PINE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
PREPARING OUR STUDENTS FOR THE FUTURE
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Pine City Dragons Families,

We are writing to inform you about an important procedural change that will take effect at Pine City High School beginning with the 2026–2027 school year.

After careful consideration of school safety, student well-being, and practices being implemented by school districts across the county, Pine City High School will require students in grades 7–12 to keep their backpacks in their school-assigned lockers during the school day.

We recognize that this will be a change for students and families. Our goal is to create a school environment that is safe, focused, organized, and supportive of student learning, while also helping students develop habits that will serve them well beyond high school.

Why are we making this change?

1. Safety and Security
Keeping backpacks in lockers reduces the number of large personal bags moving through classrooms and hallways and reduces students' ability to carry or conceal unauthorized items in classrooms.

This procedure is one part of Pine City High School's broader responsibility to maintain a safe and orderly learning environment. It does not replace our existing expectations regarding prohibited items, searches, or school safety procedures.

2. Supporting Student Physical Health
Research continues to examine the relationship between schoolbag weight, posture, and musculoskeletal discomfort among children and adolescents.

Keeping backpacks in lockers reduces the amount of time students spend carrying school materials on their backs throughout the school day and encourages students to carry only what they need when moving between school and home.

3. Supporting Organization, Planning, and Independence
Students will need to think ahead about the materials they will need for each class and make appropriate use of their lockers throughout the day.

This expectation provides students with an opportunity to practice practical skills such as:

- Planning ahead for upcoming classes
- Organizing school materials
- Managing time between classes
- Taking responsibility for personal belongings
- Preparing for the next part of the school day

These are important habits for success in high school, postsecondary education, employment, and everyday life.

Procedure and Expectation

Beginning Tuesday, September 1, 2026, students in grades 7–12 will be required to:

- Store their backpack in their school-assigned locker during the school day.
- Keep backpacks in their lockers from the beginning of the school day through final dismissal.
- Take the materials they need for each class with them as they move through the school day.
- Use passing periods and other designated opportunities to access their lockers as needed.
- Follow all existing school expectations regarding prohibited items and personal belongings.

Students who have a documented medical, physical, educational, or other school-approved need for an alternative arrangement should work with the school administration to establish an appropriate accommodation.

What families can do to help.

The first few weeks may require some adjustment. Families can help students prepare by encouraging them to:

- Review their class schedule each morning.
- Identify which books, notebooks, devices, or supplies they will need.
- Use their locker strategically throughout the day.
- Avoid carrying unnecessary materials.
- Establish a consistent routine for bringing needed materials home each afternoon.

We also recognize that this procedure will be most successful when students have reasonable access to their lockers during the school day and when classroom expectations are consistent across the building. Staff will work with students as they learn the new routine.

Our goal is not simply to tell students where they may carry their belongings. It is to create a school environment with fewer distractions, more organized transitions, and a stronger focus on learning.

We appreciate your partnership, patience, and support as we implement this change. Together, we can make Pine City High School a safe, focused, organized, and supportive place for every student to learn and grow.

Thank you for your continued support of Pine City Public Schools and our Pine City Dragons.

Dragons Strong,

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