

Circleville Middle School NEWSLETTER

Minds in the Middle October/November 2026

DATES TO REMEMBER

October

October 1 & 2	CVMS Spirit Week
October 2	CVMS Picture Day
October 9	CVMS Back-to-School Field Day Early Dismissal Drill
October 12	Columbus/Indigenous Peoples Day - NO SCHOOL
October 13	BOE Meeting - PBHS 7 PM
October 14	CVMS Unity Day
October 15	6 th Gr. Field Trip to Twin Ponds on the Farm (Rain Date 10/19)
October 16	7 th Gr. (Phoenix) Field Trip to Lake Minnewaska
October 23	7 th Gr. (Draco) Field Trip to Lake Minnewaska
October 26-30	Red Ribbon Week Modified Winter Sports Sign-ups
October 27	BOE Meeting - CVMS 7 PM
October 31	Modified Winter Sports Sign-ups

November

November 1-14	Modified Winter Sports Sign-ups
November 3	Supt. Conference Day/Election Day - NO SCHOOL for Students
November 5	Parent/Teacher Conferences by Appointment only, 4:30 - 7:30 PM
November 6	First Marking Period Ends
November 11	Veterans Day - NO SCHOOL
November 12	First Quarter Report Cards Available on Parent Portal BOE Meeting, PBHS 7 PM
November 20	CVMS Picture Day Make-Ups
November 25	Half Day - Dismissal at 10:19 AM
November 26-27	Thanksgiving Recess - NO SCHOOL
November 30	Modified Winter Sports Begin

Get involved! Join your PTA!

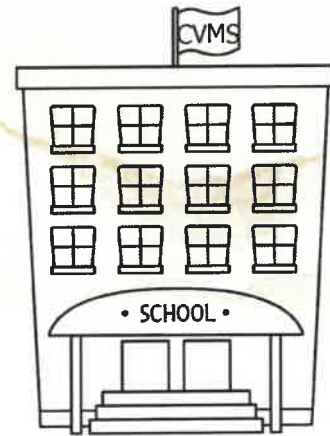
Being involved in your child's education is a vital element for his or her success. One way to get involved is to join your school's PTA. This provides parents the opportunity to connect with teachers and other parents, to know what is happening in their school, and to have a voice in the decisions.

We are always looking for new members from our families and staff to join the PTA, and come to our monthly meetings. Hope to see you there!



DISMISSAL:
Regular dismissal is at 2:15 PM.

On a half day of school, students
are dismissed at 10:20 AM.



SCHOOL CLOSINGS OR DELAYS

The winter season brings unpredictable weather. Therefore, there may be days when school is delayed or closed. For these situations, the district will communicate directly to our families using our **ParentSquare** notification system. This new communication system offers time sensitive messages, delivered to your specified phone number, email, or app notification. In the event of a delay or closing, you should receive an automated message. **Please make sure your information is up-to-date so that you receive the proper notifications.**

You can also listen to the following radio stations:

WPDH (101.5 FM) WGNV (1220 AM) WALL (1340 AM) WHUD (100.7 FM),
WBNR (1260 AM) WELV (1269 AM) WSUL (98.3 FM).

Announcements are also made on WRNN-TV, Cable 6-TV, WABC-TV beginning at 5:45 AM.

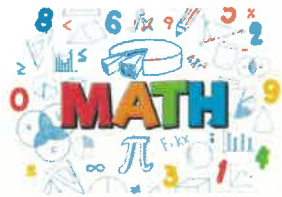
When our school district is closed, no transportation will be furnished to BOCES, non-public schools, or after-school activities. In case of a delayed opening, or early dismissal, the change in schedule will also apply to busing. This information is always available on our district website: www.pinebushschools.org. Click on "Parent/Community" and "Emergency Closing."

ACADEMY HAPPENINGS

ANDROMEDA ACADEMY GOLD

We are so proud of our 6th grade students and are looking forward to an exciting year with them! They have transitioned beautifully into our middle school environment. They are adjusting well to their new schedules and routines. Please continue to check SchoolTool and email accounts daily for important information from your teachers! Use our Andromeda Gold homework site to see your assignments. It is updated daily!

ELA: Our classes will be working on various activities. Skill groups have been formed where students take various reading pieces and work on specific strategies to make improvement. Students will also continue their independent genre study and will be hearing Read Alouds completed by their teachers. This helps the students with listening comprehension and fluency skills. All the ELA classes have been working closely with the Media Specialist in the library. Students are learning the proper ways to use the library and what resources are available.



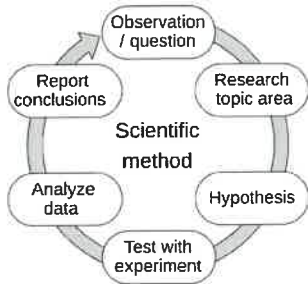
Math: We will be diving into the world of fractions and decimals! Students will be exploring the operations of multiplication and division with fractions and decimals. They will be applying these skills to solve real-world challenging word problems.

Science: What makes a day? A month? A year? Why does the moon appear, change shapes and then disappear? What is the reason for the seasons? How does an eclipse appear? Science classes will explore these phenomena throughout October and November before investigating what makes up our own planet.



Social Studies: Students will be traveling through the River Valley Civilizations of ancient Mesopotamia and ancient Egypt. They will be amazed at how the people in these civilizations survived and used their resources to the fullest. Through the mummification process, students will see how Pharaoh's bodies were preserved and prepared for the afterlife. Get ready to get your hands dirty!

ANDROMEDA ACADEMY BLUE



Science: Sixth graders on Andromeda Blue are off to a great start in science this year! Students have been working on learning the stages of the Scientific Method and will continue to use this process to solve problems, just like scientists do! In addition, students will be taking off for outer space as they explore our Solar System!

Social Studies: Students will be updating their passports as they prepare to travel to the Stone Ages! While there, they will learn how important early technology was and how resourceful people had to be to survive under less-than-perfect conditions. Students will journey through the Lascaux Caves, learn about early forms of writing, and learn about the amazing discovery of Ötzi, the Iceman!



ELA: As students continue to closely read and annotate text, they will be learning strategies to help them summarize, make inferences, and draw conclusions. Additionally, students will be exposed to different genres through their independent and whole group reading and will be able to construct well-thought-out responses to text dependent questions. Students will also put on their “writing caps” and will share personal experiences as they become authors of their own narratives -always a student favorite! Sharing of ideas through collaboration continues as students look to their peers for constructive feedback throughout this process!



Math: Students will be introduced to negative integers on the number line. They will also focus on vocabulary that relates to negative integers. This knowledge will be used to plot points in all four quadrants. We will then take a deep dive into fractions and fraction operations.

ENL: Students will take a deep dive into cultures from around the world, exploring traditions, customs, and perspectives that broaden their global understanding. Through engaging activities and discussions, they will celebrate diversity while building a strong, inclusive classroom community.

DRACO ACADEMY



ELA: In Mrs. Bobby's classes, students will be reading and annotating short stories from a diverse range of authors. With these stories, students will be identifying story elements as well as figurative language. These elements are the building blocks of literature, and the basis of many of our studies this year in ELA. In November, students will then write their own personal narrative, tying in these elements.

Math: In Mrs. Samarel's classes, students will be working in the number system, practicing operations of integers, fractions and decimals. We will be focusing on applying these skills to word problems that deal with real-world situations.

Science: In Mrs. Peifer's classes, students will be doing a deep dive into science and engineering practices by completing hands-on lab experiences while using critical thinking skills. Students will also work through the metric system and basic graphing skills. Having a solid scientific foundation will set students up for moving into an introduction to chemistry by looking at matter and chemical reactions.

Social Studies: In Ms. Duurloo's classes, our focus in Social Studies will be European exploration of the new world and the development of the 13 colonies. During this time, we will discuss the interactions, both positive and negative, between the indigenous people of North America and European explorers/settlers.

Spanish: In Ms. Ortiz's classes, Spanish 7 is off to a great start! Students have been learning about the 21 Spanish-speaking countries, their locations and continents, while using a song to help memorize them. Students also selected a Spanish-speaking country, created its flag, and presented a one-slide project to the class. They did a fantastic job with their first project presentations this week! We are now working on the Spanish alphabet and building our listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, students will also learn about Hispanic individuals who have contributed to the United States and explore Hispanic cultures. We have also introduced "Viernes de Baile" (Dance Friday), where students listen to Spanish music and learn dances from different cultures. The students are really enjoying the class and becoming more confident using Spanish!

In Mr. Caro's Science SC classes: We will be studying the scientific method. Students have learned the difference between an observation and an inference. Other words include experimental group, independent variable, and dependent variable. These words will be seen in 8th grade and into high school.

In Mrs. Greene's Math SC classes: Students are studying rational numbers on number lines. Students will be able to plot and identify rational numbers on horizontal and vertical number lines. Once we have finished this, we will move on to identifying, ordering, and finding the absolute value of rational numbers with and without context.

DRACO ACADEMY (con't)

In Ms. Wygant's SS classes: Students are going to be learning about the world before the 1500's so students can understand what led to European exploration and the colonization of the Americas. We will focus on these explorers and the positive and negative effects they had on civilizations that existed before their arrival. This will all lead into the creation of the 13 colonies and the reasoning to their creation.

PHOENIX ACADEMY

ELA: 7th and 8th grade students are reading both literary (short stories) and informational (articles) texts and demonstrating their understanding by answering higher order thinking questions. We've also been practicing answering questions in writing using the CER strategy. Additionally, students have been practicing longer form writing with narrative and argumentative essays. Students are also reviewing essential literary terms, and building their vocabulary with regular vocabulary practice.

Math: 7th grade students will be continuing their study of rational number operations; add, subtract, multiply, and divide positive and negative integers, decimals, and fractions. From there we will enter their lengthy algebraic expressions and equations unit where we combine like terms, distribute with variables, simplify expressions, and solve equations. In Math 8, we will be finishing up our algebraic equations unit where we solve double transpose equations (variables on both sides of the equal sign), fractional equations, and determine the number of solutions to an equation. Then we will enter our angle relationships unit where we will learn about triangle sums, exterior angles, and parallel lines cut by a transversal.

Science 7: students will have completed studying and practicing their SEP concepts such as lab safety, best science and engineering practices, and graphing (setting up, plotting, and reading). Students will next be going into their unit on matter, learning what is going on at the atomic level with the different phases. After that they will be studying the atom as well as elements and how to read the periodic table.

Science 8: students have just completed their abiotic vs biotic studies, going into detail about the 6 characteristics of all living things. Once we cover the gist of the 6 characteristics, we will delve into greater detail for each, starting with the cell. During this unit students will get their hands on the microscope, getting an opportunity to view the microscopic world. This will give them practice leading up to their upcoming state lab this year, "It's Alive!", where they will identify living and non living things using evidence as to why they are one or the other.

Social Studies 7: Students will be studying European exploration of the New World. We look at the impact Europeans had on Native American groups. Students will then focus on the development of the 13 colonies in North America. Our focus will be on the economic, political and social differences that developed between the different regions.

PHOENIX ACADEMY (con't)

Social Studies 8: Students will study the Progressive Era. We will look at the United States as it undergoes many changes such as a shift towards urbanization and industrialization. Along with this, we will see a population boom that shapes social and cultural reforms in the country.

Spanish: In Señora Garcia's Spanish class, students will review 7th grade units. We will begin our first book, *Brandon Brown Quiere Un Perro*. Students will be encouraged to read independently, with a partner, or as a class to help with their fluency and pronunciation. In connection with all four fundamentals—listening, speaking, reading, and writing activities—students will have the ability to practice their Spanish skills. Students will expand on their vocabulary and grammar skills. Students will continue to learn about the culture of Spanish speaking countries and turn key to their classmates. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at maggy.garcia@pinebushschools.org.

Spanish 7 is off to a great start! Students have been learning about the 21 Spanish-speaking countries, their locations and continents, while using a song to help memorize them. Students also selected a Spanish-speaking country, created its flag, and presented a one-slide project to the class. They did a fantastic job with their first project presentations this week! We are now working on the Spanish alphabet and building our listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, students will also learn about Hispanic individuals who have contributed to the United States and explore Hispanic cultures. We have also introduced “Viernes de Baile” (Dance Friday), where students listen to Spanish music and learn dances from different cultures. The students are really enjoying the class and becoming more confident using Spanish!

AQUILA ACADEMY

Hello, all! Welcome back to a new school year at Circleville Middle School. The Aquila Academy is excited to work with you to support your children's growth and learning. We have a lot of work ahead of us this year, and parents/guardians will play an important role in student success.

The students have entered the 8th grade with an energy that we find inviting and invigorating. All of our students have been invited to join our Aquila Academy Google Classroom, where you will find important academy-wide information and announcements. In particular, we have an Aquila HW page, which Aquila teachers will update regularly. This page will show students their daily homework assignments for each class.

Communication and attendance are essential to our students' achievement. Please never hesitate to reach out to any of your children's teachers. If you were unable to make it to Open House, we posted the slideshows each teacher shared that evening on ParentSquare.

If you have any questions/concerns, please feel free to email either of the Aquila Academy Team Leaders, Mr. Mansueto: morgan.mansueto@pinebushschools.org and Mrs. Garcia: maggy.garcia@pinebushschools.org

In Life Science, we are beginning our study of cells and living things. We will be completing a lab to explore the world around us and recognizing biotic factors in our environment. Students will select items from home to bring in and discuss with their classmates on whether or not their specimens are biotic. Class notes, assignments, and a copy of our class syllabus is available on Google Classroom for your reference. All grades are available on SchoolTool and Google Classroom. Any students who need help throughout the school year are encouraged to reach out to me, both in person or via email, so I can assist as needed. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me via email at robert.torrens@pinebushschools.org.

In Life Science: Biology, we will continue our study of cells and living organisms. Our first NYS required lab investigation, and our first microscope lab will also be completed. Class notes, assignments, and a copy of our class syllabus is available on Google Classroom for your reference. All grades are available on SchoolTool and should be checked regularly. Any students who need help throughout the school year are encouraged to reach out to me, both in person or via email, so I can assist as needed. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me via email at robert.torrens@pinebushschools.org.

In ELA 8, Eighth-grade ELA students will begin their academic pursuit by using short stories to better understand literary elements and devices. After integrating research-based reading strategies across various literary media, students will create a narrative piece with an alternate ending to a short story. Finally, students will learn more about informational texts to support their understanding of *The Outsiders*.

In Mr. Caro's Life Science class we are working on reviewing the scientific method. We just finished the steps to construct a line graph. Also, students are learning the difference between observation and inference. Other key vocabulary words include independent/dependent variables, control group, and experimental group.

In Ms. Shadrin's ELA class, we are wrapping up our first novel unit which was a graphic novel to focus on story element review. Next, in order to prepare for reading *The Outsiders*, we will focus on building background knowledge in the 60's, discussing the danger of stereotypes and various related text readings. These related texts broaden the scope of the novel's themes by introducing nonfiction, as well as TED TALKS, and strategies of successful readers such as visualization and vocabulary acquisition.

In Señora Garcia's Spanish class, students will review 7th grade units. We will begin our first book, *Brandon Brown Quiere Un Perro*. Students will be encouraged to read independently, with a partner, or as a class to help with their fluency and pronunciation. In connection with all four fundamentals—listening, speaking, reading, and writing activities—students will have the ability to practice their Spanish skills. Students will expand on their vocabulary and grammar skills. Students will continue to learn about the culture of Spanish-speaking countries and turn key to their classmates. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at maggy.garcia@pinebushschools.org.

AQUILA ACADEMY (con't)

In Social Studies, Mr. Cohen will be beginning this year with the Reconstruction period following the Civil War. We will be focusing on the different plans for Reconstruction as well as the impact these plans had on African Americans during this period. After Reconstruction, we will begin exploring the Industrialization period. During this unit, we will be learning about big business, monopolies, and the life of immigrants. One goal of this class is to become informed citizens, and it is encouraged that students begin checking news channels or websites daily for important headlines and breaking news. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at joseph.cohen@pinebushschools.org.

In Math 8 with Ms. Williams, we started the year with solving equations. We have just begun solving multi-step equations (using distribution and combining like terms). Our next unit will include more Geometry, performing transformations on a coordinate plane. In Regents Algebra I we have been reviewing the "building blocks of algebra" including properties of real numbers and working with expressions. We are just about to begin unit 2 (Linear Equations & Inequalities). Extra help is usually available during OIL, lunch, or after school by appointment. Please contact me via email if you have any questions at abby.williams@pinebushschools.org.

LYRA ACADEMY



Band & Chorus: Band lessons started in September and continue to occur weekly for all band students. Students should be checking their lesson time at the start of every week, and writing down when their lesson is. Lesson grades are updated regularly in SchoolTool.

Please be sure our Winter Concert date is in your calendar: Thursday, December 10th. The snow date is Monday, December 14th.

The signed Handbook was due 9/11. Please turn it in if you have not already. All students must have a lesson book, so please purchase this if you have not already.

Please check your email and ParentSquare on a regular basis. We encourage you to reach out to us with any questions. Email is the quickest and easiest way to reach us:

jennifer.wagner@pinebushschools.org & peter.gehres@pinebushschools.org.



General Music: In 6th Grade General Music, students will be learning about the elements of music: pitch, rhythm, timbre, expression, and form. Students will be engaging in a variety of performing, responding, and composing activities as they learn about these concepts. Activities include: bucket drumming, playing both the guitar and piano, and creating music in SoundTrap.

8th Graders begin the quarter learning about elements of hip-hop, making beats, and writing original raps. They then will be learning about the types of sound effects. Students will be creating their own sound effects for a short movie clip. 8th Graders will then be working on their musical influences project. Students will then be researching their favorite artists and who their musical influences were. 8th Graders end the quarter learning the chords and melodies on the guitar.

LYRA ACADEMY (con't)



FACS

6th Grade - Students started their laundry unit first! We covered washing and drying, ironing, when to go to a dry cleaner, and stain removal. The next unit we will be diving into is hand sewing where students will learn the basics in hand sewing stitches, sewing a button, and creating their very own hand sewn felt monster!

7th Grade - Students have been learning about the 6 key nutrients and what they do for our bodies! They have also been learning how to read a nutrition label and why this is important. Moving forward we will begin working on our sugar rush project which will allow the students to research and measure out how much sugar is in their favorite beverages. The kids are always (sugar) shocked when they see how much sugar is in their favorite drinks!

8th Grade - Students began their Career and Employability exploration unit. In this unit students are working to discover their Myers-Briggs personality type which will help them find a career they may succeed in! They will also be learning how to write a resume, tips for interviewing for their first job, and how to give a proper handshake! Students will be well equipped for the job hunt once they turn 14 and can get their working papers!

Library Media

September has been a busy start to the year in the Library Media Center! Our 6th graders received a tour of the library, and learned how to navigate the space and find resources.

Students have also begun working toward their reading goals. Some classes have started their Realistic Fiction units, while others are choosing books and working toward their end-of-year independent reading goals.

We have also been building important digital literacy skills. Students learned about email etiquette, including how to write clear, respectful, and appropriate emails for school.



LYRA ACADEMY (con't)**ART**

6th Grade: Students have completed their first project, focusing on the details and symbolism of Aboriginal art and working with acrylic paint to create their own interpretations. We are currently focusing on Ancient Egyptian art, developing Pharaoh Portraits and Scarab Beetle Paintings. Soon we will shift our focus to decorative letters and Chinese Pottery. They are continuously asked to compare the different styles to one another to see how different cultures create interesting and detailed works of art. Sixth grade is given the opportunity to work with various materials building their technical skills along the way.

7th Grade: Students focus on the Pop Art unit, where they are introduced to various artists that were relevant during the Pop Art movement. Students will develop an arrangement of artwork based on the different artists we study this year. They have completed their first assignment, focusing on Keith Haring and the way he interpreted the modern world. Now the students are using their knowledge of color theory and their watercolor skills to develop a repetitive painting based on Andy Warhol's style of art.

8th Grade: Students have been introduced to Cubism and color mixing so they can develop their own Cubism painting. They will continue to learn about the other genres of art like Pointillism, Impressionism, Surrealism, and Fauvism. The students will explore different mediums and develop advanced artwork based on previously practiced techniques. In 8th grade, students build a portfolio of artwork to review at the end of the year where they can reflect on their growth and understanding of the different genres.



PE: 6th-8th grade students will be alternating between soccer and football units depending on who their PE teacher is. Students will be working on the fundamental skills of those respective sports; such as dribbling, passing, trapping, and shooting for soccer while throwing, catching, and punting for football. After a couple of weeks of skill work classes will draft teams and play in a tournament with their teams to finish out the units.

At this point, students should always be changing into athletic wear with sneakers for class and always be prepared to have class outside.

If students have not yet bought locks for their PE lockers they should do that ASAP to prevent losing belongings. Locks are \$7.

Any questions feel free to email your child's PE Teacher:

anthony.dimarco@pinebushschools.org

lisa.carillo@pinebushschools.org

robert.lawrence@pinebushschools.org

LYRA ACADEMY (con't)

HEALTH

8th Grade Health: Students will be learning about topics including infectious and non-infectious diseases, healthy relationships along with first aid and injury prevention. Please make sure to check google classroom or SchoolTool consistently for any missing assignments.



7th Grade Health: This is the first formal health class in the Pine Bush CSD. This class runs for 10 weeks. Students will begin by learning about wellness, decision-making skills, and peer pressure. By the end of October, the students will be engaged in a mental health unit and begin to learn about alcohol, tobacco, and other legal/ illegal drugs.

STEAM



6th, 7th, 8th, and Advanced 8th grade: After an introduction to STEAM, students have learned how to work safely and about using fractional measurements.

6th grade STEAM will complete a flight unit and will finish the 1st quarter with the float boat activity, building and testing a cardboard boat.

7th grade STEAM learned about the PSP and cooperative learning, then began individually building their sail cars.

8th grade STEAM began with an air transportation unit and has continued work with the 3D printers. They will finish the 1st quarter by processing resources and making an acrylic picture frame.

Advanced 8th grade STEAM began with a choice project on the most important inventions we use every day and then reviewed the PSP before picking groups to complete a PBL design and prototype unit. They will move on to architecture and construction next.

Any question or concerns, please reach out via email:

julie.facciolla@pinebushschools.org & louis.aller@pinebushschools.org

COUNSELING CORNER/SUPPORT STAFF

Welcome to Circleville Middle School. Look here for important information and dates throughout the school year.

Organization is essential for being successful in middle school. Encourage your child to share his or her “system” with you; then work together, as needed, to perfect it. Keep in mind, what works for you might not work for your child. Students should be checking their SchoolTool accounts regularly to check their assignment grades and the assignments they did not complete.

It is important to ask your child to show you their homework, rather than asking if the homework is done. Seeing the assignments, and spending a few minutes reviewing them with your child shows how important they are, and gives you some idea of what is being taught.

Also, check with your student’s teachers. They are using an online grade book that you can have access to. This will give you access to your child’s grades (tests, quizzes, homework etc.) in a particular core class. These programs not only help your child stay on track, but they can also be used as a way for your child to learn to be responsible and independent for their own grades. You can also ask your student to log into their SchoolTool account to show you their assignment grades and any missing assignment. The first interim period ends October 2nd, and will be available on parent portal October 7th.

We have two school counselors at CVMS. Students with last names beginning with letters A through L have Mrs. Mazzella. Students with last names beginning with letters M through Z have Ms. Stroynick.

Please call the counseling office if you have any concerns: (845) 744-2031 X5605

MESSAGE FROM THE SCHOOL NURSE



Students must have a new order each year from their health care provider in order to receive any medication, including over the counter medication, during school hours and sports. Students are not permitted to carry any medications in school with the exception of Inhalers and Epipens. In order to carry these medications, students must have specific orders which grant permission. An adult must deliver medication to the school nurse; students cannot transport medications. Medication forms are available in the health office or on the district website.

NYS Education Law requires students in the 7th grade to have a physical. Please provide a copy to the health office as soon as possible.

Physical Education Restrictions: PE excuse/restrictions will only be granted for one day without a note from the student's health care provider. Notes must include an end date, or a follow-up note clearing the student for PE will be required. Any student excused from PE will not be permitted to participate in recess.

Students are asked to stay home, or will be sent home for any of the following:

- Fever greater than 100.4° OR 100° and your child is not able to focus in class
- Vomiting and/or diarrhea within the last 24 hours
- Rash (if suspected to be contagious)
- Head Lice (should remain at home until treated)

A note/email/Parent Square Message from a parent or health care provider is required in order to mark the absence as excused.

Based upon the District's education and community needs, values and priorities, the District has determined that absences, tardiness, and early departures will be considered excused or unexcused according to the following standards:

Excused: An absence, tardiness, or early departure may be excused if due to personal illness, illness or death in the family, impassable roads due to inclement weather, religious observance, quarantine, required court appearances, attendance at health clinics, approved college visits, approved cooperative work programs, military obligations, or other reasons as may be approved by the Board.

Unexcused: An absence, tardiness, or early departure is considered unexcused if the reason for the lack of attendance does not fall into the above categories (e.g., family vacation, hunting, babysitting, haircut, obtaining learner's permit, road test, oversleeping).

Please visit the Health and Wellness page on the Pine Bush Website:

<https://www.pinebushschools.org/departments/health-and-wellness/>

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school nurse, Linda Loennecker MSN, RN-BC, NCSN by email:

linda.loennecker@pinebushschools.org