



## Monthly Newsletter

October 2020

**P.R.O.P.S. – Parents Recognizing Outstanding Professionals:** We will continue with the initiative for parents to share positive experiences and kind words regarding your child's interaction with a professional (coach, teacher, para, anybody) at Powell Middle School. All notes can be sent to Kyle Rohrer at [KTRohrer@pcsd1.org](mailto:KTRohrer@pcsd1.org) or Chanler Buck at [CJBuck@pcsd1.org](mailto:CJBuck@pcsd1.org).

"Thank you all for your efforts and everything done to this point to open and maintain your doors open. My child shares how much more they are enjoying school in the true classrooms and also how much more they are learning. The staff deserves a pat on the back."

"My child's first true experience with competitive sports at the middle school level has been more than we could have asked for. The coaches are true professionals and take exceptional care of my child. It is very evident that all athletes are cared for and pushed to reach their best potential."

**Powell Middle School Staff:** We at PMS are proud of the professional level and qualifications of our entire staff. Parents may review credentials of the staff by making a written request to Mr. Jay Curtis, 160 N. Evarts. Great teachers + Great kids = Amazing Opportunities!

**Parent vs. Friend - Important Reminders:** Being a friend comes easy. It's knowing when to be a parent that's difficult. Listed below are some practical reminders for knowing when to be a parent and not a friend:

- When what your child wants conflicts with what you know they need, be a parent.
- When your child is being disrespectful, argumentative, or manipulative, be a parent.
- When your child is being disobedient or misbehaving, don't excuse their behavior.
- Be a parent, and deal with it.
- When it's more convenient to be a friend, but you know you should be a parent, be a parent.

I believe that every parent should strive to have an absolutely amazing relationship with their child if at all possible. But we all know there are times when being both a parent and a friend just won't mix. We have a lifetime to be their friend. Children often need direction and correction, and friendship just doesn't work in those moments. Simply remember that you've got to care more about your child's *future* than you do about your child's current feelings, and you will set them up for a lifetime of success. We only have 18 short years to be our child's parent, but we have a *lifetime* to be their friend!

**Picture Day:** Powell Middle School Picture Day will be on Wednesday, October 14th. All students will have school photos taken during their P.E. class.

**Sustaining Middle School Success:** 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. To contact staff by email, go to <https://pms.pcsd1.org/Staff> on our school website.

Teachers are available to students after school for help with course work. We, as a staff, are interested in helping your son/daughter to become successful in his/her courses, as well as in their middle school experience. If you have any further questions, please call. Thank you!

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.

**Uniforms and School Equipment:** Coaches will specify a date for the return of all school equipment and uniforms. Students not returning the uniform or equipment in a timely fashion (or in good condition) may be charged for the replacement cost of the uniform or equipment and not allowed to participate in future athletic contests and/or afterschool events until the uniform or equipment is returned or paid for. Please properly wash the uniforms prior to turning in to the coach.

**Football, Volleyball, and Cross Country Recognition:** Powell Middle School would like to thank the cross country, volleyball, and football teams for representing us so well this fall. Great Job!!

**Grading:** Grading at the middle school is set at a 60/40 blend. Common assessments will be worth 60% of the final grade, while acknowledging that students that did not pass a common assessment on the first attempt will be given an additional opportunity to retake the assessment. Students must make an attempt to gain more understanding of the knowledge either through intervention or work to demonstrate understanding. The formative work consisting of daily work will encompass the other 40% of the final grade.

**Bus Passes:** Parents, just a reminder that in order for your child to ride a bus with a friend or change destinations, we require **written permission** from you be sent the office. Please state your child, who they are riding with, and be certain to sign and date the note. You can also email [JRSanders@pcsd1.org](mailto:JRSanders@pcsd1.org) with your request. We will be happy to issue your students 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 Lunches:** During the week of August 31st, 2020, the USDA announced the ability for school districts to provide free meals under the COVID19 SFSP Nationwide Waiver for any child under the age of 18. What this did was extend the summer food service program through December, 2020. Park County School District 1 Food Service Director, Jill Queen and Mary Jo Lewis, Coordinator of Business Services, met with the Wyoming Department of Education food service staff to make sure that we clearly understood the details of what is and isn't allowed with this waiver since we have students now in school.

The option the district will currently operate under is the Summer Food Service Program Closed enrolled site. This would be a site, where all of the students enrolled would eat and be claimed free whether they are eating breakfast and/or lunch at the physical school building or picking up meal(s) and eating them at home while learning virtually. It would be closed and available only to those that are enrolled at that site. We started the free meals for our enrolled students on September 3rd, 2020. We will continue to serve the same breakfast and lunch menu that has been posted to our website and at your schools for the students that are physically at school. Ala carte purchases, extra milks and adult meals are all still fully paid and are not subject to the free meals waiver.

Adults must have money on their accounts at the schools for any meals they are purchasing or can pay cash in the line but they do not receive free meals. Extra milk or a milk if a student is bringing a meal from home is also a charge, this is not subject to the free meal waiver. All ala carte purchases still require a cash payment as we have to be able to show we are not supplanting any of those costs with the Summer Food Service Program waiver funds.

**Drive Through Site:** There are also free meals that are only available to children 18 and under who are not enrolled in Park County School District #1 or another entity like Head Start, who are already provided a free meal.

This is a serving site for Park County School District #1 under the extension of the Summer Food Service Program through December 2020. The pickup times will be between 9 am and 11 am outside of the PVHC care center west entrance on Grand Ave. This is a drive through site only. These meals will be available starting September 28th.

We still need to have those free and reduced meal applications completed and in place no later than October 1st as that count is used for multiple other programs and funding sources. If they are not completed by the October date, any students that remain will go to paid status and will have to pay full price beginning in January without the current SFSP waiver. We don't want this to happen to students or parents. Our Title I funding is determined by the free and reduced meal counts as well as at risk funding in the school funding model so it is very important and is also impactful of whether we qualify for other federal funding.

Thank you for all your help in getting our school year off to a great start for our students and hopefully with the extension of free meals to all students, it will be one less worry for parents as they send their children to school.

**Lunch Account Balance:** Parents can always access your student's lunch account balance at <https://pcsd1.infinitecampus.org/campus/portal/park.jsp>, found on the **Infinite Campus** parent portal. To check your student's lunch balance on the **Infinite Campus** parent portal, sign-in and click on "Food Service" (found on along the left side of the screen). You will then be able to see your student's name and lunch balance.

**Breakfast** is available to students at the middle school in the morning from 7:30 to 7:55 a.m.

#### **Tips for Success:**

- Homework – Have a consistent time and place established.
- Accurate contact information - (such as email addresses and phone numbers) for O.R. (Opportunity Room) notices and checking grades frequently on CANVAS.
- Laptop/Technology – Establish certain locations by designated times (in example, 9:00 pm dinner table).
- Communicate – Ask your student(s) how their day went. Notify teachers with concerns.
- Familiarize yourself with how to log in to school email, social media sites (Snapchat, for example), text messages, etc. Review phones periodically.

**O.R. Process:** One obstacle to academic success is the failure to complete assigned homework on the part of the student. Without a student's completion of homework, teachers have no way of knowing if the student learned the concept or not. The goal of the O.R. (Opportunity Room) program is to provide support for students, promote responsibility and good study habits, reinforce the value of hard work and effort, and foster good communication between home and school.

With this in mind, students who choose not to turn in or complete work, will immediately be placed into the O.R. program. The program is a tiered program that corresponds with our Behavioral Pyramid of Interventions (see back page).

**Tier One:** Students will be assigned to the Lunch O.R. program where they will be given supervision and academic support by a certified teacher until they have completed their work. Students will receive full credit for the work completed. Students will be given **three days** to complete their work. If the student chooses not to complete their work **within three days**, then they will be moved to the Tier Two intervention of the O.R. program.

**Sports Eligibility: Student may participate in all practices or games (unless they are on the deficiency/ineligibility list).**

**Tier Two:** In addition to the Tier One, students will be required to attend an after school "Homework Support" class. Parents will be notified of students being placed in the O.R. program once they are referred to Tier Two in the O.R. program. **Kids who miss after-school O.R. time (when confirmed with parent) will receive consequences.** If the student chooses not to complete their work after **two days**, then they will be moved to the Tier Three intervention of the O.R. program.

**Sports Eligibility: Student must report to after school O.R. until 4:00 pm. They are dismissed from after school O.R. at 4:00 pm to go to practice or home games. If they are not also on the deficiency/eligibility list, student may travel with the team and play at away games.**

**Tier Three:** In addition to Tier One and Two, the student may be assigned to "Friday School." Friday School is held periodically throughout the school year as needed. Friday School runs from 12:50 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. If the student chooses not to complete their work after a Friday, then they will be moved to the Tier Four intervention of the O.R. program. Tier Three students may receive a modified ISS to provide time within the day to complete their work. **Tier Three students are ineligible for school-sponsored activities, clubs, or sports.**

**Sports Eligibility:** *Student is ineligible for all after-school sports activities (and dances) beginning on the day he/she is placed on Tier 3 for one full week - for example, Wednesday to Wednesday.*

**Tier Four:** In addition to the three Tiers mentioned above, a conference will be held with the student and parents. This conference will be held to discuss ways to get the student engaged in their own learning. We will discuss placement in a temporary, modified schedule and possible retention at this conference.

A meeting for a student that chooses not to complete their schoolwork through the O.R. program will be held to also discuss the following: restricted privileges, possible loss of an elective, no activities or dances, mandatory after school tutoring (11<sup>th</sup> hour), and/or restricted lunch/recess.

*Note: Changes to the O.R. program may occur based upon the individual needs of the student(s).*

**Challenge of the Books Competition:** Any students who love to read and would like to join the Challenge of the Books should visit the Learning Commons and sign up. Students will read a minimum of three of the titles displayed throughout the school and take a test over the books by December 2nd, 2020.

The students who read the most titles and score the highest on the tests will be selected to be on this year's team. The team will consist of six students and will travel to Thermopolis in January to compete against other schools. Questions should be e-mailed to [dicatlin@pcsd1.org](mailto:dicatlin@pcsd1.org).

**Robotics Team:** If your child enjoys tinkering, experimenting, and being part of a team, he/she would be the perfect fit for the PMS robotics team! The team is open to all 6th, 7th, and 8th graders. Participants don't need to have any robotics experience to be a great team member.

Robotics offers a tremendous opportunity for your son/daughter to improve his/her problem solving, collaboration, engineering, and computer programming skills.

We practice on Fridays after school from 12:46 to 3:00 pm in the cafeteria and there is no cost. Please contact Mr. Opps ([ztopps@pcsd1.org](mailto:ztopps@pcsd1.org)) with questions.

**Girls Who Code:** The Girls Who Code group is open to any middle school girl and meets each Wednesday from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. in room 5126 (Mrs. Hanks' room). Please contact Mrs. Hanks if you would like more information on how to join.

**Fall Conferences:** Powell Middle School will host Parent/Teacher Conferences from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Monday, October 12th and Tuesday, October 13th. We are currently examining a variety of options to allow parents to visit with teachers at conferences. We will communicate out to parents once we have landed on the best options for this particular school year.

# October 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>Sept. 29</b> Canvas Parent Night at Powell MS Library - 6 pm	<b>Sept. 30</b>	<b>1</b> 7 <sup>th</sup> Girls Volleyball at Cody - 4:15 pm 8 <sup>th</sup> Girls Volleyball at Powell - 4:15 pm 7 <sup>th</sup> Football at Powell - 4:15 pm 8 <sup>th</sup> Football at Cody - 5 pm	<b>2</b> <b>Black Schedule</b> 7 <sup>th</sup> - 8 <sup>th</sup> Cross Country Invite at Cody - 3 pm	<b>3</b> 7 <sup>th</sup> - 8 <sup>th</sup> Girls Volleyball at Lander - 10 am 7 <sup>th</sup> Football at Worland - 9 am 8 <sup>th</sup> Football at Powell - 9:30 am
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 7 <sup>th</sup> Football at Powell - 4:15 pm 8 <sup>th</sup> Football at Powell - 5:30 pm	<b>9</b> <b>Orange Schedule</b> 7 <sup>th</sup> - 8 <sup>th</sup> Cross Country Invite at Powell - Start Times to be Announced	<b>10</b> 7 <sup>th</sup> - 8 <sup>th</sup> Girls Volleyball at Powell - 10 am 7 <sup>th</sup> Football at Lander - 10:30 am 8 <sup>th</sup> Football at Lander - 12 pm
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Parent - Teacher Conferences & Student Art Show 5-8 pm Wrestling Practice Begins	<b>13</b> Parent - Teacher Conferences & Student Art Show 5-8 pm	<b>14</b> <b>School Picture Day</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> <b>No School</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Girls Basketball Practice Begins	<b>20</b> Middle School Band & Choir Concert at Powell High School - 7 pm	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> <b>Orange Schedule</b> 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Activity <b>1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Ends</b>	<b>24</b> 7 <sup>th</sup> - 8 <sup>th</sup> Wrestling Invite at Powell - 9:30 am
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Begins</b> High School & Middle School Jazz Concert at Powell High School - 7 pm	<b>27</b> Middle School Health Screening Day - Begins at 8 am	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> <b>Black Schedule</b>	<b>31</b> 7 <sup>th</sup> Girls Basketball at Cody - 10 am & 12 pm 8 <sup>th</sup> Girls Basketball at Powell - 10 am & 12 pm 7 <sup>th</sup> - 8 <sup>th</sup> Wrestling at Lovell - 9:30 am

**Creative Writing Club meets every Wednesday after school until 4 pm in Ms. Faxon's room.**  
**Math Counts meets every Wednesday morning at 7 am in Mr. Estes' room.**  
**Girls Who Code meets each Wednesday after school in Mrs. Hanks' room.**