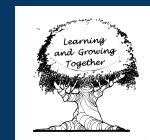


801 Northmen Drive
Petoskey, MI 49770
Main Line 348-2150
Attendance Line 348-2293
Fax 348-2234

PETOSKEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

January 2024 Edition NEWSLETTER



Upcoming Dates

Jan. 3 - School Resumes

Jan. 10 - Trooper Hebner presentation for 7th and 8th grades

Jan. 15 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day, No School

Jan. 17 - Hot Topics Forum, 6:00 pm (see flier)

Jan. 18 - Board of Education meeting, 7:00 pm

Jan. 19 - End of 2nd Quarter, Half day of School

Feb. 6 - Parent Teacher Conferences (5:30 - 7:30 pm)



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 ACCURATE CONTACT INFORMATION SO WE CAN EFFECTIVELY COMMUNICATE.

Keys to Success at PMS

As we ring in the new year, it's important to revisit the following 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.

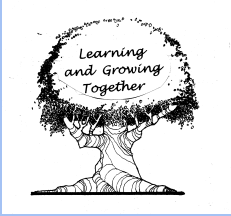
Supporting your child's education is also critical. Regardless of your level of involvement in school activities, it is vital for parents and teachers to communicate effectively with one another. We love hearing from parents so that we can work as a team to make this the best school experience for your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

STAYING UP-TO-DATE WITH GRADES & ASSIGNMENTS

Now is also a great time to remind parents ways to stay up-to-date with your child's educational progress. You can utilize PowerSchool as the source of information regarding grades and Schoology is a great place to reference any assignments and lesson plans for the week. One of the main challenges we see is students making up work after an absence. PowerSchool and Schoology are great resources. If you need login information, please contact your child's homeroom teacher. Also, ask your child to show you the Schoology pages and their grades in PowerSchool. Every student in our building will know how to navigate both of these resources. As always, feel free to reach out to your child's teachers, counselors, or administrators if you have any questions.



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 also attend classes at Petoskey High School, please inform the office so we can 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 characteristics that make Petoskey Middle School exceptional!



THANK YOU!!!

Thank you for all the generosity offered throughout the holiday season. Our Hoops for the Holiday campaign raised over \$1900 dollars that was used to help local families during the holiday season. Also, thank you to everyone who reached out and offered to support another family, and especially to Angie Kelley for coordinating all the help. In all, nearly twenty families were supported by generous donations during this holiday season! Thank you!

NEW IMPORTANT INFORMATION

8th Grade Students Start 4-Year Plans

In preparation for the transition to Petoskey High School in the fall, our 8th grade students will soon start working with counselors on career exploration and high school course planning. It is an exciting time to start thinking about their next big step! We have more planned to help prepare for this transition. Look for more detailed information in next month's newsletter!

Art Donations Needed

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

- Polymer Clay
- Watercolors
- Perler Beads



After School Study Lab

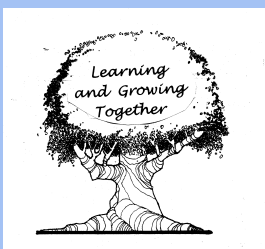
Study Lab is held from 3:15 to 4:15 pm, Monday thru Thursday in the Media Center. Students attending should come prepared with their required materials, homework, and a pencil. Our own academic aides supervise this study lab and are ready and willing to help!

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 child 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.



- Magazines - current
- Newspapers
- Cardboard tubes
- Duct tape
- Old costume jewelry/beads
- Cereal box cardboard
- Tissue paper
- **any other arts/craft items you might have around that you aren't using**

COMING SOON

UPCOMING SPEAKERS/PRESENTATIONS

On January 10th, our 7th and 8th grade students will have the opportunity to listen to Michigan State Trooper Corey Hebner present about online safety and the potential impact of online behavior. Trooper Hebner has been sharing this presentation with our students for many years. The information he imparts to students is impactful and relevant.

Hot Topics Forum Coming Soon!

ADHD in Teens is the topic of the next Hot Topics forum, which will take place in the PMS media center on **January 17 from 6 - 8 pm**. These forums are provided through a partnership of various community entities and are open to parents, teens, and anyone else interested in learning more about strategies to help manage ADHD. Please see the flier at the end of this newsletter 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 sports 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.

Girls basketball tryouts are underway. Our wrestlers and skiers have been practicing and will be ready to start competing soon.

For the most up-to-date information, please visit the [middle school athletics website](#). Also, watch the student announcements for sign-up information for the upcoming seasons. We encourage students to try new activities during middle school!

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.





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!



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!



HOT TOPICS

Join us in person
for 2023-24!

ADHD in Teens

Understanding & Managing ADHD

Helping parents and caregivers of teens connect!

Learn strategies for helping your teen succeed through the challenges of ADHD, the most common childhood neurological disorder which often causes serious problems at school and at home. ADHD is known to cause problems with focus, planning, and other executive functioning skills. ADHD is often described as an iceberg, where other problems like depression, anxiety, and defiance are hiding under the surface. The effects of this disorder can profoundly influence life at home for all family members, making the already stressful teen years even more challenging.

Join us for an evening to learn more about ADHD, including strategies for how to help your teen and family better manage ADHD symptoms.

Wednesday, Jan. 17, 2024 ■ 6-8 p.m.

PRESENTERS:

Rebekah Pedersen, LPC, Behavioral Health Therapist,
Alcona Health Center, Petoskey High School
and

Christine Carpenter, LMSW Health Department
of Northwest Michigan

LOCATION:

Petoskey Middle School Media Center

Open to parents, caregivers & community.

On-site child care provided from 6:30-8:30 p.m. If transportation is a barrier, contact Kirstyn at (231) 347-5362. Please RSVP also if child care is needed.

Presented by Petoskey Public Schools, Emmet County Probate and Family Court, Alcona Health Center, and the Health Department of Northwest Michigan. Questions? Call (231) 347-5362.