

Pioneer High School Mission

Opening minds.
Serving the community.
Enriching lives.

Pioneer High School – public education at its best.

Pioneer High School Vision

Pioneer High School graduates well-rounded, college-ready, responsible citizens. Modern facilities, cutting-edge technology, rigorous curricula, the highest expectations, and our diverse learning community rich in experiences leave our students confident and prepared to navigate an ever-changing future. All stakeholders are firmly committed to the learning and success of each student.

To realize our mission and vision, we expect the following from our stakeholders:

Students take ownership of and accept responsibility for their education, while working collaboratively within our diverse community for the betterment of all.

Staff provides a safe, supportive learning environment with curricula designed to foster ongoing educational growth, sound decision making, and positive self-esteem.

Parents are actively involved in their child's education by emphasizing the value of education, by being informed of and supporting school decisions, and by providing support for their child's endeavors.

Community members work together in a spirit of partnership to ensure that the experiences and education of Pioneer's students are of the highest quality.



Pioneer High School Parent Handbook



1290 Blossom Hill Road
San Jose, CA 95118

Phone: 408-535-6310
Fax: 408-535-2357
Attendance: 408-267-3210

Welcome to Pioneer High School!

Our staff and faculty are anxious to provide the support required for a successful high school experience for our students and their families. Please don't hesitate to call the school at (408) 535-6310 with questions or concerns.

Administrative Directory

Call regarding

Principal	School wide issues School/Community
Assistant Principal/Instruction	Junior Advisor
Assistant Principal/Guidance	Senior Advisor
Assistant Principal/Discipline	Freshman/Sophomore Advisor
Activities Director	Student Activities

Website

Check Pioneer's website for student grades, news and daily announcements, calendars, and sports schedules. Useful links to Parent Internet Viewer (PIV) and teacher websites are provided at www.pioneerhigh.org.

Newsletter

The Pony Express provides news about students, programs, and school activities. Sponsored by the Pioneer Education Foundation, the newsletter is written and produced four times per year by our journalism class. To receive The Pony Express electronically, please subscribe by sending an e-mail to pioneerhigh@gmail.com.

Additional Communication

The principal makes weekly calls home with updates concerning events that are important to school life. Students hear announcements each day during school hours. Transcripts of school announcements are posted at www.pioneerhigh.org.

Student Driving

- Students may not go to the student or faculty parking lot without first getting permission from an administrator.
- Students must appropriately display a Pioneer parking permit.
- Campus speed limit is 5 MPH.
- Students must drive forward into a parking space.
- Parking is not permitted in the triangles at the end of the row.
- Students must park in student parking (east side of the lot).
- Students who do not have a first period, or who leave regularly before the final bell, must get a permanent pass from the attendance office.
- Students going to the parking lot without permission will be assigned a Saturday School
- Parking privileges may be revoked and police citations may be given for unsafe driving or improper parking.

Emergencies

The Emergency Form enables Pioneer staff to contact parents quickly if needed. Students can be released only to the individuals listed on their emergency forms; therefore, it is important to list carpool drivers. Please remember to notify the school if your home or work numbers change.

In the event of an emergency (Earthquake, fire, etc)...

Pioneer's written emergency plan is updated each year and is posted on the Pioneer website. Parents should review this plan to familiarize themselves with the procedures that students, parents, teachers and staff will be expected to follow in the event of an emergency. In general, students will be managed by teachers and staff and will be expected to remain on campus until they are released to an appropriate adult. It is reasonable to expect that students will not be able to drive their cars in the event of an emergency.

Meetings

PTSA	3rd Thursday, 7:00
SELAC	2nd Wednesday, 6:00
Education Foundation	2nd Tuesday, 7:30
Music/Drama Boosters	1st Tuesday, 7:30
Spirit Boosters	2nd Tuesday, 7:30
Athletic Boosters	3rd Wednesday, 7:00

Dress Code

All students are expected to wear appropriate attire to Pioneer High School. Inappropriate clothing may include, but is not limited to the following:

- Clothing and accessories are prohibited which show obscene words or pictures, slurs, sexually suggestive statements, or that promote illegal crew, tagging, gang-related activities, or the use of alcohol, marijuana, tobacco and/or drugs, or weapons.
- Hats, caps and other head coverings are not permitted except during participation in approved activities or for documented religious or medical reasons.
- Only one item of red or blue may be worn at any time. (Validated gang members may not wear red or blue.)
- Clothing and accessories related to juvenile or adult gang-related activities on any school campus or during any school activity is forbidden (bandanas, belts, belt buckles, hair accessories, etc.)
- Baggy pants, saggy pants, and pants that slide past the hips and expose one's undergarment may not be worn to school.
- Tube tops, strapless attire, halter tops, and tank tops may not be worn. All student tops should cover the chest, the midriff, and back areas. Shoulder straps should be at least two inches wide.
- Professional athletic team apparel may not be worn to school.
- Any accessories that might be harmful to other students may not be worn to school. Those accessories may include, but are not limited to, spiked bracelets, dog collars, and chains attached to a wallet.
- Pajamas, slippers, or other sleep related attire are not permitted at school.
- The hems of skirts and shorts must extend beyond the fingertips.
- Three (3) clothing infractions will result in a Saturday School.

Parent Involvement

Our parent volunteers are a vital part of Pioneer High School life and make important contributions that help to provide an outstanding education for our students. Make your contribution by joining and supporting campus organizations or by helping to create a business or community connection.

Parent Teacher Student Association

The PTSA facilitates parent involvement and communications, and supports school programs such as Academic Awards, counseling, and school dances. The PTSA meets on the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM beginning in September.

Pioneer Education Foundation

Pioneer's re-established Education Foundation is dedicated to inspiring students to achieve academic excellence and to supporting events and activities that enhance learning opportunities for all students. The Foundation sponsors The Pony Express and provides technology such as mounted LCD projectors for classrooms. The Foundation-sponsored Art Show and Auction is a new addition to the fund-raising calendar. The Foundation is growing and actively recruiting new members. If you are interested, please contact the school secretary at 535-6310, or check the Pioneer website at www.pioneerhigh.org.

Athletic Boosters

The purpose of the Pioneer Athletic Booster Club is to support a well-balanced and diverse Mustang athletic program that can provide opportunities for all student athletes. Major fundraising efforts include the annual Crab Feed (in March) and the Mustang Stampede Golf Tournament (in May).

Music/Drama Booster Club

The Music/Drama Booster Club is focused on facilitating memorable performing opportunities for music, dance, and drama students.

Parent Visits

For security purposes, no individual may be present on campus without first checking in at the main office and receiving a visitor pass. Please plan to give teachers at least 24 hours notice before visiting. Our faculty and staff works to minimize any interruptions to the classroom environment. Therefore, it is not possible for parents to drop in on a class while it is in session. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Academic Resources

Homework

A Mustang planner is available to each student to keep track of homework assignments. Students, parents, and teachers will use this calendar as a reference for monitoring homework. Homework assignments may also be checked on teacher websites through www.pioneerhigh.org.

Homework Center

The Homework Center is located in the library/media center and is open Monday through Thursday from 2:30 – 4:30 PM. Pioneer teachers work in the center to assist students. In addition, there are peer tutors and computer access.

S Period

Most Mondays, classes are scheduled so that sixth period is completed by 1:26 PM. For the next hour, there is an “S” period that is designed to support the work of our award winning Service Learning Program. In addition to opportunities to participate in special programs and attend club meetings, students may meet with teachers for help with homework.

Parent Internet Viewer (PIV)

Grades can be accessed at any time on Parent Internet Viewer. (A link to the Parent Internet Viewer can be found on the Pioneer website: www.pioneerhigh.org.) The viewer is an excellent tool that enables parents and students to monitor classroom assignments and grades as well as tardies and attendance. Receive your ID and password from the Student Services office. Using the PIV regularly should prevent surprises when report cards are received.

Class Failure Notification

Parents are encouraged to contact teachers at any time to discuss the performance of their students. Warning notices are sent at the following intervals during each semester:

- Six week grade report
- Failure notices at nine weeks
- Twelve week grade report

Cell Phones, iPods, Cameras, etc.

Electronic devices must be turned off, secured, and out of sight during school hours. Improper use of electronic devices results in their confiscation for a period of 24 hours. A parent/guardian must retrieve the item in person from the attendance office.

Cameras MAY NOT be used on campus and will be confiscated.

Dances

All School District behavior policies apply at all school functions. Therefore, students who violate district policies are subject to school discipline, which might include suspension or reassignment to another school.

•Pioneer ASB/ID cards must be shown at the entrance when tickets are collected.

•Tickets must be purchased in advance of the dance; no tickets will be sold at the door.

•No guests are allowed unless prior permission is granted.

•No alcohol, drugs, or other inappropriate substances are allowed.

•Backpacks and purses are subject to search and must be checked-in at the door.

•Students are not allowed to leave and return to the dance for any reason.

•No amorous displays on the dance floor or on the sidelines.

•There is zero tolerance for any behavior that jeopardizes the safety of any student.

•No student will be admitted after 9:00 PM. It is expected that students will stay for the entire dance.

•All students must be present for all classes on the day of a weekday dance. For a Saturday dance, students must be present for all classes on the preceding Friday or have a note from a doctor to excuse any periods missed.

•Students who are suspected of arriving at the dance under the influence are taken into the custody of the police officers or administrators supervising the event. Parents will be contacted and suspension and/or arrest will occur. Co-curricular eligibility is often affected as well.

•Students who behave inappropriately will be sent home after parents/guardians are contacted. The student will not be allowed to attend the next scheduled dance, including, but not limited to, Homecoming, Junior Prom, and Senior Ball.

- The San Jose Unified School District health questionnaire and physical examination card with parent and physician signatures.
- Proof of insurance with the insurance company listed on the card. Insurance is available for purchase through the school for families that do not have health insurance.
- A copy of the Emergency Information card to be held by the coaches while in season.
- Interscholastic Student-Athlete Policy and Agreement.

Attendance

A parent must call the school each day that a student is absent. To report an absence 24 hours a day, call the Attendance line at (408) 267-3210 and leave a message.

Please provide the following information:

- Student's last name (spelling the last name)
- Parent/guardian/caller name and relationship to the student
- Dates of the absence
- Reason for the absence
- Daytime phone number of the caller.

Absences are excused for student illness, medical/dental appointment, religious observance, death of immediate family member, court appearances, and school-sponsored activities. Absences will be listed as unexcused until they are cleared by a phone call or a written note. An absence cannot be cleared after five (5) days. Excessive absences (more than 8 in a school year) may have a serious impact on student success and may result in district action.

Tardies

Students who are late will be noted as tardy. Oversleeping and car problems are not reasons that excuse tardies. After being marked tardy 5 times, the student will be assigned to 10 days of AIM. Missing 3 periods of class without a valid excuse will result in the assignment of Saturday School.

Appointments

Pioneer is a closed campus. In order for students to leave for appointments, a parent/guardian must sign students out through the attendance office. Leaving school without permission will result in the assignment of a Saturday School.

- Failure notices at 15 weeks (possible failure and loss of credit toward graduation)

Parent Internet Viewer provides detailed and current grade information at any time.

Student Support

Associated Student Body Card (ASB)

Every student will be issued an ASB/ID card in October if they have returned their completed District Handbook forms. This card will be bar coded with the student's personal SJUSD ID number. The card is required for textbook and library checkout, Internet access, and admission to Pioneer activities. The activity sticker, which may be purchased with the Pride Package, gives the cardholder reduced prices or free entry to school events.

Students **must** carry a school ID **at all times** while on school property or attending school events. If the student cannot produce an ID when asked, a Saturday School will be assigned. Loss of the ASB/ID card will result in a \$10 replacement fee.

Academic Assistance

For help with issues concerning course content, assignments, policies, or grades, please contact the teacher by phone at (408) 268-6310 or by e-mail. Teacher email addresses are `firstname_lastname@sjusd.org`. Please be sure to register yourself to ensure that your email will go through the district filter. To register, send an email message to: registeremail@sjusd.org. In the subject line, put your student's school name followed by your student's name. You only need to register once even if you have multiple students at different schools. Registration should take effect within one school day.

Behavioral Resources

Pioneer staff and faculty strive to provide a healthy and effective learning environment for all students. Your student's grade level advisor is available if needed. Professional counselors are also available on campus.

Concerns about other Students

If there are concerns about another student's behavior, please call the Assistant Principal of Discipline or your student's grade level advisor for assistance. Pioneer has a strong anti-bullying policy and will take steps to stop reported harassment.

Lost and Found

The Lost and Found is located in the attendance office.

School Nurse

There is a Health Clerk on campus every day. Students must have a teacher pass to go to the nurse's office. A student must call home from the nurse's office (not from a cell phone) and must have a leaving school pass in order to leave campus. Failure to follow this procedure will result in assignment to Saturday School.

Student Nutrition

Healthy Lunch options that meet state nutritional guidelines are available in the food court, the student store, and the Mustang carts. Food and beverages are available during brunch and lunch. For information about reduced fee lunch applications, please call the office at 535-6310.

Transportation

For information concerning bus transportation, please contact the San Jose Unified School District Transportation Office at (408) 535-6185.

- Bicycles, scooters, and skateboards must be walked on campus.
- Bicycles should be locked and stored in the bike rack.
- Skateboards are stored in the attendance office.
- Students arriving by car should be dropped off in the back of the school or in the horseshoe in front of the school.
- Students who drive are strongly encouraged to purchase a parking pass for on-campus parking.

For the safety of our students and staff, please honor the requests and directions of our campus supervisors.

Policies and Procedures

Academic Honesty

Cheating undermines the integrity of the school community. Consequently, it is important that students, parents, teachers, and staff are clear in their expectations that students will not cheat.

- Basic academic honesty includes stating your own ideas in your own words.

- Copying homework, plagiarism, and cheating on tests are just a few examples of academic dishonesty.

- Acts of academic dishonesty will be referred to the administration and a file will be established for the student.

- No credit will be given for the assignment or test.

- Possible additional consequences include, but are not limited to; suspension, administrative disciplinary action, and/or transfer to another high school.

AIM

Aim is a school detention program that is designed to:

- Improve attendance of students who have chosen not to attend classes regularly or punctually.
- Reduce interruptions to instructional time.
- Promote continuity in the student's educational progress.

The student is assigned to a special afternoon AIM period after the regular class schedule. Students are expected to work on current class assignments during the hour.

- Students must attend assigned AIM sessions on consecutive days unless they are excused in advance.
- The first missed day of AIM will result in the assignment of an additional day.
- If a second day is missed, a Saturday school assignment will be added. The student must also complete the remaining days of AIM.
- Additional days missed will result in suspension and possible loss of activities privileges such as dances.

Athletics

Students are encouraged to participate in one of the many sports opportunities available at Pioneer. To participate in competitive sports, the student must meet all of the age, enrollment, attendance, and scholastic requirements established by the Blossom Valley Athletic League and the Central Coast Section of the CIF. Students must maintain a 2.0 GPA to participate in interscholastic athletics. Grades are checked after every six-week grading period, and eligibility will change 5 working days after the end of the grading period.

Before a student may participate in any sport including conditioning and practices, s/he must provide the Athletic Director with the following information: