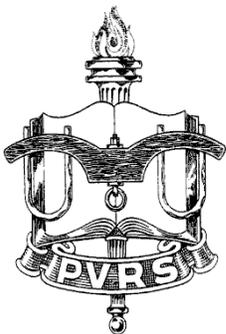


# Pioneer Valley Regional School

Bernardston Leyden Northfield Warwick  
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Jean Bacon  
Principal

Jennifer Albert Perry  
Assistant Principal

August 2, 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It is hard to believe how quickly July came and went! We are only a few short weeks away from the start of the 2017-2018 school year and welcoming the class of 2023 to Pioneer Valley Regional School. As a new PVRs parent/guardian, we wanted to reach out and let you know of some traditions and changes that are happening this school year.

First, we want to draw your attention to our school's mission. It provides us direction and guidance during transitions and change.

*The Pioneer community is committed to creating a learning environment that fosters universal respect, personal responsibility, and academic excellence. Pioneer recognizes that to meet the challenges of the 21st century we must critically and creatively engage in real world tasks, adapt to new situations and technologies, and collaboratively problem solve. By designing equal opportunities and multiple approaches to growth in a heterogeneous setting, we will facilitate the success of our students in a rapidly evolving, diverse global society.*

The values of **universal respect, personal responsibly, and academic excellence** that come from this mission are woven into many practices and expectations at PVRs. These will become common language for your child as s/he grows at PVRs.

Second, based on the recommendation of the faculty in our world language program we are expanding the language program for our new 7<sup>th</sup> graders. In the past, 7<sup>th</sup> graders have had a 6 week program that introduced them to both Spanish and French. This year, each 7<sup>th</sup> grader will take a full semester of Spanish and a full semester of French. Our hope is to provide a much richer exposure to both languages so students can make a more informed choice regarding their further language study.

This reconfiguration of world languages in 7<sup>th</sup> grade will provide a firm foundation in the language students will elect to take in grade 8, allowing acceleration of our grade 8 curriculum. A minimum of two years of foreign language study is recommended by the state of Massachusetts for all students.

On the course sign-up sheet that you completed this past spring, it indicated that 7<sup>th</sup> grade students would be taking a Humanities course instead of English and social studies as separate subjects. After working closely with the teaching staff, it became clear that making such a large instructional shift this year would be challenging.

As a result, teachers will take this year to prepare for this blended curriculum; therefore, this proposed change to student schedules will **not** be happening this fall. Students will be enrolled in English and social studies as separate classes this year.

Finally, we encourage all students to participate in our school community by becoming involved a variety of activities such as clubs, sports, band or chorus, as well as other events and happenings that are taking place throughout the school year. Some of these opportunities, like certain sports, begin in August. We want students to show their Panther pride, and, most importantly, to be an upstanding school citizen.

We are honored to be your principal and assistant principal and are excited about this upcoming school year. Pioneer's teachers, counselors, and administrators are currently attending workshops, creating the master schedule, and planning for a successful 2017-2018 school year. Our outstanding custodial staff and administrative assistants are making sure the building and all the important behind-the-scenes elements are in top running order and ready for the end of August. We invite parents, guardians and family members to get involved here at PVRS and to remain connected to your child's educational experience through regular collaboration and communication with teachers, guidance counselors, and administration. By working in partnership, we will make 2017-2018 a great school year.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you or your students have any questions prior to the start of the school year.

Sincerely,

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### **Upcoming Events**

#### ***Parent Forum—Thursday, August 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM-PVRS Auditorium***

This is an opportunity to hear from the Principal about all that PVRS has to offer students and families.

#### ***7<sup>th</sup> Grade Meet and Greet—Monday, August 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM***

In order to assist you and your child in the transition to middle school, you are invited to attend our annual 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Meet and Greet on Monday, August 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 P.M. The purpose of the event is to provide an introduction to middle school for 7<sup>th</sup> grade students and parents/guardians before the start of school on August 30<sup>th</sup>. Upon arriving, parents/guardians and students will pick up a schedule in the main lobby and proceed to find their classrooms, lockers, and advisory room. This year's 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will be available to answer questions and help with a scavenger hunt of the building.

#### ***PVRS Open House—Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM***

This is your opportunity to meet your child's teachers!

\*Attached please find a copy of the 7<sup>th</sup> grade supply list.