



The Polaris Guide



Polaris Expeditionary Learning School
October 1, 2020

K-12 **K-5** **6-12**

10/5*

K-2 Students in the "A"
Group begin Phase 3
8:15 – 3:15

10/6*

K-2 Students in the "B" Group
begin Phase 3
8:15 – 3:15

10/7*

SAC/SBMT Remote Meeting
4:00PM
MS Teams

10/13*

Parent Teacher Crew Meeting
and Parent Forum
7:00 PM
ZOOM Invite

10/5 – 10/15*

Student Led Conferences
Days/Times Will Vary
Done Remotely

10/16

NO SCHOOL
Conference "Exchange" Day
No Friday Office Hours

10/19*

Students in "A" Group in
Grades 3-12 Begin Phase 3
MS: 8:15 – 3:18PM
HS: 8:00 – 3:01PM

10/20*

Students in "B" Group in
Grades 3-12 Begin Phase 3
MS: 8:15 – 3:18PM
HS: 8:00 – 3:01PM

10/20*

Chipotle Fundraiser
4:00 – 8:00PM
649 College

*Information within

Dear Polaris Community,

It is hard to believe that we are approaching the tail end of first quarter, even though we have not seen your children here on a regular basis since last March. We are excited to have our K-2 Penguins begin to gather here next week during Phase 3, and we'll be equally excited to see the remainder of our Polaris community during the week of October 19th.

Although the school setting will look quite different than what we are used to, I hope that you can support us in our efforts to keep our community safe by explain and preparing your kids for what they can expect. As a staff, we will strive to find the balance between teaching kids how to be safe with masks and social distancing without having to "remind" students all day of these expectations. The more you can prepare them of the expectations at home prior to returning, the more we can focus our attention on teaching, learning, and collaborating on any given day. And hopefully, with our Penguin Nation operating as a Crew, we can avoid some of the in-and-out nature of the schooling that has been occurring elsewhere throughout our country and state. Once we get them back for Phase 3 learning we want to keep them for as long as possible.

To prepare your children for their return to school, I ask that you review what you can of this month's newsletter and have discussions with your children. It is a lot of information so please feel free to prioritize what points you may need to make with your kids. Together we can make this work!

*Sincerely,
Joe Gawronski*

SECTION 1: K-12 News/Info

Phase 3 is Right Around the Corner!

Students in grades K-2 will begin their A/B, every-other-day schooling, starting October 5th. Students in grades 3 – 12 will begin their Phase 3 schooling on October 19th.

The communication that went out to families on Sept. 25th has been attached to the October Newsletter email, they provide some details as to what students and families can expect during Phase 3 learning. The two attached PDF docs with these details are called **A Day at Polaris (phase3)** and **9-25-2020 Health and Safety Tool Kit**.

In addition to those two dense documents, we thought it would be good to give some general information here as well:

- Students in the “A” Group attend school on Mondays and Wednesdays
- Students in the “B” Group attend school on Tuesdays and Thursdays
- Fridays will remain asynchronous days with current teacher office hours
- During a student’s “home” days they will be involved in more asynchronous learning because their teacher(s) are teaching those in their classrooms
- To get a sense of all the various ways a teacher may interact with students and deliver content please refer to the attached PDF called **Types of Phase 3 Learning**. Our staff will be employing various types of “hybrid” learning, and they will vary between teachers due to the content and/or the student’s
- There are no Early Release Wednesdays

- Students will enter the building through the exterior doors of the teacher classrooms
- HS schedule - 8:00 – 3:01
- MS schedule - 8:15 – 3:18
- Elem schedule - 8:15 – 3:15
- **WHEN DROPPING YOUR CHILD OFF PLEASE REMAIN IN YOUR VEHICLE!**
- If biking, please help your child get it locked up, then parents must vacate the campus
- The only students allowed in the building early are those getting a school breakfast
 - HS breakfast 7:45 – 8:00
 - K-8 breakfast 8:00 – 8:15
- The **Elementary Specials and Recess** rotation schedule is attached within the Oct. Newsletter email for your convenience.
- Please don’t send your child to school if they are not feeling well. We’d like to avoid quarantining as much as possible.

Much of these reminders are included in the two attached documents, if you have any questions. we’d encourage you to review those two documents prior to reaching out, the answers you’re looking for may be in there.

K-12 School Accountability Committee (SAC):

We are looking to cast a wide net for parent representation on this crucial team. Not only are we looking for representatives from the elementary, middle and high school grades but we’re also interested in recruiting parents that reflect our overall student population as well. The team meets quarterly and addresses the following topics:

- Reviewing data / School Performance
- School Improvement Strategies

- Budget Updates
- Resource Allocation Recommendations

K-12 Site-Based Management Team (SBMT):

This team will meet quarterly with the SAC as well to address school wide issues, policies, and structures. This group may be involved in school-based decision making that could include, but may not be limited to:

- Traffic concerns
- School structures and/or traditions
- Policies regarding performance expectations
- Clubs and enrichment proposals

As school-based issues arise, this SBMT group will be addressing them through this group.

Because we're a K-12 SBMT we'll be looking for representatives from all grade levels, please email Joe Gawronski (ioeg@psdschools.org) if you are interested on serving on this combined SAC/SBMT committee that meets quarterly.

Our combined SAC/SBMT committee will meet remotely for the first time this year on October 7 at 4:00PM. Please get in touch with Joe Gawronski if you'd like to get involved.

Student-Led Conferences are Coming!

Between now and October 15th, our community will be holding remote Student-Led Conferences. Our goal is have each of our Crew teachers have a remote SLC with each family between now and 10/15/2020, however, unlike past years, these may be spread out over several days as opposed to having two dedicated evenings here at school to get them scheduled. You should be hearing from your child's Crew teacher in the upcoming days with an opportunity to schedule an appointment.

If you are new to Polaris, you will undoubtedly notice a difference in our teacher-parent

conference format. Our structures are meant to assist students as they attempt to fulfill the Expeditionary Learning Design Principle of "The Responsibility for Learning." Students will meet with their individual Crew teacher to discuss all their classes during SLCs.

This structure is not exclusive to EL schools; it's a newly identified "best practice" that's catching on across the country. Here is more information about student led conferences:

<http://www.edutopia.org/practice/student-led-conferences-empowerment-and-ownership>

Community Wellness Opportunities

Be sure to check out the opportunities to engage in some wellness forums through the links and flyers attached in the newsletter email. One opportunity is sponsored by the **Health District** and it involves a series of virtual meetings every Thursday throughout October.

The second opportunity is sponsored by The **Teen Self Care Fair** organization. The Teen Self Care Fair is a community-wide event that believes everyone should have access to healthy coping skills and be given the opportunity to try new things.

Again, please check out the links/flyers within the October Newsletter email for more details.

Parenting Forum on Mental Health Oct. 13



The Polaris Parent-Teacher Crew (PTC) is launching a new series of online parenting forums

just for Polaris parents.

The first meeting will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 13, on Zoom. Join Abigail Morgan (3rd grader Aela Steidley's mom!) for a 15-minute presentation that will show you how to use practical mind-body tricks to reduce overwhelm and stress. Sometimes, when things like, oh, say, a pandemic strike, busy parents have little time to apply stress-relieving tools. Abigail will share simple and effective practices that are short and sweet. They fit into any schedule and can be done on the fly. We'll also have time for a short Q&A after the presentation.

Abigail Morgan is a mind-body coach who helps clients from all around the world experience more creativity, well-being, and joy. She is the founder of the Mind-Body Magic Coach Training and has trained over a hundred mind-body coaches.

The event is free and open to all Polaris families. You will also have a chance to connect with other Polaris parents and teachers.

Before the forum, on the same Zoom call, the PTC will have a brief business meeting starting at 6:45. Please join us in creating community, helping the staff and raising money for Polaris. [The link to this gathering](#) is located in the body of the Oct. Newsletter email

Chipotle Fundraiser

Join the Penguin Crew at our Chipotle Fundraising event on Tuesday, October 20th from 4:00 – 8:00PM. Bring your mask and keep your 6' distance while enjoying a meal with your family at the Chipotle on S. College Ave. By bringing the [attached flyer](#) with you, or simply mentioning that you're supporting Polaris to the cashier upon checkout, you'll be supporting Polaris while 33% of the proceeds between 4:00 and 8:00 are donated to our school.

If going out to eat is something you're not comfortable doing then no worries, we have you covered. You can order on-line to schedule a pick-up order and by using the code D9LVVVN

in the "promo code" field you'll be contributing to Polaris in just the same manner as if you were there dining in person.

King Soopers Card Fundraising

King Soopers has a wonderful and hassle-free Community Rewards program and it's even easier than before to earn rebates for our school using your King Soopers loyalty card. If you don't have a card, just ask a KS cashier for one. Once you have a card, follow these simple instructions to link to the school account:

Go to <http://www.kingsoopers.com> and sign in to your account.

Once you've registered your card all you need to do is to simply use it while shopping at any King Soopers, then a portion of your purchases goes toward Polaris. It's that simple.

Get a Polaris Mask and Show Your Penguin Pride

The Polaris Parent-Teacher Crew is selling \$10 child-size face masks with the Polaris logo. They will be ready in the office by mid-October. Stay safe while showing your Penguin Pride and raising some money for the school. You can purchase the Polaris masks on-line through the PSD School Pay portal.

We'd also ask that you review the very important information regarding PSD's [Student Face Covering Protocols](#). By making sure we follow these protocols consistently we can increase our Polaris community's safety while decreasing our chances of quarantining.

Middle & High School Bell Schedules

Next page



Secondary School Bell Schedules

Middle School (grades 6-8)

Mon- Thurs

Period 1	8:15 – 9:24
Period 2	9:29 – 10:35
Period 3	10:40 – 11:46
LUNCH	11:46 – 12:18
CREW	12:18 – 12:56
Period 4	1:01 – 2:07
Period 5	2:12 – 3:18

High School (grades 9-12)

Mon - Thurs

Period 1	8:00 – 9:24
Period 2	9:29 – 10:53
Period 3	10:58 – 12:22
LUNCH	12:22 – 12:57
CREW	12:57 – 1:32
Period 4	1:37 – 3:01