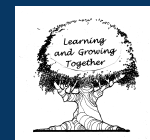


801 Northmen Drive
Petoskey, MI 49770
Main Line 348-2150
Attendance Line 348-2293
Fax 348-2234

PETOSKEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

**April 2023
Edition**

NEWSLETTER



Upcoming Dates

April 4 - School Resumes

April 7 - ½ Day of School,
Dismissal at 11:50

April 12 - PSAT 8 & ELA
M-STEP Assessments

April 12 - Hot Topics
forum, 7:00 pm

April 13 - MSPA Meeting,
7:00 pm

April 18 - Algebra
Placement Parent Meeting
for 7th graders, 6:00 pm

April 20 - Board of Ed
Meeting, 7:00 pm

April 25 and 26 - Algebra
testing, 3:15 - 5:00



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.**

School-wide Testing on Wednesday, April 12

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.

This year, from 8:15 through 11:35 on Wednesday, April 12, all Petoskey Middle School students will be taking either the PSAT (8th grade) or ELA M-STEP (6th and 7th grades). There are frequent breaks built into the morning's schedule so students will not be testing that entire duration.

At the conclusion of testing, students will follow a modified PM schedule (below) where they will attend each of their classes for a shortened amount of time.

We encourage students to eat breakfast that morning and arrive well-rested and on time. Students may bring snacks to eat on testing breaks, but food, as well as electronic devices such as smart watches and phones, will need to be left in their lockers.

	6th grade	7th grade	8th grade
11:40-12:10	LUNCH	1st hour	1st hour
12:10-12:40	1st hour	LUNCH	2nd hour
12:40-1:10	2nd hour	2nd hour	LUNCH
1:15-1:40	3rd hour	3rd hour	3rd hour
1:45-2:10	4th hour	4th hour	4th hour
2:15-2:40	5th hour	5th hour	5th hour
2:45-3:10	6th hour	6th hour	6th hour

Each grade will finish up the remainder of their standardized assessments during other dates in the testing window, which is predetermined by the state. Your child will NOT be tested every day of the testing window and will only test one class period in one day (with the exception being April 12).

Students will also be taking the NWEA assessment beginning on May 1. This assessment gives us more individualized information on how students are progressing.



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. Scroll down to read the State Superintendent's statement on the importance of state testing and a list of tips on how to help your child prepare.

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.

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!



RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

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!



CROOKED TREE ART SHOW

Congratulations to Libbi Jacobs, as her work was chosen by Crooked Tree to be printed on their note cards! Congratulations also needs go to the following students who have their art work on display at the Crooked Tree Art Show.

6th Grade: Owen Young, Seraphina Kembro, Paisley Pair, Jeffrey Salfai, Haylee Bauknecht, Claire McAuliff, Seneca Mattingly, Fiona Boyer, Scarlett Miller, Olivia Bielaczyc, Elaina Gray, Sadie Tebeau, and Carmyn Barron.

7th Grade: Libbi Jacobs, Levi Jacobs, Hope Mogford, Matthew Ingalls, Calla Vicente, Quinn Worthington, Idalia Jones, Brooke Schantz, Alexa Wang, David Howard, Clover Leverett, Maizy Fairbarn, Luca Carl, Lola Clarke, Lauren Beer, Lyla Thelen, and Moira Donahoe.

8th Grade: Georgia Gardner, Nora Racignol, Ari Maldonado, Greta Meisel, Nahni Story, Willow Mitchell, Layne Pettyjohn, Ellie Peters, Emily Kurzawa, Megan Wonnacott, Makija Howard, Gwendolyn Pearson, Evy Ford, Jensen Slifka, Brielle Burris, Rachel Slater, Monee



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!

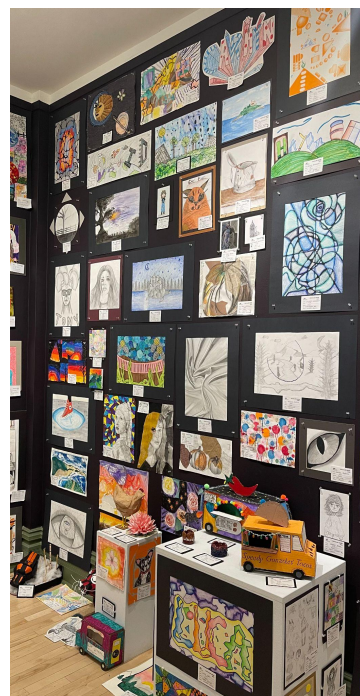
Immunizations

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.

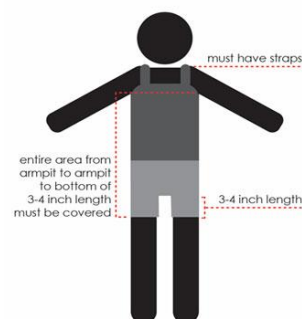
Leskey, Lexi Coffell, Annie Benson, David Parcell-Kuznicki, Sydney Tabone, Sydney Holden, Tula Turcott, and Sarah Tuggle.



NEW IMPORTANT INFORMATION

DRESS CODE REMINDER

It's always a good idea to remind students of the dress code policy at this time of the school year. Our teachers explained the new dress code during the first week of school, but we also ask that parents please discuss the new dress code with your child(ren). Here is a graphic that explains the expectations. All dress must be school appropriate. The full dress code policy can be found in the student handbook.

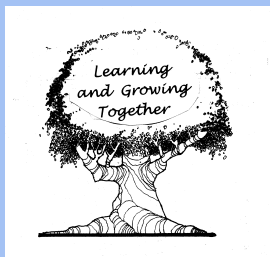


ALGEBRA PLACEMENT FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

7th Grade Parents: We are hosting an informational parent meeting on Thursday, April 18th 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 25th and 26th 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.

8TH GRADE STUDENTS - TESTING OUT INFORMATION

If you are interested in testing out of a high school class or taking an online class, please be sure to complete the appropriate [PHS Scheduling Form](#) by May 12, 2023. These forms must be completed with your [@northmen.org](#) email address.



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!



IMPORTANT REMINDERS

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.

LITTLE NORTHMEN AND KINDERGARTEN ENROLLMENT IS OPEN

The Public Schools of Petoskey is preparing to welcome the Northmen classes of 2036 and 2037!

Little Northmen Preschool is currently accepting [applications](#) for children turning 4 by September 1st.

Kindergarten [registration](#) is now open for the 2023/24 school year to children turning 5 by September 1st.



ORDER A YEARBOOK!

If you'd like to order a yearbook, please go to the Petoskey Middle School webpage and click on "Order a Yearbook". Next, enter our school code "40229". You can also reach the website directly by clicking on the link below. Thank you for supporting this student driven publication! <https://www.yearbookordercenter.com/jobsearch/displayHome/?clearSession>

COMING SOON

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, and the topic will be Substance Awareness. 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.

ATHLETIC INFORMATION

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

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!

TRACK

The track season is up and running. If you have questions about 7th and 8th grade track, please contact Mrs. Lewis (lewis.lr.t@northmen.org) or Mrs. Erickson (erickson.rl.t@northmen.org) if you have any questions.



For questions about 6th grade track, please contact Ms. Tompkins (tompkins.mr.t@northmen.org) or Ms. Bell (bell.r.j.t@northmen.org) We can always use volunteers!

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. Remember, sports physical for the 2023-24 school year must be completed no earlier than April 15, 2023.

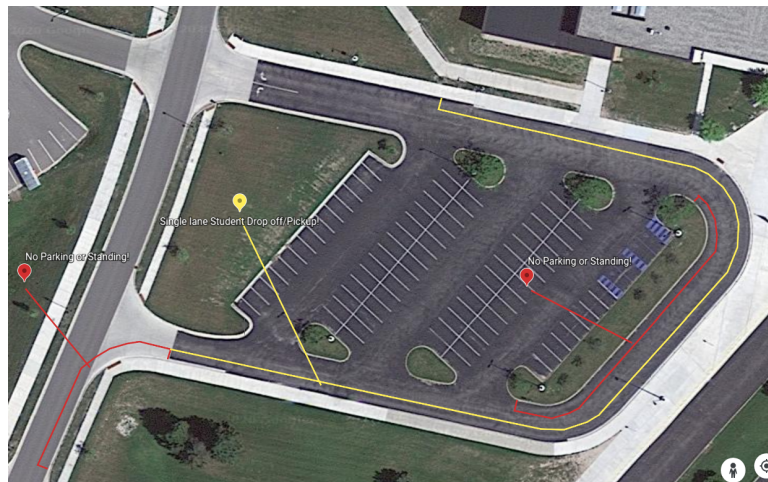
If you have a well child visit scheduled after April 15, make sure to take a sports physical form with you and ask to have a sports physical completed.

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.

Also, please do not block Handicap parking spaces!





STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

March 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian:

This spring, your school district will administer state tests designed to provide important information on student knowledge and student career- and college-ready progress upon graduation. Federal and state laws require these tests. Schools and districts use these test results, among others, for school improvement initiatives that benefit students. The data gathered from this year's state assessments and other data will help educators support students when they return to school in the fall and move forward with their education.

Students in grades 3-10 will participate in the following assessments:

- M-STEP English language arts (ELA) and mathematics (grades 3-7)
- PSAT 8/9 (grade 8)
- M-STEP science and social studies (grades 5 and 8)
- PSAT 8/9 (grade 9)
- PSAT 10 (grade 10)

Grade 11 students will participate in the Michigan Merit Examination (MME), which has three required components:

- SAT with Essay college entrance exam that also measures student knowledge of Michigan's ELA and mathematics standards
- ACT WorkKeys work skills assessment
- M-STEP science and social studies

MI-Access, Michigan's Alternate Assessment Program

MI-Access (www.michigan.gov/mi-access) is Michigan's alternate assessment system for grades 3–8 and 11. It is designed for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities whose instruction is targeted to Michigan's alternate content expectations (known as essential elements) and whose Individualized Education Program (IEP) teams have determined that general assessments, even with accommodations, are not appropriate. MI-Access satisfies the federal requirement that all students with disabilities be assessed at the state level.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

PAMELA PUGH – PRESIDENT • ELLEN COGEN LIPTON / TIFFANY D. TILLEY – CO-VICE PRESIDENTS
JUDITH PRITCHETT – SECRETARY • MARSHALL BULLOCK II – TREASURER
MITCHELL ROBINSON – NASBE DELEGATE • TOM MCMILLIN • NIKKI SNYDER

Additional Information

We want your child's state testing experience to be as stress-free as possible. Your positive outlook will help support your child's experience. State assessment results do not affect your student's grades in any way.

On average, a student will spend no more than three hours on M-STEP mathematics and ELA tests. Students in grades 5, 8, and 11 will spend an additional two and one-half hours on science and social studies testing.

While we support parents in making choices for their children, there is no "opt-out" of state assessments under state or federal law. Students who are not assessed will count against their school's required 95 percent participation rate, which will create an incomplete picture of their school's performance.

Assessment results help target support and resources to students and schools that need them most. The test results may also inform future state education programs and policies to help Michigan students catch up on learning that was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

You can find information about Michigan's state assessment system on our website, www.michigan.gov/oeaa. An excellent place to start is with the handout "Michigan's State Assessment System: What It Is, What It Means, and What It Offers." Additional information, including how to help your child prepare for M-STEP testing, is available at www.michigan.gov/mstep.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael F. Rice". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Rice".

Michael F. Rice, Ph.D.
State Superintendent

Join us in person
for 2022-23!

HOT TOPICS

Helping parents and caregivers of teens connect!

Teen Substance Use Awareness

Having good communication with your teen about substance use can help prevent and delay use. Effective communication around substance use begins with knowledge.

Join us to learn about substance use trends for teens in our community and about local resources for prevention. SAFE in Northern Michigan will have its "Hidden in Plain Sight" trailer available to look through. This traveling trailer is a replica of a teen's bedroom that demonstrates to parents and caregivers ways teens may be concealing substance use, in plain sight.

The trailer will be open from 6:45-7:15 p.m.

The presentation will start at 7:15 p.m.



Wednesday, April 12, 2023

PRESENTERS: Ellen Templeton, LLMSW, Certified Prevention Specialist and SAFE in N. Mich. Youth Advisor; and PSO Benjamin Carlson, School Liaison Officer – Petoskey Dept. of Public Safety

TIME: Presentation 7:15–8:30 p.m.

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.

PLEASE RSVP USING
QR CODE

Those who register via
QR code will receive an
email reminder prior to
the event.



This is the final Hot Topics session for this 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) 347-5362.

FARM TO SCHOOL



Shop Simple Tip from MyPlate

Healthy and creative meals and snacks don't have to be expensive or complicated. Beans are a great low-cost protein food that can be added to soups, salads, and vegetable dishes to make a complete meal. Try recipes that include beans, peas, and lentils, such as pinto beans, black beans, split peas, and garbanzo beans (chickpeas). For more tips on low-cost protein foods see Shop Simple with MyPlate.

Scan the QR code for more cooking videos.



NEWSLETTER

April 2023



Petoskey Public Schools

Farm to School can bring benefits to students, the school district, and the community. We believe that comprehensive farm to school programming includes initiatives in the cafeteria, classroom, and community, for instance: serving fresh and local meals in all cafeterias; offering food, farm, and nutrition education in the classroom; and building school relationships with farms and community organizations.

Through farm to school, students develop positive relationships with food and an understanding of how their food choices impact their bodies, the environment, and their communities—lessons and habits that will last a lifetime.

The Petoskey Farm to School Program aims to increase access to local food and nutrition education to improve children's health, strengthen family farms, and cultivate a vibrant community.



Food Service Director, Beth Kavanaugh, passes out samples for the Tasting Panel at Petoskey Middle School. (December 2022)

FARM TO SCHOOL

Oven-Roasted Root Vegetables!



100%

of students surveyed voted oven-roasted root veggies should be on the menu.

94%

of students surveyed voted white bean chicken chili should be on the menu.

In December, students from the Middle School and the High School were able to participate in a Tasting Panel. The purpose of Tasting Panels are to engage students with the Farm to School process and help select future cafeteria menu items. Students provide feedback on the smell, taste, and texture of the food and whether or not they would like to see it on the school lunch menu.

The Tasting Panel in December featured oven-roasted root vegetables and a white bean chicken chili. Produce from:



Victory
Farms

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

Michele Ball



"I started helping with Try-It-Tuesday's at Ottawa in 2019. When the Try-It-Tuesday program returned after a couple years off, I could not wait to volunteer again. It is so much fun to watch the kids experience foods they have never tried, or maybe never even heard of! The kids are so excited to learn about where their food comes from and what can be created with things they can grow! Every month multiple students tell me they want the recipe so they can make it with their families. We often forget that not every student has exposure to fresh fruits and vegetables. This program offers each child a chance to see, taste, and experience their food and I am so grateful to be a part of it."

-- Michele Ball