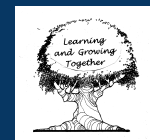


801 Northmen Drive
 Petoskey, MI 49770
 Main Line 348-2150
 Attendance Line 348-2293
 Fax 348-2234

PETOSKEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

April 2024 Edition NEWSLETTER



Upcoming Dates

April 2 - School Resumes

April 10 - PSAT for 8th,
 ELA M-STEP for 6th and
 7th

April 11 - MSPA Meeting
 (7:00)

April 15 - PEF
 Scholarships Due

April 18 - Board of
 Education Meeting (7:00)

May 1 - Middle School
 Band Collage Concert
 (7:00)



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-wide Testing on Wednesday, April 10

Each Spring, our students take both the NWEA and M-STEP (or PSAT) assessment. 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 10, 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

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 10).

Students will also begin taking the NWEA assessments beginning on April 22. 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.drctdirect.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.

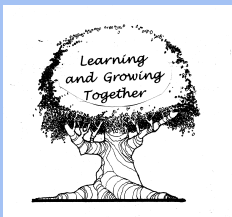
For more information about specific testing dates and times, you may contact your child's homeroom teacher or Dana Pinney at pinney.dg.t@northmen.org.

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.

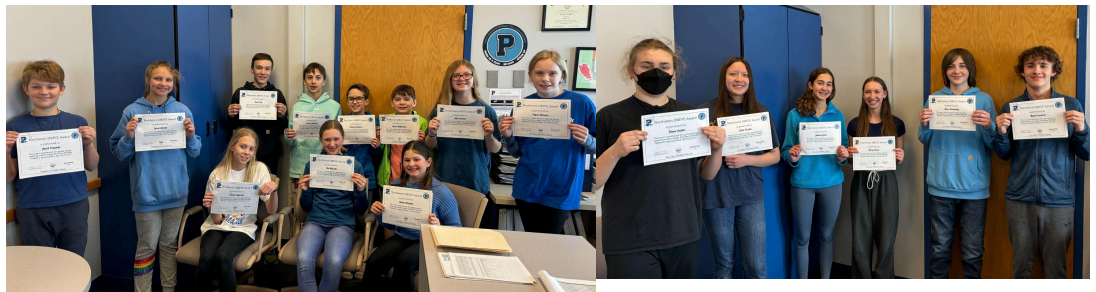
If you are excusing your child for the day and they attend classes at Petoskey High School, please inform the office to also adjust the high school attendance. Thank you!



RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

NORTHMEN DRIVE AWARD WINNERS

Congratulations to the latest round of Northmen DRIVE award winners! We appreciate our students for showing the DRIVE characteristics that make Petoskey Middle School a great school!



Crooked Tree Art Show

The following PMS students' artwork was selected for the Youth Art Show at Crooked Tree Arts Center and will be on display from March 19th - May 3rd. You can see the show any time during the Art Center's hours. Tuesday- Saturday 10am-5pm. Congratulations to the following students:

6th Grade - Lauren Hallman, Sophia Case, Annabelle Dickson, Ava Hitchings, Allison Fettig, Parker Edgerton, Daphne Riker, Josephine Borowski, Everett Guerreri, Marion, August-Conners, Grace Sterner, Lia Maldonado, Anna Knickerbocker, Megan Hudson, Emma Clay, Olivia Ingalls, Connor Kasiborski, Marshall Mann, Charlie Patterson, Katelyn Dautel

7th Grade - Megan Kaatz, Caitlin Grebe, Seraphina Kembro, Kendal Marvin, Bella Karr, Eden Drier, Sadie Tebeau, Dominic Fuerte-Lopez, Scarlett Miller, Timery LaCroix, Monroe Garrett, Aya Pateman, Ellie Boyce, Sirrennittie Nichols, Lakota Russell, Halle Oberman, Brianna Rariden, Tess Burmeister, Fiona Boyer, Charlie Hallman, Ellie Scott



8th Grade - Olivia Butzin, Luca Carl, Phoebe Hopf, Ellery Stevens, Laila Allard, Sunny Jones, Lyla Thelen, Shyanna Hoffman, Nik Patterson, Madelyn Roisen, Lola Clarke, Calla Vicente

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

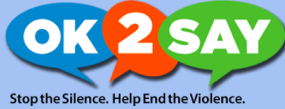
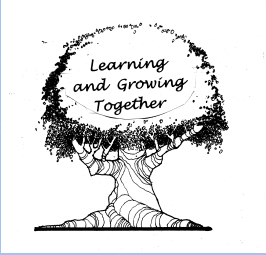
If your student has prescription or non-prescription medicine that they take during the school day, a medication form must be completed for each medication and the medicine dropped off by an adult to the school office. A new form must be filled out each school year.



Online Safety with Trooper Hebner

Michigan State Trooper Corey Hebner recently spoke to our 7th and 8th grade students about how they can stay safe while online and on their phones, especially as it relates to social media usage. The age appropriate messages were filled with important information. Please ask your child about what they learned!





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!



MathCounts

We had 7 eighth grade students travel to a math competition in Traverse City in February. The team took 3rd place overall. We also had three students place in the top 10 in the individual competition. Brooke came in 5th place, Trevor took 4th place, and Matthew took 3rd place. They ALL did a great job!

NEW IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Algebra Placement for the 2024-25 School Year

Parents of current 7th graders interested in Algebra placement for 8th grade: There will be an informational parent meeting on Tuesday, April 23rd, 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, April 30th or Wednesday, May 1st after school until 4:45. (Students need to attend only one of those days.)

Please contact Ms. Bell with any questions: 348-2256 or bell.r.j@northmen.org

8th Grade Students - PHS Schedules and Testing Out Information

April 12th 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 12th is also the deadline to apply to test out of a high school class. Test out application link & more info [HERE](#).

“Ten Reasons Middle Schoolers Don’t Need Social Media”

Written by David Olsen, Community Today, April 2018

1. Social media was not designed for children. A tween’s underdeveloped frontal cortex can’t manage the distraction nor the temptations that come with social media use.
2. You can not teach the maturity that social media requires. I hear parents say that they want to teach their child to use social media appropriately, but their midbrains are not developed yet. Like trying to make clothes fit that are way too big, children will use social media inappropriately until they are older and it fits them better.
3. Social media is an entertainment technology. It does not make your child smarter or more prepared for real life or a future job.
4. It is not necessary for healthy social development. It is entertainment attached to a marketing platform extracting personal information and preferences from your child, not to mention hours of their time and attention.
5. A tween’s “more is better” mentality is a dangerous match for social media. Social media encourages them to overdo their friend connections like they tend to overdo other things in their lives. Does anyone have thousands of friends?
6. Social media is an addictive form of screen entertainment. Like video game addiction, early use can set up future addiction patterns and habits.
7. Social media replaces learning the hard social “work” necessary for success. The use of social media greatly lessens opportunities requiring children to practice dealing face-to-face with their peers, a skill they need to master to be successful in real life.



8. Social media can cause teens to lose connection with family. They view “friends” as their foundation and since the brain is still being formed, they need healthy family attachment more than with their peers. It is just as important now as when they were preschoolers.
9. Social media use represents lost potential for teens. The teen’s brain development is operating at peak performance for learning new things. Studies show that it is nearly impossible for them to balance it all and teens waste too much time and too much of their brain in a digital world.
10. Do any of us wish we had started earlier?

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 2024-25 school year. If you have any questions, call the Health Department at 347-6014.

Kindergarten Registration Information - Please share!

The Public Schools of Petoskey is preparing to welcome the Northmen classes of 2037 and 2038!

Little Northmen Preschool is currently accepting [applications](#) for children turning 4 by September 1st.

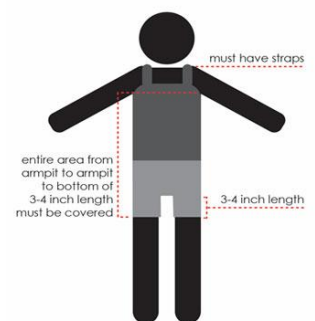
[Kindergarten registration](#) is open for the 2024/25 school year to children turning 5 by September 1st.

PEF Scholarships due April 15

[Petoskey Education Foundation Undergraduate Scholarships](#) are awarded to Petoskey Middle School students currently in the 6th, 7th or 8th grade who have an interest in furthering their education by taking summer instructional programs related to science, technology, music, leadership, debate, visual arts or other academic endeavors. Scholarships up to the amount of \$500 each will be awarded to eligible students for summer study. The application for these scholarships is available by clicking on the underlined title/link above. Completed applications for this scholarship must be returned electronically to the Petoskey Education Foundation email address, pef.l@northmen.org, no later than April 15.

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.



ATHLETIC INFORMATION

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

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!

Track

The track season is up and running. If you have any questions regarding 7th and 8th grade track, feel free to email Coach Stolarski with questions at jstolarski@northmen.org. For 6th grade, see Coach Bell or Coach Tompkins with questions, or email them at bell.rj.t@northmen.org and tompkins.mr.t@northmen.org. We can always use volunteers at both levels!

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.

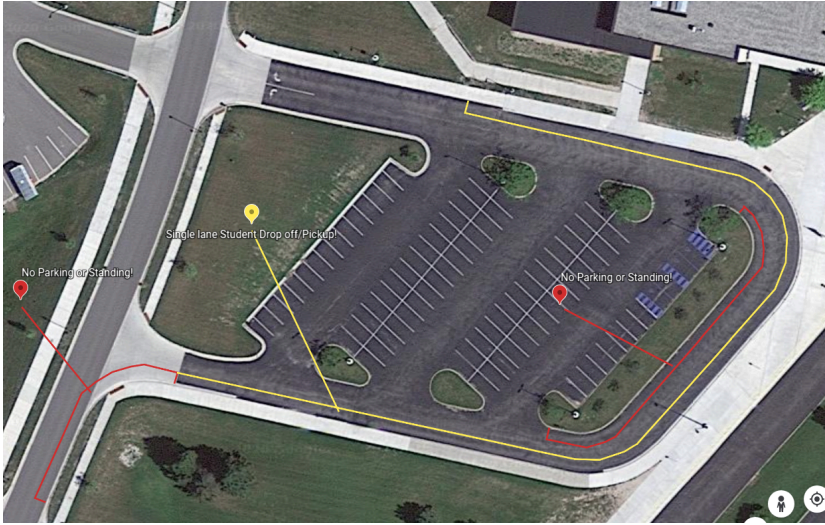
If you have a well child visit scheduled after April 15, make sure to take a sports physical form with you and ask to have a sports physical completed.

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!





STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

March 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian:

This spring, your school district will administer state tests designed to provide important information on student knowledge and student career- and college-ready progress upon graduation. Federal and state laws require these tests. Schools and districts use these test results, among others, for school improvement initiatives that benefit students. The data gathered from this year's state assessments and other data will help educators support students when they return to school next school year and move forward with their education.

Students in Grades 3-10 will participate in the following assessments:

- M-STEP English language arts (ELA) and mathematics (grades 3-7)
- PSAT 8/9 for English language arts (ELA) and mathematics (grade 8)
- M-STEP science and social studies (grades 5 and 8)
- PSAT 8/9 for English language arts (ELA) and mathematics (grade 9)
- PSAT 10 for English language arts (ELA) and mathematics (grade 10)

Grade 11 students will participate in the Michigan Merit Exam (MME), which has three required components:

- SAT with Essay college entrance exam that also measures student knowledge of Michigan's English language arts (ELA) and mathematics standards
- ACT WorkKeys work skills assessment
- M-STEP science and social studies

MI-Access, Michigan's Alternate Assessment Program

MI-Access (www.michigan.gov/mi-access) is Michigan's alternate assessment system for grades 3-8 and 11. It is designed for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities whose instruction is targeted to Michigan's alternate content expectations (known as essential elements) and whose Individualized Education Program (IEP) teams have determined that general assessments, even with accommodations, are not appropriate. MI-Access satisfies the federal requirements that all students with disabilities be assessed at the state level.

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Additional Information

We want your child's state testing experience to be as stress-free as possible. Your positive outlook will help support your child's experience. State assessment results do not affect your student's grades in any way.

On average, a student will spend no more than three hours on M-STEP ELA and mathematics tests. Students in grades 5, 8, and 11 will spend an additional two and one-half hours on science and social studies testing.

While we support parents in making choices for their children, there is no "opt-out" of state assessments under state or federal law. Students who are not assessed will count against their school's required 95 percent participation rate, which will create an incomplete picture of their school's performance.

Assessment results help target support and resources to students and schools that need them most. The test results also inform future state education policies and programs.

You can find information about Michigan's state assessment system on our website, www.michigan.gov/oeaa. An excellent place to start is with the handout "Michigan's State Assessment System: What It Is, What It Means, and What It Offers." Additional information, including how to help your child prepare for M-STEP testing, is available at www.michigan.gov/mstep.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael F. Rice". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael F. Rice, Ph.D.
State Superintendent