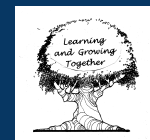


801 Northmen Drive  
Petoskey, MI 49770  
Main Line 348-2150  
Attendance Line 348-2293  
Fax 348-2234

# PETOSKEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

## March 2024 Edition NEWSLETTER



### Upcoming Dates

March 4-9 - 8th grade DC Trip

March 4 - Pizza Pizzaz

March 8 - Northmen Night (6 to 10:00 pm) See flier

March 11 - 7th/8th Track Practice Starts

March 12 - DC Meeting for 7th grade parents (6:00)

March 13 - 8th Grade Career Day

March 14 - March Madness Dance (3:15 - 5:00 pm)

March 15 - No School, Professional Development for Staff

March 21 - End of Winter Olympics, End of 3rd Quarter

March 22 - April 1 - Spring Break

April 2 - School Resumes

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.**

### THE FULL VALUE AGREEMENT & NORTHMEN DRIVE

In an attempt to focus our efforts and, more importantly, to help our students through adolescence and prepare them for years to come, we have developed a couple key initiatives over the years. The Full Value Agreement has been in place in Petoskey Middle School since the 1980's, and it continues to serve us well. We expect everyone in our school to follow the three tenets: Work as a Team, Be Safe (physically and emotionally), and Speak Up. The Full Value Agreement has since grown across our district, and is even utilized in other school districts. These are our social norms, which we expect our students to utilize every day.

Northmen DRIVE embodies a social-emotional skill set that we teach in conjunction with the Full Value Agreement. Our goal is for students to learn to navigate life with **D**etermination, **R**espect, and **I**ntegrity, to know how and when to appropriately and effectively use their **V**oice, all while practicing **E**mpathy. Our staff utilizes homeroom time to teach, discuss, and practice these important life skills.

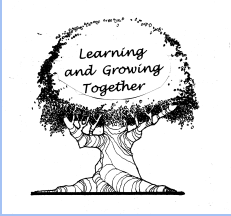
The motto, "We have NORTHMEN DRIVE" serves as the basis of our Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) system and is written on every expectation poster in our school building. This motto is displayed along with specific expectations on posters throughout the building, reminding students and staff to Be Safe, Work as a Team, and Speak Up. We strive to remind students to not only do their best, but to be their best selves. We want them to have the drive to work hard toward success in the challenges they face.

We feel it is important to help foster the development these DRIVE skills, while also Working as a Team, Speaking Up, and Being Safe. I bring this up in hopes that we can continue to be on the same page as we partner to help your child and every other child in our school.

As always, we are honored to partner with you in helping your child learn and grow. It is a responsibility we do not take lightly.

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 also attend classes at Petoskey High School, please inform the office so we can adjust the high school attendance. Thank you!

### Preparing 8th Grade Students for the Transition to PHS

Eighth graders have completed their 4-year plans and have reviewed their course selections with Mrs. Pinney and Mrs. Kelley. The next step will take place the week of March 18th when PHS counselors will come to the middle school to meet 1:1 with each 8th grade student to schedule their 9th grade classes. Remember that all high school scheduling information, including course descriptions and testing out forms, is accessible through your child's Schoology Course--"Welcome to Petoskey High School."

Our goal is to make the transition to Petoskey High School as seamless as possible. Students and parents will be receiving more information from PHS toward the end of the school year. We still have a lot of school left this year, but we definitely have to start thinking about next year already!

### 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!



### District Band Festivals

Congratulations to our 7th and 8th grade bands for earning all 1's at the District Festivals last week. If you were able to make the performances, you know just how awesome these kids are! Great work!



### After School Study Lab

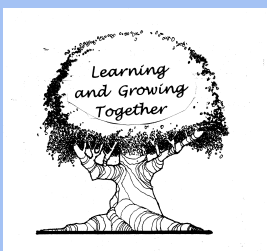
Study Lab is held from 3:15 to 4:15 pm, Monday thru Thursday in the Media Center. Students attending should come prepared with their required materials, homework, and a pencil. Our own academic aides supervise this study lab and are ready and willing to help!

### 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.



### 6th Grade Snowshoeing

Thank you to the Little Traverse Conservancy for hosting Petoskey Middle School 6th graders at McCune Nature Preserve. Students focused on animal tracking, biodiversity, and enjoying nature with their friends and teachers.



## NEW IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### 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.

### Weekly Lesson Plans Easily Accessible

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."

### English Language Learner Program

Over the next few weeks, students enrolled in the English language learner (ELL) program will take a national proficiency test. This standardized assessment measures language proficiency for students learning English as a second language. Teachers use the information from the assessment to differentiate learning and help ELL students reach their academic goals and potential. If you would like more information or have questions about the program, please contact Robin Ingalls at 348-2237 or [ingalls.rj@northmen.org](mailto:ingalls.rj@northmen.org).

### 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

## 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!



electronically to the Petoskey Education Foundation email address, [pef.l@northmen.org](mailto:pef.l@northmen.org), no later than April 15.

### **Current 7th Grade Families - 2025 8th Grade D.C. Trip Parent Meeting**

Current 7th grade families, you're all invited to the 2025 8th Grade D.C. Trip Parent Meeting taking place on Tuesday, March 12 at 6pm in the Middle School Cafeteria. At the meeting Mr. Stempky & Ms. Saunders will go over a brief overview the trip, and they'll be available for your questions! For more information about the trip, [click on this link](#).

### **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.

## COMING SOON

### **Next Dance is Thursday, March 14**

The Sixth Grade and the Kindness Crew are planning and organizing the March dance, which will be held on March 14th from 3:15-5:00. This is the final dance of the school year. We are in need of parent chaperones to help with this event. If interested and available, please contact your child's homeroom teacher for more details. All chaperones will need to complete a background check before March 14th. Thank you!

[Background Check Link](#)

### **8th Grade Career Day**

On March 13, we will once again be hosting a Career Day specifically for our 8th grade students. Nearly 30 community volunteers from a variety of careers will be here to share their experience and expertise. Students filled out an interest inventory, which counselors will use to assign the students to four different career sessions. This is always a hit for our students! Our local Chief of Police, Rocky Karr, will be delivering the opening address to our students.

## IMPORTANT REMINDERS

### **Yearbooks - Last Chance!**

PMS Yearbooks will be on sale for \$30 until Spring Break. You can order by going to the PMS webpage or dropping off a payment in the main office. Please include your child's full name, homeroom teacher and grade when submitting payment. We are not able to order extra yearbooks so please order yours today!

### **Art Donations Needed**

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

- Gallon ziploc bags
- Bubble wrap or other packaging materials





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

Thank you to everyone who has donated supplies to our PMS Art Classes. We truly appreciate all of the donations and are able to make really cool things with all of the extra supplies!

## ATHLETIC INFORMATION

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

### Winter Sports Wrapped Up

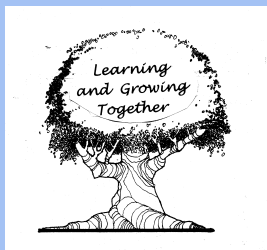
Thank you to all the students, coaches, and parents of all our winter sports teams. Basketball, ski team, and wrestling have both done an outstanding job and showed great sportsmanship throughout the season. Well done!



### Track and Field

7th/8th grade track practice starts March 11th. Email Coach Stolarski with questions at [jstolarski@northmen.org](mailto:jstolarski@northmen.org)

6th grade track practice starts April 2nd. See Coach Bell or Coach Tompkins with questions, or email them at [bell.r.j.t@northmen.org](mailto:bell.r.j.t@northmen.org) and [tompkins.mr.t@northmen.org](mailto:tompkins.mr.t@northmen.org)





### **Softball**

Softball practice for 7th and 8th graders starts March 18th. Email Coach Hasse at [bradhase@hotmail.com](mailto:bradhase@hotmail.com) with questions.

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.

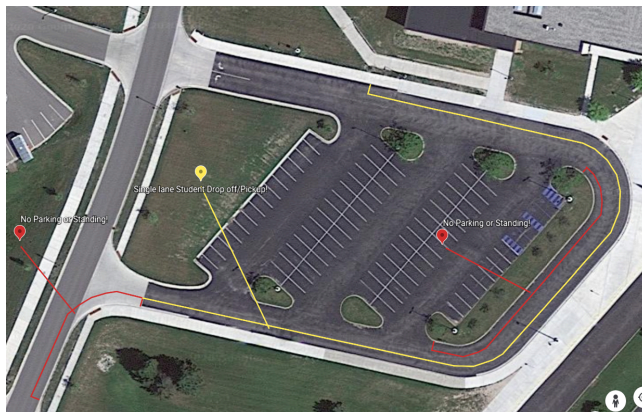


## **DROP OFF / PICK UP PROCEDURES**

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!**





Petoskey Education  
Foundation

# PIZZA PIZZAZZ

MONDAY,  
MARCH 4TH

A PORTION OF ALL PIZZA SALES GOES TOWARD SCHOLARSHIPS  
AND MINI-GRANTS FOR PETOSKEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS STUDENTS

Order Pizza From These Great Locations!

- BC Pizza...347-1212
- Corktown Pizza...753-8901
- Corner Grocer...487-9200
- Duffy's Garage & Grille...348-3663
- Northern Lights...347-3100
- Mighty Fine Pizza...347-3255
- Palette Bistro...348-3321
- Piper's Mighty Good...348-6900

Dine-In, Carryout, Delivery

**ALL SIZES! ALL DAY LONG!**

Direct Donations can be made to the  
Petoskey Education Foundation  
1130 Howard St., Petoskey, MI 49770



# SPECIAL EDUCATION MILLAGE RENEWAL MAY 2024

Voters will be asked on **Tuesday, May 7, 2024** to consider renewing the long-standing special education millage for Charlevoix-Emmet Intermediate School District for four years.



**What's on the ballot?** If approved, the proposal would allow Char-Em ISD to continue to levy special education millage previously approved by voters. The proposed millage would be 1.4606 mills for four years, 2024-2027, generating approximately \$10.3 million for special education operational funding. For a home with a market value of \$100,000, it would continue to cost the taxpayer approximately \$75 per year.

## What special education services are provided throughout Char-Em ISD?

Char-Em ISD and local districts provide special education services that range in complexity and focus on academic, emotional, and functional achievement:

- More than 1,330 students with special needs in 11 public school districts and two charter academies are served each year.
- Children beginning at birth and until age 26 receive services.
- 16 special education classrooms, including 2 early childhood classrooms, are operated by Char-Em in 2.5 counties.
- 124 infants & toddlers with disabilities receive direct and classroom-based instruction.
- 107 students with significant educational needs attend ISD-operated classrooms.
- 750,000+ miles are traveled to transport students to 16 Char-Em ISD-operated special education classrooms with bus drivers and aides who are highly trained.
- 1,000 students with special needs attend school at their resident school district, with support from Char-Em ISD staff.

## How is special education funded?

Current special education costs throughout the ISD, 11 local districts, and 2 charter academies are about \$23.6 million. Special education millage operating dollars account for about half of the expenses of local districts' special education programs and most of the cost of ISD-operated programs. State, federal and other local dollars and grants support the remaining costs.

Funding from the special education millage goes directly to the local schools and academies to reimburse some of their special education expenses, as well as to the Char-Em ISD to support the 16 programs operated by the ISD that serve students with the most significant disabilities. It is also used for specialized training of teachers in local schools, evaluation services to determine eligibility for special education services, as well as highly specialized transportation services for students who attend Char-Em programs.

"This millage was originally approved by voters in 1980 and has been renewed every 4 years ever since.

This millage impacts the lives of thousands of students and their families in our region, from newborns to students up to age 26, including their lives beyond school. It provides critical services to students with disabilities in every school within Char-Em ISD."

**Scott Koziol,**  
Superintendent, Char-Em ISD

## Who is asked to vote in the Special Education Millage election?

Voters in the following school districts in Charlevoix, Emmet and northern Antrim counties: Alanson, Beaver Island, Boyne City, Boyne Falls, Central Lake, Charlevoix, East Jordan, Ellsworth, Harbor Springs, Pellston and Petoskey.

**For more information, please contact Scott Koziol at (231) 547-9947 or email [koziols@charemisd.org](mailto:koziols@charemisd.org).**