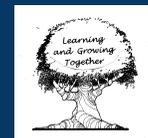


801 Northmen Drive
Petoskey, MI 49770
Main Line 348-2150
Attendance Line 348-2293
Fax 348-2234

PETOSKEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

February 2023 Edition NEWSLETTER



Upcoming Dates

Feb. 7 - DC Trip Parent Meeting in cafeteria, 7:00 pm

Feb. 8 - Pre-Festival Band Concert, 7:00 pm

Feb. 9 - MSPA Meeting, 7:00 pm

Feb. 16 - 8th grade Ski Day at the Highlands

Feb. 17 - No School, Professional Development Day

Feb. 20 - No School, Mid-Winter Break

Feb. 24 - Max Strossel Speaker

Feb. 27 - Pizza Pizzaz



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.**

Preparing 8th Grade Students for the Transition to PHS

Our 8th grade students have begun the preparation for their transition to Petoskey High School by developing their 4-year plan. While we definitely do not want them to get “senioritis” as an 8th grade student, we do aim to prepare them for the upcoming change. It’s hard to believe this group of students are already almost high schoolers!

As a reminder, the 4-year plans were created in preparation for the transition to Petoskey High School. During the development of the 4-year plans, eighth grade students utilized an on-line program, Xello, to explore career and college opportunities. Our middle school counselors worked with all 8th grade students to help them understand the requirements to earn a High School Diploma. Each student worked on their Educational Development Plan (EDP) and mapped out a 4-year plan that fits their particular interests. While these plans are by no means set in stone, it does give students an idea of the type of classes they will have the opportunity to take during their high school careers. Once all of this is complete, students will then have the opportunity to register for their freshman classes. We hope many of you had the opportunity to attend the parent meeting at the high school on February 2.

There is a plethora of information in the "Class of 2027" course on all 8th graders' Schoology dashboard, which includes graduation requirements, course sequences, course descriptions, testing out information and much more.

On February 14, all 8th grade students will walk over to Petoskey High School to tour the CTE (Career Technical Education) programs that are available to them over the next four years. PHS has student tour guides lined up to explain everything that happens in these great programs.

Career Day

On March 15, we will once again be hosting a Career Day specifically for our 8th grade students. Nearly 40 community volunteers will be here to explain their careers. Students filled out an interest inventory, which counselors will use to assign the students to four different career sessions. This is always a hit for our students!

This is also a good time to mention that our 8th grade students will be taking the PSAT on April 12, as it is now a requirement from the State of Michigan. There will be more information about state testing in next month’s newsletter.

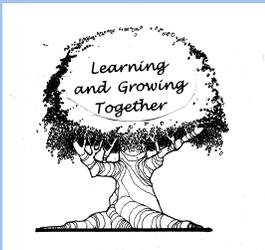
Our goal is to make the transition to Petoskey High School as seamless as possible. Students and parents will be receiving more information from PHS toward the end of the school year. We still have a lot of school left this year, but we definitely have to start thinking about next year already!

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!



UPCOMING SPEAKERS/PRESENTATIONS

On February 24, Max Strossel, a renowned national speaker, will be coming to Petoskey Middle School and Petoskey High School. He will speak to our 7th and 8th grade students about the implications of social media usage. You can find out more information about Max and his message by visiting his website, www.socialawakening.org.

NEXT DANCE IS THURSDAY, MARCH 16

Due to scheduling conflicts, we had to postpone the Valentine's Dance to March. Therefore the next dance will be a St. Patrick's themed dance, and will take place from 3:15 to 5:00 on March 16. If parents are interested in chaperoning, please call our office or contact a 6th grade teacher.

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 **March 1 at 7:00 pm is Creative Parenting and Responding to Challenging Behaviors.** Look for a flier coming soon.

UPCOMING 7TH GRADE TRIP TO AVALANCHE BAY

The 7th grade is planning on going on their first field trip on Friday, March 3rd, 2023 to Avalanche Bay. The cost of the trip is \$35. If you are having trouble covering the expenses for the trip, please contact your child's homeroom teacher. Our 7th grade behavior/academic policy has also been put into place starting on January 24, 2023 for this field trip. Permission slips and letters were sent home with students explaining everything on Friday, February 3, 2023.



ATHLETIC INFORMATION

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

7th and 8th grade track will begin on March 13th. All those participating in track will need a physical on file in the office in order to participate. Please watch announcements for more information.

Current winter sports are up and running!



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.

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. Remember, sports physical for the 2022-23 school year must be completed no earlier than April 15, 2022.

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. Tips are then shared with the appropriate agencies, who respond to keep everyone safe!



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!

CREATIVE PARENTING: Responding to Challenging Behavior

Parenting a teenager is a hard job. Adolescence is a time when both kids and parents are navigating the uncharted waters of school, relationships, social media, and changing brains and bodies. Finding creative strategies and solutions to address tough moments can help to get through these turbulent waters.

The Hot Topics Forum is an opportunity for parents/caregivers to get together to learn and share ideas to build strong relationships with our teens. The stronger our relationships, the better equipped we will be to help guide them through the challenges the teen years can bring.



Wednesday, March 1, 2023 ■ 7-8:30 p.m.

PRESENTERS: Christine Carpenter, LMSW, Health Department of Northwest Michigan; and Rebekah Pedersen, LPC of Alcona Health Center

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 - April 12, 2023:
“Substance Awareness”**

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.