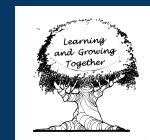


801 Northmen Drive  
Petoskey, MI 49770  
Main Line 348-2150  
Attendance Line 348-2293  
Fax 348-2234

# PETOSKEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

## November 2023 Edition NEWSLETTER



### Upcoming Dates

Nov. 1 - No School, Staff Professional Development Day

Nov. 2 - MSPA Meeting, 7:00 pm

Nov. 3 - End of 3rd Quarter

Nov. 7 - Election Day

Nov. 10 - Veterans Day Breakfast, 7:30 am

Nov. 13-17 - Scholastic Book Fair

Nov. 14 & 16 - Parent Teacher Conferences, 5:00 - 7:00 pm

Nov. 16, 17, 18 - "Mary Poppins, Jr." Fall Show

Nov. 22-24 - No School, Fall Break

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.**

### We Have Northmen DRIVE!

As a middle school staff we are not only driven to help our students grow academically, but we also work hard to help our students grow socially and emotionally. Our mission statement of "Learning and Growing Together" means something to our staff. We want to help our students grow into well-rounded and productive citizens!

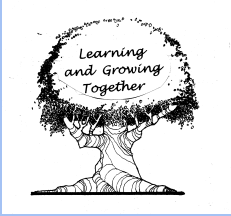
Several years ago we instituted our Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program to be more intentional in helping our students grow socially and emotionally. Homeroom is an important time during which we intentionally work on these DRIVE skills. Each day homeroom starts with the Pledge of Allegiance and review of daily announcements. On Wednesdays of most weeks, our staff covers a variety of topics to help set expectations and provide coaching and support for our students. These topics are also covered throughout the rest of the day in all curricular areas.

Some topics that are covered throughout the school year include the Full Value Agreement (Work as a Team, Be Safe, Speak Up), Northmen DRIVE (Determination, Respect, Integrity, Voice, Empathy), dealing with conflict, peer pressure, honesty, and leadership, among others. We are confident that this intentional focus helps each student more fully understand what these sometimes big topics really mean, while also fostering a community within the classroom.

We believe this intentional focus on the social and emotional needs of our students helps meet our mission of "Learning and Growing Together."

- Jon Wilcox, Principal





## 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!



### 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!



### Enrichment Activities Update

Enrichment activities have started up and are in full swing. Students are taking part in Book Clubs with historical connections, Math Clubs, and Writing Contests. Science STEM enrichment is beginning with support of new tools and technology through our Char-Em ISD consultant. We look forward to providing more opportunities to students throughout the school year. Students must have passing grades in all classes to participate and are responsible for communicating with their teachers for work expectations of missed classes while attending enrichment meetings.

## NEW IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### Come watch the Fall Show - "Mary Poppins, Jr."

Mark your calendars! "Mary Poppins, Jr." will run on Thursday, November 16th and Friday, November 17th at 7:00 pm and on Saturday, November 18th at 2:00 pm in the PMS Auditorium. [Tickets can be purchased here.](#) We hope to see you there!

Please see the attached flyer below for more information.

### Post Graduate Opportunities for 8th Grade Students

As our 8th grade students continue to get ever closer to becoming a high school student, we will be sharing information with students and their parents about their future in high school and beyond. You can view a [Post-Graduation Opportunities Packet.](#) We will also

### After School Study Lab

Study Lab is held from 3:15 to 4:15 pm, Monday thru Thursday in the Media Center.

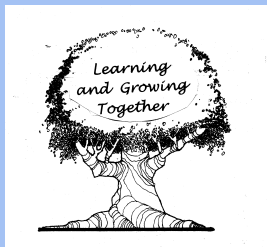
Students attending should come prepared with their books, homework, and a pencil. Our own academic aides supervise this study lab and are ready and willing to help!

### 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.



be passing out a guide book that students who are interested in the skilled trades may find helpful. This guide book will be coming home with report cards around November 13.

## IMPORTANT REMINDERS

### 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 many 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!

### Art Donations Needed

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

- Magazines
- Newspapers
- Paper and plastic grocery bags
- Empty plastic bottles - any sizes
- Cardboard tubes
- Old costume jewelry
- Beads
- Fabric scraps
- Cereal box cardboard (or anything similar)







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!



## COMING SOON

### Parent Teacher Conferences

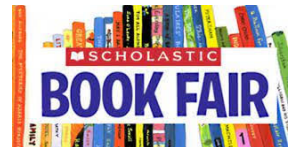
Parent Teacher Conferences are scheduled for Tuesday, November 14 and 16 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm.

These conferences will be held on a drop-in basis during the 2-hour allotment. Please check-in to the office when you arrive. Our secretaries will be here to print off a schedule if you need it, and our teachers will be ready to discuss your child's progress in school.

Thank you for partnering with us!

### Scholastic Book Fair

We will be having a book fair in the library from Nov 13-17. It will be open for students at 8:00 am, during lunch and after school until 4:00. The Book Fair will also be open during Parent Teacher Conferences. [This is also available virtually.](#)



### Veterans Day Breakfast

The Petoskey Middle School will be hosting a Veterans Day Breakfast on Friday, November 10th from 7:30 to 8:00 am in the middle school cafeteria. Please see the attached flyer below for more information.

### Grief Group Available

Beginning in December and continuing into January, Mrs. Kelley and Mrs. Pinney will be co-facilitating a 6-week support group for any middle school students who have experienced the loss of a significant person in their lives, whether recently or in the past. For the past eight years, this group has helped numerous students navigate loss through activities, sharing, empathy, and self-care. If you think your child might benefit from this group, please contact Mrs. Pinney for more information.

## ATHLETIC INFORMATION

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

### Sports are Up and Running

We have many students participating in volleyball, football, cross country, as well as the Fall Show, and the numerous clubs and activities we offer. We strongly suggest that every student get involved in an extracurricular activity! Check out [our website](#) for more information.

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!





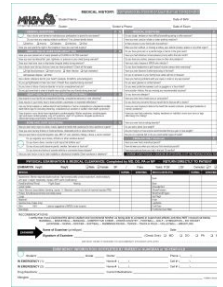
## Wrestling

Petoskey Middle School Wrestling will have a parent meeting on **Monday, November 13th at 5:30 PM in room 136 at PMS**. The meeting will cover introductions, team schedule, and expectations. If your child is thinking about wrestling this year, please plan on attending.

The team's primary means of communication will be Remind. To join, text @pmspins to 81010. If you don't have the app, Remind will send you text messages. If you have any questions or would like to reach out to Coach Hallstedt, please do so either through Remind or email him at [thallstedt@northmen.org](mailto: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 2023-24 school year must be completed no earlier than April 15, 2023.

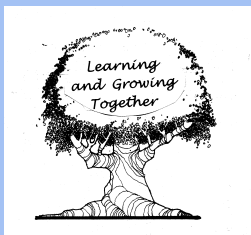
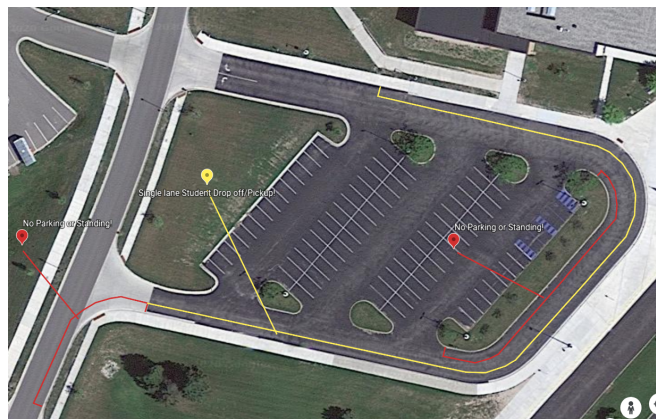


## **DROP OFF / PICK UP PROCEDURES**

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!**



# SAFE in NM AFTER HOURS

## MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS ONLY

Friday, November 10th, 2023  
3:30pm-6:00pm

Petoskey Field House  
1040 Cedar Valley Road  
Petoskey, MI



\$5 Entry Fee  
Concessions  
Available  
CASH ONLY

Arts & Crafts  
Rock Climbing  
Karaoke  
Photo booth  
Retro Arcade  
Spike Ball  
Dodge Ball  
Indoor Soccer  
& MORE!





Petoskey Middle School Fall Show  
Presents

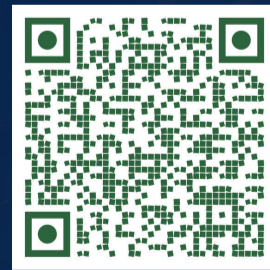


# MARY POPPINS



JR

**Petoskey Middle  
School Auditorium**



*Purchase  
Tickets Today  
on Petoskey  
Northmen -  
Ticket Spicket!*

**NOV 16 & 17 [AT] 7 PM**

**\$5 Children &  
Students**

**NOV 18 [AT] 2 PM**

**\$10 Adults**





You Are Invited

To Petoskey Middle School's

# Veterans' Day Breakfast

Petoskey Middle School Cafeteria

Friday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023

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.



Coffee, Juice, Bagels, and Donuts will be provided.

[RSVP at this Link](#)