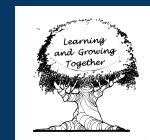


801 Northmen Drive
Petoskey, MI 49770
Main Line 348-2150
Attendance Line 348-2293
Fax 348-2234

PETOSKEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

December 2024 Edition NEWSLETTER



Upcoming Dates

December 8 - Winter Band Concert (2:30)

December 16 - 7th and 8th grade Choir Concert (7:00)

December 17 - 6th grade Band Concert

December 19 - Board of Education Meeting (7:00)

December 23 - January 3 - No School; Winter Break

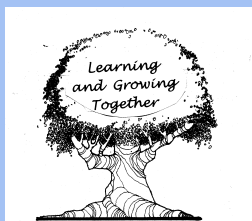
January 6 - School Resumes

January 9 - MSPA Meeting (7:00)

January 20 - No School; MLK Jr. Day; Staff PD

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.



Northmen DRIVE Recognition

In last month's newsletter, we highlighted the middle school's Northmen DRIVE Award, our Positive Behavior (PBIS) model designed to promote and celebrate positive contributions to our school community. Everyone at PMS is encouraged to nominate anyone who they feel has exemplified the FVA. Staff members regularly acknowledge students for their displays of determination, respect, integrity, voice, and empathy, and recently students began recognizing other students and staff members as well. The response to this program has been so enthusiastic and well-received we'd like to extend this program to include parents! If you would like to recognize a student or staff member for a Northmen DRIVE Award, please fill out this [nomination form](#)!

As a staff, we would like to thank the parents of our students. Thank you for entrusting us with your child's education. We do not take this partnership lightly.

- Jon Wilcox, Principal



PMS Earns Designation as "US News Best Middle School" Again

US News and World Report released its latest ranking of middle schools in Michigan. We are proud to report that Petoskey Middle School has earned the designation of "US News Best Middle School" by ranking in the top 30% of middle schools across the state. More specifically, we were [ranked 67th](#) out of 1,998 middle schools in Michigan, putting us in the top 4% in the state!

This is an outstanding honor, recognizing our entire staff, whose professionalism, work ethic, and authentic care for children is noticeable every day. Our great students, supportive parents, and focus on the whole child are truly what make this an outstanding school.

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!

Get Involved!

Many of our clubs and sports are up and running. One of the best indicators of success in school is extra-curricular involvement, so please encourage your child to get involved outside of the school day. Descriptions of our clubs and activities can be [found here](#).

The best way to look for information on when to sign up for an activity is to watch the student announcements. These announcements are read every day during homeroom, and they are available on our [website](#).

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

Youth In Government Conference

Petoskey Middle School again participated in the Youth in Government late conference in Lansing, Michigan this past week, November 24-26th. Thirty-one middle school delegates went to Lansing and ran the government for 3 days. We had a 6th grade delegate that ran for Speaker of the House and won and therefore ran the House of Representatives. We also had many other students in leadership positions as clerks for their committees or chambers. The delegates had worked hard to prep ahead of time by writing bills or proposals or working on speeches for competitive debate. It was a wonderful time had by all and we had a cohesive delegation that smiled, learned and collaborated with each other as well as over 400 middle schoolers from around the state of Michigan!





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.

Middle School Fall Show: "Frozen Jr."

A huge shout out to all the students and staff who worked to put on the "Frozen Jr." show. Specifically, thank you to Morgan Saunders, Ann Stebelton, Julie Laur, and Matt Saunders for all of their work to incorporate 93 students into this production. Thank you!



Enrichment Opportunities Continue!

Our Enrichment program continues to provide exciting and fun opportunities for our students at Petoskey Middle School. In Social Studies, students are learning about the economy by participating in the Stock Market Game and making trades and investments. We have 5 teams from Petoskey Middle School competing against other students in Michigan. This competition is about to close on Friday, Dec. 6th and we will see which team has the highest return on their investments!

Northmen DRIVE Awards

Congratulations to the latest round of Northmen DRIVE award winners! We appreciate our students for showing the DRIVE (Determination, Respect, Integrity, Voice, Empathy) characteristics that make Petoskey Middle School a great school!





OK2SAY



Stop the Silence. Help End the Violence.

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.



NEW INFORMATION / COMING SOON

Art Donations Needed

If you are able to donate the following items to our art program, it would be appreciated!

- Q-tips
- Gallon ziploc bags
- Bubble wrap
- Aluminum foil
- Parchment paper
- Newspapers
- Cardboard tubes
- Duct tape
- Old costume jewelry/beads
- Cereal box cardboard
- Paper and plastic bags
- House Paint - any color



THANK YOU to the Youth Advisory Council

The Petoskey School District, on behalf of the Petoskey Pack Therapy Dog Program, is very pleased to announce that they were selected to receive a charitable grant totaling \$7,500, to cover the training costs for a certified therapy dog. Upon completion of his training in the spring of 2025, "Ace," a yellow labrador retriever, will be assigned to Petoskey Middle School to provide emotional support for those in need. When school is not in session, Ace will be employed to visit the elderly in assisted care homes and wherever else he may be of service to the community.

This grant award was made possible through the generous support from the Fund for Youth, Ted and Brenda Frey, and the Fresh Baby Healthy Community Fund of the Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation.

The Petoskey Pack Therapy Dog Program is continuing to seek private donations and grant awards to fund the addition of "Hutch," Ace's brother, who will be assigned to Ottawa Elementary. The Petoskey Pack program goal is to provide therapy dog in each of the schools in the Petoskey Public School District.

Anyone wishing to donate to the Petoskey Pack Therapy Dog Program is invited to contact Becky Smith at the Petoskey School District Administration building located at 1130 Howard Street in Petoskey or by calling 231-348-2100.





Hoops for the Holidays

From December 2nd to December 13th, all students will be participating in a “Hoops for the Holidays” fundraiser one day during homeroom. Each student will have the chance to shoot baskets for a quarter per shot or five shots for a dollar. The homeroom with the most baskets will receive a holiday treat. All money collected during “Hoops for the Holidays” will go towards buying holiday gifts for a family in need. Start collecting your quarters!

Holiday Help Needed

As our community is beginning to think of the holiday season, various organizations, individuals and families will be inquiring about helping others. If you are interested in helping a family *or* are in need of support this holiday season, please contact Mrs. Kelley, kelley.aj.t@northmen.org or (231) 348-2290.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

OK2SAY

As a reminder, if you or your child feel unsafe or are worried about the safety of someone else, please speak up by contacting [OK2SAY](https://www.ok2say.org). 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!



ATHLETIC INFORMATION

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

Boys Basketball

Contact Nick Ralph for 8th grade information at nralph@petoskeysfx.org
Contact Jeremy Stempky for 7th grade information at stempky.je.t@northmen.org

Wrestling

PMS Wrestling practice starts on December 11. The wrestling season runs from late December to mid-March, and we practice right after school at PMS. If you have any questions about wrestling, please email Coach Hallstedt at thallstedt@northmen.org.

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!

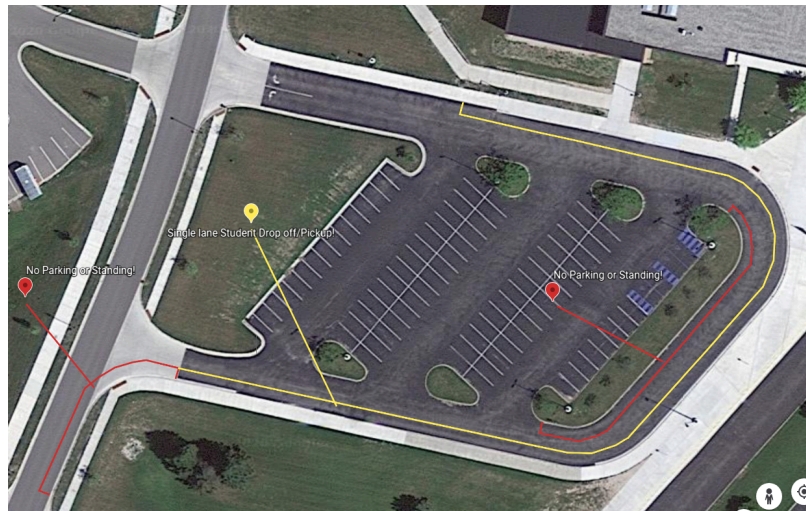
DROP OFF / PICK UP PROCEDURES

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!



Students crossing Northmen Drive at any time should use the tunnels!

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*