

Thursday, August 19, 2010

Dear Parents,

Keeping you informed is a top priority at Gentry Public Schools. That's why we have adopted the PIONEER ALERT Notification Service which will allow us to send a telephone or e-mail message to you providing important information about school events or emergencies. We anticipate using PIONEER ALERT to notify you of school delays or cancellations due to inclement weather, as well as remind you about various events, including report card distribution, open house, field trips, and more. In the event of an emergency at school, you can have peace of mind knowing that you will be informed immediately by phone.

What you need to know about receiving calls sent through PIONEER ALERT

- Caller ID will display the school's main number (Admin Office- 736-2253) when a general announcement is delivered from the entire district.
- Caller ID will display the office number of each campus when a message has been sent from a specific campus. Primary- 736-2380, Intermediate- 736-2252, Middle- 736-2251, High- 736-2667.
- Caller ID will display 411 if the message is a dire emergency.
- PIONEER ALERT will leave a message on any answering machine or voicemail.
- If the PIONEER ALERT message stops playing, press 1 and the message will replay from the beginning.

We are very excited to incorporate PIONEER ALERT as a tool to improve parent communication and look forward to having the ability to deliver real time information to you and provide awareness of all the great events that take place within the school. This system is now up and running to deliver voice messages. You may also receive emails at home or work. For this program to be effective, it is important for you to update your contact information at each campus your child attends. An updated contact information form will be sent home the first day of school. Please take the time to fill out all information promptly so that we have up-to-date information in our system. If that information changes at any time during the year it is crucial that you contact each campus that your children attend to update your contact information.

If you would like to receive text messages, you will need to go to the website altrnewsms.com and type in gentry for the password (all lowercase) and click opt in. On that screen you will be prompted to type the cell phone numbers that you wish to receive text messages on. You can also select to receive district wide messages or campus specific messages. At any point if you choose to no longer receive text messages, go to this website, type in gentry and click opt out and type your number in again.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call the technology department at 479-736-5198.

Regards,

Joni Wilson, Technology Coordinator
Gentry Public Schools