



Monthly Newsletter September 2022

We are up and running for another new year of “news” at Powell Middle School. Please be sure to read through all monthly newsletters, as they contain very valuable information that will both keep you informed regarding what is taking place at Powell Middle School and will serve as a resource as we travel this journey together. I realize this newsletter is long, and you have my word that all newsletters to follow will be shorter. A few things to take note of this year include:

- Powell Middle School student class hours are 8:00 am - 3:25 pm Monday through Thursday and on Fridays, the day will run from 8:00 am - 12:45 pm.
- Administrative Assistants can be reached Monday through Thursday from 7:00 am - 4:00 pm and from 7:30 am - 1:00 pm on Fridays. Please leave a voicemail if you are calling outside of those hours.
- The daily schedule is to include a Math block of 84 minutes daily. The schedule also reflects a class of both Literature (reading) and Composition (writing) class.
- Communication to stay informed on events as well as your child’s academic progress: Newsletters, Infinite Campus (you checking as well as messages sent out), Canvas (more information below, but this program allows you to be notified of all things academic), and lastly the Powell Middle School Facebook page. Please, “like” this page to see pictures of student work, activities, as well as announcements.
- Canvas - The URL following is a step-by-step setup guide for parents. Please take the time to get your account setup and paired with your child. [Canvas Parent Guide](#)

Powell Middle School – What we believe!

To begin the year, I would like to take the opportunity to share our educational philosophy here at Powell Middle School, which we have communicated in our Core Values and Staff Commitments. Our schedule is the vehicle by which we can deliver upon what we said we believe. Our architecture is designed to facilitate new learning experiences and opportunities for our students.

Core Value Statements:

- Provide all students high level learning opportunities
- Focus on the whole child
- Promote and celebrate positive character and citizenship
- Provide a positive, safe, and inclusive school culture
- Value 21st century learning, literacy, and life skills

Powell Middle School Staff Commitments to our kids:

We will...

- Be professional
- Be open minded
- Make personal connections
- Be dedicated
- Be student centered
- Be positive
- Engage students as active learners
- Be passionate

School Safety – We are committed to safety here at Powell Middle School. We believe the best way to ensure safety is to develop relationships and encourage communication between all stakeholders. One resource that is offered statewide is Safe2Tell Wyoming: Safe2Tell, Wyoming’s tip reporting process is simple. Safe2Tell provides students, parents, and community members a safe way to report information about any issues that concern their safety or the safety of others.

Key Components –

- * State law guarantees the confidentiality of every caller.
- * Safe2Tell Wyoming is available to all Wyoming schools, students, teachers, and parents.
- * Reports can be made to Safe2Tell Wyoming by calling 1-844-WYO-SAFE (996-7233).
- * Tips may be submitted using a smartphone through the Safe2Tell Wyoming mobile app.
- * Calls to Safe2Tell Wyoming are answered 24 hours a day, seven days a week by trained Wyoming Highway Patrol Dispatchers.

Tips for Success to Parents for Kids:

- Homework – Identify a consistent time and place.
- Accurate contact information for O.R. (Opportunity Room) notice and checking grades frequently on CANVAS – email and phone number.
- Laptop/Technology – Establish certain location by designated time. (i.e. 9:00 pm Dinner Table)
- Communicate – Ask how their day went. Notify teachers or counselors with concerns.
- Familiarize yourself with how to login to school email, social media sites (Snapchat, Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, etc.), text messages, etc. Review phones periodically. We cannot stress this point enough, as middle school students get curious and often times don’t think through situations prior impulsively acting.

Student Safety - Drop Off and Crosswalks: When dropping off your students in the morning, please pull all the way forward before stopping in both parking lots. This allows more students to be dropped off in a shorter amount of time. Please **do not stop** on the crosswalk at any time while waiting to pull into the lot, as we have students trying to cross the street in a safe manner. Students in the crosswalk always have the right-of-way. Together, we can transfer our students to school in a safe and timely manner.

Drop off and Pick up: We have additional parking lots (east and west) in front of the school. Although we do not have certain lots designated for particular grade levels, we have found that the lot on the southwest side of the school is less busy. However, it is a good idea to utilize the lot that is most efficient and comfortable for you and your child.

Attendance - Unexcused Absences:

- Absences not excused within 48 hours will be considered unexcused.
- Absences after a student’s tenth (10th) in any one class will be considered unexcused unless accompanied by a medical/dental note and/or court documentation.

To review the policy in its entirety, please visit:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B_jM9DxWhrXlBmg0c0hIMjRJTEU/view?resourcekey=0-tGloWNmuEvIdnYxllehFDA and click on “Absences and Excuses K-12” or **copy and paste this address into your browser.**

Infinite Campus: Infinite Campus will continue to be used as a way to pay the computer laptop lab fee and to record attendance.

Canvas Learning Management System: Our students will continue to use the CANVAS Learning Management System (LMS) to access their class information. Grades and assignments can be accessed through Canvas. Information will be provided to parents this month. The students have received training on the Canvas Learning Management System (LMS).

Fall Picture Day – Looking Ahead: Powell Middle School Fall Picture Day will be on Tuesday, September 20th, 2022. All students will have school photos taken during their P.E. class.

Title I Community Night: Powell Middle School will be hosting a Title I Community Night for parents and students on Tuesday, September 27th from 5:00 – 7:00 pm, in the cafeteria and library. We will offer booths from around the community that support our students, have tables with resources that promote an organized learner, and offer Canvas training to parents who are new to the platform. Going forward, there will be further communication with more details as we get closer to this date.

Being as Paperless as Possible: In an effort to reduce our paper usage, Powell Middle School will be using technology to communicate with our parents, community and students this year. For instance, we have elected to offer our school handbook online as well as our school calendar, newsletter, and other items that pertain to the school. Please check out our website at <https://pms.pcsd1.org/> for more information.

PMS Staff: It is the desire of the Powell Middle School faculty and administration that your child be successful within all academic areas. We encourage you to contact any instructor to discuss your child's academic progress. Teachers are available via email at <https://pms.pcsd1.org/Staff> found on the Powell Middle School webpages.

Facebook: Powell Middle School's **Facebook page** enables you to see what activities are coming up for the week, find out the scores from recent activities, read the newsletter, look at the monthly calendar, look at pictures and see any other announcements. Like us at: <https://www.facebook.com/powellmiddleschool/> for Powell Middle School's page.

Tablet: In order for a student to check out a school laptop, a fee is required. The fee for the 2022-2023 school year is \$25. From that point, the first damage will cost \$25. A possible second incident will cost \$50. Further incidents and intentional damage will result in the loss of the privilege of utilizing a district device and may require purchasing a new device to replace the damaged.

Staff News: The middle school is happy to announce and welcome Michelle Giltner, Special Education Teacher; Hanson Jordan, 7th Grade Math Teacher; Jill Morrow, Library Aide; Taeli Hessenthaler, Life Skills Para; Heidi Knop, Life Skills Para; Lindsey Lindsay, 6th Grade Para; Karen Skoric, 6th Grade Para; Billy Guenther, 7th Grade Para; Julia Neff, 7th Grade Para; Alesha Heine, 8th Grade Para; and Caiti Bieber, Special Education Para. We are very excited to have these gifted individuals on our staff!

Bus Passes: Parents, just a reminder that in order for your child to ride a bus or change destinations, we need *written permission* from you in the office. A quick email to Mrs. Sanders at JRSanders@pcsd1.org will work, too! Please state your child, who they are riding with, and please be certain to sign and date the note. We will be happy to issue them a pass. If the need to ride the bus is frequent, please call the bus barn at 764-6189 to be listed as an occasional/frequent rider. Thanks for your help!

Student Accident Insurance: As a reminder to parents, student accident insurance for the 2022-2023 school year is available for purchase. You can find more information on our district Business Office page by going to <https://www.pcsd1.org/Business-Office> then click on the "Enroll in Student Accident Insurance" button, found in the right hand sidebar. Thank you!

MATHCOUNTS: The MATHCOUNTS team will have morning practices each Wednesday at 7:00 am in room 5226 with Mr. Estes. The practice is open to all 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students. We will be working on a variety of tests that the mathletes will encounter in the various competitions throughout the year. All the tests are timed. Speed, as well as accuracy, is essential to be a competitive mathlete. In the past, we have had coaches and mathletes taking turns bringing treats. If you would like to get on the sign-up sheet to have your son/daughter bring refreshments one morning, please let Mr. Estes or Mrs. Hanks know.

Wyoming State Science Fair: Our students will have the opportunity to research, investigate, and present findings on a STEM topic of their choice. Students will also have the opportunity to participate locally and regionally, as well as on the state and national level! For more information on the Wyoming State Science Fair for grades 6 and 8, please contact Mrs. Necole Hanks and for grade 7, contact Mr. Stan Hedges.

National Science Bowl: Is the game show “Jeopardy” one of your all-time favorites? If so, this is the club for you! Science Bowl is an academic competition that tests students’ knowledge in all areas of Science and Mathematics. Teams face-off in a fast paced question-and-answer format and are tested on a range of Science disciplines including Biology, Chemistry, Earth Science, Physics, Energy, and Mathematics. Science Bowl practice will be held on Fridays during Learning Lab in room 5127 (6th grade Science lab) with Mrs. Hanks.

National School Lunch & Breakfast Programs: Children need healthy meals to learn. PCSD1 offers healthy meals every school day through the USDA National School Lunch Program and National School Breakfast Program. The USDA nationwide waiver that has provided meals for free ended with the 2021-2022 school year. With the start of the 2022-2023 school year, meal charges will be reinstated. The price per meal has increased due to increased costs of supplies, labor, and fuel. We understand that this will impact many of our PCSD1 families. Filling out a Free & Reduced Meal application for the upcoming school year will allow your student to eat at the free or reduced price, if they qualify, based on your application determination.

If your student has a free or reduced status from a 2021-2022 meal application or through direct cert in the 2021-2022 school year (not the free status that extended to all students nationwide), the status will extend to your student through the first 30 days of school, or until your student has a new determination status with a 2022-2023 application or direct cert, whichever comes first. We ask those who will pay for meals to please check your child’s account balance and plan to have funds available for them during the new school year. USDA is an equal opportunity provider.

Online Free & Reduced Meal Application: We encourage all families to fill out a Free and Reduced Meal application to ensure that all students who may qualify for free and reduced meals are able to access healthy meals at school. The Free and Reduced Lunch application is available for completion online. You may access the online application through the Infinite Campus parent portal you are currently using to view your child’s lunch account balance. A link to this portal is available on the home page of the district’s website (www.pcsd1.org) at the top of the page. To access the application, please log on to the Infinite Campus portal, then select the applications/forms tab and click on the link to the application process. Using online applications will expedite the process and provide quicker access to your child’s potential benefits. We strongly encourage the use of this great tool! You only need to submit **one application per household**. Paper applications are available at your child’s school and the district office for you to use. Should you have questions throughout the application process, please contact Suzi in the business office at (307)764-6186 or email at sirivas@pcsd1.org.

New Meal Prices for the 2022-2023 School Year: Breakfast prices for Elementary, \$2.15; Middle School & High School, \$2.40; Reduced, \$.30 and Adults, \$2.90. Lunch prices for Elementary, \$3.40; Middle School & High School, \$3.65; Reduced, \$.40 and Adults, \$4.60. The price of a carton of milk will cost \$.60, while an extra carton of milk will cost an additional \$.60.

Be Their Hero - Trauma Informed Care: Speaker Josh Varner, a certified trauma trainer, will be at the Powell Middle School Commons on Thursday, September 8th at 5:30 pm. Nearly half of youth in the U.S. report that they have been impacted by a traumatic event. Data from the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) study found that certain traumatic experiences that may occur during childhood can have physical health and social consequences into adulthood. Join us to learn how the brain and body respond to trauma, how that impacts behavior, and specific tools to better support our children and build resilience. (Wyoming Project AWARE is sponsoring this event.) Parents, mark your calendar!

Park County School District #1 does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability in admission or access to, or treatment of employment in, its educational programs or activities. Inquiries concerning Title VI, Title IX, Section 504, and ADA may be referred to Park County School District #1, Ginger Sleep, Civil Rights Coordinator, 160 North Evarts, Powell, Wyoming 82435, or the Office for Civil Rights, Region VIII, U.S. Department of Education, Federal Building, Suite 310, 1244 Speer Blvd., Denver, Colorado 80204-03582, (303) 844-5695 or TDD 303-844-3417.

September 2022

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|-----------|---|---|-----------|---|---|--|
| | | | | 1 7 th & 8 th Cross Country Invite at Lovell (Foster Gulch) - 4 pm 7 th & 8 th Football (Scrimmage) at Powell - 6 pm | 2 Black Schedule | 3 |
| 4 | 5 No School Labor Day | 6 Girls Volleyball - 4:15 pm ➤ 7 th at Laurel ➤ 8 th at Powell | 7 | 8 Girls Volleyball - 4:15 pm ➤ 7 th at Powell ➤ 8 th at Lovell <u>Trauma Speaker</u> ➤ Josh Varner ➤ 5:30 pm Powell Middle School Commons | 9 Orange Schedule 7 th & 8 th Cross Country Invite at Big Horn Equine Center (Sheridan) - 1 pm | 10 Girls Volleyball - 9 am ➤ 7 th at Powell ➤ 8 th at Thermopolis Football – 10 am ➤ 7 th at Powell ➤ 8 th at Riverton |
| 11 | 12 Girls Volleyball - 4:15 pm ➤ 7 th at Cody ➤ 8 th at Powell | 13 | 14 | 15 Girls Volleyball - 4:15 pm ➤ 7 th at Lovell ➤ 8 th at Powell 7 th & 8 th Cross Country Invite at Lander - 12 pm | 16 Black Schedule MS Dance (PESCO) 6 - 8 pm | 17 |
| 18 | 19 7 th & 8 th Cross Country Invite at Lovell (Foster Gulch) - 4 pm | 20 PMS Picture Day Girls Volleyball - 4:15 pm ➤ 7 th at Cowley ➤ 8 th at Powell Football - 4:15 pm ➤ 7 th at Powell ➤ 8 th at Laurel | 21 | 22 7 th & 8 th Cross Country Invite at Worland - 3 pm Girls Volleyball - at Basin 8 th – 4:15 pm 7 th – 5:15 pm | 23 Orange Schedule | 24 Girls Volleyball Quad at 9 am ➤ 7 th at Thermopolis ➤ 8 th at Cody Football – 10 am ➤ 7 th at Sheridan ➤ 8 th at Powell |
| 25 | 26 Homecoming Week | 27 <u>Title I Community Night</u> ➤ 5 - 7 pm Powell Middle School | 28 | 29 7 th & 8 th Cross Country Quad at Cody - 4:15 pm Girls Volleyball - 4:15 pm ➤ 7 th at Powell ➤ 8 th at Cody 7 th Football at Powell - 4:15 pm 8 th Football at Cody - 5 pm | 30 Black Schedule | <i>October 1</i> Football – 9:30 am ➤ 7 th at Worland ➤ 8 th at Powell |

MATHCOUNTS meets every Wednesday morning at 7 am in Mr. Estes' room.

Coming in October! Science Olympiad Practice and Girls Who Code Club

Science Bowl Practice meets during Learning Lab (on Fridays) with Mrs. Hanks in room 5127 (6th grade Science lab).