



# PIONEER MIDDLE SCHOOL

PO Box 619  
Yorkshire, NY 14173  
Phone (716) 492-9373  
Phone (716) 492-9371  
Fax (716) 492-9417  
[www.pioneerschools.org](http://www.pioneerschools.org)

**Benjamin Halsey**  
Superintendent  
492-9304

**Melissa Prorok**  
Principal  
492-9375

**Kerry Slocum**  
Assistant Principal  
492-9376

**William Weidner**  
Assistant Principal  
492-9393

**Christie Jones**  
Secretary  
492-9373

**Betty Zuidema**  
Secretary  
492-9371

**Ben Shields**  
School Resource Officer  
492-9398

**Kim Boberg**  
Counselor  
492-9382

**Lynne Roth**  
Counselor  
492-9381

**Debbie Franklin**  
Counseling Secretary  
492-9380

**Donna Holmes**  
School Nurse  
492-9378

**Jaclyne Law**  
Attendance  
492-9377

**Diane Gentner**  
Greeter  
492-9416

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Literacy is the ability to read and write. This ability has levels of understanding. The following are some reasons why literacy is so important:

- Literacy is not only necessary in school from elementary to college, it is necessary for day to day living and working on any job.
- Literacy is necessary for improved, better living in general!
- Literacy enables and empowers students to locate helpful information.

Reading introduces children to new vocabulary and enhances the skill of proper grammar usage. It nurtures the emotions of children by exposing them to laughter, hardships, and sadness. This teaches them the importance of so many intangibles, like sympathy and empathy. Reading can provide a child with clarity and comfort. It captures the minds and hearts of children and helps them to better understand the world around them.

Lastly, research tells us that students who read over the summer either maintain or progress in their reading abilities. Students who do not read over the summer typically fall back in their ability to read. Be sure to support your child's reading endeavor by helping him or her select a book, scheduling time for them to read, and discussing what they read with them.

We have shared our summer reading selections with our local libraries. Be sure to stop by and see if they have the book you selected.

Have a wonderful summer!

Melissa Prorok  
Principal of Pioneer Middle School