



## Pine Brook School

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To Our Pine Brook Community,

As we welcome the month of March, we hope this letter finds you well and that your student is continuing to have a positive and productive school year. The end of the second trimester is quickly approaching, and we want to take this opportunity to share important information and reminders for the month ahead.

### Academic Updates

We are proud of the hard work our students have been putting in so far. As we approach the end of the second trimester, please encourage your child to stay focused and complete any outstanding assignments. Teachers update Genesis regularly, and this would be a great time for families to check in with students on their progress.

Reminder:

- Second Trimester Ends: March 17
- Report Cards Available: April 2

If you have any questions about your student's progress, please feel free to reach out to their teachers or school counselor.

### A Note on Attendance

We strive to provide the best possible educational experience for every child. One of the key factors in helping students succeed is regular school attendance. We want to take a moment to remind you of the many benefits of ensuring your child attends school consistently, as well as the potential challenges that can arise when students miss too many days.

**Missing just one or two days of school per month** may seem like a small amount, but it can quickly add up and lead to chronic absenteeism. Over time, this can significantly affect your child's academic progress, social development, and emotional well-being. Students who are frequently absent may struggle to catch up on lessons, miss important social interactions with peers, and experience increased anxiety or frustration. These challenges can make it harder for your child to succeed in school.

We encourage you to reach out to Mrs. Ambroze- our school counselor, Mrs. Pliszak- our school nurse, Mrs. Rogers- our assistant principal, myself, or your case manager if you need support ensuring your child shows up every day, ready to learn.

Please also be aware that the district has established guidelines for excessive absenteeism. If a student misses **18 or more school days**, there could be consequences, including mandatory after-school programs, mandatory summer school, and potential court referrals. We want to avoid these situations and ensure that your child is set up for success.

We understand that there are many factors that can impact attendance, and we are here to support you in any way we can. By working together, we can make sure your child has every opportunity to thrive in school.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We appreciate your partnership in ensuring your child's success!

## Upcoming Events/Important Information:

- **LinkIt:** If you have not yet done so, we recommend that you log into the Genesis Parent Portal and view the score reports to see if your child is on track to meet the end of year expectations in mathematics and language arts.
- **[NJSLA](#):** Please review the included letter from Jodi Pepchinski, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Human Resources. Our testing dates are: April 29 and 30 for ELA and May 6-8 for Mathematics.
- **[Battle of the Books](#):** Students were emailed the signups. It is recommended that interested students attend the interest session during their lunch period on March 7.
- **Counselor Lessons:** Students will participate in their fifth lesson which will focus on Growth Mindset. This lesson aims to help students understand that their abilities and intelligence are not fixed, but can be developed over time through effort, perseverance, and learning from mistakes. Students will discuss the difference between a growth mindset and a fixed mindset. Students will learn that those with a growth mindset embrace challenges, view failures as opportunities for growth, and are more likely to stay resilient in the face of setbacks. This mindset can positively impact their approach to schoolwork, relationships, and personal development. We encourage you to reinforce the ideas shared in the lesson at home by praising effort and persistence rather than just the outcomes. Encourage your child to see challenges as chances to grow and remind them that making mistakes is part of the learning process. If you would like more information about how to support your child's development of a growth mindset, or if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out. We are excited to continue fostering this positive mindset in our students and look forward to seeing them thrive both academically and personally.
- **[Jazz Band and Choir Concert](#):** Join us for the Chorus and Jazz Band concert on April 1 at 7:00.
- **[School Spirit](#):** Every Friday we encourage students to participate in wearing our school colors of red, white and black and/or show off their Pirate spirit!
- **[2024-2025 School Calendar](#)**
- **[PTA Information](#):** Please review the PTA website for upcoming events.

Please be sure to check the website regularly and sign up for the Pine Brook Backpack to remain informed about our school. All of our events will show on the school calendar located on the website. Should you have any additional questions, please contact us at (732) 786-2800.

Sincerely,

*Julie Szustowicz*

Julie Szustowicz  
Principal

*Allison Rogers*

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Assistant Principal