



Monthly Newsletter September 2020

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, as well as 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 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.
- We, as leaders at Powell Middle School, are committed to focusing on the positives that take place in the school and celebrating. One way we would like to maintain this initiative is to invite parents to share positive experiences and kind words regarding your child’s interaction with a professional (coach, teacher, para, anybody) at Powell Middle School. The title in future newsletters is P.R.O.P.S. – Parents Recognizing Our ProfessionalS. My intent is to publish the kind words (anonymously if you choose) in the next month’s newsletter. We believe positive breeds positive and that is where we will focus. All notes can be sent to Kyle Rohrer at KTRohrer@pcsd1.org or Chanler Buck at CJBuck@pcsd1.org. One way we as a staff are implementing a focus on the positive, is to send home P.A.W.S. (Professionals Acknowledging What’s Special) postcards to parents and students to recognize the positive things taking place at Powell Middle School.

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 opportunities to learn
- Focus on the whole child
- Promote and celebrate positive character and citizenship
- Provide a positive, safe, and inclusive school culture
- Value 21st century 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.
- * A trained communications officer collects information for the report and assigns a tip number to the reporting party.
- * Every tip submitted to Safe2Tell is thoroughly investigated once given to the appropriate school and/or law enforcement agency.
- * Safe2Tell serves as a conduit for the information received, sending it directly to the school and/or law enforcement for local investigation and/or intervention.
- * Safe2Tell Wyoming uses a unique and highly sophisticated database program that allows for two-way dialogue between the reporting party and the answering point.
- * All information is encrypted, allowing for complete confidentiality.
- * Web reporting and mobile app options allow reporting parties to upload photos and social media posts, which aid law enforcement in conducting thorough investigations.
- * The sophistication of the Safe2Tell database system is ever-evolving and helps identify trends of violence in schools and communities.

Tips for Success to Parents for Kids:

- Homework – Identify a consistent time & place
- Accurate contact information for O.R. (Opportunity Room) notice and checking grades frequently on CANVAS – email & 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, etc.), text messages, etc. Review phones periodically.

Student Safety - Drop Off & 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 and we thank you for your attention to this matter.

Drop off & 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 grades, we have found that the lot on the southwest side of the school is less busy so it is a good idea to utilize the lot that is most efficient and comfortable for you and your child.

Attendance Notice: On July 20, 2016, at the recommendation of the school principals, the Park County School District #1 Board of Trustees adopted a new attendance policy. This policy is different from the former policy and may impact you and your student(s).

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.
- Law enforcement will be notified when a student accumulates two (2) unexcused absences. The student's parent/guardian may be subject to a fine.
- 5 tardies of 10 minutes late equals 1 unexcused absence.

To review the policy in its entirety, please visit:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B_jM9DxWWhrXIQXppd3hTalhqdGc

and click on "Absences and Excuses K-12" or **copy and paste this address into your browser.**

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).

Canvas Parent Training: Powell Middle School will be hosting a Canvas training for parents on Tuesday, September 29th at 6:00 pm. We use the Canvas LMS to communicate with students and parents about course work and grades. This year, we are considering offering both an virtual accessible option as well as in person. We are also planning to offer a tutorial video as a resource for parents. Further communication to come as we get closer to this date.

Infinite Campus: Infinite Campus will still be used to pay lunch accounts, computer laptop lab fee, and to record attendance.

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 on-line 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 2020-2021 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 Rachel Schoessler, choir; Robb Gould, 6th Grade Title I Para; Joshua Garza, 7th Grade Title I Para, and Kristin Turner, 8th Grade Title I Para. We are very excited to have these gifted individuals on our staff!

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 know.

Library Hours: The Learning Commons (library) is open each morning at 7:45 am for students to check out books. This year, homeroom teachers will write students a pass to go to the library to check out a book.

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!

Breakfast: Just a quick reminder that the middle school cafeteria is open for breakfast every morning at 7:30 am. Regular price for breakfast is \$1.65. Those qualifying for reduced or free lunches will receive reduced/free breakfast as well. Please visit <https://www.pcsd1.org/Food-Services> to check out our breakfast menus.

Picture Day – Looking Ahead:

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

Online Free & Reduced Lunch Meal Application: The Free & Reduced Lunch application will be available to be completed 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, 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 new tool! You still will only need to submit one application per household. Paper applications will still be 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.

Student Accident Insurance: As a reminder to parents, student accident insurance for the 2020-2021 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!

Robotics Team: If your son or daughter enjoys tinkering, experimenting, and working with others, 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 Fridays after school from 12:46 to 3:00 pm in the cafeteria. Our first practice is Friday, Sept. 4 and there is no cost. Please contact Mr. Opps (ztopps@pcsd1.org) with questions.

September 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Creative Writing Club starts today after school in Ms. Faxon's room (5230).	3 7 th & 8 th Cross Country Invite at Lovell (Foster Gulch) - 4 pm	4 Black Schedule	5
6	7 Labor Day No School	8 7 th Girls Volleyball at Greybull – 4:15 & 5:15 pm 8 th Girls Volleyball at Powell – 4:15 & 5:15 pm	9	10 7 th Girls Volleyball at Powell – 4:15 pm 8 th Girls Volleyball at Lovell – 4:15 pm	11 Orange Schedule	12 7 th Girls Volleyball at Powell – 9 am 8 th Girls Volleyball at Thermopolis - 9 am 7 th Football at Powell – 10 am 8 th Football at Riverton - 10 am
13	14	15 7 th Girls Volleyball at Powell - 4:15 pm 8 th Girls Volleyball at Cody - 4:15 pm	16	17 7 th Girls Volleyball at Lovell - 4:15 pm 8 th Girls Volleyball at Powell - 4:15 pm 8 th Football at Powell - 4:15 pm 7 th Football at Cody – 5 pm	18 Black Schedule 7 th & 8 th Cross Country Invite at Sheridan - 3 pm	19
20	21 7 th Girls Volleyball at Cowley - 4:15 pm 8 th Girls Volleyball at Powell - 4:15 pm 7 th & 8 th Cross Country Invite at Cowley – TBA	22 8 th Football at Cowley - 4:15 pm 7 th Football at Cowley - 5:30 pm Autumn Begins!	23	24 7 th Girls Volleyball at Basin (Riverside High School) - • 7 th - 4:15 pm • 7B - 5:15 pm 8 th Girls VB - • Intrasquad at Powell MS - 4:15 pm 7 th & 8 th Cross Country Invite at Worland (Green Hills) – 1 pm	25 Orange Schedule	26 7 th Girls Volleyball at Worland - 9 am 8 th Girls Volleyball at Powell – 9 am 8 th Football at Powell – 10 am 7 th Football at Powell – 12:30 pm
27	28	29 Parent Night Canvas Training – 6 pm in the Powell Middle School Library	30	October 1 7 th Girls Volleyball at Cody - 4:15 pm 8 th Girls Volleyball at Powell - 4:15 pm 7 th Football at Powell - 4:15 pm 8 th Football at Cody - 5 pm	2 Black Schedule 7 th & 8 th Cross Country Invite at Cody - 3 pm	3 7 th Football at Worland - 9 am 8 th Football at Powell - 9:30 am 7 th & 8 th Girls Volleyball at Lander - 10 am

Creative Writing Club meets every Wednesday after school until 4 pm in Ms. Faxon's room, starting Sept. 2nd.
 MATHCOUNTS meets every Wednesday morning at 7 am in Mr. Estes' room.
 Science Olympiad and Girls Who Code Club -- More information to come!