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Petoskey, MI 49770
Main Line 348-2150
Attendance Line 348-2293
Fax 348-2234

# Petoskey Middle School Newsletter

## April 2022

### Upcoming Dates

April 5 - School Resumes

April 7 - Human Growth and Development Presentation @ PMS Media Center, 6:00 pm

April 13 - PSAT (for 8th Grade)

April 13 - Hot Topics for Parents of Teens, 7:00 pm, see flyer below

April 18 - M-STEP testing begins

April 19 - Algebra Parent Meeting for 7th grade parents, PMS Cafeteria, 6:00 pm

April 21 - Board of Ed Meeting, 7:00 pm

May 3 - Middle School Spring Band Concert @ PHS Gym, 7:00 pm

**PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT OUR OFFICE IS AWARE OF ANY CHANGE IN CONTACT INFORMATION. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE HAVE CORRECT CONTACT INFORMATION SO WE CAN EFFECTIVELY COMMUNICATE.**

## Spring Testing Information

Each Spring, our students take both the NWEA and M-STEP (or PSAT) assessment. Each test is important and helps guide our school to meet the needs of our students.

Statewide M-STEP testing is currently scheduled to begin after Spring Break. Each grade will test within a specific window of time, which is predetermined by the state. Below is information regarding test windows and the specific assessments administered at each grade:

6th and 7th grade: M-STEP ELA (April 18-22), M-STEP Math (April 25-29)
8th grade: PSAT (April 13), M-STEP Science and Social Studies (April 18-22)
Your child will NOT be tested every day of the testing window and will only test one class period in one day.

Students will also be taking the NWEA assessment beginning on May 9. This assessment gives us more individualized information on how students are progressing.

This year our 8th grade students will be taking the PSAT 8/9, which has replaced the English and Math portions of the M-STEP. The PSAT 8/9 is a paper and pencil test administered state-wide to all 8th grade students on the same day. This assessment will be administered to ALL 8th grade students on Wednesday, April 13th, from the beginning of school until roughly 11:30. The PSAT 8/9 aligns with state standards and prepares students for the PSAT 8/9 given again in 9th grade, the PSAT 10 the following year, and the SAT, which all students take during their Junior year. Students will receive a Student Guide after Spring Break, which provides detailed information about the PSAT assessment.

Additional information about M-STEP is available at: www.michigan.gov/mde. Practice tests can be found on the MDE website: https://wbte.drcedirect.com/MI/portals/mi/. Information and practice materials for the PSAT 8/9 can be found here: https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/psat-8-9. See end of this newsletter for some tips on how parents can help prepare their children for the coming assessments.

For more information about specific testing dates and times, you may contact your child's homeroom teacher or Dana Pinney at pinney.dg.t@northmen.org.

M-Step
Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress

nwea map®

**Attendance**
If a student is going to be absent or tardy, a parent or guardian must call the attendance line at 348-2293 by 9:00 a.m., or the absence will be considered unexcused until we receive a phone call or note. **If your child does not feel well and you are calling to excuse them from school, please include their symptoms in the voicemail so we don't have to call you back. Thank you for your help with this.**

**Mental Health**
Click here for mental health resources and support.

**Community Flyers**
Click here to find out more information about what's going on in our community.

**After School Study Lab**
Study Lab is held from 3:15 to 4:15 pm, Monday thru Thursday in the Media Center.
Students attending should come prepared with their books, homework, and a pencil. Our own academic aides supervise this study lab and are ready and willing to help!

## ALGEBRA PLACEMENT FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR

7th Grade Parents: We are hosting an informational parent meeting on Thursday, April 19th from 6:00 to 7:00 in the PMS cafeteria regarding 8th Grade Algebra for next school year. The purpose of the meeting will be to explain the placement process to qualify for Algebra. After school testing dates for students would be April 26th and 27th from 3:20-4:45. Students would only need to attend one of those days. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Cowan at 348-2245 or cowan.ja.t@northmen.org.

## 6TH GRADE PARENTS - IMMUNIZATIONS REQUIRED FOR 7TH GRADE

State law requires that ALL students entering 7th grade be up-to-date on their immunizations in order to attend school. If you wish to obtain a waiver, you must get one through the Health Department. Students who are not up-to-date on their immunizations or do not have a waiver will not be allowed to attend school and will be sent home on the first day of the 2022-23 school year. If you have any questions, call the Health Department at 347-6014.

## HUMAN GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

The Public Schools of Petoskey Human Growth and Development Committee has been working on updating materials for the Human Growth and Development lessons taught at the 6th grade level. While the scope and sequence of presented topics will stay the same, we are hoping to update our resources. Board policy states that there must be two opportunities for public viewing of the recommended updates. On April 7th and April 14, both at 6:00 pm in the PMS media center, the Human Growth and Development Committee will be presenting the new materials. Parents are welcome to attend.

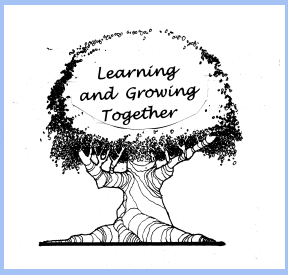
## LITTLE NORTHMEN AND KINDERGARTEN ENROLLMENT IS OPEN

The Public Schools of Petoskey is preparing to welcome the Northmen classes of 2035 and 2036!
Little Northmen Preschool is currently accepting applications for children turning 4 by September 1st. Students will attend Monday through Thursday from 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM. Information about tuition rates and other important information can be found on our website.
Kindergarten registration is open for the 2022/23 school year to children turning 5 by September 1st.

## CROOKED TREE ARTS CENTER YOUTH ART SHOW

We would like to congratulate the following students for having their artwork chosen to represent our school in this year's CTAC Youth Arts Show! The exhibit will be open from March 19 through May 11th and is open to the public during operating hours. Congratulations to the following:
6th Grade - Hannah Begos, Lyla Janes, Mitchell Matelski, Parker Ward, Lyla Thelen, Michaela Bova, Tessa Brinkman, Paige Tabone, and Emma Rose
7th Grade - Elijah Dettmer, Owen Johnston, Addy Conklin, Ty Galle, Trevin Boyce, Arianna Maldonado, Evelyn Andrews, Greta Meisel, Ella Giallombardo, Eva Rindfusz, Vilah Garrett, Taryn Jakeway, Alexis Coffell, and Ellie Peters
8th Grade - Athena Reed, Eva Sharapova, Brady Lyons, Mitchell Gregory, Avery Magill, Charles Olson, Nora Riley, Dezi Plichta, Julio Avila, Amelia Shuman, Elise Tebeau, and Elsie McGuinness

We have over 50 works representing the hard work and talent of our art students!




**Immunizations**

State law requires that ALL students entering 7th grade be up-to-date on their immunizations in order to attend school. If you wish to obtain a waiver, you must get one through the Health Department. If you have any questions, call the Health Department at 347-6014.

**Volunteers**

Any and all volunteers that help with school events need to have a background check. Please call our office at 348-2150 if you need to fill out a form.

**Medications**

If your student has a prescription or non-prescription medicine that they take during the school day, a medication form must be completed for each medication and the medication dropped off by an adult to the school office. A new form must be filled out each school year.

## KITCHEN HELP NEEDED

We are currently in need of a cook at the high school, as well as cook helpers at both the middle school and high school. If interested in applying for a position, please contact Beth Kavanaugh at (231) 348-2183 or kavanaugh.ba.u@northmen.org.

## HOT TOPICS FOR PARENTS OF TEENS

See the end of this newsletter for a flyer for the first "Hot Topics for Parents of Teens" forum of the year. This forum will be virtual. These informational forums are provided through a partnership with many different entities in our community and are open to all parents of teens in our area. The forum on April 13 at 7:00 pm is titled, “Managing your stress while parenting a teen.”

## ATHLETIC UPDATES

6th grade track will begin on April 6th. In the next few weeks we will have an introductory meeting for students to gather paperwork and uniform order forms. The season is approximately one month and will conclude on May 6th with a home meet starting at 11:30 a.m. Practices are right after school until 4:30/5 on Monday - Thursday. All students who would like to participate in track must have a physical ON FILE IN THE OFFICE before the season starts. We cannot allow student participation without the physical. Please contact Mrs. Dionne (dionne.am.t@northmen.org) if you have any questions.

Football is right around the corner, we have been having workouts in the middle school gym. If you want to Join the 7th grade Remind, enter 81010 @7th2022z and 8th grade, enter 81010 @8th2022z. I will be sending out updates via Remind when we schedule workouts. I plan to have a meeting scheduled for May for those who want to join the team.

## SPORTS PHYSICALS

Any student wishing to participate in school-sponsored athletics must have a sports physical on file in the main office. Athletic schedules are available on the Middle School website, under the Athletics tab.

Only MHSAA sports physical forms will be accepted at middle/high school athletic departments. Forms are available on the MHSAA website, and our offices have cardstock forms available. The submitted form must be the original form with the doctor’s signature. You can obtain these cards in your middle/high school office prior to visiting your doctor for the sports physical. Remember, sports physical for the 2021-22 school year must be completed no earlier than April 15, 2021.

## CHAR-EM ISD MILLAGE RENEWAL

Below is information regarding two upcoming questions on the May 3rd election ballot that impact the Career and Technical Education (CTE) millage:

The first ballot question is to renew the existing 0.75 mills (no tax increase). The second ballot question is a request to expand the rate by 0.25 mills for additional services and support (which equates to $25 per year for every $100,000 of taxable value).

The CTE millage is commonly known to fund a sizable portion of our eight CTE programs at the high school:

- Agriscience
- Automotive Technology
- Business Management and Administration
- Construction Technology
- Culinary Arts

- Drafting and Design Technology
- Health Occupations, and
- Marketing

It is worth noting that this millage also funds a portion of career counseling, instructional tech equipment/software, and summer camps for K-12 including Career Academy for Kids, Welding Academy, and the Construction Technology Academy. Petoskey Schools spends $1.4 million annually on its CTE programs.

This millage is extremely important for Petoskey School to continue offering opportunities to our students who have an interest in these programs. For more information on CTE programs and CTE millage information, please review the brochure and other documents located in the link below:
https://www.charemisd.org/student-academic-services-programs/career-and-technical-education-cte/2022-cte-millage-information/

## OK2SAY

We want to remind students and parents of the OK2SAY program. If you or your child feel unsafe or are worried about the safety of someone else, please speak up by contacting OK2SAY. You can report suspicious or harmful activity anonymously by sending a text to 652729, calling 8-555-OK2SAY, or sending an email to OK2SAY@mi.gov. Tips are then shared with the appropriate agencies who respond to keep everyone safe!

Stop the Silence. Help End the Violence.

## HEALTH SCREENING

**When Should a Sick Child Stay Home?**

Parents/families: Before leaving for school, please conduct the following screening. Your child having any of the symptoms indicates a possible illness that may decrease the student's ability to learn and put them at risk for spreading illness to others. Children should stay home, or be sent home, if they are experiencing any of the following symptoms not related to other known or diagnosed medical conditions:

- Fever of 100.4 degrees or above or signs of fever (chills/sweating)
- Vomiting, diarrhea, or abdominal pain
- Sore throat
- New uncontrolled cough
- New onset of severe headache
- Difficulty breathing (for students with asthma, a change from their baseline breathing)

Children should also stay home if they:

- Have other signs of illness described in a provider's sick policy.

If a student develops these symptoms during school, they will be sent home.

**If your child does not feel well and you are calling to excuse them from school, please include their symptoms in the voicemail so we don't have to call you back. Thank you for your help with this.**

**If a child becomes ill during the school day, they will be required to go home for the remainder of the day.**

**PLEASE DRIVE SLOWLY AND PRACTICE PATIENCE FOR EVERYONE'S SAFETY**

## DROP OFF PROCEDURES

The parent drop off and pick up procedure is an extremely important process that everyone must abide by. When you are dropping off or picking up your child, please drop off on the right, directly on the sidewalk. Also, please keep moving forward in this drop off lane if you are able. Please remember to **DRIVE SLOWLY** to make sure everyone is safe! Parents should drop off and pick up students on the right side of the loop. Please move forward when you are able to move forward. The left side should be used for when exiting. Please drive SLOWLY when exiting. If you need to park for an extended time, please use the parking lot. It is also important to not obstruct Northmen Drive. Please see the picture below.

Helping parents & teens connect!

Join us **online** for 2021-22!

# HOT TOPICS

Forum #5:
April 13, 2022 ▪ 7 p.m.

for Parents of Teens

## Managing Your Stress While Parenting a Teen

Parenting teens can be a stressful stage of life. Being aware and paying attention to our stressors and how to better respond to them allows us to show up with our teens in the way we most want. This presentation provides an overview of stress management, emphasizing techniques based on mindfulness practices. Does practicing gratitude make a difference? What breathing technique is used by Navy SEALS for calming? Please join the forum to learn more.

Online - Open to parents & the community

## Wednesday, April 13, 2022 ▪ 7 p.m.

PRESENTERS: **Lynne DeMoor**, MS, RDN, Community Health Coordinator and Nutritionist, Health Department of Northwest Michigan; and **Amy Janssens**, MA, Aligned Living

Participate via Zoom at the following link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88641981702

This is the last Hot Topics forum of the 2021-22 school year.

**Presented by Petoskey Public Schools, Emmet County Probate and Family Court, Alcona Health Center, and the Health Department of Northwest Michigan. Questions? Call (231) 412-6456.**