1st quarter, students will remain in their 6th period classes at the end of the day. Teachers will continue to emphasize organizational skills, planner use, school rules, conduct school business and explore middle school topics as we’ve done in the past.

After each report card period, eligible students will elect to participate in a different activity sponsored by a teacher. Student responses will determine which activities are offered during the remaining three quarters. Students who demonstrate the need for more time and academic support will be assigned to a Guided Study period. A smaller class size setting, Guided Study is designed to focus on individual student improvement.

Doors Open: Please note that our doors open on Monday at 9:00 am and on Tuesday thru Friday at 8:15 am. These times coincide with our teacher duty time. Students who arrive earlier are allowed to wait in the courtyard until doors are opened.

“Not Every Monday”: There are three Mondays that are **NOT** late starts. Please note that October 13, 20 and 27 are Mondays when we begin at the regular time of 8:25 am. These dates coincide with MEAP testing weeks.

“It’s a Fact”: Middle school students do well in classes when their parents are actively involved in their education. Please join all Pierce parents and faculty for *Back-to-School Night*, Thursday, September 18th at 7:00 pm. At *BTSN* your identification/password, which allows you to view your child’s grades electronically, will be distributed during 6th period. Viewing your child’s grades electronically is a timely approach in communicating and following academic progress.

“Touch Base”: Pierce counselors (**Mrs. Cramer** or **Mrs. Niforos**) are invaluable resources and advocates for your child. If there are health concerns, family issues, and/or personal interest, feel free to contact them and share information that may help classroom teachers.



“Plan on It”: As a faculty and staff we continue to strive to have every student effectively use their student planner every day ---every period. Writing down assignments and important reminders enhance student success.

We’re looking forward to another great year and working *with* you!

Sincerely,

From the Assistant Principal's Desk

Welcome back to another exciting school year! I hope you had a wonderful summer. I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some of the important guidelines that govern student behavior at Pierce.

Hallway Behavior: Students are expected to “**Stay to the Right**” to allow for smooth passing in the hallways. A “**No Bodily Contact**” rule will be enforced throughout the school day. Students who violate these guidelines will be “**ticketed**” by staff members and assigned disciplinary consequences.

Dress Code: Generally, students must dress in clothing that is modest and appropriately sized. For details on the dress code, please refer to your student’s planner. Students who report for school dressed inappropriately will be required to change clothes before reporting to class. Students who repeatedly violate the dress code will be assigned disciplinary consequences.

Cell Phones and MP3 Players: All electronic devices must be turned off and kept out of sight throughout the school day. Cell phones or MP3 players found in class or in the hallways will be confiscated and parents will be contacted.

Before and After School Supervision: Tuesday through Friday, the building opens at 8:15 AM. On Monday, the doors open at 9:00 AM. Students are not to be in the building before opening unless given permission by an administrator or staff member. Students are expected to leave the building each day by 3:30 PM, unless they are participating in a school sponsored activity. **Pierce students are not allowed on the Defer campus, or on the sidewalks around Defer, until Defer’s school day ends at 3:38 PM.**

Bullying: We take a “zero tolerance” stance against bullying and encourage students to report all incidents of verbal, physical or relational bullying. If your student is the victim of, or a witness to, an incident of bullying, please encourage him/her to report it to any adult in the building. If your student does not wish to report it, please do so yourself.

Attendance: Absences should be called in before 9:00 AM on the day of the absence. Absences that are school related or unavoidable such as illness, extreme family emergency or necessary medical appointments will be recorded as excused. Absences that are not school-related, are not authorized by the school in advance, or are not accepted by the school as necessary and unavoidable will be recorded as unexcused. If a student accumulates an excessive number of unexcused absences, a referral will be made to the Wayne County Erase Truancy program.

Tardies: Students are expected to arrive at class on time. Students who arrive at class after the tardy bell has rung will be marked “Tardy”. If a student accumulates 5 tardies in a semester, he/she will be assigned one hour of after school detention. Additional tardies will be penalized according to the guidelines found in the student planner. Students who have been assigned disciplinary consequences for tardiness will be notified in writing during their sixth hour classes. Parents will receive a copy of this notice in the mail.

In School Separation (ISS): On occasion, students may be assigned an in-school separation as a consequence for disruptive behavior or other violations of school guidelines. This year, ISS will be held on a regular basis at Brownell Middle School. Parents will be responsible for student transportation to and from the ISS center at Brownell.

Academics and Advisory (A²): Throughout the first quarter, our A² program will emphasize study skills. The activities presented are designed to help students understand what study skills are and learn how to apply them to their everyday activities. Topics will include time management, organization, project planning, listening, note-taking and studying for tests. Beginning in the second quarter, students who meet eligibility requirements will be placed in their choice of A² activities.

At Pierce we take pride in the exemplary behavior of our students and will continue to uphold high behavioral and academic expectations for all. If you have any questions regarding our standard policies and procedures, please do hesitate to contact me. I can be reached at (313) 432-4711.

Judith Gaffrey

DATES TO REMEMBER

AUGUST

Makeup Registration

Monday, August 25
1:00-3:00 PM

New Student Orientation

Wednesday, August 27
2:00 PM
Auditorium

SEPTEMBER

First Day of School

Wednesday, September 3
8:25-3:17 AM

New Parent Orientation

Thursday, September 4
7:00 PM
Pierce Auditorium

Pierce Magazine Sale Kickoff

Thursday, September 11

PTO Meeting

Tuesday, September 16
7:00 PM Room #129

PA-25 Annual Report

Thursday, September 18
6:00 PM
Pierce Library

Back to School Night

Thursday, September 18
7:00 PM

All Parents are encouraged to attend this Informational meeting.

Student Count Day

Wednesday, September 24

6th Grade Clue Night

Friday, September 26
7:00-9:00 PM

Picture Re-Take Day

Tuesday, October 7
1:00 PM
Pierce Auditorium



2008-2009

PIERCE DAILY SCHEDULE

Dear Pierce Parents,

On Monday mornings, teachers will be involved in School Improvement Activities from 8:15-9:00 AM.

School begins for students at 9:10 AM ON MONDAYS ONLY.

The remainder of the week, students will begin school at 8:25 AM.

We are requesting that students NOT ARRIVE before

9:00 AM on Mondays and 8:15 AM on Tuesday thru Friday.

This entry time coincides with the beginning of teacher duty time and allows for adequate adult supervision before school

Mondays (all classes 50 minutes)

1 st hour	9:10-10:00 AM	
2 nd hour	10:05-10:55 AM	
3 rd hour	11:00-11:30 AM	Lunch A
	11:35-12:25 AM	Class A
	11:00-11:50 AM	Class B
	11:55-12:25 PM	Lunch B
4 th hour	12:30-1:20 PM	
5 th hour	1:25-2:15 PM	
6 th hour	2:20-3:10 PM	
Video Announcement	3:10-3:17 PM	
(7 minutes) students remain in 6 th hour		

Tuesday – Friday (all classes 55 minutes)

1 st hour	8:25-9:20 AM	
2 nd hour	9:25-10:20 AM	
3 rd hour	10:25-11:20 AM	
4 th hour	11:25-11:55 AM	Lunch A
	12:00-12:55 PM	Class A
	11:25-12:20 PM	Class B
	12:25-12:55 PM	Lunch B
5 th hour	1:00-1:55 PM	
6 th hour	2:00-2:55 PM	
A ² & Video	2:55-3:17 PM	
Announcements		

PIERCE BUILDING ACCESS

In following the district plan of developing a more secure school environment, outside access into the building during the school day will be monitored. An intercom, monitor and buzzer system has been installed. Once classes begin, outside access into the building will be monitored through this new system.

Visitors to Pierce will announce themselves through use of this system located at the main entrance (Kercheval) and the north east rear parking lot door (which is handicap accessible).

The periodic distribution of non-school related written materials does not constitute an endorsement by the School System of those materials or of the groups sponsoring them. All printing costs are paid for by the sponsoring organization, not the schools

==PTO POINTS==

The Pierce PTO welcomes you to the 2008-2009 school year. We have many activities and fundraisers planned for this year. We hope that you will consider joining the PTO and volunteering your time to enrich the educational and social experiences for Pierce students, families, and staff. We need your support, and we appreciate it. PTO meetings are held on the third Tuesday of every month at 7:00 PM in room 129. I encourage all parents to come to these meetings, which generally last about an hour. The first meeting for this year is September 16. I hope to see you there.

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 4 – New Parent Orientation
September 18 – Back to School Night
September 26 – Clue Night for all 6th Graders

Thank you!

Thank you to Patty Groezinger, last year's PTO President, and all the other members of last year's Board. Your willingness to give your time to improve our school is greatly appreciated.

Thank you to all the parents who helped with copying, organizing and filling the back-to-school packets this year: Liz Jarboe, Sue Sattelmeier, Donna Satterfield, Helen Srebernak, Savannah Srebernak, Sidney Srebernak, Chloe Srebernak, and Kelee Teodecki. We appreciate you giving of your time in the middle of summer to help us out.

The PTO officers are always ready to listen to your comments or concerns.
Please feel free to contact us.

President	Karen Henning	885-6859
Vice President	Susan Ames	331-8099
Secretary	Amy Cornell	343-2969
	Kim Clextan	885-5475
Treasurer	Helen Srebernak	824-1998

I am looking forward to a wonderful school year!

Karen Henning, President

PIERCE STAFF 2008-2009

ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS

Andrea Bolton 7/8
Jan Brengman 6
Mary Carey 6
Julie Drew 6
Susan Quinn 8
Geneva Scully 7/8
Michelle Stackpoole 6
Brenda Taylor 7

MATH

Ed Brock 6
Anne Holman 7
Jennifer Schaupeter 7/8
Caroline Scott 7
Jill Starkey 6/7
Gina Walker 8

SCIENCE

Ann Anderson 7
Mary Brecht 6
Danusia Danko 8
Andrea Koreck 6/7
William Thompson 7/8

SOCIAL STUDIES

Brian Benz 8
Jeannie Brousseau 7
Ernie Kalina 6/7
Sandy Shellnut 7/8
Claudia Zwirner 6

ELECTIVES

Heather Albrecht Vocal Music
Beth Allan Physical Education
Andrea Bolton Journalism
Mary Carey Drama
Leslie Dolle Life Skills
James Gross Instrumental Music
Beth Gulick Physical Education
Maria Kourouvasilis Foreign Language/Spanish/French
Sharon Lumley Foreign Language/Chinese
Rex Marshall Industrial Tech./Broadcast Journalism
Bonnie Middeldorf Computer Technology
Dona Reynolds Life Skills
Dan White Instrumental Music
Natalie Zoufal Fine Art

LIBRARY

Bette Reid Librarian/Media Specialist

COUNSELORS

Christine Cramer
Angie Niforos

ACADEMIC ASSISTANCE

Paul Booker
Geneva Scully
Michelle Stackpoole

STUDENT SERVICES STAFF

Anna Boes Speech Therapist
Joe Finazzo Student Resource Specialist
Judy Ignagni School Psychologist
Patricia Kelly Student Resource Center
Andrea Lappin-Roth Student Resource Center
Brad Richards Student Resource Specialist
Pamela Rocheleau Social Worker/Student Assistance

SUPPORT STAFF

Mark Byrn Classroom Assistant/
Student Resource Center
ESL
Ellen Chapin Classroom Assistant
Mary Denomme Library/Media Assistant
Vanessa Engen-Wulf Classroom Assistant/
Susan Lauppe Student Resource Center
Dawn Levick Classroom Assistant/
Student Resource Center
Carolyn Marsh Classroom Assistant
Dominic O'Grady Classroom Assistant/
Student Resource Center
Technology Support
Corey Webster Classroom Assistant/
Ann Marie Weiss Student Resource Center

A² COORDINATOR

Bonnie Middeldorf

ATHLETIC COORDINATOR

Ann Anderson

MAINTENANCE STAFF

John Buffa Custodian
Mary Anne Dillon Custodian
Bill Fradeneck Night Foreman
Mike McKeehan Custodian
Tom Zaglaniczny Engineer

OFFICE STAFF

Natalie Hatzenbuhler Secretary/Office Manager
Linda Lockwood Receptionist
Virginia Parsons Attendance Secretary/
Records Clerk

ADMINISTRATION

Gary Buslepp Principal
Judith Gaffrey Assistant Principal

E-mail for allgpschools.org staff is: first name.last name @

P A R E N T I N F O R M A T I O N

ABSENCES FOR ILLNESS, TRIPS, ETC.

Please notify the OFFICE WHEN A STUDENT IS GOING TO BE ABSENT FOR ANY REASON. (ATTENDANCE LINE: 432-4701 IS AVAILABLE 24 HOURS A DAY.) When a counselor or teacher is made aware of an absence the attendance secretary is not always informed. This results in unnecessary phone calls to your home or office.

EARLY DISMISSALS FROM SCHOOL

When a student needs to be dismissed early from school, the parent must send a signed note identifying the time and date of dismissal. This note is presented to the attendance secretary when the student arrives at school that day. A pass is given to the student, permitting him/her to leave class at the designated time. (Students will only be released to a parent, guardian or person designated on the emergency card -must be 18 years of age- coming to the school office to sign the student out.) PLEASE NOTE: STUDENTS WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO LEAVE THE BUILDING WITHOUT PARENT, GUARDIAN, OR DESIGNATED PERSON ACCOMPANYING THE STUDENT.

MEDICATION FORM

If your student requires medication mid-day—please pick up a Medication Prescriber/Parent Authorization Form in the school office for the coming school year. This form will also need to be signed by the prescribing physician BEFORE we can dispense the medication to your student.

FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT (FERPA)

As in state law under (FERPA) “parents of students who are in attendance at a school retain the right to inspect and review the education records of their children.” Access to inspect education records can be obtained by contacting the principal’s office for an appointment.

PIERCE POINTER

The Pierce Pointer will be sent home with your student on a monthly basis. Or visit our website at: www.gpschools.org/pierce. If this presents a problem, please contact us at: 313/432-4700



PIERCE ANNUAL MAGAZINE SALE FUND RAISER

The Annual Magazine Sale begins on Thursday, September 11. If you have subscriptions that need to be renewed, or you would like to subscribe to a new magazine, SAVE your orders for our fund-raiser. Plan to give magazine subscriptions as gifts this year. Watch for information packets that will be sent home with your student.

6TH GRADE CLUE NIGHT

Friday, September 26th

7:00 -9:00 PM

Mark your calendars!!!



This is a FUN night for 6th graders only.

It provides an opportunity to meet other students and members of the 6th Grade Teaching Staff.