



NEWSLETTER

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5145 Hatchery Road, Waterford, MI 48329

December 2019

EVERY DAY

COUNTS!

DON'T LET ABSENCES ADD UP

Are you confused on the difference between an unexcused, excused, and exempt absence? Read the definitions below to learn more.

Unexcused Absence: An absence when the parent/guardian does not call to excuse the absence and, as a result, receives an automated Blackboard Connect alert.

Excused Absence: An absence when the parent/guardian calls the school within 48 hours of the absence to inform the school that the student will not be in attendance. Vacations are an example of an excused absence. Please note that these absences still count towards the student's total number of absences.

Exempt Absences: An absence that is reported but does not count toward the attendance cap. To obtain an exemption the student/parent must provide one of the following to the school office: documentation from a physician, dentist, orthodontist, or therapist stating the student had an appointment that required being absent for a portion of the school day.

- Documentation from a physician stating the student was ill and needed to be absent from school for a specified period of time.
- Documentation of a religious holiday, funeral of a close family member, legal requirements, or out of school suspensions.

Students should miss no more than 10 excused or unexcused days per year. Missing more than this can begin to affect a student's academic success. Each school day is important to ensure students acquire the knowledge and skills they need to be prepared for the next grade level.

For more information on the Waterford School District's Attendance Policy or why school attendance is critical to academic achievement please contact your child's school or the Waterford Success Program at 248-682-1086.

OFFICE HOURS

7:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m.

TEACHER HOURS

7:50 a.m.—3:20 p.m.

Attendance Line: 248.674.1144

Administration: 248-673-1004

Counseling Office: 248.674.3288

Bookstore/Bookkeeper: 248.674.0333

Pierce Food Service: 248.674.7671

UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

Choir Concert

**Tuesday, December 10
7:00 p.m. at Kettering PAC**

Orchestra Concert

**7th & 8th grades
Monday, December 16
7:00 p.m. at Kettering PAC**

Band Concert

**Tuesday, December 17
7:00 p.m. at Kettering PAC**

RAFFLE WINNERS

The Washington, D.C. raffle drawing was held on Tuesday, November 26th. Winners of the raffle are:

1st Place—\$500.00

Ticket # 22576

LaDonna McGee

2nd Place—\$300.00

Ticket # 14821

Jaby Frias Garcia

3rd Place—\$100.00 (2)

Ticket # 29568

Russ Morgan

and

Ticket # 05725

Lee Pendray

Congratulations! Thank you to everyone who supported our Washington, D.C. raffle!

ATTENTION 8TH GRADERS

Don't forget to register for the Washington, D.C. trip! Selling raffle tickets did not automatically register you for the trip. There are three ways you may register:

- By mail (pick up a packet in the office or from Mr. Martin in room 305)
- By phone—1-800-468-5899
- Online—www.worldstrides.com

Whichever way you choose to register, please use trip ID number 177774 when registering.

There is a \$99 deposit (non-refundable). The total cost for the 2020 trip is \$825.

ATHLETICS

Wrestling and Girls Basketball start in January. Students who want to join the wrestling team or tryout for the basketball teams must have a valid sports physical on file in order to participate. The sports physical must be on the official MHSAA form and the examination must have been given on or after April 15, 2019 to be valid for the 2019-2020 school year.

BUS PASSES



Any student wanting to ride a bus home with a friend must obtain a bus pass from the office. The student must provide a note from his/her parent and a note from the parent of the friend he/she is riding home with. The parent notes must contain the names of both students along with the bus number they will be riding on. Once the office receives both notes, a bus pass will be issued. We are unable to honor verbal requests for bus passes.

Some of our buses may not be able to accommodate additional riders. Those bus numbers will be published as soon as they become available.

Bus passes will not be issued during the month of September and possibly into October.

REMINDER TO PARENTS

For the safety of all of our students, anyone who picks up a student early from school must come in to the office and show picture identification (**and be listed on the emergency card**) before we will call the student out of class. Thank you for your cooperation.

ADDRESS/PHONE CHANGES

Did you move? Did you change your cell or home phone number? If so, please call the school office so your child's emergency card can be updated! It is so important that we are able to reach you during the school day if your child is sick, injured, or if a teacher needs to talk to you.

All address changes must be done at Central Enrollment located at 1150 Scott Lake Road, Waterford.





Holiday Dance

Tuesday, December 17
1:32-3:08 p.m.
\$5.00

Students may purchase admission wristbands
During 6th hour class starting December 13th.

**Kettering
Collage
Concert**
December 5-7
7:00-9:00 p.m.

**Mott
Holiday
Showcase**
December 18-19
7:00-9:00 p.m.

Kettering PAC
Mott PAC



Waterford School District MIDDLE SCHOOL DRESS CODE

As a school, our goal is to offer an environment that is conducive to learning. We are an educational institution, preparing our children for life-long learning and the world of work. With this in mind, we work hard to establish an atmosphere that is respectful to all, encourages work, is safe and does not distract from the learning process. Our dress code policy is aligned with these goals.

The school has a right to ask a student to change his/her dress or personal grooming habits if it is deemed inappropriate or disruptive to the educational environment. Repeat violations of the dress and grooming code shall be considered defiance of authority and may result in disciplinary action as described in the Student Code of Conduct. Administrators will make the final determination as to what constitutes appropriate attire.

PROHIBITED APPAREL

- Pajamas, pajama pants, loungewear, or other sleepwear.
- Beachwear
- "Bag and sag" pants/sweats/shorts (oversized pockets, oversized crotch, oversized legs) that must be held up to walk.
- Biker and spandex shorts.
- Low cut tops
- Muscle shirts, tank tops, razor back shirts, thin shoulder strap tops, backless, strapless, cut-out or halter-tops, sheer or see through blouses unless a blouse/top is worn over at all times.
- Any article of clothing that displays alcohol or drug slogans/symbols or other suggestive or inappropriate designs, including but not limited to those that promote (suggest) sex or violence. This refers specifically to advertising said products as well as any form of narcotic paraphernalia. Clothing and buttons with writing and/or graphics with objectionable themes or implied obscenities are also strictly prohibited. This would include articles of clothing with any writing placed on the seat of the pant.
- Wristbands (athletic type)
- Headgear of any kind, including hats, caps, scarves, do-rags, stocking caps, bandana hats, visors, and baseball caps (unless permitted for a school spirit day).
- Spiked jewelry or belts
- Slippers or shower shoes
- Any clothing, jewelry, symbol or other object that may reasonably be perceived by a staff member as evidence of membership in or affiliation with a gang.
- Outer clothing such as sunglasses, gloves, jackets, and overcoats designed strictly for outdoor wear are not to be worn in the school building or carried to and from classes. They must be stored in the student's locker. If classrooms are cool, students should bring sweaters to wear at school.
- Any clothing articles that the administrative staff deems inappropriate for a learning environment will not be permitted.

REQUIREMENTS

- All clothing must fit and be worn appropriately (no underclothing may show).
- Shirts must go below the top of the pants at the waist.
- **Tops with thin shoulder straps must have straps the width of three fingers without having to combine other thin-straped tops with it.**
- All tops must be no more than 3" below the collarbone.
- Pants/shorts/skirts must be worn at the waist.
- **Pants with holes in them higher than the knee must be worn with leggings underneath. No flesh may show above mid-thigh (finger-tip) length.**
- Shorts/skirts must fall midway between the knee and thigh when seated. The general rule is they must be fingertip length.
- Shoes/boots or other appropriate footwear must be worn.
- **Students wearing leggings, jeggings, yoga , or any other thin, tight-fitting pants must wear a top that reaches mid-thigh (or finger-tip) length).**

Students violating the dress code shall be subject to correction and disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by administration.

STUDENT COUNCIL

2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR

MEETINGS

All Pierce students are invited to join Student Council! Meetings will be held from 3:15-4:00 p.m. on the following dates:

Tuesday, September 17
 Tuesday, October 15
 Tuesday, November 19
 Tuesday, December 3
 Tuesday, January 21
 Tuesday, February 4
 Tuesday, March 3
 Tuesday, March 17
 Tuesday, April 21
 Tuesday, May 5
 Tuesday, May 12—Last meeting

Student Council sponsors will announce meeting date changes to all members.

EVENTS

Welcome Back Dance
 Tuesday, September 24
 3:15-5:00 p.m.

Turkey Trot
 Friday, November 15
 2:20-3:00 p.m.

Holiday Dance
 Tuesday, December 17
 during 7th & 8th hours
 1:32-3:08 p.m.

Valentine's Dance
 Tuesday, February 11
 3:15-5:00 p.m.

Spirit Week
 March 30—April 3

MRS. SANDY CLARKE, SPONSOR
CLARKSO1@WSDMI.ORG

MRS. REBECCA STERNBERG, SPONSOR
STERNRO1@WSDMI.ORG

MRS. SARAH VAUGHN, SPONSOR
VAUGHSO1@WSDMI.ORG



Pierce Middle School

NJHS Meeting Dates 2019-2020

All meetings are held in the LGI room at Pierce from 3:20-3:45 p.m., unless otherwise noted.

Wednesday, October 30 (West Café)

Wednesday, November 13

Wednesday, December 11

Wednesday, January 8

Wednesday, January 22

Wednesday, February 12

Wednesday, February 26 (West Café)

Wednesday, March 11

Wednesday, March 25 (West Café)

Wednesday, April 15

Wednesday, April 29

Induction

May 7, 2020, 7:00 p.m.

Pierce Gymnasium

Ms. Teri Khanuja, Sponsor
khanut01@wsdmi.org

Mr. David LeDuc, Sponsor
leducd01@wsdmi.org



DECEMBER 2019

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
2 PTO Meeting, 7:00-8:00, Library	3 Student Council, 3:20-4:00, West Cafeteria	4 Destination Imagination with Coach Kempken, 3:15-5:00, East Cafeteria Boys Basketball at White Lake, 4:00	5	6 Popcorn Friday
9 Pierce Pride Fit Club field trip to Defy Detroit Trampoline Park Boys Basketball at home vs Walnut Creek, 4:00	10 Religious Diversity Journey to First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham Cooking Club, 3:15-4:15, room 400 Pierce Pride Fit Club, 3:15-4:30 Choir Concert, 7:00, Kettering Performing Arts Center	11 Destination Imagination with Coach Kempken, 3:15-5:00, East Cafeteria Pierce Pride Fit Club, 3:15-4:30 NJHS, 3:20-4:30, LGI Boys Basketball at home vs Centennial, 4:00	12	13 Popcorn Friday Pierce Pride Fit Club, 3:15-4:30
16 Pierce Pride Fit Club, 3:15-4:30 Boys Basketball Tournament, TBD Orchestra Concert, 7th & 8th grades, 7:00, Kettering PAC	17 Holiday Dance, 1:32-3:08, sponsored by Student Council Pierce Pride Fit Club, 3:15-4:30 Band Concert, 7:00, Kettering Performing Arts Center	18 8th grade field trip to Kettering for "Day in the Arts", AM Pierce Pride Fit Club, 3:15-4:30 Destination Imagination with Coach Kempken, 3:15-5:00, East Cafeteria Boys Basketball LVC Tourna- ment, TBD	19	20 Holiday assembly for all grade levels Half day of school for students and teachers, dismissal at 11:08
23	24	25	26	27
WINTER BREAK				
30	31	Jan 1	2	3
WINTER BREAK				

7TH & 8th GRADE PERCUSSION PRACTICE SCHEDULE

3:20-4:00—Room 401

9/23	Practice
10/7	Practice
10/14	Practice
10/21	Practice
11/4	TBD
11/11	TBD

3:20-4:10—Room 401

11/18	7th grade percussion sectional
11/25	8th grade percussion sectional
12/2	7th grade percussion sectional
12/9	Practice
1/13	Practice
1/27	8th grade percussion sectional
2/3	Practice
2/17	Practice
2/24	Practice
3/9	Practice
3/23	Practice
4/20	Practice
4/27	Practice
5/4	Practice
5/18	Practice
5/26	Practice
6/8	Practice

WINTER CONCERT

December 17, 2019
7:00 p.m.
Kettering High School
Performing Arts Center

Pre-Festival Concert

8th Grade
February 11, 2020
7:00 p.m.
Kettering High School
Performing Arts Center

SPRING CONCERT

May 11, 2020
7:00 p.m.
Kettering High School
Performing Arts Center

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

May 25, 2020

Mrs. Cempura

Teacher, Pierce Choirs & Band
yoderc01@wsdmi.org

FIDDLE CLUB PRACTICE SCHEDULE

3:20-4:15—Room 403

11/18, 11/22, 11/25	Auditions
1/10	Practice
1/17	Practice
1/24	No Practice (1/2 day of school)
1/31	Practice
2/7	Practice
2/14	No Practice (1/2 day of school)
2/21	Practice
2/28	No Practice (Combined 8th grade MSBOA practice)
3/6	Practice
3/13	Practice
3/20	Practice
3/27	Practice
4/3	Practice
4/10	No Practice (Spring Break)
4/17	Practice
4/24	Practice
5/1	Practice
5/8	Practice
5/15	Practice
5/22	No Practice (1/2 day of school)
5/29	Last Practice (Party from 3:20-3:55 in West Café; Practice 4:00-5:00)

SPRING CONCERT

June 1, 2020

7:00 p.m.

Mott High School

RECOGNITION NIGHT

Small groups of 10 or less

June 2, 2020 at Kettering

5:00 Tuning backstage

5:30 Perform, then 8th awards

6:30 Perform, then 6th awards

7:30 Perform, then 7th awards

Ms. Natalie House

Teacher, Pierce Orchestras
housen01@wsdmi.org



2019-2020 School Year

Meeting Dates

The PTO will meet from 7:00-8:00 p.m. in the Pierce Library on the following dates.

Monday, September 9

Wednesday, October 23 (6:30 p.m.)

Monday, December 2

Wednesday, January 29 (6:30 p.m.)

Monday, March 9

Wednesday, April 29 (6:30 p.m.)

Monday, June 1

All parents are welcome to join us!

Events

6th grade Mixer
September 13
3:15-4:45 p.m.

Halloween Dance
October 30
6:00-8:00 p.m.

Zap Zone Fundraiser
January
Time and Date TBD

St. Patrick's Day Dance
March 17
3:15-4:45 p.m.

Nerf Games: Pierce vs Mason
April
Time and Date TBD

Staff Appreciation Week
May 4-8

Color Fun Run
May/June
Time and Date TBD

Watch for restaurant fundraisers, Kroger rewards info, Amazon rewards info, and Box Tops Challenge info.



Stop the Silence. Help End the Violence.

OK2SAY is the student safety program which allows students to confidentially report tips on potential harm or criminal activities directed at school students, school employees, and schools. Call 8.555.OK2SAY, text 652729 (OK2SAY) or email OK2SAY@mi.gov.

You
can
Quit!

We can help!

1-800-QUIT-NOW
1-800-784-8669

SAFESTOP BUS APP Register today!

The Waterford School District has partnered with SafeStop to launch a new app for parents to keep track of their child's school bus as they make their way along daily routes. With the SafeStop App, parents and students alike will be able to see the exact location of the bus and when it's expected to arrive at their stop. The software updates the expected arrival time every 30 seconds. Parents can also click on a button and see where the bus is physically on a map, eliminating guesswork. These features are available 30 minutes before a scheduled stop.

Parents must use their child's student ID to register for SafeStop. **Parents can find their student's ID in Parent Portal, located under the Demographics Module listed as "Local ID".** Only one account per student ID can be created, so parents with babysitters or other caregivers will need to share that login information if they want multiple people to have access to the app. However, log in information is kept confidential by SafeStop and not shared with other students and/or parents.

The SafeStop app is available through the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store. You can also view the web version of the app at www.safestopapp.com/web. Please review the **How to Get Started** document included in this Update.

BLACKBOARD CONNECT MISTAR Parent Portal—Student Portal

BLACKBOARD CONNECT MISTAR Parent Portal—Student Portal

There are three components of our district communication system:

Blackboard Connect, MISTAR Parent Portal and MISTAR Student Portal

Blackboard Connect is a notification system that allows you to be informed of school closings, emergency situations, district and school news, etc. MISTAR Parent Portal is a Parent Portal where parents can go to get information about schedules, attendance, grades, and more. When logging into the portal for the first time, verify and/or edit your contact information in the system by clicking the account link at the top. Add your email if it does not appear in the contact information. Emergency contact changes will be handled through the main office. Each parent or legal guardian will have their own unique access to the portal, unless legal bindings prohibit such access. Please bring documentation to the school office if this is the case.

Report cards will be available electronically in the Parent Portal for all grade levels. If you require a printed report card, you will have the ability to print the report card from the Parent Portal.

The web address for the Parent Connect page is:

<https://mistar.oakland.k12.mi.us/waterford/parentportal>

The web address for the Blackboard Connect page is:

<https://020812081.bbcportal.com>

The web address for the Student Connect page is:

<https://mistar.oakland.k12.mi.us/waterford/studentportal>

Links to these sites can also be found on the district webpage at:

www.waterford.k12.mi.us

URGENT SCHOOL CLOSING INFORMATION

In the event that the District closes school due to inclement weather or other emergency situations, information regarding the closing will be available via:

WSD Website—www.wsdmi.org

WSD Facebook—www.facebook.com/wsdnews

WSD Instagram—www.instagram.com/wsdnews

WSD Twitter—<https://twitter.com/wsdnews>

WSD Local TV—[Comcast Channel 22](#)

Superintendent's Twitter—<https://twitter.com/ScottALindberg>

Local Media—[Channel 2 WJBK](#) [Channel 4 WDIV](#) [Channel 7 WXYZ](#)

[760 AM WJR](#)

[950 AM WWJ](#)

Urgent information will also be sent to parents via email and text via Blackboard Connect.



MERRY CHRISTMAS

Board of Education

Bob Piggott, President
John Paul Torres, Vice President
Heather Halls, Secretary
Joan Sutherland, Treasurer
Julie Josselyn, Trustee
Robert Petrusa, Jr, Trustee
Michael Ristich, PhD, Trustee

Pierce Middle School

Yvonne Dixon, Principal
Kyle Schultz, Assistant Principal
Annette Noble-Farmiloe, Counselor
Stacey Taplin, Counselor
Jeff Tunnicliff, Counselor
Sandra Clarke, Social Worker
Erin Clark, Psychologist
Julie Rule, Teacher Consultant

Superintendent

Scott Lindberg

Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning Services

Lisa McFee

Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

Carly Stone

Director, Instructional Services & Technology

Darin Holley

No person on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, age, sex, disability, height and weight, or marital status shall be discriminated against, excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination in any program, activity, or event.