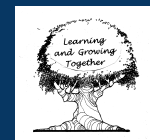


801 Northmen Drive
Petoskey, MI 49770
Main Line 348-2150
Attendance Line 348-2293
Fax 348-2234

PETOSKEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

September 2024 Edition NEWSLETTER



Upcoming Dates

August 26 - Football practice begins

August 26 - Volleyball tryouts begin

August 26 - Self-guided tour, 10 am - 2 pm.

August 27 - PMS Open House, 4:30 - 6 pm

August 26-29 - Staff Professional Development

September 3 - School Starts (Doors open at 7:55 am daily, school starts at 8:15, dismissal at 3:10)

September 11 - Picture Day!

September 26 - MSPA Meeting, 7:00 pm



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.

Welcome to the 2024-25 School Year!

We hope you have had a great summer and are as excited as we are for the start of the 2024-25 school year! We have been busy preparing a great school year for our students.

Student schedules will be mailed out on August 20. For those who already have accurate PowerSchool login information, student schedules will be available online at that time as well. In addition to your child's schedule, the mailing will include a grade level welcome letter (which is currently available online). An email will be sent with instructions on how to create a PowerSchool login to 6th grade parents and those new to the district. On the first day of school, students will also get a packet during homeroom, which will contain a student verification form that will need to be returned, field trip forms, a picture packet, and other pertinent information. **The student verification form is extremely important as this ensures we have correct information to effectively communicate with you as parents.**

At Petoskey Middle School, our staff prides ourselves in providing an excellent education for your child. It is our goal to partner with you to help your child learn and grow through these adolescent years. Through the implementation of the Full Value Agreement, development of DRIVE (Determination, Respect, Integrity, Voice, Empathy) skills, a comprehensive curriculum for all, and a variety of after school clubs and activities, we are ready to help your child succeed!

We strongly encourage students to get involved in an activity outside of the school day. Petoskey Middle School proudly offers nearly 40 different clubs/sports/activities for students, with something for everyone! Please visit our [clubs and activities website](#). Here you will find a description of each activity as well as a contact person who can provide further explanation.

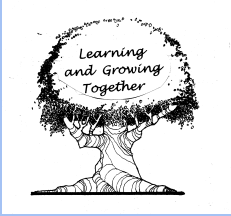
Thank you for allowing us to partner with you during this year of your child's educational journey. We look forward to learning and growing together starting right away on September 3rd!

- Jon Wilcox, Principal

BACK TO SCHOOL
Open House

PMS - Tuesday, August 27, 4:30-6:00
PHS - Tuesday, August 27, 5:00-6:30
Elem - Wednesday, August 28, 4:00-5:30

School Supplies
All required school supplies will be purchased for your child by the District.



RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

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!



Welcome our New Staff!

One of the hallmarks of Petoskey Middle School is a well-rounded staff that is committed to helping students learn and grow during these formative years. Although we are sad to see so many excellent educators retire last year, we are happy to announce the new members to our team!

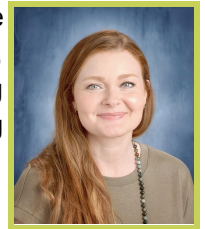
Mr. Taylor Golding is our new Assistant Principal. Originally from Petoskey, he has spent the last several years out of state where he was a classroom teacher, Dean of Students, Assistant Principal, and Interim Principal. Mr. Golding prides himself in developing positive relationships with students, staff, and parents. His energy will be a great addition to the halls of PMS!



Mrs. Liz Warner will be teaching 6th grade Science. Liz comes to us from Sheridan Elementary where she taught 5th grade for many years. She brings with her a genuine love for science and understanding of our needs as a district. Liz's leadership and expertise in the classroom will be beneficial to our school community.



Ms. Heather Donn comes to us from Georgia and will be taking over the Life Skills classes. These classes will now be called Career Explorations, allowing for a more broad approach. We are still committed to teaching students important life skills, but they will dive deeper into understanding how those skills can lead to a potential career opportunity.



Mr. Russell Carpenter will be joining the PMS staff from Montessorri. Russell has a background in and love for all things history. Traveling is one of his favorite things to do. He brings a wealth of classroom experience, knowledge in pedagogy, and pride in our community. We are excited to have Russell teaching 7th grade Social Studies this year.



Mrs. Kari Bernard will be supporting some of our students with special needs by providing IEP supports and accommodations. Last year, Mrs. Bernard taught at Central Elementary and in Gaylord prior to that. She has vast experience supporting students who need it most. We are excited for her to join our team at PMS!



NEW IMPORTANT INFORMATION

After School Study Lab

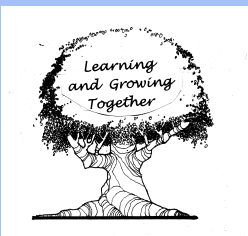
Study Lab is held from 3:15 to 4:15 pm, Monday thru Thursday in the Media Center. Students attending should come prepared with their books, homework, and a pencil. Our own academic aides supervise this study lab and are ready and willing to help!

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.



Food Service - 2024-25 News

Michigan continues to make free breakfast and free lunch an essential part of the school day. The State of Michigan approved funds for Public Schools to continue free meals in Michigan regardless of household income.

What does this mean for the Public Schools of Petoskey? Every student, Pre-K through 12th Grade can receive one (1) free breakfast and one (1) free lunch per school day.

Please take a moment to complete the 100% confidential Education Benefits & Summer EBT Form online at: <https://petoskey.familyportal.cloud> OR, complete the attached Education Benefits & Summer EBT Form at the end of this document and return it to your student's building secretary.

The Education Benefits & Summer EBT Form collects information needed to ensure the Public Schools of Petoskey receives state and federal funding for education programs. Without this information, the Public Schools of Petoskey could lose important funding for education programs that our students need. These supplemental grants and programs have the potential to offer supports and services for our students including, but not limited to:

- Instructional Staff
- Teaching Supplies and Materials
- Counselors and Social Workers
- School Nurses
- Professional Learning

Why is the Public Schools of Petoskey requesting financial information? The Education Benefits & Summer EBT Form determines eligibility of a student or household. The total count of eligible students is used to determine the funding amounts that will be made available to a school. The more forms returned the better. The Education Benefits & Summer EBT Form is also used to determine what families will receive EBT Cards. If you have any questions, please contact Beth Kavanaugh at: Kavanaugh.ba.u@northmen.org or (231) 348-2183.

CHARGING GUIDELINES

Elementary School: There will be NO charging of a la carte items, second entrees or milk. We will provide a cup for your child to fill with water if you do not have a drink packed in a lunch brought from home. Middle & High School: There will be NO charging of a la carte items, second entrees or milk. Funds must be on account in order for your child to have a la carte, milk with no lunch or a second meal.

All students, Pre-K through 12 th Grade, will be able to have one (1) free breakfast and one (1) free lunch meal per day.

A milk by itself is NOT a meal. Students must take 3 of the 5 meal components to qualify for the free meals.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

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 2024-25 school year. If you have any questions, call the Health Department at 347-6014.

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!

Custodial Notices

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

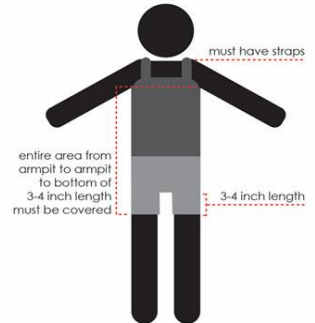


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Dress Code Reminder

It's always a good idea to remind students of the dress code policy at the start of the school year. Our teachers will be explaining 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.



2025 8th Grade D.C. & Baltimore Trip

It's not too late to sign-up! Deadline is October 1, 2024

Sign-up for the 2025 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 \(bit.ly/PMSdctrip\)](#). If you're ready to register your child today, you can go to the [WorldStrides website](#) and use the trip ID: 214951! Ms. Saunders & Mr. Stempky will be hosting an informational parent meeting about the trip on Tuesday, September 10th at 6pm in the PMS cafeteria. For more information or questions contact Morgan Saunders at saunders.mn.t@northmen.org.

Daily Schedule

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

7th Grade	
Homeroom:	8:15 – 8:35
1 st Hour:	8:40 – 9:35
2 nd Hour:	9:40 – 10:35
3 rd Hour:	10:40 – 11:35
Lunch:	11:35 - 12:05
4 th Hour:	12:10 - 1:10
5 th Hour:	1:15 – 2:10
6 th Hour:	2:15 – 3:10

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



COMING SOON

[2023 Fall Show 2024 Fall Show](#)

Disney's Frozen Jr. Actor and Theatre Apprentice Interest Form - Auditions are Monday, September 9th OR Wednesday, September 11th!

The enchanting modern classic from Disney is coming to Petoskey Middle School! Frozen JR. is based on the 2018 Broadway musical, and brings Elsa, Anna, and the magical land of Arendelle to life, onstage. The show features all of the memorable songs from the animated film plus five new songs written for the Broadway production. For more information, 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 \(bit.ly/24pmsfallshow\)](https://bit.ly/24pmsfallshow)

[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 26th at 7:00. If you are interested or have questions, please call Jon Wilcox at 348-2150.

[PMS Self-Guided Tour](#)

On Monday, August 26, students and parents are invited to explore the middle school building and orient themselves to our building. Teachers are not in the building that day, but it is a chance for you to check out the facilities and get a feel for our building. Feel free to visit anytime between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm. Schedules will have been mailed and available on PowerSchool by this date, so students will be able to find their classes and their locker. Up-to-date grade level supply lists will be available on our website at this time as well.

ATHLETIC INFORMATION

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

[Football \(7th and 8th grade\)](#)

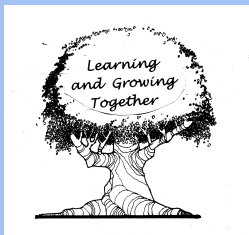
Middle School Football Practice begins Tuesday, August 20th at 4:00 PM behind Petoskey Middle School.

Equipment Pick Up will take place on Monday, August 20th in the Petoskey Middle School Cafeteria

8th Grade: 5-6 PM

7th Grade: 6-7 PM

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





Volleyball

7th/8th Grade Fall 2024 Volleyball Tryouts are on:

- Monday, August 26th from 4:00-6:00 pm at PMS gym
- Tuesday, August 27th from **6:00-8:00 pm** at PMS gym (time change due to Open House)
- Wednesday, August 28th from 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.

7th Grade: Coach Luckhardt - efralick9@gmail.com

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

Cross Country

First practice for cross country (6th, 7th, and 8th grades) will be September 3rd from 3:25-4:45. Petoskey 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 while doing it.



[Click here](#) for more specific information about the 2024 season.

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.

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 2024-25 school year must be completed no earlier than April 15, 2024.

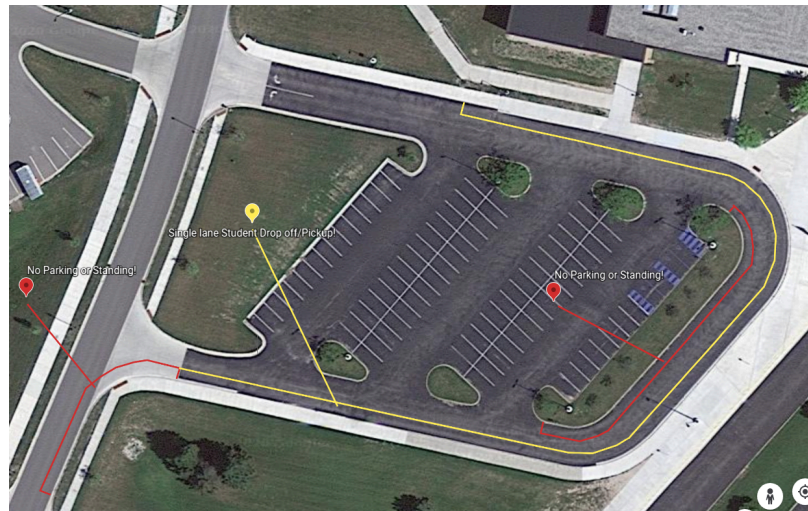
For the most up-to-date information, please visit the [middle school athletics website](#). Please watch the student announcements for sign-up information for the upcoming seasons. We encourage students to try new activities during middle school!

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*

EDUCATION BENEFITS FORM SY 2024–2025 & Summer EBT Form

District: **Public Schools of Petoskey**

Complete Online at: <https://petoskey.familyportal.cloud>

Part A: STUDENT INFORMATION - Complete for each student Pre-K through 12th Grade

Student's Last Name	Student's First Name	Grade Level	School	Identify H if Homeless M if Migrant R if Runaway F if Foster

Part B: BENEFITS RECEIVED (if applicable)

If any member of your household receives Food Assistance Program (FAP), Family Independence Program (FIP), or FDPIR, provide the name and case number for the person who receives benefits. Bridge Card Numbers and Medicaid Numbers are NOT ACCEPTABLE case numbers.

Name: _____ Case Number: _____

Part C: HOUSEHOLD SIZE	Part D: ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME - Select the appropriate range of combined annual income for all people in the household (Include all income before taxes)		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 →	<input type="checkbox"/> At or below \$19,578	<input type="checkbox"/> Between \$19,579 and \$27,861	<input type="checkbox"/> At or above \$27,862
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 →	<input type="checkbox"/> At or below \$26,572	<input type="checkbox"/> Between \$26,573 and \$37,814	<input type="checkbox"/> At or above \$37,815
<input type="checkbox"/> 3 →	<input type="checkbox"/> At or below \$33,566	<input type="checkbox"/> Between \$33,567 and \$47,767	<input type="checkbox"/> At or above \$47,768
<input type="checkbox"/> 4 →	<input type="checkbox"/> At or below \$40,560	<input type="checkbox"/> Between \$40,561 and \$57,720	<input type="checkbox"/> At or above \$57,721
<input type="checkbox"/> 5 →	<input type="checkbox"/> At or below \$47,554	<input type="checkbox"/> Between \$47,555 and \$67,673	<input type="checkbox"/> At or above \$67,674
<input type="checkbox"/> 6 →	<input type="checkbox"/> At or below \$54,548	<input type="checkbox"/> Between \$54,549 and \$77,626	<input type="checkbox"/> At or above \$77,627
<input type="checkbox"/> 7 →	<input type="checkbox"/> At or below \$61,542	<input type="checkbox"/> Between \$61,543 and \$87,579	<input type="checkbox"/> At or above \$87,580
<input type="checkbox"/> 8 →	<input type="checkbox"/> At or below \$68,536	<input type="checkbox"/> Between \$68,537 and \$97,532	<input type="checkbox"/> At or above \$97,533

*** Special Instructions for households with more than 8 people: DO NOT check the boxes above. Instead, fill in items below:**
 Household size (# people): _____ Total annual income: _____

Part E: CERTIFICATION - The head of household or adult designee who completed this form must complete this certification section

I certify (promise) that all information on this form is true and that all income is reported to the best of my knowledge. I understand that this form may impact the amount of State or Federal funding allocated to my local school district. I understand that the information I have provided may be verified.

(Signature) _____ (Printed Name) _____ (Date) _____

(Address) _____ (City) _____ (Zip) _____

(Email Address) _____ (Home Phone) _____ (Work Phone) _____

Do NOT fill out this section. This is for school use only.
 Status: F R_ N Determining Official's Signature: _____ Date: _____

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE EDUCATION BENEFITS FORM

This form is used to determine eligibility for state benefits for which your child(ren)'s school may qualify. Please complete, sign, and return this form to your child's school.

If any member of your household receives benefits from the Food Assistance Program (FAP), Family Independence Program (FIP), or FDPIR, please follow these instructions:

Part A: Student Information – For each student in the household Pre-K through 12th grade, list the last name, first name, grade level, school, and H if homeless, M if Migrant, R if Runaway or F if a Foster Child.

Part B: Benefits Received – If any household member, including adults, receives Food Assistance Program (FAP), Family Independence Program (FIP), or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), provide the name and case number. Bridge Card Numbers and Medicaid Numbers are **NOT ACCEPTABLE** case numbers.

Part C: Household Size - Check the box for the total number of individuals living in your household. This should include all children and adults, related and un-related, that live in a single dwelling and share income and expenses.

Part D: Annual Household Income – Skip this part

Part E: Certification - Sign the form. Print your name and date.

If your household does not receive benefits from the Food Assistance Program (FAP), Family Independence Program (FIP), or FDPIR, please follow these instructions:

Part A: Student Information - For each student in the household Pre-K through 12th grade, list the last name, first name, grade level, school, and H if homeless, M if Migrant, R if Runaway or F if a Foster Child.

Part B: Benefits Received – Skip this part

Part C: Household Size – Check the box for the total number of individuals living in your household. This should include all children and adults, related and un-related, that live in a single dwelling and share income and expenses.

Part D: Annual Household Income – Moving across the same row as the household size check box, check the box that shows the range of annual income for all people in your household. Make sure to include all of the following income sources: work, welfare, child support, alimony, pensions, retirement, Social Security, SSI, VA benefits, child income and/or all other income. The amount should be before any deductions for taxes, insurance, medical expenses, child support, etc.

Part E: Certification - Sign the form. Print your name, date, and contact information.