



## The Polaris Guide

Polaris Expeditionary Learning School  
May 2022

**K-12**    **K-5**    **6-12**

**5/2 – 5/6\* (pg 2)**

Teacher Appreciation Week

**5/3\* (pg 2)**

6<sup>th</sup> Grade Orientation Night  
5:30 – 6:30 in Gym  
For current 5<sup>th</sup> Graders

**5/4**

10<sup>th</sup> Grade [Presentations of Learning](#) @ Polaris

4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Celebration of Learning  
Avo's @ 2:00 – 4:00PM

**5/6\* (pg 3)**

Secondary Music Performances  
Old Town Stage  
6:00 – 8:30PM

**5/7\* (pg 2)**

Polari-palooza  
5:00 – 8:00PM  
[535 Spaulding Ln](#)

**5/10\* (pg 3)**

4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Music Performance  
3:30PM at Polaris

**5/11**

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Presentations of  
Learning @ Polaris

4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Presentation of  
Learning  
2:00 – 4:00 @ Avery Park

**5/13**

Secondary Polaris Games  
Senior's Last Day

**5/16**

PSD Teacher Work Day  
NO SCHOOL for students

**IMPORTANT DATES CONTINUE  
ON PAGE 2**

Dear Polaris Community,

During the month of May, it can sometimes be a challenge to determine if the school year is winding down or picking up. With the number of activities and celebrations that will be taking place these last few weeks we'd ask that you please read this newsletter, and the attached documents that were emailed home, as thoroughly as possible. By doing so you'll be better able to help your child navigate all that needs to be managed through May 25<sup>th</sup>.

Perhaps the biggest event to make note of this month is our Polaris Graduation. Since our elementary and secondary programs moved into Moore Elementary together in 2010 our graduation has had an impact across the K-12 community. It is important to note that **on Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> there will be no early release. Our early release for that week will take place on Thursday, May 19<sup>th</sup> instead.** By rearranging these dates, it will be possible to:

- Invite the entire K-12 community to attend our Polaris Graduation at the Lincoln Center at 12:30 on the 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Assure appropriate staff coverage at the building all week (it always felt awkward leaving the building understaffed on graduation days in the early days of our K-12 program).
- Give the younger students the opportunity to see their older classmates celebrate, and to understand what could be in store for them in the future.

With the 11:30 release on **Thursday, May 19<sup>th</sup>** please know **NO LUNCH SERVED.**

If you or your graduate's loved ones cannot make the ceremony, no worries, Poudre School District will be streaming the ceremony live. We anticipate a link to be provided to us in the coming weeks. We will send the graduation link out with a Weekend Weekly Reminder on an upcoming Sunday.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WeeU0H0bgEY>

This year we have several students graduating that have been with our program since their kindergarten year, and we expect that this trend will continue to grow over the years. This truly is a wonderful event that captures the growth and learning that our entire K-12 community contributes towards. We hope to see as many Penguins there as possible so that we can support these students as they embark on their next journey.

Sincerely,

Joe Gawronski

### IMPORTANT DATES CON'T

**5/17\* (pg 4)**

Secondary Alternate Schedule  
All students in 6-12 start at 8:00AM  
and finish at 3:01

**5/18\* (PG 1)**

**NO EARLY RELEASE**

**5/19\* (pg 1)**

**K12 Releases at 11:30:**

**NO LUNCHES SERVED**

12:30 Graduation 2022 @ Lincoln  
Center

**5/20**

K-5 Field Day 12:30 – 3:00

**5/23 – 5/25**

Secondary: May Intensives

**5/25**

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL  
11:30 RELEASE, no lunch served

YMCA of the Rockies, and 2-night stay at Never Summer Nordic Yurts, and a Family Fun Pack at Fort Fun! The beauty of Polari-palooza is it's early enough in the night that you can EITHER get home for a reasonable bedtime OR you can carry the party on into Old Town (or wherever it pleases you)! Please reach out to Joe if you need a list of available secondary students for babysitting.

### 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Orientation

**May 3 5:30 – 6:30**

This evening will provide current 5<sup>th</sup> grade students the opportunity to ask any questions they may have about the middle school experience and to make sure we have received your [elective selections](#) for the 2022-2023 school year.

Parents will verify that we have all your contact information and have any of their questions answered as well.

### Last PTC meeting of the year!!!!

**May 10, 5:30-7pm, Avo's**

Woohoo!!! Time to close out the year's planning and celebrate what a fantastic year it's been! We have a few business pieces to cover for the end of the year and plan for next year. Please consider joining up at Avo's on Tuesday, May 10. We'll spend 5:30-6 giving high fives and ordering food and drinks, we'll cover business from 6-7. Stay as long as you like, head home whenever you feel called. I can't wait to thank you in person for all your support this year!

### Fun-raiser...May12

A very motivated Kinder parent (thank you Sara Hawley) has been moving and shaking on planning those fun dinner nights out for our Penguin community! These symbiotic opportunities to raise funds for Polaris are so convenient and successful! The next one is Thursday May 12 at [BJ's Brewhouse](#)! Please see the attached flyer for all pertinent information.

## SECTION 1: K-12 News/Info

### Teacher Appreciation Week

The week is upon us to express our support and gratitude for all the people involved in educating our Penguins. The PTC (thank you Kristy Tucci, Scott and Brittany Hapner) have been busy coordinating different ways to give our staff a special week of food, relaxation and fun. If you would like to contribute, this [print out](#) is a cute way to involve your Penguin. Of course, any gesture would be appreciated. Don't forget to check the taco bar lunch [sign up](#) too!

### Polari-Palooza is back!

**May 7, 5:00 – 8:00PM**

Ya'll, get your tickets now! \$30pp, \$50 per couple through [SchoolPay](#). Price includes live music by members of Blue Grama (!), dinner from the Gyro Guy, and 2 adult New Belgium beverages. Plus, we'll have a limited live auction, with opportunities to win one-of-a-kind art created by our own Penguin artists, a 2-night stay at the

## Old Town Secondary Student Concert: May 6<sup>th</sup>

Enjoy a night of music in Old Town Square, Friday May 6<sup>th</sup> starting at 6pm! Support these talented students at our first Old Town Concert since the pandemic. Bring a chair and take in the tunes!

Polaris Night @ Old Town Square  
6-12 Concert, Houseband and Songwriters  
Friday, May 6<sup>th</sup> 6-8:30pm  
Old Town Square Stage  
Free

### ...the Music Never Stops

Tamara's 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Music Showcase during Tamara's  
Celebration of Learning  
Monday, May 9<sup>th</sup> 1:30-1:55pm  
Polaris Music Room

Kindergarten Music Showcase  
Tuesday, May 10<sup>th</sup> 10:45-11:15am  
Polaris Music Room

4/5 Music Showcase  
Tuesday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 3:30-4:15pm  
Polaris Music Room

1<sup>st</sup> Grade Music Showcase  
Thursday, May 12<sup>th</sup> 10:45-11:15am  
Polaris Music Room

Brittany's 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Music Showcase during  
Brittany's Celebration of Learning  
Thursday, May 12<sup>th</sup> 1:50-2:20  
Polaris Music Room

Polaris presents the Youth Stage @ Old Town  
Square  
Emerging artists across PSD  
Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup> 11am-4pm  
Old Town Square Stage  
Free Entrance  
[For more information](#)

## From the Health Office #1 - 3

### 1) End of the Year Medication Pickup

Medications cannot be sent home with students at the end of the school year.

- Parents must pick up all medications on or before the last day of school. Medications must be picked up by the end of the school day (11:30am).
- If medications need to be picked up before the last day of school, make arrangements with the school nurse or health tech.
- Emergency or as-needed medications (Epi-pens, Tylenol, Inhalers, etc.) must also be picked up.
- The school nurse will follow state health department procedures and all medications not picked up will be disposed of properly.
- If medications will be brought back to the school in the fall, you may obtain a medical permission form from the health tech in your school, or on the PSD website.

If you have any questions, please contact your health office.

### 2) COVID Testing Update:

PSD requires a negative covid test \*prior\* to returning to school (even if symptoms appear to reside) when: your student feels feverish, having chills, temperature of 100.4 or greater, cough, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, sore throat, runny nose and/or congestion, headache, fatigue, muscle and/or body aches, loss of taste and/or smell; or they may quarantine 5-days and return on day 6 wearing a mask on days 6-10, without needing to provide a test. Otherwise, the only exception to providing a test is if your student having a previously recorded condition in their health profile that will explain their illness.

If you decide to use an at home test, please follow these instructions: Write directly on the test (not on a label added to the test) the person's name, date and time test was administered. Submit photo of the negative result to the school health office at [eway@psdschools.org](mailto:eway@psdschools.org).

Please review the PSD illness policies here: [PSD "How Sick is Too Sick?"](#) and reach out with any questions!

### 3) Tdap for Current 5<sup>th</sup> Graders

Students entering 6th grade must receive one dose of Tdap vaccine, even if they are under 11 years of age, or have an active medical or non-medical exemption for that school year.

Non-Medical (required every year):  
Complete this state-non-medical immunization module, print certificate for school  
[Online Immunization Education Module](#)

Medical:  
Certificate of Medical exemption  
[English](#) | [Spanish](#) (Español)

## FREE & REDUCED MEAL PROGRAM

It's not too late to apply for the Free & Reduced Meal Program for this school year. By doing so your student's approval to the program carries over for the first 30 days of next school year. Also, there are advantages to being on this program with discounts given throughout our community for student summer programs. Check out [fcgov.com/reducedfee](http://fcgov.com/reducedfee) website for more information. The before and after school program, AlphaBest, also gives a 15% discount.

Apply on-line at [www.myschoolapps.com](http://www.myschoolapps.com). Please note that August 1, 2022, is the first day you can apply online for the 2022-2023 school year. Families do have to apply each school year unless they receive a letter stating otherwise.

## PSD and School Safety See Something, Say Something

PSD, and Polaris of course, believe in ensuring all people – students, parents/guardians, and staff – are heard and honored in our schools and workplaces. It is important that you report your concerns or what you and/or a friend or colleague have experienced. We all have a part in striving toward inclusive excellence.

In support of that commitment, [PSD has three ways to report](#) the things that negatively impact the experiences of students, staff, and community members in our district.

- **Safety concerns:** Report through the [Safe2Tell website](#) or call 1-877-542-7233.
  - Examples: Threat of harm to others; threat of harm to self; illegal activity.
- **Sexual harassment:** Report through [PSD's Title IX platform](#).
  - Examples: Sexual harassment or discrimination based on sex and/or gender
- **Negative experience:** Report non-Title IX issues through [PSD's Incident Reporting platform](#).
  - Examples: Discrimination based on culture/ethnicity; bullying; racial or homophobic slander; anti-Semitism
  - This reporting platform was piloted by several PSD schools in spring 2021 and is now available districtwide.

Those experiencing an emergency should always call 911 for help.

You may notice a new button on the top navigation bar of district and school websites.



Click or tap it to go to this new [web page](#), which has more info, including the process for investigating complaints reported through each platform.

Those with questions may contact PSD staff at [seesaysomething@psdschools.org](mailto:seesaysomething@psdschools.org).

## ELEMENTARY NEWS

### Elementary Updates from Counselor Katie

Here's what we've been talking about in the Counseling world:

K/1: We started talking about honesty this month...honesty is the best policy! We also practiced our problem solving skills, and students role played how to communicate with someone when we there was a disagreement or conflict.

2/3: We've continued to talk about inclusivity and have read the books We're All Wonders and The Invisible Boy. These books have supported great discussion and role playing opportunities. Students practiced how to stand up for themselves and how to empower others to stand up for themselves when they are feeling excluded or bullied. We also discussed honesty and integrity. We read a story about Honest Abe called Six Pennies...students may ask to place pennies throughout your house, to serve as a reminder to be honest and truthful.

4/5: We identified different ways of communicating with others, and learned about aggressive, passive, and assertive (healthy) communication. We also learned about "thought-holes", which are thinking errors or assumptions, that lead us to misinterpret or misunderstand a situation...ie: making a mountain out of a molehill, jumping to conclusions, or overgeneralizing. Its important to be aware of when we might be in a thought-hole, and do our best to step out of that thought so we can appropriately react to the situation.

## Running Club

Running club is up and running! Fridays after school on the back playground, come and keep up with the kids...if you can! **Our last Friday will be May 13<sup>th</sup>.**

## Wednesday Meetups

For anyone interested, let's hang out after early release the next 2 Wednesdays! The next gathering will be at Magpie Meander on May 4, the final gathering is at City Park on May 11.

It's a fun way to check in with your other parent friends while the kids play after school on those shorter days!

## SECONDARY NEWS

### Join the School Board's Student Advisory Committee (StAC)

The PSD Board of Education is looking for students interested in joining a committee to share their experiences and ideas for the future. All students interested in being a part of the StAC for the 2022-23 school year should [complete this form](#) by May 16. Committee members will be selected through a random drawing to get broad representation and will be notified of their selection May 24. Questions can be sent to [danderson@psdschools.org](mailto:danderson@psdschools.org) or [kdraper@psdschools.org](mailto:kdraper@psdschools.org).

### May Intensives & Dates to Remember!

Wednesday 5/4

- Intensive rosters emailed to students & families

Tuesday 5/10

- Intensive Packets distributed

Tuesday 5/17

- [Alternate Schedule](#): **Grades 6-12 start at 8:00AM and dismiss at 3:01PM.**
- Permission slips due (Email/call parents of those who don't turn a permission in)
  - Payment for Adventures due
  - Review Packets
  - Gear Check (Adventure)

credit. Out-of-district students will not be accepted this year.

Check out the [PSD webpage](#) for more information!

Tuesday 5/23

- First Day of Intensives / Adventure

### PSD Needs Students For Custodial Support!

The PSD Custodial Department is looking for student sweepers. These are two-hour shifts and student must be at least 15 years old to apply. <https://psdschools.tedk12.com/hire/ViewJob.aspx?JobID=4329>

### High School Prom April 30

Date: April 30th, 2022  
 Time: 6:00 to 9:00 pm  
 Cost: \$30 per person OR \$50 per couple  
 Location: Wolverine Farm Publick House  
 Theme: Enchanted Forest

**All guests must have a completed Guest Pass, including signatures from their schools. Follow QR Code/Link on the attached flyer for a Guest Pass or stop by the Front Office.**

### Secondary Summer School Options

Registration for Poudre School District High School Summer School is now open to all high school students currently enrolled in a PSD school. Summer school classes are free this year.

The first session of online classes begins April 1. Interested students should check with their counselor to make sure they sign up for the right courses.

PSD students completing the 8th-grade this year may also take classes for high school graduation

### 6<sup>th</sup> Graders Celebrate the End of Our Assessment Season

6th graders celebrated their completion of Student Led Conferences & CMAS testing by tie dying shirts! Many thanks to folks who sent extra shirts! Students can wear their dyed shirts any day, but Tie Dye Tuesdays are the best day of the week!



### Monday After School Tutoring

Does your student need extra time to finish their work? A little extra help? After school Study Hall will be offered from 3:05 – 4:15 on Monday afternoons in Room 118. For more information, contact Brenda ([bcisneros@psdschools.org](mailto:bcisneros@psdschools.org)).