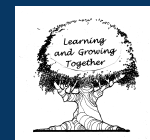


801 Northmen Drive
Petoskey, MI 49770
Main Line 348-2150
Attendance Line 348-2293
Fax 348-2234

PETOSKEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

October 2022
Edition

NEWSLETTER



Upcoming Dates

October 18 - Picture Retake Day

October 19 - Hot Topics -Is my Teen Okay? The Teenage Brain, 7:00 (see enclosed flier)

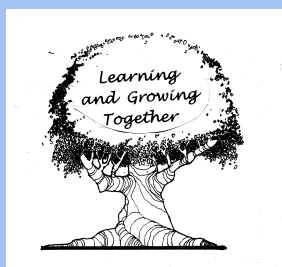
October 21 - No School for students, PD for Staff

October 27 - Middle School and Parent Alliance Meeting, 7:00 pm

October 18 - Halloween Dance (3:15 - 5:00)

November 1 - No School for students, PD for Staff

November 4 - End of 1st Quarter



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

School and Community Flyers

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

"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 adults have to overcome is teaching our children to use these tools appropriately since 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 it's usage. According to the [Pew Research Center](#), 95% of teens report having access to a cell phone, while 46% say they are online almost constantly, doubling since 2014-15. 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 multitude 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. In December of 2021, there was a community presentation titled "Social Media: A common sense approach," for parents of teens in which Trooper Corey Hebner addressed the topic of social media. You can still access this presentation by [clicking here](#). Mr. Hebner provides a plethora of information for parents. We are also working on ways to continue to educate students about the responsibilities and dangers 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://protectyouneyes.com/>.

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.

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!



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. We have a very welcoming and professional staff. This is a necessary and rewarding position, and it follows the school calendar.



Our district has recently raised our Aide pay to \$14.50 an hour, and steps are available for longevity. There is also an opportunity to earn a \$500 bonus in December and again in June, pending attendance requirements are met. These positions also include ten leave days to use throughout the year. If you would like more information please call Jon Wilcox at 348-2150.

ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES AT PMS

Students at Petoskey Middle School have the opportunity to participate in many academic enrichment activities throughout the year. Topics of study change during the year and cover all subject areas including activities such as the Social Studies Olympiad, Future City: Research, Design & Build Science Competition, Scripps National Spelling Bee, Math Counts and the Crooked Tree Writing Contest. Currently, several students are preparing for the America & Me "My Michigan Hero" writing contest. Students are selected based on their academic performance, teacher recommendation and interest in a topic. The groups are voluntary and change frequently based on student interests. In addition, many enrichment activities are posted on the [Middle School Enrichment website](#), which is open to all students who are looking for additional options to extend their learning.

HARBOR SPRINGS FESTIVAL OF THE BOOK SCHOOL VISIT

On September 23, the Harbor Springs Festival of the Book sent authors into area schools to talk about books, writing, and the creative process. Our students were able to hear from Newbery Award Winner Katherine Applegate about her new book *Odder*, Drs. Michael G. Long and Yohuru Williams about their book *Call Him Jack: The Story of Jackie Robinson*, *Black Freedom Fighter* and Laekan Zea Kemp about her book *Omega Morales and the Legend of La Lechuza*. These visits bring books to life for students and give real-world examples of the writing skills students are learning in the classroom. Ask your student about their visit!

BEHAVIOR AT PHS ATHLETIC EVENTS

We have been asked by the PHS athletic department to address our middle school students' behavior at athletic events. If a student attends an athletic event, they are expected to watch the event. We have been having issues with students trying to get into the games without paying, handing tickets through the fence to avoid paying, etc. If a student continues to be a behavior issue at an athletic event, they will be asked to leave. We would appreciate it if you would not leave your child unattended at an athletic event and talk to them about behavior beforehand.

ATHLETICS FOR 2022-23

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

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!

RUNNING CLUB

Are you interested in running for fun with friends? Running Club is for all students regardless of running ability. If you are interested, please [Email Mrs. Lewis](#) or see her in Room 144 for [more information](#). If you have a busy schedule, there will be before and after school runs. Bring a friend and join the Running Club! We start on October 18!

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.

HOT TOPICS FOR PARENTS OF TEENS

See the end of this newsletter for a flier for the first "Hot Topics - Is my Teen Okay?" forum of the year. 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 October 19 at 7:00 pm is understanding the changes your child's brain is going through during these formative years. Please see flier for more information.

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!



MIDDLE SCHOOL AND PARENT ALLIANCE

If you are interested in volunteering some of your time to brainstorm ideas and problem-solve with a committed group of parents and staff, consider joining the Middle School and Parent Alliance (MSPA). Our MSPA committee meets four to five times per year. This is a group of parents and faculty working together to get the good news out while continually fostering and modeling the Full Value Agreement. Our next meeting is scheduled for October 27th at 7:00. If you are interested or have questions, please call Jon Wilcox at 348-2150.

Halloween Dance

On Friday, October 28, we will have our Halloween Dance from 3:15 to 5:00. While we don't dress up during the day for Halloween, this is an opportunity for students to wear their school-appropriate Halloween costume. If you are interested in volunteering to help chaperone the dance, please contact Heather Giammalva at giammalva.ha.t@northmen.org.



DROP OFF 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 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.



OTHER INFORMATION

[Asbestos Notification](#)

[Pesticides - Annual Notice to Parents](#)

[Be Alert Flier](#)

PETOSKEY FOOD SERVICE IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Free & Reduced Applications
- [Online Payments](#)
- Payments made by Check or cash payments

**** If you have not already completed a Free & Reduced Application, please do so as soon as you can so we have a smooth start to the beginning of school for breakfast and lunch meals.**

Three options for Submitting Free & Reduced Application

- 1- Application (**PLUS making online deposits**) website: Petoskey.familyportal.cloud

Click register (By registering an account, you will be able to complete an online application and have the functionality to make deposits through this system. At this time, this will be the only way to make deposits online. eFunds will be up and running for deposits in the next few weeks or months.)

Set up a username

Accept the terms of use

Accept the privacy policy

Click OK at the top when the green pop-up displays, "Your account is almost ready."

Follow the prompts to complete the rest of the set up

*****If you need your child's student id number, please email me at:**

kavanaugh.ba.u@northmen.org (Include your child's first and last name in the email.)

- 2- Application website: Petoskey.familyportal.cloud

Click apply for benefits

Accept the terms of use

Accept the privacy policy

Application instructions – click next at the bottom

Important information – click next at the bottom

You WILL NOT need your child's student id number using this method

- 3- Paper Applications can be completed and mailed to Food Service, 1500 Hill Street, Petoskey, MI 49770 or brought to the secretary in your child's building.

If you choose not to pay for breakfast and lunch meals online, we would appreciate a check written to: Petoskey Food Service with your child's first and last name included in the memo section.

Checks can be mailed to Petoskey Food Service, 1500 Hill Street, Petoskey, MI 49770.

New protocol for deposits being dropped off at elementary schools:

Checks will need to be in a sealed envelope with your child's first and last name on the outside of the envelope.

During the first week of school, your building Principal, Secretary or your child's teacher will let your child know the new protocol when bringing in food service deposits to the school.

IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO HAVE YOUR CHILD'S FIRST AND LAST NAME IN THE MEMO SECTION OF THE CHECK AND ON THE OUTSIDE OF THE ENVELOPE.

Please reach out to me with any questions.

Kavanaugh.ba.u@northmen.org

(231) 348-2183

Join us in person
for 2022-23!

HOT TOPICS: Is My Teen Okay?

Helping parents and caregivers of teens connect!

Do you ever wonder, "What is my teen thinking?"

Understanding the Teenage Brain



"The teenage brain is not just an adult brain with fewer miles on it," says Frances E. Jensen, a professor of neurology. "It's a paradoxical time of development. These are people with very sharp brains, but they're not quite sure what to do with them."

Big and important changes are happening to the brain during adolescence! Find out how your teen's brain is changing, and how that knowledge can help your relationships with your child.

Open to parents, caregivers & community

Wednesday, Oct. 19, 2022 ■ 7-8 p.m.

PRESENTER: Christine Carpenter, LMSW

LOCATION: Petoskey Middle School Media Center

On-site child care provided from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Next Hot Topics Forum, Nov. 16, 2022:
"Understanding and Managing ADHD in your Teen"

Presented by Petoskey Public Schools, Emmet County Probate and Family Court, Alcona Health Center, and the Health Department of Northwest Michigan. Questions? Call (231) 348-2290.