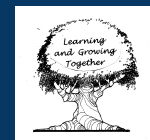


801 Northmen Drive
Petoskey, MI 49770
Main Line 348-2150
Attendance Line 348-2293
Fax 348-2234

PETOSKEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

April 2025 Edition NEWSLETTER



Upcoming Dates

April 8 - 6th grade Track Practice Starts

April 10 - MSPA Meeting (7:00)

April 11 - End of 3rd Quarter

April 15 - Board of Education Meeting (7:00)

April 16 - PSAT (8th) & M-STEP ELA (6th, 7th)

April 17 - Last Day for PHS Test Out applications

April 18 - No School

April 29 - Algebra Parent Meeting for Current 7th grade parents (5:30)

May 6 & 7 - Algebra Testing for current 7th grade

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.**

School After the Storm

We are excited to see students back in the building today! While this storm was weirdly reminiscent of COVID, I know we are all glad to be back in the routine of school. Students were offered a place to shower today, and we will keep that offer open to students. Please reach out to us if your child needs to take a shower, or if your family has other needs that we may be able to help with.

We were originally scheduled to begin standardized testing this Wednesday, but we are pushing that back a week to allow everyone to regain some sense of normalcy before starting these assessments. Detailed information about testing is in the next article.

I think we are all in agreement that Spring cannot come soon enough! We only have a little over 9 weeks of school left, and we are committed to making this a great end of the school year. Thanks again for partnering with us.

School-wide Testing on Wednesday, April 16

Each Spring, our students take both the NWEA and M-STEP (or PSAT) assessments. Each test is important and helps guide our efforts to meet the needs of our students.

This year, **from 8:15 through 11:35 on Wednesday, April 16, all Petoskey Middle School students will be taking either the PSAT (8th grade) or ELA M-STEP (6th and 7th grades).** There are breaks built into the morning's schedule so students will not be testing that entire duration.

At the conclusion of that morning, students will follow a modified PM schedule (below) with shortened classes.

For optimal performance, we encourage students to eat breakfast that morning and arrive well-rested and on time. Students may bring snacks to eat on testing breaks. Electronic devices such as smart watches and phones, will need to be left in their lockers.

	6th grade	7th grade	8th grade
11:40-12:10	LUNCH	1st hour	1st hour
12:10-12:40	1st hour	LUNCH	2nd hour
12:40-1:10	2nd hour	2nd hour	LUNCH
1:15-1:40	3rd hour	3rd hour	3rd hour
1:45-2:10	4th hour	4th hour	4th hour
2:15-2:40	5th hour	5th hour	5th hour
2:45-3:10	6th hour	6th hour	6th hour

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!



After School Study Lab

Each grade will finish up the remainder of their M-STEP assessments during other dates in the testing window, which is predetermined by the state. Your child will NOT be tested every day of the testing window and will only test one class period in one day (with the exception being April 16).

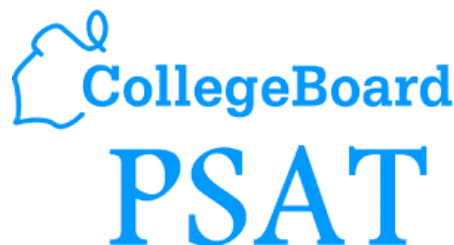
Students will also begin taking the NWEA assessments beginning the first week of May. These assessments give us more individualized information on student progress.

Additional information about M-STEP is available at: www.michigan.gov/mde. Practice tests can be found on the MDE website: <https://wbte.drcdirect.com/MI/portals/mi/>.

Information and practice materials for the PSAT 8/9 can be found here: <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/psat-8-9>.

See end of this newsletter for some tips on how parents can help prepare their children for the coming assessments. Scroll down to read the State Superintendent's statement on the importance of state testing and a list of tips on how to help your child prepare.

For more information about specific testing dates and times, you may contact your child's homeroom teacher or Dana Pinney at pinney.dg.t@northmen.org.



RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

Preparing 8th Grade Students for the Transition to PHS

Eighth graders have completed their 4-year plans and have registered for their 9th grade classes with their PHS counselors. All high school scheduling information, including course descriptions and testing out forms, is accessible through your child's Schoology Course--"Welcome to Petoskey High School: Scheduling."

This week, **PHS counselors will be sending each 8th grader home with a printout of their 2025-26 schedule, which will need to be signed by a parent and returned to the school by April 17th.**

Our goal is to make the transition to Petoskey High School as seamless as possible. Students and parents will be receiving more information from PHS toward the end of the school year. We still have a lot of school left this year, but we definitely have to start thinking about next year already!

8th Grade Students - PHS Schedules and Testing Out Information

April 17th is the last day for 8th graders to make changes for their high school course requests for the 2024-2025 school year. Please contact your PHS counselor with any new requests or questions.

April 17th is also the deadline to apply to test out of a high school class. Test out application link & more info [HERE](#).

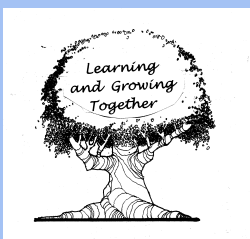
Study Lab is held from 3:15 to 4:15 pm, Monday thru Thursday in the Media Center. Students attending should come prepared with their books, homework, and a pencil. Our own academic aides supervise this study lab and are ready and willing to help!

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.



8th Grade Career Day

Thank you to the over 30 volunteers who joined us for our annual Career Day. Adrian Karr, our local Chief of Police, served as the keynote speaker before students went to breakout rooms aligned with their interest area. This is always a hit with our students!



G3 Robotics Cereal Box Drive

Thank you to everyone who donated boxes of cereal during the latest drive. We were able to donate 379 boxes of cereal to the NCMC Food Pantry and our own Northmen Den!



NEW INFORMATION / COMING SOON

Algebra Placement for the 2025-26 School Year

Parents of current 7th graders interested in Algebra placement for 8th grade: There will be an informational parent meeting on Tuesday, April 29th, from 5:30-6:30, in the middle school cafeteria. Eighth grade math teachers will explain the placement process and criteria students must meet to qualify to take Algebra in 8th grade, as well as answer any questions you might have.

Algebra Readiness Testing Dates: 7th grade students who would like to take this test to determine placement in Algebra next year have two options--Tuesday, May 6th or Wednesday, May 7th after school until 4:30. (Students need to attend only one of those days.)

More information will be coming home with current 7th grade students soon. Please contact Ms. Bell with any questions: 348-2256 or bell.r.j@northmen.org



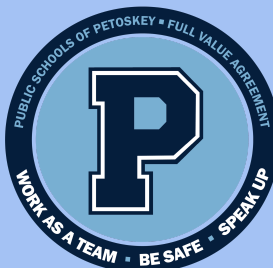
OK2SAY



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.



Kindergarten Registration Information - Please share!

The Public Schools of Petoskey is preparing to welcome the Northmen classes of 2038! [Kindergarten registration](#) is open for the 2025/26 school year to children turning 5 by September 1st.

Little Northmen Preschool is currently accepting [applications](#) for children turning 4 by September 1st. This is now free. Please see the flyer toward the end of this document.

CTE Camp Registration is Open

There are many Career and Technical Education (CTE) camps available to middle school students this summer. [Click here for more information](#) or check the flier at the end of the document. The camps are scheduled for June 17-19, and cover a huge range of topics. Check them out!

If cost is an issue, there are scholarships available. Please reach out if you need any help with this.

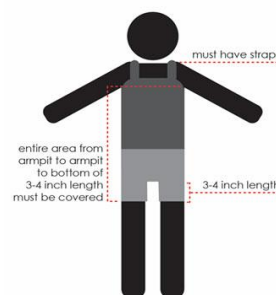
IMPORTANT REMINDERS

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 2025-26 school year. If you have any questions, call the Health Department at 347-6014.

Dress Code Reminder

It's always a good idea to remind students of the dress code policy at this time of the school year. Our teachers explained 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.



Box Tops for Education

If you are interested in participating in the well-known Box Tops for Education program, please click on [this link](#), or use the QR code. We use this money to purchase items to help our teachers. A few years ago we were able to purchase a laminator for our school using these funds.



Feeling Sick?

If your child is sick, please keep them home from school. There are many students out with illnesses lately, so we are asking to please abide by our school policy of keeping students home for 24 hours after a fever (100.4 or higher), or experiencing vomiting or diarrhea. Please notify the office of any flu, strep, or other contagious infections.



Also, if you know your child will be out of school for three or more school days, please have them fill out a [Trip Slip](#). This helps everyone stay on the same page!

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](#). 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.**

7th and 8th Grade Track

Our first practice will be on March 17th after school until 4:15. On the 17th 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 Mr. Carpenter (carpenter.rj.t@northmen.org), Ms. Strieby (tstrieby@northmen.org) or Mrs. Erickson (erickson.rl.t@northmen.org) if you have any questions.



6th Grade Track

6th grade track will begin on Tuesday, April 8th. 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.

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 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 watch the student



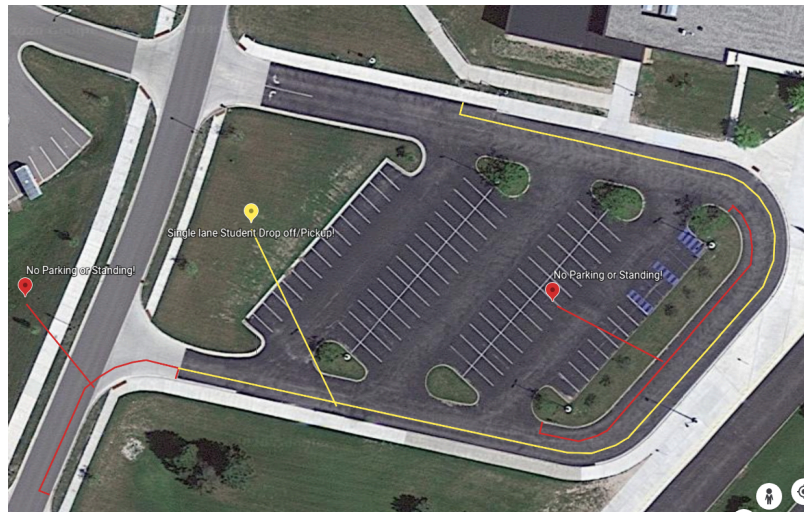
announcements for sign-up information for the upcoming seasons. We encourage students to try new activities during middle school!

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*



Little Northmen Preschool



Developmentally
appropriate &
district aligned
curriculum



Play-based learning
with academic
investment to prepare
for Kindergarten



Slots available for
wrap around care
from 7:30-5:00

ENROLL NOW

32 slots in Ottawa Elementary

Highly qualified, certified teachers

For students turning 4 by September 1, 2025

Priority given to residents of the Petoskey School District

**FREE
Preschool**

SCAN ME



**5 Days a
Week**