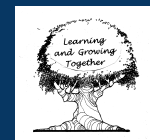


801 Northmen Drive
Petoskey, MI 49770
Main Line 348-2150
Attendance Line 348-2293
Fax 348-2234

PETOSKEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

November 2024 Edition NEWSLETTER



Upcoming Dates

Nov. 1 - No School, End of 1st Quarter

Nov. 4 - First Boys BBall game (4:00)

Nov. 7 - MSPA Meeting (7:00)

Nov. 11 - Veterans Day Breakfast (7:30 am) see flier

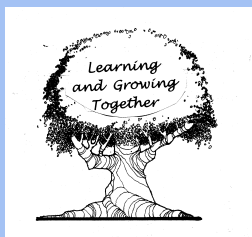
Nov. 21 - Board of Education Meeting (7:00)

Nov. 27-29 - Fall Break, No School

December 4 - Winter Band Concert (7:30)

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.



THANK YOU

Tuesday evening was obviously a stressful evening for our school community. I want to thank the Petoskey Public Safety Department for their immediate and thorough attention to the safety concern. Please know that we take these situations very seriously and many steps were taken to ensure the safety of our students and staff.

I am grateful that we had our OK2SAY presentation on Tuesday. Our students have power in keeping everyone safe, as they sometimes know information quicker than adults do. We continue to push the message "if you see something, say something" to our students. Please reinforce this message at home as well.

We do not overlook the fact that you entrust us with your child's safety and education. Thank you to those of you that reached out to offer support.

KEYS TO SUCCESS AT PMS

There are several ways to help ensure your child's success in school. In keeping with our mission of "learning and growing together," below are some tips that educators feel equate to success in school and beyond. Arguably the most critical component to a student's success is attendance at school. The Public Schools of Petoskey historically have a very high daily attendance rate of nearly 95%. This high percentage undoubtedly correlates with our consistently above average state standardized test results.

Thank you for making your child's attendance a priority. Student involvement in extracurricular activities is another key to success. Petoskey Middle School offers 8 athletic teams, as well as intramural sports, and over 20 clubs including robotics, dance team, student council, yearbook, and more. In general, students who are involved in extracurricular activities benefit from higher achievement and self-esteem than those who do not participate. Encourage your child to get involved. If you have any questions, contact your child's homeroom teacher for more information.

Parental support of your child's education is also critical. Regardless of your level of involvement in school activities, it is vital for parents and teachers to communicate effectively with one another. We love hearing from parents so that we can work as a team to make this the best school experience for your child. Visit our website for staff contact information.

Finally, make education a priority at home. Talk to your child about the importance of school, set a schedule for homework completion, encourage them to attend our after school study lab (which is available each Monday through Thursday), and encourage them to read. All of these tips are not only what educators feel to be important, but are also research-based.

We appreciate all you do for your child and truly enjoy working with the students, parents, and community of Petoskey!

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!



Resource Available for Help: Lesson Plans by Pod

In an effort to make communication more streamlined, we've created web pages that provide easy access to pod teachers' weekly lesson plans. This will allow parents and caregivers to help their child organize their week and see upcoming projects, assessments, and the like. These teacher lesson plans are by no means set in stone, as good instruction requires flexibility in planning based on how well students are progressing in the content. These plans are designed to be supportive and informative. They can be found on our [website](#). Click on the blue tile titled "Lesson Plans by Pod."

Resource Available for Help: After School Study Lab

Our After School Study Lab is available for all students from 3:15 to 4:15 pm, Monday thru Thursday in the Media Center. There are at least two teachers ready to help students during this time. 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!

Mascot Survey

One of our Board goals for the 24-25 school year is to explore the creation of a new Northmen mascot. We have partnered with Jostens, who publishes our high school yearbook, to help us with this process. Their first step is to seek stakeholder input on the traits of a Northmen. We are asking for your help by completing the 6 survey items below. The survey will be open through Monday, November 11th.

Jostens has a great deal of experience in this area and we are looking forward to working with them. Once they compile the survey results, their next step will be to create several designs. Our goal is to have a new Petoskey Northmen mascot by the end of the school year.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PetoskeyPublicSchools>

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

OK2SAY Presentations

On October 29, each of our grade levels attended an OK2SAY assembly in which they learned about not only how to Speak Up, but also why it is important. Our presenter was very passionate about making sure students know that if they see or hear something concerning, they need to say something. Please talk to your child about the assembly!



Stop the Silence. Help End the Violence.

Enrichment Opportunities Continue!

Enrichment is getting underway at the middle school. In science, the initiative to get every student in each grade an incredible enrichment opportunity has started off with all 7th graders flying Drones! Monthly enrichment opportunities will continue for students to receive in their classrooms using incredible technology available through our local ISD consultant. Book Clubs and Writing Clubs are starting up this month. Over 30 students have signed up for Book Clubs to increase their reading opportunities. We are excited to participate in a

After School Study Lab

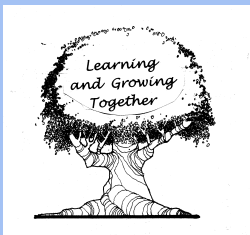
Study Lab is held from 3:15 to 4:15 pm, Monday thru Thursday in the Media Center. Students attending should come prepared with their books, homework, and a pencil. Our own academic aides supervise this study lab and are ready and willing to help!

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.



"100 Ways to Read" project with community organizations this year. Writing Club will introduce the use of podcast microphones for students who want to start writing scripts!

Update on Ace, our soon-to-be Therapy Dog

Ace is off to training, but Mr. Donovan was able to visit him last weekend. He's getting big fast! We can't wait to have Ace join our team!



Adventure Education Revived at PMS!

A huge thank you to Mr. Hallstedt, Ms. Strieby, Mrs. Giammalva, Camp Daggett staff, our PE teachers, and our Full Value Seminar teachers for bringing back the Adventure Education climbing fun to our school! For the first time since pre-COVID, we were able to utilize our ropes course in the gymnasium. Adventure Education has been a hallmark of PMS, and it's great to see it continue!





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

Veterans Day Breakfast

The Petoskey Middle School will be hosting a Veterans Day Breakfast on Monday, November 11th from 7:30 to 8:00 am in the middle school cafeteria. Please see the attached flier below for more information.

Middle School Fall Show: "Frozen Jr."

The Petoskey Middle School Fall Show Cast & Middle School Theatre Apprentice are excited to bring Disney's "Frozen JR." to the stage!

- Thursday, November 21 @ 7pm,
- Friday, November 22 @ 7pm,
- Saturday, November 23 @ 2pm

New this year, ALL tickets for ALL performances are FREE! Reserve your seats today on Petoskey Northmen Ticket Spicket.

Saturday's Performance: The Cast & Crew would like to encourage all of our patrons to come dressed as their favorite Disney princes, princesses, and snowmen alike!

About the Show: "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, with music and lyrics by Kristen Anderson-Lopez and Robert Lopez, plus five new songs written for the Broadway production. A story of true love and acceptance between sisters, Frozen JR. expands upon the emotional relationship and journey between Princesses Anna and Elsa. When faced with danger, the two discover their hidden potential and the powerful bond of sisterhood. With a cast of beloved characters and loaded with magic, adventure, and plenty of humor, Frozen JR. is sure to thaw even the coldest heart!"

Report Cards Coming

Now that the first Quarter of the school year comes to a close, we are preparing to send home report cards. We hope to have these ready to send home on November 8 or 11. Included with report cards will be an NWEA report and M-STEP report for your child.

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, kelly.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](#). You can report suspicious or harmful activity anonymously by sending a text to 652729, calling 8-555-OK2SAY, or sending an email to



Stop the Silence. Help End the Violence.



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 will have a parent meeting on November 26 from 5:30-6:00 PM in room 139. We will cover wrestler expectations, our schedule, communication, and more. If your child is interested in wrestling, please plan to attend.

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.

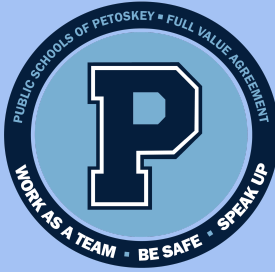
IM Boys Basketball

7th and 8th grade Boys Intramural Basketball starts Tuesday, November 5th at the Ottawa school gym from 3:45-5:15. IM basketball is a great way to learn new skills and play scrimmage style games with your friends. All skill levels are welcome. You must have a physical on file to participate. Please email Mr. Cowan at cowan.ja.t@northmen.org for a schedule or stop by the office.

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!



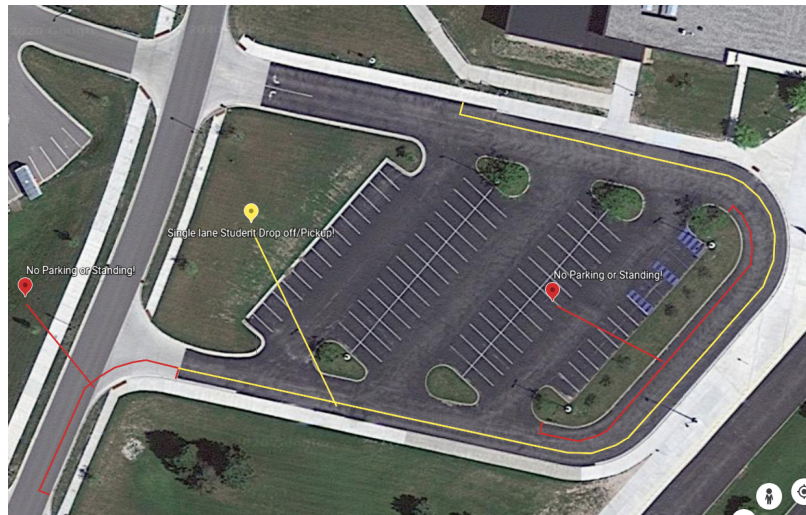
DROP OFF / PICK UP PROCEDURES

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*



You Are Invited

To Petoskey Middle School's

Veterans' Day Breakfast

Petoskey Middle School Cafeteria

Monday, November 11th, 2024

7:30 to 8:00 am

We want to provide breakfast for you and your student
as a thank you for your service to our country.



Scan or



[RSVP at this Link](#)

Join Us for Body Talk: Navigating Changes with Confidence

Empowering Tween and Teen Girls to Understand Their Bodies

When: Wednesday, November 13
4 pm

Where: Charlevoix Public Library
220 W. Clinton St.

Cost: Free!

Munson Healthcare invites tween and teen girls, along with a female guardian or with signed permission, to Body Talk: Navigating Changes with Confidence.

The event will feature:

- Important discussions on puberty, female anatomy, and emotional changes
- A presentation by healthcare professionals
- Q&A session - anonymous questions can be submitted
- Interactive discussions to foster self-awareness

This event is a supportive space for young girls to learn and feel empowered as they enter womanhood.

Charlevoix Women's Health Speakers:

- Caitlyn Monks, DO
- Trisha Tomkins, MD
- Maurica Cox, NP

To register, visit munsonhealthcare.org/BodyTalk or use the QR code below. For more information, call 231-547-4477.

