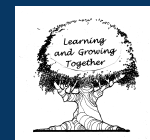


801 Northmen Drive
Petoskey, MI 49770
Main Line 348-2150
Attendance Line 348-2293
Fax 348-2234

PETOSKEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

January 2023
Edition

NEWSLETTER



Upcoming Dates

January 3 - School Resumes

January 12 - Hot Topics forum, Social Media (7:00)

January 13 - Anthony Ianni Speaker

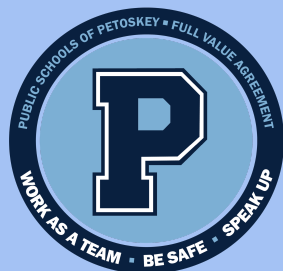
January 16 - MLK Day

January 19 - Board of Education Meeting (7:00)

January 20 - Half day, last day of 2nd Quarter

January 23 & 24 - Yellow Ribbon Presentation for 7th grade

January 31 - Parent Teacher Conferences (5:30 - 7:30)



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.**

SOCIAL MEDIA

This is a repeating article from last year, but it's just as important now. Thanks for taking the time to read it!

"Kids these days..." is often a topic of conversation for many adults, especially among parents of school-aged children. I would argue that children are no different today, but the tools available to them have most definitely changed. One of the greatest obstacles we adults have to overcome is teaching our children to use these tools appropriately when we did not grow up using them. This makes giving the "when I was your age..." talk difficult to have as it relates to the use of social media. The effects of social media on the developing mind continue to show mostly negative results. Many argue that while online, teens tend to use poor communication skills, are bombarded with misinformation, and do not fully understand the ramifications of their actions. Teens often focus on getting as many "likes," which unfortunately helps fulfill social validation for which teens so intensely yearn. Social media usage also does not allow students to escape from their peers. This constant connection and pressure can lead to unintended consequences, such as anxiety, sadness, and depression.

If social media is permitted, we have to instill boundaries in terms of social media usage. According to the [Pew Research Center](#), 95% of teens report having access to a cell phone, while 45% say they are online almost constantly. Because social media consists mostly of peer-to-peer interactions, children too often do not learn how to utilize this tool effectively and appropriately.

As a school, we are acutely aware (as best as we can be) of the variety of online and social media issues students deal with both outside and inside of school. This is one of the many reasons we do not allow students to carry a phone on their person during the school day. On January 12th, there will be a Hot Topics forum titled about the effects of social media for parents of teens in which Trooper Corey Hebner will address the topic of social media. Mr. Hebner provides a plethora of information that parents should hear. We are also working on ways to continue to educate students about the responsibilities and consequences of online activity.

There are numerous other resources available to help parents navigate this difficult issue. Here are some other sites you may find useful: www.waituntil8th.org, www.common sense media.org, <https://protectyoungeyes.com/>.

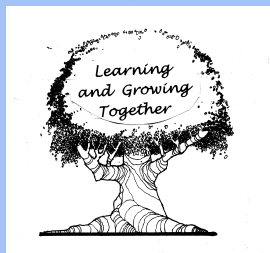
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Attendance

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!



We encourage all parents to seriously consider the ramifications of social media usage before allowing your child to log on. If you do decide to allow social media, please monitor your child's online activity closely (they are most likely doing more than you think), and talk to them about your expectations. Tell them not to post or send something online that they wouldn't say to someone's face, not to post or send anything that is hurtful, and not to post or send anything that they wouldn't want their grandparent to see. Again, a simple conversation with your child can go a long way in this regard.

By working together on this issue, we can help our children learn how to appropriately navigate this powerful media.

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!



THANK YOU

Thank you for all the generosity offered throughout the holiday season. Our Hoops for the Holiday campaign raised \$1,064 dollars that was used to help two local families. Also, thank you to everyone who reached out and offered to support another family and to Angie Kelley for coordinating all the help. In all, 18 families were supported by generous donations during this holiday season! Thank you!

UPCOMING SPEAKERS/PRESENTATIONS

On January 13th, former Michigan State basketball player Anthony Ianni will be here to speak to our students about overcoming adversity. Anthony was the first NCAA basketball player diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder. He also talks about treating others kindly. Anthony spoke to our students several years ago, and was very well received.

Also, For the past many years, we have provided our 7th grade students the opportunity to attend a presentation of the Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention program. This one hour presentation will take place on either January 23rd or 24th, depending on your child's homeroom teacher. Opt-out forms were emailed earlier.

8TH GRADE STUDENTS START 4-YEAR PLANS

In preparation for the transition to Petoskey High School, our 8th grade students started working on their 4-year plans this week. Parents, please make sure to talk to your students about this. It is an exciting time to start thinking about their next big step. We have more planned to help prepare for this transition, which will be explained in next month's newsletter.



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.

HOT TOPICS FOR PARENTS OF TEENS

See the end of this newsletter for a flier for the latest "Hot Topics - Is my Teen Okay?" forum. This forum will take place in the Petoskey Middle School media center. 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 focus for the forum on **January 12th at 7:00 pm is Social Media**. This is a great follow-up as our students heard a very similar message in December from Trooper Corey Hebner, who will also be presenting during this forum.

ATHLETIC INFORMATION

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

Wrestling: Practices start on January 9th. If you are interested, please contact Mr. Wilcox for more information.

Girls basketball: 7th grade girls basketball questions can be directed to Larry Tracy at ltracy.cmaphoto@gmail.com. 8th grade girls basketball questions can be directed to Jeremy Stempky at stempky.je.t@northmen.org.

Ski Team: Competitions begin next week. Any questions about Ski Team can be directed to Noah Honaker at nhonaker@northmen.org.

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.

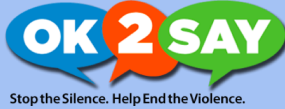
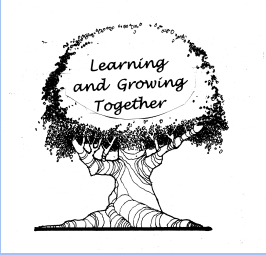
STAYING UP-TO-DATE WITH GRADES & ASSIGNMENTS

As we draw to the close of another marking period of the 2022-23 school year, it is a great time to remind parents ways to stay up-to-date with your child's educational progress. You can utilize PowerSchool as the source of information regarding grades and Schoology is a great place to reference any assignments and lesson plans for the week. One of the main challenges we see is students making up work after an absence. PowerSchool and Schoology are great resources. If you need login information, please contact your child's homeroom teacher. Also, ask your child to show you the Schoology pages and their grades in PowerSchool. Every student in our building will know how to navigate both of these resources. As always, feel free to reach out to your child's teachers, counselors, or administrators if you have any questions.

PMS SUPPORT STAFF NEEDED

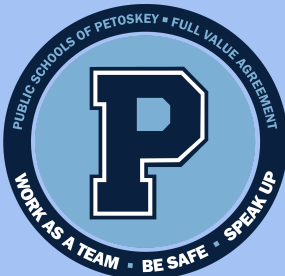
Do you want to work with a highly functioning team while making a difference in the lives of children? If you or someone you know are interested in helping students become successful in the classroom and beyond, please consider applying for one of our open aide positions at





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!



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.

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.



**Join us in person
for 2022-23!**

HOT TOPICS

Helping parents and caregivers of teens connect!

Social Media, Technology & Teens

Social media plays a big role in teen culture today. Most teens either have their own mobile devices with internet capabilities or daily access to a smart phone. On average, teens are online almost eight hours a day, not including time for homework. Over 90% of teens ages 13-17 have used social media.

There are positive aspects of social media, but also potential risks. Join Trooper Corey Hebner as he reviews what teens are doing on social media and how they are using it differently than adults. Ways to help monitor and protect your teen's social media presence will also be discussed.



Thursday, Jan. 12, 2023 ■ 7-8:30 p.m.

PRESENTER: Trooper Corey Hebner, Michigan State Police

LOCATION: Petoskey Middle School Media Center

On-site child care provided from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Open to parents/caregivers & community.
If transportation is a barrier, please call Kirstyn at (231) 347-5362.

**Next Hot Topics Forum - March 1, 2023:
“Creative Parenting”**

Presented by Petoskey Public Schools, Emmet County Probate and Family Court, Alcona Health Center, and the Health Department of Northwest Michigan. Questions? Call (231) 347-5362.



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.
- 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