



Dear Parents,



Welcome to the **2022-23** school year and to the Pioneer House! I am excited to get to know each student in our House family! It is my goal for your child to have a 5th grade experience that stretches your child beyond his/her academic and social expectations. I can't wait to see how your child flourishes and carves paths this year! **I can. I will.**

A Tid-Bit About Me:

I am an outdoor enthusiast and photographer in training! I enjoy running, biking, kayaking, crafting, and comedy! You will probably see me with my nose in a book (favorite genres-nonfiction and historical fiction) or my fingers tapping on keys because I am an avid reader and someone who has a huge crush on writing! I am also aspiring to be the Best of the Best science “geeks.” This is my 21st year teaching (I know...that probably makes me the oldest 5th grader...ha) and my 8th year in 5th grade. I have also taught 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade.



Absences:

Students who are absent have a day to complete work for each day they were absent. [This includes vacations.] Your student and you (via Email) will get a list of outstanding work that needs to be completed and turned in.

Backpacks:

Yes; this year your child will bring his/her backpack into the room! :) We will periodically clean our backpacks to ensure your student's backpack is organized and easy to transport.



Changes:

If there is a change of plans for your student, please **notify the office**. I do not check my Emails until my preps, and I do not want your student to miss that update. Student phones are expected to be kept in their backpacks until dismissal, so please do not text your student updates/changes in their schedules; they will probably miss that notification.

Communication:

I will be sending you updates and communicating with you through weekly Emails. This weekly Email will include our Pioneer House News. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions, clarifications, and concerns.

Contact Information:

Attendance Line: (before 10 A.M.) (920) 662-7875

Lineville Office: (920) 662-7871



Expertise:

We would love to hear how you apply what you learned in school in your occupation or with a hobby/talent you have that requires you to apply skills you learned in school-math, literacy, geography, etc. Please reach out if you are interested.

Fidgets:

For students that need them, fidgets can be a remarkable learning tool to help a student be successful. Fidget toys such as spinners and putty should be left at home. In our House, we want to minimize any potential distractions and increase student's sustained focus, therefore unless we make special arrangements with you, we ask that these items be kept at home. We will ensure that students who have success using fidgets have access to a fidget that meets his/her learning and active needs.

Gum:

Unless specified in an IEP or Service Plan, your child will not be allowed to have gum in our classroom. Expectations might occur during testing.

Homework:

I will not assign “homework.” But, if your child does not complete his/her work or use his/her time effectively, then your child will have homework. Your child will be using a planner to note any homework that needs to be completed. Please check your child’s Traveling Folder (I will be providing one) for any worksheets and/or Schoology for work that needs to be completed.

House T-Shirts:



- Your child is encouraged to wear his/her Pioneer House Shirt on Tuesdays! More information to come on ordering a shirt!

Lockers:

Your child’s locker will hold your child’s outside apparel and band instrument. We will be keeping backpacks in our classroom.

Paperback Books:



Your child should always have 1-2 paperback books with them to read. These can be from my library, Lineville’s library, or from home.

Phones:

Our school policy is that your student must keep their device in their backpack (locker) during school hours. Your students’ phone should be silenced, or even better, turned off. Your student is not allowed to be on their phone during school hours.

Planner:

Your child will be using a planner to help him/her stay organized, make note of special upcoming events/activities, record his/her work that needs to be completed at home. (You are more than welcome to purchase a planner for your child.)

Reading at Home:



Please encourage your child to read at least 20 minutes each day! If

you want me to provide your child with a Reading Log; I can definitely do that!

Self-Contained:

We have the wonderful opportunity to be the only self-contained House at LV! This is the 2nd year that the Pioneer House is structured this way. I love teaching all the core subjects-Language Arts, Science, Math, and Social Studies! Let's carve paths this year by being innovative, personalized, and inspirational!

Schoology:



The main platform your child will be using in school is Schoology! Here is where your child will be posting work that is not directly handed to me or completed via an online program (such as Freckle (Math and Reading) or Aleks (Math) You are encouraged to ask your student to show you submitted work.

Snack:

Your child may bring in a snack. Please make sure it is peanut and nut free. THANK YOU!



Subjects:

1. Language Arts:

Throughout the year we will strive to live rich and healthy literate lives. We will share gripping and sophisticated books with each other to help foster a love of reading! Through conversations on page turners, we will develop an appetite to read delicious books that will allow us to develop our strategies and sharpen our reading skills. .



2. Writing:

We will explore what makes a skilled and critical writer who is able to be expressive and well articulated in his/her piece. Furthermore, we will discuss how to show grit when we have "sticky thoughts" and how to maximize writing time and increase one's writing stamina. We will utilize a variety of strategies to improve our spelling skills which will help



alleviate the problem of being “stuck” on not being able to spell a word.

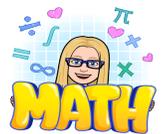
3. Social Studies:



History will come to life as we connect our past to the present, analyze perspectives and viewpoints, compare and contrast decisions, examine timelines, and study different forms of maps. Through real world applications, electronic explorations, simulations, and personalized projects, we will make connections to our past and have thoughtful and insightful discussions about the future!

4. Math:

Fractions, decimals, multiplication/division, measurement, and geometry oh, my! We will explore and learn multiple computation methods (along with the traditional methods) of solving math problems. We will also practice our math facts. By 5th grade, it is assumed students have mastered their facts, but faster recall and automaticity is advantageous when solving complex math problems. If your child is not fluent in his/her math facts, your child and I will reserve time during the day to practice and strengthen his/her skills. Please encourage your child to practice his/her math facts. Finally, your child will have daily math work. Each student should be able to finish his/her work at school.



5. Science:

YAY-science! We will be using a program called Mystery Science. We will be studying natural phenomena and will be investigating ecosystems, the water cycle and Earth’s systems, stars and the solar system, and matter! Get those goggles and gloves ready!



Technology:

1. **Ipad:** It is your child’s responsibility to charge their device at home and bring it to school each day.

IPAD



Traveling Folder:

Please check your child’s Traveling Folder for any paperwork that needs to be kept at home and/or signed and returned! Your child will also be using this

folder to transport his/her incomplete school work. I will be providing your child with a Traveling Folder.

Twitter:

Follow me on Twitter for fun pictures and updates!



Ms. Wenzel--- @lvwenzel5th

Water Bottle:

Please encourage your child to bring in a labeled water bottle each day!

Website:

Please visit the Pioneer House website: lpioneerhouse.weebly.com

Our website will have a photo gallery and archived issues of our Pioneer House News.

Ms. Wenzel

rosewenz@hssdschools.org



Please complete (please print) the following and return this document to school by 9/12/22

Parent or Guardian Name: _____ Your Child's Name: _____

8 Things To Tell Your Teacher

1. Health Concerns: (Any allergies or serious health concerns).

2. Family Changes: (Anything at home that could affect your child.)

3. What are your child's strengths? (Include as many as you can think of ---academic, social, athletic, artistic, musical, etc.)

4. What skills does your child need to strengthen or what strategies does your child need to sharpen?

5. How does your child learn best? (minimal noise, standing up, in groups, etc.)

6. What do you wish that teachers knew about your child that they might not know?

7. What motivates your child?

8. What are your goals for your child this year?

Other: Is there anything else I should know that would be helpful in making me the best teacher for your child?

Child's Name:_____

Please complete (please print) this form and return it by 9/12/22

Contact information:

Primary Contact's Name:_____

Relationship to Child:_____

Email:_____

Phone number:_____

Secondary Contact's Name:_____

Relationship to Child:_____

Email:_____

Phone number:_____