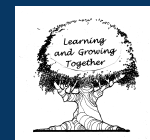


801 Northmen Drive
Petoskey, MI 49770
Main Line 348-2150
Attendance Line 348-2293
Fax 348-2234

PETOSKEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

March 2023
Edition

NEWSLETTER



Upcoming Dates

March 6 - 11: 8th grade
DC Trip

March 10 - Northmen
Night

March 15 - 8th grade
Career Day

March 16 - St. Patrick's
Day Dance (3:30 - 5:00)

March 16 - Board of Ed
Meeting (7:00)

March 17 - No School;
Professional Development
for Teachers

March 23 - End of 3rd
Quarter, End of Winter
Olympics

March 24 - April 3 - Spring
Break

April 4 - 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.**

THE FULL VALUE AGREEMENT & NORTHMEN DRIVE

Working with the developing adolescent can sometimes be challenging. In an attempt to focus our efforts and, more importantly, to help our students through adolescence and prepare them for years to come, we have developed a couple key initiatives over the years. The Full Value Agreement has been in place in Petoskey Middle School since the 1980's, and it continues to serve us well. We expect everyone in our school to follow the three tenets: Work as a Team, Be Safe (physically and emotionally), and Speak Up. The Full Value Agreement has since grown across our district, and is even utilized in other school districts. These are our social norms, which we expect our students to utilize every day.

Northmen DRIVE embodies a social-emotional skill set that we teach in conjunction with the Full Value Agreement. Our goal is for students to learn to navigate life with **D**etermination, **R**espect, and **I**ntegrity, to know how and when to appropriately and effectively use their **V**oice, all while practicing **E**mpathy. Our staff utilizes homeroom time to teach, discuss, and practice these important life skills.

The motto, "We have NORTHMEN DRIVE" serves as the basis of our Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) system and is written on every expectation poster in our school building. This motto is displayed along with specific expectations on posters throughout the building, reminding students and staff to Be Safe, Work as a Team, and Speak Up. We strive to remind students to not only do their best, but to be their best selves. We want them to have the drive to work hard toward success in the challenges they face.

We feel it is important to remind the developing adolescent and develop these DRIVE skills, while also Working as a Team, Speaking Up, and Being Safe. I bring this up in hope that we can continue to be on the same page as we partner to help your child and every other child in our school.

As always, we are honored to partner with you in helping your child learn and grow. It is a responsibility we do not take lightly.

Jon Wilcox, Principal

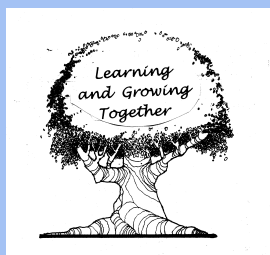


Attendance

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!



SPELLING BEE

Petoskey Middle School students recently participated in the annual classroom spelling bees. From there, grade level and building level winners participated in the final rounds of the P.M.S. Scripps National Spelling Bee. Sander Cole was the first place winner and Tara Brantly was the second place winner for our local school district. Both students will continue to the regional spelling bee competition in Traverse City, MI on March 19th. Congratulations to Sander & Tara and all of the students who participated in the bee!



SCIENCE FAIR

The Petoskey Middle School Science Fair Club was a great success this year. All participants earned a score of 89% or above with a very close race for first, second and third place! We are so proud of our young scientists taking the time to go above





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.

and beyond expectations. They are true examples of Northmen Drive.

Sera Kembro took third place with her project Dormant Below Zero. Willow Mitchell and Layne Pettyjohn with their project Moldy Bathroom tied for second place with Camilla Avila and her project Dissolved Oxygen. Finally, Evall Hall took first place with his project Brains! Thank you to all the families that supported their students through the process and a big thank you to Gracie Gasco and Chloe Graham for taking the time to be our high school mentors. The projects will be displayed in the library until spring break. Great work everyone!

AMERICA & ME ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

The results are in for the local America & Me Essay Contest! Started in 1968, this contest is open to all Michigan 8th graders and focuses on encouraging Michigan youngsters to explore the greatness of America and its people. Approximately 200 eighth graders participated in the contest and the following students were the winners from Petoskey Middle School:

1st Place - Trevin Boyce

2nd Place - Josephine Bielaczyc

3rd Place - Jayne Holmes

Trevin Boyce's first place essay will now advance to the statewide competition from which the top 10 entries in the state will be selected. The statewide winners will be announced in April.

MATHCOUNTS

Congratulations to our Middle School MathCounts Team for placing 2nd at the regional competition on February 10th in Traverse City! (Hannah Begos, Brooke Knickerbocker, Sander Cole, and Isaac Ruckman) Also, in the individual competition, Sander Cole placed 1st overall. Great job to everyone that participated!

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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.

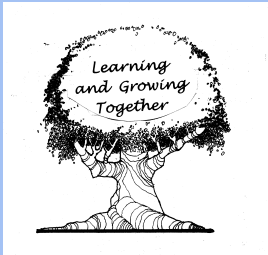
LITTLE NORTHMEN AND KINDERGARTEN ENROLLMENT IS OPEN

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.





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!



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>

SOCIAL MEDIA - Please Consider the Risks

On Friday, February 24, we hosted Max Stossel, a nationally renowned speaker on all things social media. Max spoke to our 7th and 8th grade students, as well as hosted a session for parents that same evening. His message was pretty clear. Social media can be dangerous. The more knowledgeable adults are about this, the better. Here are [some resources](#) he asked that we share with parents.

It is important to remember that the middle school years are often difficult for children. These years are dominated by significant physical and emotional change, making decisions, relationships, and just about everything else difficult. Every generation has had to deal with the challenges of adolescence, but now our youth have an added challenge—social media. Here are just a couple reasons social media is hard for students.

Young adolescents (and even adults) often compare themselves to others. Combine this with the phenomenon of peers constantly projecting the best possible version of themselves online, and it is easy to see how social media can negatively impact a child's self-esteem.

Social media is a great communication tool, but it is not a substitute for face-to-face conversations. Too many times we see social media replacing these essential real conversations, which is a skill necessary for students to become successful adults.

More than ever before, teens are getting more feedback from their peers as compared to older generations. Because of this, it is important that children spend more time with their parents. They really need to get advice from you (and even their grandparents) because adolescents are overloaded with peer feedback that often comes from social media outlets. As a school, we are constantly trying to find avenues to deal with this issue. Because of the number of conflicts that we are having that involve social media, we have had speakers come in and the consequences associated with the virtual world.

See the information below for some additional reasons parents should consider when deciding on how social media fits for their child. This information is not meant to be judgmental for allowing the use of social media. Rather, it is meant to help you consider the potential consequences for its use.

"Ten Reasons Middle Schoolers Don't Need Social Media"

Written by David Olsen, Community Today, April 2018

1. Social media was not designed for children. A tween's underdeveloped frontal cortex can't manage the distraction nor the temptations that come with social media use.
2. You can not teach the maturity that social media requires. I hear parents say that they want to teach their child to use social media appropriately, but their midbrains are not developed yet. Like trying to make clothes fit that are way too big, children will use social media inappropriately until they are older and it fits them better.



3. Social media is an entertainment technology. It does not make your child smarter or more prepared for real life or a future job.
4. It is not necessary for healthy social development. It is entertainment attached to a marketing platform extracting personal information and preferences from your child, not to mention hours of their time and attention.
5. A tween's "more is better" mentality is a dangerous match for social media. Social media encourages them to overdo their friend connections like they tend to overdo other things in their lives. Does anyone have thousands of friends?
6. Social media is an addictive form of screen entertainment. Like video game addiction, early use can set up future addiction patterns and habits.
7. Social media replaces learning the hard social "work" necessary for success. The use of social media greatly lessens opportunities requiring children to practice dealing face-to-face with their peers, a skill they need to master to be successful in real life.
8. Social media can cause teens to lose connection with family. They view "friends" as their foundation and since the brain is still being formed, they need healthy family attachment more than with their peers. It is just as important now as when they were preschoolers.
9. Social media use represents lost potential for teens. The teen's brain development is operating at peak performance for learning new things. Studies show that it is nearly impossible for them to balance it all and teens waste too much time and too much of their brain in a digital world.
10. Do any of us wish we had started earlier?

COMING SOON

CAREER DAY FOR 8TH GRADE - MARCH 15

On March 15, we will host the annual Career Day at Petoskey Middle School. During this event, nearly 40 community volunteers representing a wide variety of careers come in and speak to our 8th grade students. Prior to that day, students are able to sign up for the careers for which they are most interested. This day is always a hit. Students enjoy hearing about different career options, and our guests enjoy sharing their passion with our students.

SAFE IN NORTHERN MICHIGAN - MIDDLE SCHOOL AFTER HOURS

SAFE After Hours event we are hosting at The Petoskey Field House on Friday, March 10, 2023. There will be activities open to middle school students from 3:30 pm – 6 pm. The event is **\$5 for entry**.

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 **April 12 at 7:00 pm is Substance Awareness**. Look for a flier coming soon.



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!

7TH and 8TH GRADE TRACK

Our first practice will be on March 13th after school until 4:15. On the 13th we'll have an introductory meeting for students to gather paperwork, schedules, and uniform order forms. 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. Lewis (lewis.lr.t@northmen.org) or Mrs. Erickson (erickson.rl.t@northmen.org) if you have any questions.

6TH GRADE TRACK

Practice will begin on April 5th. 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. 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 Ms. Tompkins (tompkins.mr.t@northmen.org) or Ms. Bell (bell.rj.t@northmen.org) if you have any questions or if you would like to volunteer during our home track meet.



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.



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.

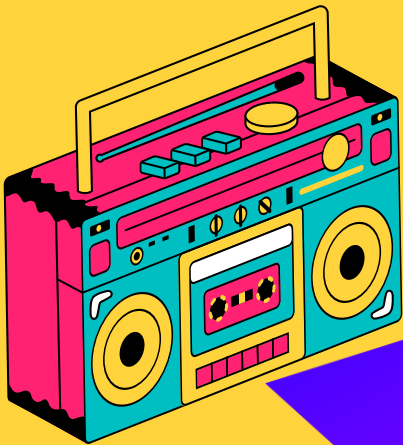


SAFE in NM AFTER HOURS

MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS ONLY

Friday, March 10th, 2023
3:30pm-6:00pm

Petoskey Field House
1040 Cedar Valley Road
Petoskey, MI



\$5 Entry Fee
Concessions
Available
CASH ONLY

Arts & Crafts
Rock Climbing
Karaoke
Photo booth
Retro Arcade
Spike Ball
Dodge Ball
Indoor Soccer
& MORE!



Crooked Tree Wellness Clinic

NOW OPEN!!!

The Crooked Tree Wellness Clinic provides patient-centered healthcare for the whole family!

OPEN TO ANYONE W/ MEDICAID AS THEIR
PRIMARY INSURANCE

Available services include:

- Primary care
- Preventative care
- Well child visits
- Some same-day appts
- Limited psychiatric care
- Counseling services

SERVING THE MEDICAID
POPULATION OF NORTHERN
MICHIGAN

2390 Mitchell Park Dr.
Petoskey, MI 49770
(231) 242-1760

Hours: M-TH 7:00AM-5:30PM

