



Monthly Newsletter September 2023

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.
- 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-Official 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](#) We will also be offering assistance at our Family Community Night on September 21st.

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 to 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. Optimal drop off time is 7:40-7:50.

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 see [Absences and Excuses K-12](#) at our district website.

Canvas Learning Management System: Our students will continue to use the CANVAS Learning Management System (LMS) to access class information. Grades and assignments can be accessed through Canvas. Information will be provided to parents on Sept. 21st at the Title I Community Night event. The students have received training on the LMS.

Fall Picture Day – Looking Ahead: Powell Middle School Fall Picture Day will be on Tuesday, September 26th, 2023. 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 Thursday, September 21st from 4:00 – 6:00 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.

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. Please click to access [teachers](#) via email.

Facebook: Follow Powell Middle School's Facebook page to keep up to date with what is going on at our school, read the monthly newsletter and calendar, and see photos of students enjoying learning at Powell Middle School. **Like us** at: <https://www.facebook.com/powellmiddleschoolwy>

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 2023-2024 school year is available for purchase. You can find more information on our district [Business Office page](#) then click on the "Enroll in Student Accident Insurance" button, found in the right hand sidebar.

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. For more information on the Wyoming State Science Fair, please contact: Mrs. Kix Carter - grade 6, Mr. Stan Hedges - grade 7, and Mr. Juston Carter, grade 8.

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 the Tech Garage with Mrs. Hanks.

Love & Logic: Parenting the Love & Logic way provides tools for making parenting fun and rewarding, rather than stressful and chaotic. These classes provide practical tools for adults to use with children to be able to have respectful, healthy relationships. There is no cost to attend these (virtual) Zoom sessions, which are held from 5:30 to 6:30 pm. The six meeting dates are: September 13th, September 20th, September 27th, October 4th, October 11th, and October 18th. (Please RSVP using the link below.)

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeowLcV9JyK1Qo19W3UVh34EiLR1nHliFK9mEr_X4U1Mke4yg/vi/ewform?usp=sf_link

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 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 2022-2023 meal application or through direct cert in the 2022-2023 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 2023-2024 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. 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 2023-2024 School Year: Breakfast Middle School, \$2.40; Reduced, \$.30. Lunch prices Middle School, \$3.75; Reduced, \$.40. The price of a carton of milk will cost \$.60.

Wyoming Project AWARE: Powell Middle School will be taking part in the [Wyoming Project AWARE \(Advancing Wellness and Resiliency in Education\) Student Survey](#). This survey is sponsored by the Wyoming Department of Education, and will be administered to 6-8 grade students. The students who participate will be asked about their attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors. We also want to learn about their knowledge of mental health and substance use supports. The survey gathers information that will be used to plan and evaluate programs to address these issues. The survey will take approximately 20 minutes during the regular school day. The data gathered from this survey will be anonymous. Your child will not put his or her name or other identifying information on the survey. Everyone involved will follow federal and state privacy laws. Your child will be free to stop filling out the survey at any time. Refusing to participate or withdrawing from the survey will not affect your child's school grade or class standing in any way. If your child does not want to participate, your child can read or do some other activity while his or her classmates complete the survey. Like many opinion polls, all results from the study will be presented only about groups. No individual data will be reported.

Yearbooks: This year's yearbooks are available for pre-order for \$10 in the Library by cash or check. Students will receive them during the last days of school.

Challenge of the Books: Students wishing to be a part the Challenge of the Books Team should come to the library to sign up for a minimum of two books to read. Students will read their selected books and then take a quiz. The competition for the team will be in January 2024. Have your student watch their email for more information in the coming weeks.

PMS Braggin' Board: For all of our students that our outdoor enthusiasts and interested in sharing their experiences on the water or in the field, please bring a photo of your prized game or fish into the front office. Your photo will be included on this year's "PMS Braggin' Board." We want to thank Eastman's Hunting Journal for once again being a generous sponsor to this year's board, recognizing all the great memories of our students in the outdoors. Good luck out there!

Hunter Safety: A Hunter Safety course for 6th graders will begin on Tuesday, September 5th and will meet during the students' PE class time, in room 5217. Students will need to have an email address outside of their school email address. All 6th grade students interested in the course will have a chance to get their names on the Hunter Safety class roster during their P.E. classes. Please contact Mr. Eric Oram at esoram@pcsd1.org for more information.

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 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	August 28	August 29	August 30	August 31 Cross Country at Lovell - 4 pm (Foster Gulch) Football (Scrimmage) at Cody - 5:30 pm Band Equipment Rental - 7 pm (MS Commons)	1 Black Schedule	2
3	4 No School Labor Day	5 Girls Volleyball - 4:15 pm ➤ 7 th at Laurel ➤ 8 th at Powell ➤ Hunter Safety classes begin (Grade 6)	6 First Practice Day for – <u>Room 5055:</u> ➤ Cub Choir 7:15 - 7:30 am ➤ Speech & Debate 3:30 - 4:30 pm <u>Tech Garage:</u> ➤ Robotics 3:30 - 5:00 pm	7 Cross Country at Riverton - 1 pm (Riverfront Park) Girls Volleyball - 4:15 pm ➤ 7 th at Lovell ➤ 8 th at Powell	8 Orange Schedule MS Dance (PESCO) 1:30 – 3:30 pm	9 Girls Volleyball Quad - 9 am ➤ 7 th at Powell ➤ 8 th at Thermopolis Football – 10 am ➤ 7 th at Powell ➤ 8 th at Riverton
10	11 Girls Volleyball - 4:15 pm ➤ 7 th at Cody ➤ 8 th at Powell	12 Football - 4:15 pm ➤ 7 th at Powell ➤ 8 th at Laurel	13	14 Girls Volleyball - 4:15 pm ➤ 7 th at Powell ➤ 8 th at Lovell	15 Black Schedule	16 Football – 10 am ➤ 7 th at Cody ➤ 8 th at Powell
17	18 Homecoming Week Cross Country at Lovell - 4 pm (Foster Gulch)	19 Girls Volleyball at Powell ➤ 8 th - 4:15 pm ➤ 7 th - 5:15 pm	20	21 Title I Community Night 4 - 6 pm	22 Orange Schedule Cross Country at Thermopolis - 2 pm	23 Girls Volleyball Quad - 9 am ➤ 7 th at Worland ➤ 8 th at Cody
24	25	26 MS Picture Day Cross Country at Cody - 4 pm (Beck Lake Park) Football - 4:15 pm ➤ 7 th at Worland ➤ 8 th at Powell Girls Volleyball - 4:15 pm ➤ 7 th at Powell ➤ 8 th at Laurel	27	28 Cross Country at Worland - 2 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	29 Black Schedule	30

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

Coming in October! Science Olympiad Practice

Science Bowl Practice meets during Learning Lab (on Fridays) with Mrs. Hanks in the Tech Garage.

Cub Choir meets every Monday and Wednesday at 7:15 am with Mrs. Schoessler in room 5055.

Speech & Debate Club meets in room 5055 every Wednesday after school with Mrs. Nicole Maier-Reitz.