



PETOSKEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

Learning & Growing Together

Welcome to the 2025-26 School Year!

August 2025 Edition

801 Northmen Drive
Petoskey, MI 49770

Main Line: (231) 348-2150
Attendance Line: (231) 348-2293

Upcoming Dates

August 25 : Volleyball Tryouts Start,
4:00 - 6:00 pm

Football practice begins, 3:30 pm

August 26-28: Staff Professional
Development

August 26: Open House 4:30 - 6:00
pm

Sept. 2: School Starts! Doors open at
7:55 am daily, school starts at 8:15,
dismissal at 3:10

Sept. 10: Picture Day!

Sept. 25: MSPA Meeting, 7:00 pm

We hope you had a wonderful summer and are as excited as we are for the 2025–26 school year! You may notice a few changes around the middle school. All back-to-school forms will now be completed online through PowerSchool, and [grade-level Welcome Letters](#) can be found [here](#).

Over the summer, our front office and cafeteria received a much-needed facelift to help ensure the safest possible environment for our students. Due to ongoing construction, we will not be able to host the tentatively scheduled Self-Guided Tour next Monday, but we will be ready for our Open House.

Student schedules will be available on PowerSchool on Tuesday, August 19. We will have printed copies of student schedules with locker information available for pick-up during Open House in the Media Center. Staff from our Technology Department will be stationed in the Media Center during Open House to answer questions and provide support. We strongly encourage every parent/guardian to sign up for PowerSchool to access student schedules and grades.

At Petoskey Middle School, our goal is to partner with you to help your child learn and grow during these important adolescent years. Through the implementation of the Full Value Agreement, development of DRIVE (Determination, Respect, Integrity, Voice, Empathy) skills, a comprehensive curriculum, and a wide variety of after-school clubs and activities, we are ready to help your child succeed!

We strongly encourage students to get involved in activities outside of the school day. Petoskey Middle School proudly offers nearly 30 different clubs, sports, and activities for students, there truly is something for everyone! Please visit our [clubs and activities](#) website for descriptions and contact information for each program.

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 have received a letter, phone call, or email from Mrs. Champagne, it means your child must either:

1. Provide an updated immunization record, or
2. Obtain a waiver from the Health Department.

Until the school receives the proper documentation, your child will not be able to attend classes.



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!

Custodial Notices

[Click here](#) more information about chemicals used in or around the building.

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

WELCOME TO OUR NEW STAFF!

One of the hallmarks of Petoskey Middle School is our well-rounded staff, dedicated to helping students learn and grow during these formative years. While we were sad to see many excellent educators retire last year, we are excited to introduce the newest members of our team!

- **Mrs. Fifer will be joining our team as a 6th grade special education teacher. Originally from Petoskey, she most recently taught at Alanson Public Schools and also spent several years teaching in the Grand Rapids area.**
- **Mr. Honaker will be teaching 6th grade math. He comes to us from Ottawa and Lincoln Elementary Schools.**
- **Ms. Sneddon will be teaching 6th grade English Language Arts. She is a Petoskey and CMU graduate.**
- **Mr. Schwartz will be joining our team as a special education teacher. He comes to us from Chicago, where he grew up.**
- **Mrs. Morgan will be joining our team as a counselor, supporting the academic and personal growth of our students.**

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

2026 8th Grade D.C. & Baltimore Trip - It's not too late to sign-up!

Deadline: October 1, 2025

Sign-up for the 2026 8th Grade trip to Washington D.C. and Baltimore, MD is still happening until October 1st! For more details about what your child may see on the trip and the total cost, check out our [PMS 8th Grade D.C. Trip Site](#). If you're ready to register your child today, you can go to the [WorldStrides](#) website and use the **trip ID: 221132!** Ms. Saunders will be hosting a brief informational parent meeting about the trip on Tuesday, September 9th at 5:30pm in the PMS cafeteria for families needing a bit more information before signing up. For more information or questions contact Morgan Saunders at saunders.mn.t@northmen.org.

2025 Fall Show - Disney's "Dare to Dream Jr"

A brand new musical revue is coming to the PMS Stage for our young actors and apprentices! For more information about the show, to sign-up for auditions, or to show interest in Middle School Theatre Apprentice, your child can complete the Interest Google Form located on our Petoskey Middle School Website or through this link: [Actor & Theatre Apprentice Interest Form](#)

[Click here for Community Flyers](#)

Food Service 2025-26 News

Welcoming Our New Executive Chef: A Fresh Take on School Meals

We're excited to announce a major step forward in our school's commitment to healthy, delicious dining—we've hired our first-ever Executive Chef! Chef Aarron. With a background in professional kitchens and a passion for nourishing young minds, Chef Aarron is bringing fresh energy and creativity to the cafeteria.

This means:

- **More meals made from scratch using wholesome ingredients**
- **Menus that reflect diverse flavors and student preferences**
- **A focus on nutrition, taste, and presentation**

This upgrade isn't just about food—it's about creating a dining experience students look forward to every day. We can't wait for your child to taste the difference! Stay tuned for opportunities to meet the chef and sample some of the new offerings.

Fresh from Scratch: A Healthier Approach to School Meals

We're excited to share that Petoskey schools are making a big move toward more scratch cooking in the cafeteria! This means more meals prepared fresh each day using real, wholesome ingredients—just like you'd make at home.

By cooking from scratch, we're able to:

- **Reduce processed foods**
- **Boost nutrition and flavor**
- **Introduce students to a wider variety of healthy options**

We've always been committed to providing exciting, nourishing meals but now it's time to take them to the next level. We will be increasing customized options like build your own bowls, creating the freshest burgers and grilled chicken sandwiches, and highlighting homestyle recipes like baja beef and rice bowl, macaroni and cheese, chicken quesadillas, homemade pizza, chicken stir fry. It's all part of our promise to help students eat well, feel good, and stay energized throughout the day.

Attendance Concerns

If a student will be absent or tardy, a **parent or guardian must call the attendance line at 348-2293 by 9:00 a.m.** Otherwise, the absence will be considered **unexcused until we receive a phone call or a note.**

If your child is not feeling well, please include their symptoms in your voicemail so we do not need to call you back for details.

If your child has a mid-day appointment, please call the office in the morning so we can have them ready for pickup.

If your child will be absent for the day and also attends classes at Petoskey High School, please notify the office so that their high school attendance can be adjusted as well. Thank you!

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

PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT OUR OFFICE IS AWARE OF ANY CHANGES IN CONTACT INFORMATION. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE HAVE THE CORRECT CONTACT INFORMATION.



[Click here for Community Flyers](#)

8th grade French and Choir Students

Eighth graders enrolled in 1st hour PHS French or Choir will **report to homeroom on the first day of school, Tuesday, September 2nd.** They will not attend their PHS class on Tuesday.

On Wednesday, September 3rd, these students will meet Mrs. Kelley and Mrs. Morgan in the main lobby foyer at 8:05 and we will walk over to the high school as a group.

Eighth graders should always be dropped off at the middle school and will walk from here to PHS around 8:05 each day. They are to go directly to their PHS classroom. Both French and Choir classes start at 8:15.

Each day after dismissal from their PHS class, students are to walk back to the middle school and report to their designated area to read or work on assignments until 9:35, at which time they head to their 2nd hour class.

First Marking Period Elective Changes - 8th grade only

Eighth grade students who would like to request a change to their first marking period elective(s) can do so through this [google form](#). The counselors work on the requests in the order they are received and will respond to students via email. The form will be open to request an elective change until Tuesday, August 26th.

Email Mrs. Kelley, kelley.aj.t@northmen.org, with any questions.

[Click here for Community Flyers](#)

VOLLEYBALL

7th/8th Grade Fall 2025 Volleyball Tryouts are on:

August 25: Volleyball Tryouts 4:00 - 6:00 pm at PMS gym

August 26: Volleyball Tryouts 6:00 - 8:00 pm at PMS gym (time change is due to Open House)

August 27: Volleyball Tryouts 4:00 - 6:00 pm at PMS gym

Players should attend all three tryout dates to be considered for the team.

All players must have a physical ON FILE WITH THE PMS OFFICE BEFORE tryouts start. Physical forms are available at the office.

8th Grade: Coach Bell - bell.rj.t@northmen.org

Date	Time	H/A	Opponent
09/08/2025	4:00 PM	Away	Cadillac Junior High School
09/10/2025	4:00 PM	Home	Sault Area Middle School
09/15/2025	4:00 PM	Home	Gaylord Middle School
09/17/2025	4:00 PM	Home	Traverse City East Middle School
09/23/2025	4:30 PM	Away	St. Francis Xavier School
09/24/2025	4:00 PM	Home	Cadillac Junior High School
09/29/2025	4:00 PM	Away	Gaylord Middle School
10/02/2025	4:30 PM	Away	Boyne City Middle School
10/06/2025	4:00 PM	Away	Sault Area Middle School
10/07/2025	4:00 PM	Home	St. Francis Xavier School
10/08/2025	4:00 PM	Home	Alpena Thunder Bay Junior High School
10/14/2025	4:30 PM	Away	Traverse City West MS
10/16/2025	4:00 PM	Away	Gaylord Middle School

FOOTBALL

The first day of practice for the 25/26 school year is Monday, August 25th from 3:45-5:30 PM. Equipment Hand-Out Day is the week before on Monday, August 18th (8th Grade: 5-6 PM, 7th Grade: 6-7 PM)

For any further questions, please contact Coach Nick Ralph (nralph@petoskeysfx.org).

Date	Time	H/A	Opponent
09/17/2025	4:00 PM	Away	Gaylord Middle School
09/24/2025	4:00 PM	Home	Kingsley Junior High School
10/01/2025	4:00 PM	Away	Cadillac Junior High School
10/08/2025	4:00 PM	Away	Traverse City East Middle School
10/15/2025	4:00 PM	Home	Traverse City West MS
10/22/2025	4:00 PM	Home	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Middle School

[Click here for Community Flyers](#)

CROSS COUNTRY

Petoskey Cross Country practice starts on the first day of school. Cross Country is a competitive running sport. Cross-country runners compete in distance races that typically take place on non-paved running paths. It is a great sport that allows you to compete and improve both as an individual and a team. We hope that you will enjoy this opportunity to get in shape, compete, and have fun. As a member of the team, you get to participate in an ice cream run, cookie run, and a caramel apple run and more. No prior running experience is needed. The goal is for each runner to improve individually and have fun.

For more information, you may contact Rachel Erickson - erickson.rl.t@northmen.org

Wednesday Sept 10th	Home	Ice Cream Run	4pm
Tuesday Sept 16th	Away	TC East	4pm
Saturday Sept 20th	Home	Petoskey Invite	9am
Wednesday Oct 1st	Away	Mancelona	4pm
Tuesday Oct 7th	Away	Gaylord	4pm

INTRAMURAL VOLLEYBALL

IM Volleyball is open to all interested 6th, 7th, and 8th graders. IM meets after school twice a week beginning the second week of school. There are no tryouts, but students do need a physical on file in order to participate.

MHSAA SPORTS PHYSICAL FORMS

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 2025-26 school year must be completed no earlier than April 15, 2025. For the most up-to-date information, please visit the [middle school athletics website](#). Please read the daily student announcements for sign-up information for the upcoming seasons.



MIDDLE SCHOOL & PARENT ALLIANCE (MSPA)

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 September 25th at 7:00.** If you are interested or have questions, please call Jon Wilcox at 348-2150.

[Click here for Community Flyers](#)

DAILY SCHEDULE

2025-26 Regular Daily Schedule

6th Grade

Homeroom:	8:15 – 8:35
1st Hour:	8:40 – 9:35
2nd Hour:	9:40 – 10:35
3rd Hour (a):	10:40 – 11:00
Lunch:	11:00 - 11:30
3rd Hour (b)	11:35 - 12:10
4th Hour:	12:15 - 1:10
5th Hour:	1:15 – 2:10
6th Hour:	2:15 – 3:10

7th Grade

Homeroom:	8:15 – 8:35
1st Hour:	8:40 – 9:35
2nd Hour:	9:40 - 10:35
3rd Hour:	10:40 - 11:35
Lunch:	11:35 - 12:05
4th Hour:	12:10 - 1:10
5th Hour:	1:15 - 2:10
6th Hour:	2:15 - 3:10

8th Grade

Homeroom:	8:15 – 8:35
1st Hour:	8:40 – 9:35
2nd Hour:	9:40 – 10:35
3rd Hour:	10:40 – 11:35
4th Hour :	11:40 - 12:40
Lunch:	12:40 - 1:10
5th Hour:	1:15 – 2:10
6th Hour:	2:15 – 3:10

1/2 Day Schedule

1st Hour:	8:15 – 8:50 (35 min.)
2nd Hour:	8:55 – 9:26 (31 min.)
3rd Hour:	9:31 – 10:02 31 min.)
4th Hour:	10:07 – 10:38 (31 min.)
5th Hour:	10:43 – 11:14 (31 min.)
6th Hour:	11:19 – 11:50 (31 min.)

Dress Code Reminder

At the start of every school year, it's helpful to review our dress code expectations with students. Teachers will go over the updated dress code during the first week of school, and we kindly ask parents to also take a moment to discuss it at home.

Below is a graphic that outlines the expectations. Please remember that all clothing must be school-appropriate. The full dress code policy can be found in the Student Handbook.

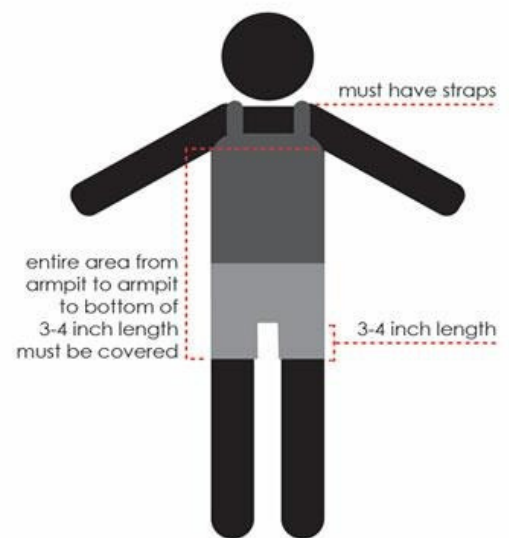
Thank you for your support in helping us maintain a respectful and positive learning environment!

After School Study Lab

Study Lab is available after school Monday through Thursday from 3:15 to 4:15 p.m. in the Media Center. Students are expected to come prepared with their books, homework, and a pencil.

Medications

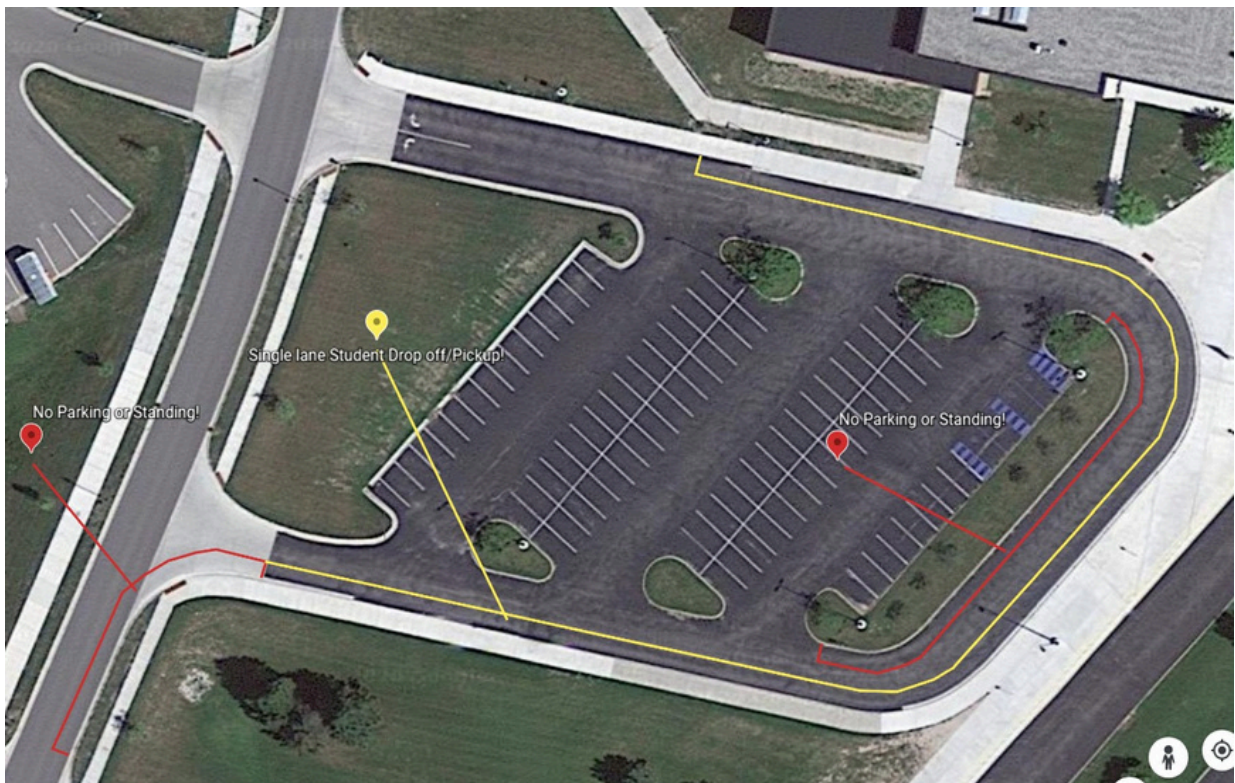
If your student needs to take prescription or non-prescription medication during the school day, a [Medication Authorization Form](#) must be completed for each medication. The medication and form must be dropped off at the main office by an adult. A new form is required every school year.



[Click here for Community Flyers](#)

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!



The District will not discriminate against any person based on race, color, national origin, ethnicity, religion, sex (including pregnancy, gender identity, and sexual orientation), height, weight, marital status, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, military service, or any other legally protected class. The Board reaffirms its long-standing policy of compliance with all applicable federal and state laws and regulations prohibiting discrimination.

*Civil Rights & Title IX Coordinator, Becky Smith, Director
of Teaching and Learning*

*Spitler Administration Building, 1130 Howard Street,
Petoskey, MI 49770 231-348-2352,
TitleIXCoordinator@northmen.org*

[Click here for Community Flyers](#)

Welcome to 6th Grade!

6th Grade Teachers

Math	Noah Honaker	nhonaker@northmen.org
Math	Kelly Brey	brey.kl.t@northmen.org
Language Arts	Kelly Wagner	wagner.ke.t@northmen.org
Language Arts	Carley Sneddon	csneddon@northmen.org
Science	Liz Warner	warner.ec.t@northmen.org
Science	Julie Yurek	platte-yurek.js.t@northmen.org
Social Studies	Molly Werden	werden.mm.t@northmen.org
Social Studies	Tyler Hallstedt	thallstedt@northmen.org
Resource Room	Kari Bernard	kbernard@northmen.org
Resource Room	Dorothy Fifer	dfifer@northmen.org

Daily Schedule

8:15-8:35 Homeroom

8:40-9:35 1st hour

10:40-11:35 2nd hour

10:40-11:00 3rd hour (a)

11:00-11:30 Lunch

11:35-12:10 3rd hour (b)

12:15-1:10 4th hour

1:15-2:10 5th hour

2:15-3:10 6th hour

Supplies Wishlist

**Kleenex &
Clorox Wipes**

Note: You'll notice our supplies wish list is rather small. This is because your child's supplies, necessary for their success in 6th grade, will be purchased by the Public Schools of Petoskey. If you would like to help restock our hallway supply closet with Kleenex and/or Clorox Wipes, your child's homeroom teacher will gladly accept the donation! Thank you for your support!



Growing Together • Learning Together

NORTHMEN FOREVER

PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF PETOSKEY

Dear Future 6th Grade Families,

Welcome to Petoskey Middle School! We are looking forward to welcoming all 6th grade students in September! Please know that we want to first share that we're here to support families and students every step of the way.

At Petoskey Middle School, we focus on learning and growing together during these formative years of adolescence. Students will be exposed to quality curricula in the core content areas of Math, English, Science, and Social Studies, and they will have engaging opportunities in exploratory courses. We strongly encourage students to get involved in an extracurricular activity. Developing a sense of belonging is important, and extracurriculars are a great way to do just that!

To keep your family updated on educational and extracurricular opportunities beyond the classroom, we plan to send periodic homeroom emails. Please make sure your email is up to date with the Middle School office to ensure you'll receive those. Your child's teachers and Petoskey Middle School staff are committed to helping them succeed to the best of their ability, both academically and personally!

In the 6th grade hallway, students are expected to be responsible for their actions and follow our **Full Value Agreement**. This agreement requires them to work as a team, be safe (emotionally and physically), and speak up. We want all students to have an enjoyable, productive 6th grade year. By following this agreement, we can ensure greater success for all!

Fun activities that your child can look forward to include the Fall Fling at Northern Lights, snowshoeing in the Winter, fun games and rewards in the classroom, as well as learning from a team of teachers who greatly enjoy collaborating and working with each other! We are looking forward to a great year starting in September!

Sincerely,

6th Grade Teachers

Welcome to 7th Grade!

7th Grade Teachers

Math	John Boyer	boyer.jc.t@northmen.org
Math	TBD	TBD
Language Arts	Morgan Saunders	saunders.mn.t@northmen.org
Language Arts	Lisa Bennett	lbennett@northmen.org
Science	Kristen Ketvertis	ketvertis.km.t@northmen.org
Science	Katie Cruse	cruse.km.t@northmen.org
Social Studies	Russell Carpenter	carpenter.rj.t@northmen.org
Resource Room	Heather Giammalva	giammalva.ha.t@northmen.org
Resource Room	Harris Schwartz	hschwartz@northmen.org

Daily Schedule

8:15-8:35 Homeroom

8:40-9:35 1st hour

9:40-10:35 2nd hour

10:40-11:3 3rd hour Elective

11:35-12:05 Lunch

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2:15-3:10 6th hour

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PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF PETOSKEY

Dear Future 7th Grade Families,

We are so excited to welcome all 7th grade students to the hallway next year! This upcoming school year promises to be both exciting and enriching, and as students transition from 6th grade, we want to reassure you that we are here to support both families and students every step of the way.

Seventh grade is a time of growth, new learning experiences, and opportunities for your child to discover their interests and passions. Students will continue to explore familiar subjects—Math, English, Science, and Social Studies—and will also have the chance to engage in exciting elective courses. To keep your family updated on additional educational and extracurricular opportunities beyond the classroom, we plan to send monthly homeroom updates, as well as progress reports each marking period. Please make sure your email address is up to date with the Middle School office to ensure you don't miss any important information. Your child's teachers and the entire Petoskey Middle School staff are committed to helping them succeed both academically and personally!

In the 7th grade hallway, students are expected to take responsibility for their actions and follow our Full Value Agreement. This agreement encourages teamwork, emotional and physical safety, and open communication. By embracing these values, we can create an environment where all students can have a productive and enjoyable year.

There are also many fun activities your child can look forward to, including climbing at Camp Daggett in the fall, swimming at Avalanche Bay in the winter, fun classroom games, and rewards, as well as learning from a team of teachers who love collaborating and working together! We're excited for a fantastic year starting in September.

Sincerely,

The 7th Grade Team

Welcome to 8th Grade!

8th Grade Teachers

Math	Megan Tompkins	tompkins.mr.t@northmen.org
Math	Becky Bell	bell.rj.t@northmen.org
Language Arts	Brian Forster	forster.bj.t@northmen.org
Language Arts	Laura Feys	feys.ls.t@northmen.org
Science	Meagan Neal	neal.ma.t@northmen.org
Science	Ellie Daniel	edaniel@northmen.org
Social Studies	Rachel Erickson	erickson.rl.t@northmen.org
Social Studies	Gavin Fralick	fralick.gd.t@northmen.org
Resource Room	Melanie Zamarron	zamarron.ma.t@northmen.org

Daily Schedule

8:15-8:35 Homeroom

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9:40-10:35 2nd hour Elective

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11:40-12:40 4th hour

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1:15-2:10 5th hour

2:15-3:10 6th hour

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PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF PETOSKEY

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We hope you enjoyed a fun and relaxing summer! We are looking forward to a wonderful year with your child as they finish off their middle school years and get ready for high school.

Throughout the school year, your child's homeroom teacher will periodically send out emails to keep your family updated on 8th grade-specific information. Please make sure your email is up to date with the Middle School office to ensure you'll receive those. Your child's teachers and Petoskey Middle School staff are committed to helping them succeed to the best of their ability, both academically and personally!

In 8th grade, students are expected to be responsible for their actions and follow our **Full Value Agreement**. This agreement requires them to work as a team, be safe (emotionally and physically), and speak up. We want all students to have an enjoyable, productive 8th grade year. By following this agreement, we can ensure greater success for all!

Fun activities that your child can look forward to during their 8th grade year include: skiing in the winter, climbing at Camp Daggett in the spring, and rafting with their classmates at the end of the school year. There is also a Washington, D.C. trip offered to 8th graders, and information for that trip can be found at this [link](#).

If you have any questions, please contact your child's homeroom teacher for assistance. Thank you very much, and we look forward to seeing you very soon!

Respectfully,
8th Grade Staff