

# What Parents Need to Know

## Pioneer's Switch to Departmentalization

### What is 'Departmentalization'

Students grades 2-6 will have a different teacher for the core content areas of ELA, Math, Social Studies & Science.

Moving to departmentalization will allow us to move away from the traditional 'combination classroom' allowing us to integrate ELA/Social Studies and Math/Science.

### Why the Change?

Unfortunately, our student count is down resulting in a reduction in funding. This development made our team step back and evaluate what education would look like at Pioneer next year. The vision was larger, combined classrooms which would not benefit our students or their teachers. Looking to our mission for guidance, we began to evaluate ways that we could better serve our students and foster a more purposeful learning environment where every student will be successful. Departmentalization and its benefits jumped out at our teachers and won their hearts! It allows for a more practical in-depth teaching and learning experience while providing the individualized instruction each student needs for optimal success.

### What Will it Offer My Student?

Rather than our teachers spreading themselves thin, planning and instructing 6 subject areas in a self-contained classroom, they will now specialize in and instruct 2 core subject areas.

**Specialization** - Students receive instruction from teachers specialized in particular subjects.

**Depth of Instruction** - Teachers are able to complete more in-depth lessons in specific areas.

### Who Will be Instructing?

Mrs. Fanus 2-3 Homeroom ELA/ Social Studies	Ms. Painter Math/Science	Mrs. S ELA/ Social Studies	Ms. Ticknor 4-6 Homeroom Math/Science
--	-----------------------------	----------------------------------	---

1

ELIMINATES THE  
COMBINED, SELF-  
CONTAINED CLASSROOM  
EXPERIENCE.

2

MAINTAINS SMALL CLASS  
SIZES TO OPTIMIZE ONE-  
ON-ONE INSTRUCTION.

3

REDUCED BEHAVIOR ISSUES  
BY SEPARATING  
CONFLICTING  
PERSONALITIES.