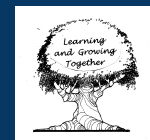


801 Northmen Drive  
Petoskey, MI 49770  
Main Line 348-2150  
Attendance Line 348-2293  
Fax 348-2234

## December 2022 Edition

# PETOSKEY MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



### Upcoming Dates

December 1 - MSPA Meeting, 7:00 pm

December 6 - Trooper Hebner visit to PMS

December 13 - 6th grade Band Performance, 6:30 pm

December 15 - Board of Education Meeting, 7:00 pm

December 23 - No School, start of Holiday Break

January 3 - School Resumes



For mental health resources and support, please visit [this site](#).

**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.**

### **We Have Northmen DRIVE!**

As a middle school staff we are not only driven to help our students grow academically, but we also work hard to help our students grow socially and emotionally. Our mission statement of "Learning in Growing Together" means something to our staff. We want to help our students grow into well-rounded and productive citizens!

Several years ago we instituted our Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program to be more intentional in helping our students grow socially and emotionally. Homeroom is an important time during which we intentionally work on these DRIVE skills. Each day homeroom starts with the Pledge of Allegiance and review of daily announcements. On Tuesdays and Thursdays of most weeks, our staff covers a variety of topics to help set expectations and provide coaching and support for our students.

Some topics that are covered throughout the school year include the Full Value Agreement (Work as a Team, Be Safe, Speak Up), Northmen DRIVE (Determination, Respect, Integrity, Voice, Empathy), dealing with conflict, peer pressure, honesty, and leadership, among others. We are confident that this intentional focus helps each student more fully understand what these sometimes big topics really mean, while also fostering a community within the classroom.



We believe this intentional focus on the social and emotional needs of our students helps meet our mission of "Learning and Growing Together."

- Jon Wilcox, Principal

### **HOLIDAY HELP**

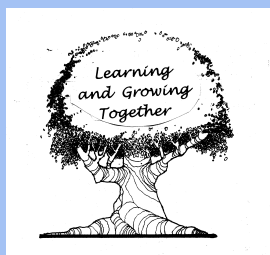
With your child's report card, we included a holiday help letter printed on gold paper. The intent of the letter was to offer support to families who feel they need it. We realize there may be families who are looking for ways to help others in the community this holiday season. ***If you are interested in sponsoring, co-sponsoring or donating gifts or money toward this cause***, please contact Angie Kelley as soon as possible by emailing her at [kelley.aj.t@northmen.org](mailto:kelley.aj.t@northmen.org) or calling 348-2290.

### 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.

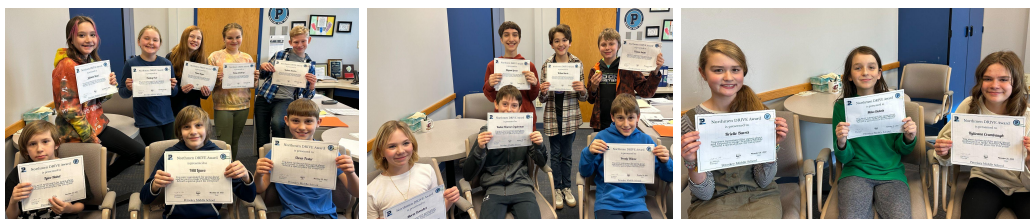
If you are excusing your child for a mid-day appointment, please call the office in the morning so we can do our best to have your child ready.

If you are excusing your child for the day and they attend classes at Petoskey High School, please inform the office to also adjust the high school attendance. Thank you!



### NORTHMEN DRIVE AWARD WINNERS

Congratulations to the latest round of Northmen DRIVE award winners! We appreciate our students for showing the DRIVE characteristics that make Petoskey Middle School a great school!



### HOOPS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

From November 30 to December 9th, all homerooms will be participating in a "Hoops for the Holidays" fundraiser. Start collecting your quarters! Each homeroom will have the chance to shoot baskets for a quarter per shot or five shots for a dollar. The homeroom with the most baskets will receive a holiday treat. All money collected during "Hoops for the Holidays" will go towards buying holiday gifts for a family in need. Homeroom teachers have a specific schedule for their homeroom.

### YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT CONFERENCE

We had 30 delegates at the YMCA Youth in Government Conference. Students acted as senators and representatives while debating bills they drafted themselves. They were able to debate their bills in committees and then in the House and Senate Chambers of the Michigan Capitol where they got to sit in the actual desks of our senators and representatives. Katie Ward's (6th grade) bill was signed by the Youth Governor and presented at the closing ceremony. Five students were committee chairs, two were senate reading/writing clerks, one was an inspirational leader and one was a committee clerk. Our delegates represented Petoskey Middle School well and we are excited for next year!



### 6TH GRADE OUTDOOR REC CLUB

This club will be starting January 4th after school at 3:30 in Mrs. Lewis's room 144. We will meet every Wednesday in January and February. Pick up time will be 4:30 at the middle school unless we are at the Winter Sports Park. Getting outside to sled and play games with others is the primary focus. Any 6th grader interested in outdoor fun should watch announcements for additional information. There is no cost to participate; just dress appropriately for winter weather.



### **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!

### **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.

### **Medications**

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

### **SHOUT OUT TO THE KINDNESS CREW!**

Our PMS Kindness Crew has done some pretty amazing things for our school, and community, over the past few months. The crew's first project was to welcome students during the first weeks of school with a sweet treat and a kind note of encouragement. They then organized a costume drive in October to help our local elementary school students who were in need of Halloween costumes. With the incredible help and generosity of PMS students, the Kindness Crew was able to donate over 100 costumes to our elementary friends! Our crew loves being involved with the little ones, so they were excited to become pen pals with two, first grade classes at Central Elementary. This month, the Kindness Crew has adopted a family for the holidays and will be spreading the sweet joy of kindness with a bake sale.

### **"SEUSSICAL, JR" WAS A SUCCESS!!!**

With a cast and crew of 90 middle school students, the Petoskey Middle School Fall Show closed the curtain on a successful season in November with their show Seussical Jr. The talented cast of 40 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students began rehearsals on September 15th and didn't stop until their final show on November 12th. Over the course of 4 performances, the actors performed for over 1000 teachers, students, and community members. Behind the scenes, there were 50 Middle School Theatre Apprentice students doing the important jobs of running the lights, sound, costumes, marketing, set changes and more. Both actors and crew members will have another opportunity to interact with theatre this Spring by signing up for the Middle School Theatre Apprentice Program for the Elementary Play!

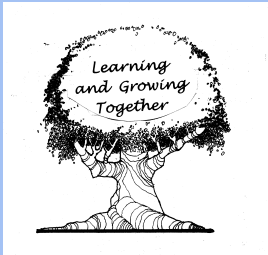


### **PMS SUPPORT STAFF NEEDED**

Do you want to work with a highly functioning team while making a difference in the lives of children? If you or someone you know are interested in helping students become successful in the classroom and beyond, please consider applying for one of our open aide positions at Petoskey Middle School. This role includes supporting students during class and in small group settings to help our students gain knowledge. We have a very welcoming and professional staff. This is a necessary and rewarding position, and it follows the school calendar. If you would like more information please call Jon Wilcox at 348-2150.







### 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](mailto:OK2SAY@mi.gov). Tips are then shared with the appropriate agencies, who respond to keep everyone safe!



### ATHLETIC INFORMATION

\*All athletic programs require a current physical prior to participation.

Wrestling will start after the Holiday break.

Girls basketball will start after the Holiday break as well. Look for more information in the daily announcements. 7th grade girls basketball questions can be directed to Larry Tracy at [ltracy.cmaphoto@gmail.com](mailto:ltracy.cmaphoto@gmail.com). 8th grade girls basketball questions can be directed to Jeremy Stempky at [stempky.je.t@northmen.org](mailto:stempky.je.t@northmen.org).

Ski Team and Ski Club are starting to gather names for those interested. Watch the student announcements for more information.

For the most up-to-date information, please visit the [middle school athletics website](#). Please watch the student announcements for sign-up information for the upcoming seasons. We encourage students to try new activities during middle school!

### SPORTS PHYSICALS

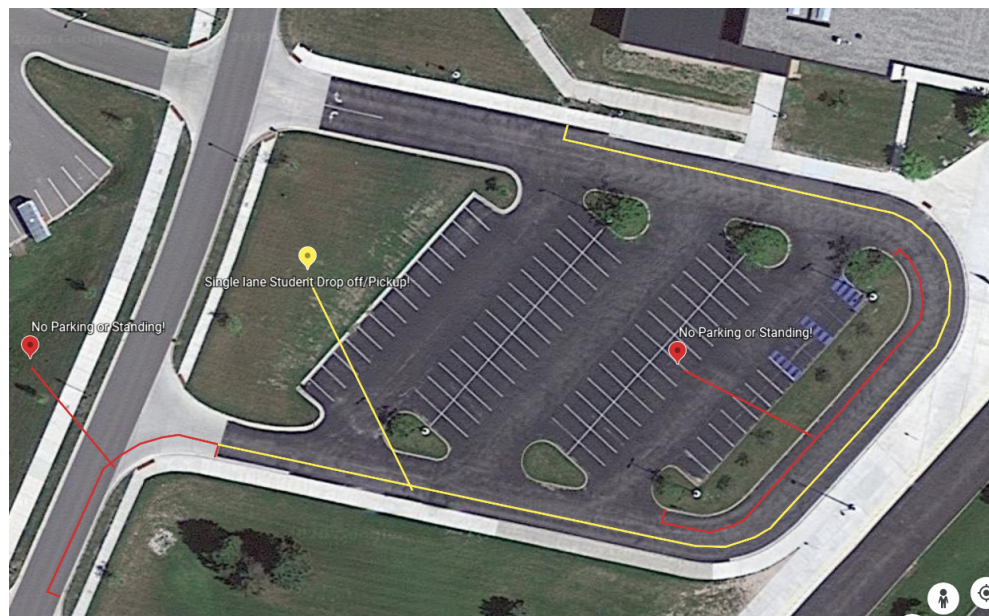
Only MHSAA sports physical forms will be accepted at middle/high school athletic departments. Forms are available on the MHSAA website, and our offices have cardstock forms available. The submitted form must be the original form with the doctor's signature. You can obtain these cards in your middle/high school office prior to visiting your doctor for the sports physical. Remember, sports physical for the 2022-23 school year must be completed no earlier than April 15, 2022.

### DROP OFF / PICK UP PROCEDURES

The parent drop off and pick up procedure is an extremely important process that everyone must abide by. There has been an article in this newsletter for the past several months explaining the procedure, but it is important to review for the safety of all of our children. Parents should drop off and pick up students on the right side of the loop. The left side should be used for moving forward and is a no parking area. 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. The school parking lot is usually extremely busy and congested before and after school, and it will likely be an even greater challenge this year. To help maintain safety and traffic flow, we ask that you use the parent loop and parking lot accordingly. Also, remember that there is an alternate drop off location on the PHS side of Northmen Drive. Students dropped off there can walk to the Middle School through the tunnel.

No vehicles other than school buses are allowed in the bus loop. We appreciate your help in keeping our students safe.







# AIM™ TUTORING AFTER SCHOOL

## LIFE IS BUSY, IT'S OK! WE CAN HELP!

Is your middle school or high school child underperforming in Reading, Writing and Math? Do they need to believe they can succeed? At AIM™ Tutoring we believe every child can thrive in school with help from our afterschool tutoring program.

### Students Will:

- Gain confidence
- Have help with homework
- Feel supported
- Get better Grades

### Free for All Students

**Available Days:**  
Tuesdays  
Wednesdays  
Thursdays

4:00pm to 5:00pm  
5:00pm to 6:00pm

Students receive: 45 minutes of tutoring in Math, Composition, or Reading one-to-one, face-to-face once or twice a week, healthy snacks, and a Jimmy John's sandwich of their choice.

### To learn more or to register your child:

- Contact AIM's program coordinator Kathy Petersen to answer your questions or begin the registration process. Call her at 231-622-8044 or [kathy@northmendens.org](mailto:kathy@northmendens.org).
- Your child will be matched with a tutor based on their needs. Your child's tutor will meet with your child to discuss goals, expectations and make your child feel comfortable and excited to have the help he or she needs.

*Space is limited so register as soon as possible!*

### Location:

422 E. Mitchell Street, #4, 2nd Floor  
(Look for Raymond James Black Awning)

*Students can walk or take a school bus to Central Elementary to walk 3 blocks to 422 E. Mitchell Street*