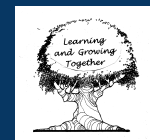


801 Northmen Drive  
Petoskey, MI 49770  
Main Line 348-2150  
Attendance Line 348-2293  
Fax 348-2234

# PETOSKEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

## May 2025 Edition NEWSLETTER



### Upcoming Dates

May 5 - Home 6th grade track meet

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

May 14 - MS Collage Band Concert

May 19-22 - 8th grade to Camp Daggett

May 20 - Board of Education meeting (6:00)

May 23 - Half Day

May 26 - Memorial Day; No School

May 29 - 5th to 6th grade Orientation Day

May 28 - 5th to 6th Parent Orientation Meeting (5:30)

June 1 - PHS Commencement (7:00)

June 11 - Last Day of School, Half Day

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.**

### End of Year and Transition Information

Our students are continuing to work hard on state and local assessments. We are proud of the work everyone has done all year, and we are confident that hard work will pay off when comparing our scores to other schools in the state. As we begin to think about next year, I'd like to touch base on the transition process for each grade level.

#### 8th grade to PHS

Eighth grade students have completed the 4-year plan process and have met briefly with PHS counselors to finalize their class schedules for next year. Any questions about these schedules should be directed to their high school counselor. We know this is a monumental step and we want our students to feel comfortable and confident during the transition. Freshmen Orientation takes place late in the summer. Please stay tuned for more information. [Click here](#) for an online copy of the PHS course catalog. The PHS Counseling page is also [here](#).

#### 7th to 8th grade

Our counselors recently provided scheduling information during 7th grade Social Studies classes. Students will be given a form to indicate their top choices for next year. Remember that we allow 8<sup>th</sup> grade students to choose their electives, but we want to provide parents an opportunity to be involved. Please look over your child's choices with them and know we will do our best to accommodate all the requests. Angie Kelley recently sent an email explaining this process.

#### 6th to 7th grade

It is our goal to expose students to as many exploratory experiences as possible during their time at PMS. Therefore, we do our best to rotate students through all exploratory classes at least once over the course of their 6th and 7th grade years. For example, if a student did not have Art in 6th grade, we work hard to schedule them in that class as a 7th grader. Non-band and non-academic lab students rotate through every elective both years. Schedules will be communicated in August. Look for more detailed information in a future email soon.

Also, please note that students entering 7th grade must be up to date on immunizations before they can start school in the fall. Please [click here](#) for more information.

#### 8th Grade End of Year Ceremony

The 8th grade Awards Ceremony and Reception will be held in the middle school auditorium on Wednesday, June 11 beginning at 9:00 AM. 6th and 7th grade students will receive their end-of-year awards in their homerooms at the end of the year.



### 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!

### Teacher Appreciation Week

The week of May 5th is Teacher Appreciation Week across our nation. We are fortunate to have such a professional and caring staff at Petoskey Middle School. Teaching is an awesome profession, and yet, as many of you know, it can sometimes be challenging. A simple thank you goes a long way to help rejuvenate teachers, especially during the spring. If you have a moment, please consider reaching out with a simple thank you email to your child's teacher. Our staff does not take this responsibility lightly!



### RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

#### Enrichment - Mayhem Poet's

Students in 7th grade, and some 6th and 8th graders attended workshops and were encouraged to "find their voice" in writing with the Mayhem Poets. We were gifted these artists in residency through a collaboration with the Great Lakes Center for the Arts. 7th graders were able to go watch the poets perform on stage. Students enjoyed this experience and were inspired to use writing as a tool to get their thoughts out during creative writing opportunities!



#### Enrichment - Michigan Hero Contest

Students in 8th grade participate in the Michigan Hero contest where they write an essay about someone who has made an impact in their life. Sadie Tebeau and Fiona Boyer were honored for their work. Addison Cannon placed 10th in the state and will be honored in Lansing in early May. Congratulations to them all!





### **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.

## **NEW INFORMATION / COMING SOON**

### **6th Grade Track Meet:**

We have many of our 6th graders participating in track this year! To help support our track athletes and to give students a fun outing after M-Step testing, we are going to attend the 6th grade track meet on Monday, May 5th. We will have lunch at our normal time, and then head to Northmen Stadium after lunch to cheer on our peers. Students will return to school for their normal 5th and 6th hour classes. Sixth grade staff will email parents soon with more 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! Ms. Saunders & Mr. Stempky will be hosting an informational parent meeting about the trip on **Tuesday, May 6th at 5:30pm** in the PMS cafeteria. For more information or questions contact Morgan Saunders at [saunders.mn.t@northmen.org](mailto:saunders.mn.t@northmen.org) or check out our [PMS 8th Grade D.C. Trip Site \(bit.ly/PMSdctrip\)](https://bit.ly/PMSdctrip). If you're ready to register your child today, you can go to the [WorldStrides website](https://www.worldstrides.com) and use the trip ID: 221132!

### **Medication Pickup**

If your student had prescriptions or non-prescription medication kept in the office this school year, please pick them up by Friday, June 13, or we must dispose of them. New medication forms are needed for each new school year. They are available at <https://www.petoskeyschools.org/parents/forms/>

### **Enrichment - Career Expo**

Seventh Grade will go on a field trip to Harbor Springs Middle School to explore a Career Expo for their first look at opportunities that will be available in high school. They will continue to have opportunities to explore options and plan for high school during their 8th grade year.

### **Salmon Release - 6th grade**

Our 6th graders are excited to release the salmon raised in Mrs. Warner's classroom. On May 15 and 16th, 6th-grade students will be traveling to the Bear River to release almost 100 salmon. This is through the Salmon in the Classroom initiative with the DNR. After releasing the salmon, students will participate in stations, learning about our Northern Michigan ecology and the importance of salmon to our Great Lakes. We will have volunteers from Tip of the Mitt Watershed, the DNR, Trout Unlimited, and the Oden Fish Hatchery.

### **Algebra Placement for the 2025-26 School Year**

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 was sent home with current 7th grade students. Please contact Ms. Bell with any questions: 348-2256 or [bell.rj.t@northmen.org](mailto:bell.rj.t@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](mailto: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.



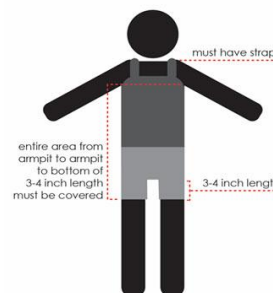
## IMPORTANT REMINDERS

### 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.



### 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.

### 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](mailto: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.**

**A Physical Clinic will take place in early June at the Petoskey High School Main Gym. Cost is \$15. Please note that an adult must accompany all Middle School aged students. Look for more information coming soon.**

### 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!

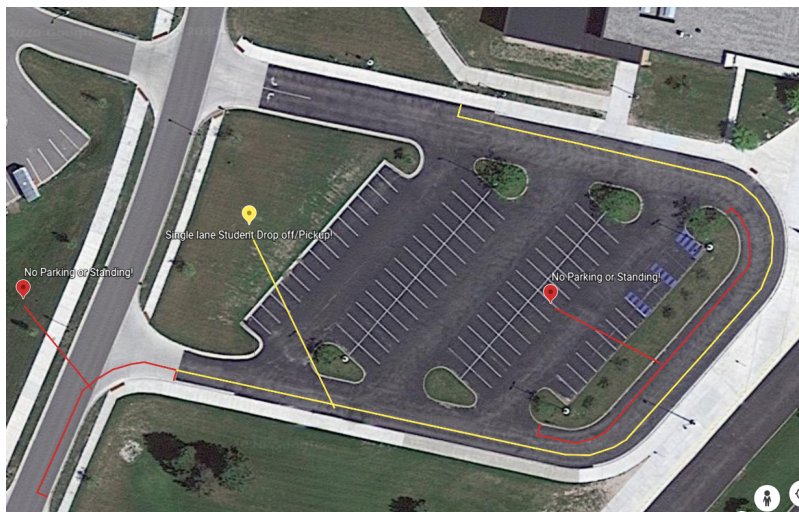
## DROP OFF / PICK UP PROCEDURES

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](mailto:TitleIXCoordinator@northmen.org)*

THANK YOU TO  
OUR KINDNESS  
CREW FOR  
CLEANING UP  
OUR GROUNDS  
ON EARTH DAY!

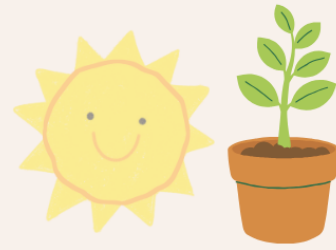




# PSWP

# NEWSLETTER

SPRING  
2025



## PHYSICAL HEALTH REMINDERS

### Spring Allergy or a Cold?

As the seasons change and spring approaches, many students and parents may notice an increase in sneezing, congestion, and itchy eyes. However, these symptoms can sometimes be mistaken for an upper respiratory infection or a lingering cold.

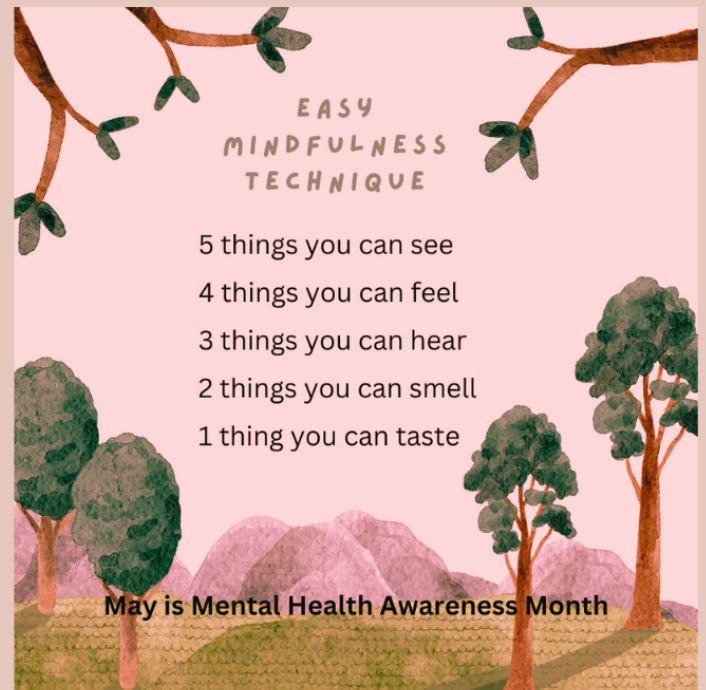
### *How to Tell the Difference*

- Allergies: Symptoms often include sneezing, itchy or watery eyes, runny nose, and nasal congestion.
  - Colds: Usually involve sneezing, congestion, sore throat, and sometimes fever or body aches.
- Tips for Managing Allergies at Home
- Take over-the-counter oral antihistamines to reduce symptoms.
  - Use a nasal spray like Flonase to help with congestion and inflammation.
  - Try nasal saline rinses to clear allergens from nasal passages.
  - Keep an eye on pollen counts and try to plan outdoor activities for times when pollen levels are lower (typically in the evening or after rain).
  - Keep windows closed at home and in the car to limit pollen exposure.
  - Shower and change clothes after spending time outdoors to remove pollen from skin and hair.


If symptoms persist or worsen, it may be best to consult with a healthcare provider to determine the best course of action. Stay proactive and enjoy the spring season while keeping allergies under control!



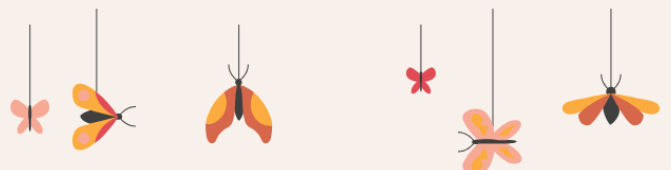
## MENTAL HEALTH REMINDERS



## Resources

 Need Health Coverage? If you or your family need help enrolling in Michigan Medicaid programs, we recommend visiting MI Bridges at [www.michigan.gov/mibridges](http://www.michigan.gov/mibridges) or calling 1-855-789-5610 for assistance. Our staff can also provide guidance and assistance for insurance enrollment. For appointments, questions, or more information, contact us at **(231) 412-6371**. Follow us on social media for health tips and updates!

Let's make this a healthy and happy spring together! 🌸





# SUMMER LEARNING ACADEMY

**June 23rd through August 21st**  
**Grades 3rd-5th and 6th-8th**

**Monday-Thursday**

**9:00 am - 12:00 pm or 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm**

**All classes will be on the NCMC campus**

**Classes:**

Manufacturing Madness  
Young Entrepreneur  
Kids in the Kitchen  
Jr. Sleuth's Crime Lab  
All about Art  
Magic and More  
Jewelry Making  
Yoga, Stretch and Play  
Future Stars Acting  
Guitar Adventures  
Star Voices Singing  
Nature's Nurturers  
Karate for Kids  
Adventure in Action  
Sculpt and Shape  
Dancing Dynamo  
Babysitting Certification  
LEGO Robotics  
Rock Star Writer!



Contact Christy Lyons  
Dean of CCE  
[clyons1@ncmich.edu](mailto:clyons1@ncmich.edu)  
(231) 348-6822



Scan for schedule