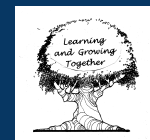


801 Northmen Drive  
Petoskey, MI 49770  
Main Line 348-2150  
Attendance Line 348-2293  
Fax 348-2234

# PETOSKEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

## September 2023 Edition NEWSLETTER



### Upcoming Dates

August 21 - Football practice begins

August 28 - Volleyball tryouts begin

August 25 - Self-guided tour, 10 am - 2 pm.

August 30 - PMS Open House, 4:30 - 6 pm

August 30, 31 - Staff Professional Development

September 5 - School Starts (Doors open at 7:55 am daily, school starts at 8:15, dismissal at 3:10)

September 13 - Picture Day!

September 28 - MSPA Meeting, 7:00 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 CORRECT CONTACT INFORMATION SO WE CAN EFFECTIVELY COMMUNICATE.**

### Welcome to the 2023-24 School Year!

We hope you have had a great summer and are as excited as we are for the start of the 2023-24 school year! We have been busy preparing a great school year for our students.

Student schedules will be mailed out on August 22. For those who already have accurate PowerSchool login information, student schedules will be available online at that time as well. In addition to your child's schedule, the mailing will include a grade level supply list (which is currently available online). An email will be sent with instructions on how to create a PowerSchool login to 6th grade parents and those new to the district. On the first day of school, students will also get a packet during homeroom, which will contain a student verification form that will need to be returned, field trip forms, a picture packet, and other pertinent information. The student verification form is extremely important as this ensures we have correct information to effectively communicate with you as parents.

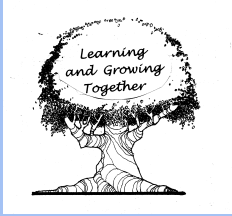
At Petoskey Middle School, our staff prides ourselves in providing an excellent education for your child. It is our goal to partner with you to help your child learn and grow through these adolescent years. Through the implementation of the Full Value Agreement, development of DRIVE (Determination, Respect, Integrity, Voice, Empathy) skills, a comprehensive curriculum for all, and a variety of after school clubs and activities, we are ready to help your child succeed!

We are excited to add several staff members to our excellent team. Lisa Bennett will be teaching 7th grade ELA. She comes to us from South Carolina, and is excited to be back in her home state of Michigan. Tyler Hallstedt, also a Michigander, will be teaching 7th grade Social Studies. He has spent much of his professional career in Tennessee, but is ready to experience Northern Michigan. Tara Strieby will be teaching Special Education. She comes to us from Pine River Schools. With her military background and experience in the special education setting, I have no doubt she will be a great addition to our team. Also joining our Special Education team is Scott Weston. Mr. Weston has spent his entire career in Northern Michigan, and he is excited to join our PMS team. He brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to staff.

We also had some internal movements over the summer. Mrs. Ingalls will now be the Special Populations Coordinator for our school district. Mrs. Feys will be teaching 8th grade ELA, and Mrs. Zamarron will be teaching 8th grade Special Education. I'm excited for the team we have put together to support our students and families!

Thank you for allowing us to partner with you during this year of your child's educational journey. We look forward to learning and growing together!

- Jon Wilcox, Principal



### 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

### PMS Building Improvements

When you drive by Petoskey Middle School, you will likely notice the new sign. We appreciate the work and donation for the Kroeger-Mainland Family Fund to make this possible. The sign should be up before school starts!

When you come inside the building, you will also notice our new gym floor, which should be completed soon! Here is what it looks like right now:



## NEW IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### Food Service

The Food Service Department, at the Public Schools of Petoskey, is pleased to announce that the Michigan School Meals program was signed into law for the 2023-2024 school year.

1) What does this mean?

School breakfast and lunch meals are FREE for all students attending public schools during the 2023-2024 school year.

2) Do I still need to complete a free and reduced application?

YES! It is extremely important for all households to take a moment and complete the 100% confidential free and reduced application online at: [Petoskey.familyportal.cloud](https://Petoskey.familyportal.cloud) OR complete the paper application that will be sent home the 1st day of school.

3) Why do households need to complete a free and reduced application if meals are free?

The Public Schools of Petoskey will need to collect the information to ensure the district will continue to receive state and federal funding for education programs. Without this funding, the district will be denied additional support and services for our students.

### STUDENT DEBT-

In order for all buildings to opt into this amazing program, ALL STUDENT DEBT IN FOOD SERVICE MUST BE PAID IN FULL.

Letters to household's, who owe funds for meals, were mailed out in early August.

If you are unsure if you owe funds, please email: [kavanaugh.ba.u@northmen.org](mailto:kavanaugh.ba.u@northmen.org)

### After School Study Lab

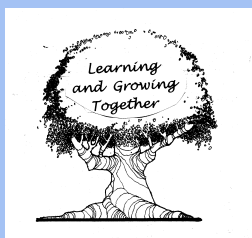
Study Lab is held from 3:15 to 4:15 pm, Monday thru Thursday in the Media Center. Students attending should come prepared with their books, homework, and a pencil. Our own academic aides supervise this study lab and are ready and willing to help!

### 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.



## IMPORTANT REMINDERS

### IMMUNIZATIONS REQUIRED FOR 7TH GRADE

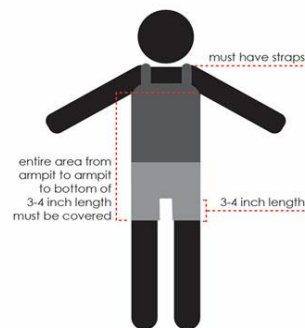
State law requires that ALL students entering 7th grade be up-to-date on their immunizations in order to attend school. If you wish to obtain a waiver, you must get one through the Health Department. Students who are not up-to-date on their immunizations or do not have a waiver will not be allowed to attend school and will be sent home on the first day of the 2023-24 school year. If you have any questions, call the Health Department at 347-6014.

### 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!

### Dress Code Reminder

It's always a good idea to remind students of the dress code policy at the start of the school year. Our teachers will be explaining 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.



### 2024 8th Grade D.C. & Baltimore Trip - It's not too late to sign-up!

8th grade students are still welcome to sign-up for the 2024 8th Grade trip to Washington D.C. and Baltimore, MD! For more details about what your child may see on the trip and the total cost, check out our [WorldStrides website](#) ([www.bit.ly/24PMSDC](http://www.bit.ly/24PMSDC)). If you're ready to register your child today, you can go to the WorldStrides website and use the trip ID: 209760! The trip coordinators will be hosting an informational parent meeting about the trip on Tuesday, September 19th at 6pm in the PMS cafeteria. For more information or questions contact Morgan Saunders at [saunders.mn.t@northmen.org](mailto:saunders.mn.t@northmen.org).

**Open House**  
All Schools - August 30, 2023

Elementary/Preschool - 4:00 pm-5:30 pm  
Middle School - 4:30 pm-6:00 pm  
High School - 5:00 pm-6:30pm



Stop the Silence. Help End the Violence.

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!



**Daily Schedule**

<u>6th Grade</u>	
Homeroom:	8:15 – 8:35
1 <sup>st</sup> Hour:	8:40 – 9:35
2 <sup>nd</sup> Hour:	9:40 – 10:35
3 <sup>rd</sup> Hour (a):	10:40 – 11:00
Lunch:	11:00 - 11:30
3 <sup>rd</sup> Hour (b)	11:35 - 12:10
4 <sup>th</sup> Hour:	12:15 - 1:10
5 <sup>th</sup> Hour:	1:15 – 2:10
6 <sup>th</sup> Hour:	2:15 – 3:10

<u>7th Grade</u>	
Homeroom:	8:15 – 8:35
1 <sup>st</sup> Hour:	8:40 – 9:35
2 <sup>nd</sup> Hour:	9:40 – 10:35
3 <sup>rd</sup> Hour:	10:40 – 11:35
Lunch:	11:35 - 12:05
4 <sup>th</sup> Hour:	12:10 - 1:10
5 <sup>th</sup> Hour:	1:15 – 2:10
6 <sup>th</sup> Hour:	2:15 – 3:10

<u>8th Grade</u>	
Homeroom:	8:15 – 8:35
1 <sup>st</sup> Hour:	8:40 – 9:35
2 <sup>nd</sup> Hour:	9:40 – 10:35
3 <sup>rd</sup> Hour:	10:40 – 11:35
4 <sup>th</sup> Hour :	11:40 - 12:40
Lunch:	12:40 - 1:10
5 <sup>th</sup> Hour:	1:15 – 2:10
6 <sup>th</sup> Hour:	2:15 – 3:10

**1/2 Day Schedule**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Hour: 8:15 – 8:50 (35 min.)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Hour: 8:55 – 9:26 (31 min.)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Hour: 9:31 – 10:02 31 min.)
- 4<sup>th</sup> Hour: 10:07 – 10:38 (31 min.)
- 5<sup>th</sup> Hour: 10:43 – 11:14 (31 min.)
- 6<sup>th</sup> Hour: 11:19 – 11:50 (31 min.)

**COMING SOON**

**2023 Fall Show**

Mary Poppins Jr. Actor and Theatre Apprentice Interest Form - Auditions starting Monday, September 11th!

The enchanting, irresistible story of Mary Poppins is coming to the Middle School Stage this Fall! Interested students can choose to participate in the show one of two ways: Acting or Becoming a Theatre Apprentice. For more information, to sign-up for auditions, or to show interest in Middle School Theatre Apprentice, your child can complete the Interest Google Form located on our Petoskey Middle School Website or through this link: [Actor & Theatre Apprentice Interest Form \(www.bit.ly/23FallShow\)](http://www.bit.ly/23FallShow)

**Middle School & Parent Alliance (MSPA)**

If you are interested in volunteering some of your time to brainstorm ideas and problem-solve with a committed group of parents and staff, consider joining the Middle School and Parent Alliance (MSPA). Our MSPA committee meets four to five times per year. This is a group of parents and faculty working together to get the good news out while continually fostering and modeling the Full Value Agreement. Our next meeting is scheduled for September 28th at 7:00. If you are interested or have questions, please call Jon Wilcox at 348-2150.

**PMS Self-Guided Tour**

On Friday, August 25, students and parents are invited to explore the middle school building and orient yourself to our building. Teachers are not in the building that day, but it is a chance for you to check out the facilities and get a feel for our building. Feel free to visit anytime between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm. Schedules will have been mailed and available on



PowerSchool by this date, so students will be able to find their classes and their locker. Up-to-date grade level supply lists will be available on our website at this time as well.

## ATHLETIC INFORMATION

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

### Volleyball

Petoskey Volleyball Youth Camp: June 26- June 29 @ PHS, 12pm-2pm, \$50 per athlete. Contact Megan Tompkins at [tompkins.mr.t@northmen.org](mailto:tompkins.mr.t@northmen.org) for more information.

Tryouts are scheduled for Monday, August 28 - Wednesday, August 30th from 4:00-6:00 pm at the middle school for 7th and 8th grade students.

Please click here for [tryout information](#).



### Intramural Volleyball

IM Volleyball is open to all interested 6th, 7th, and 8th graders. IM meets after school twice a week beginning the second week of school. There are no tryouts, but students do need a physical on file in order to participate.

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!

### Football

Middle School Football practice begins on August 21st at 3:45 behind the middle school. There will be a parent meeting starting at 3:30.

Equipment pickup will be August 13th at the Middle School:

8th grade at 6:30

7th grade at 7:30

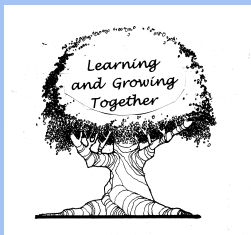


For more information contact Kevin Pike at [pike.kevin@gmail.com](mailto:pike.kevin@gmail.com).

### Cross-Country

First practice for cross country (6th, 7th, and 8th grades) will be September 5th from 3:25-4:45.

Petoskey Cross Country is a competitive running sport. Cross-country runners compete in distance races that typically take place on non-paved running paths. It is a great sport that allows you to compete and improve both as an individual and a team. We hope that you will enjoy this opportunity to get in shape, compete, and have fun. As a member of the team, you get to participate in an ice cream run, cookie run, and a caramel apple run and more. No prior running experience is needed. The goal is for each runner to improve individually and have fun while doing it. [Please click for more information](#).





## Sports Physicals

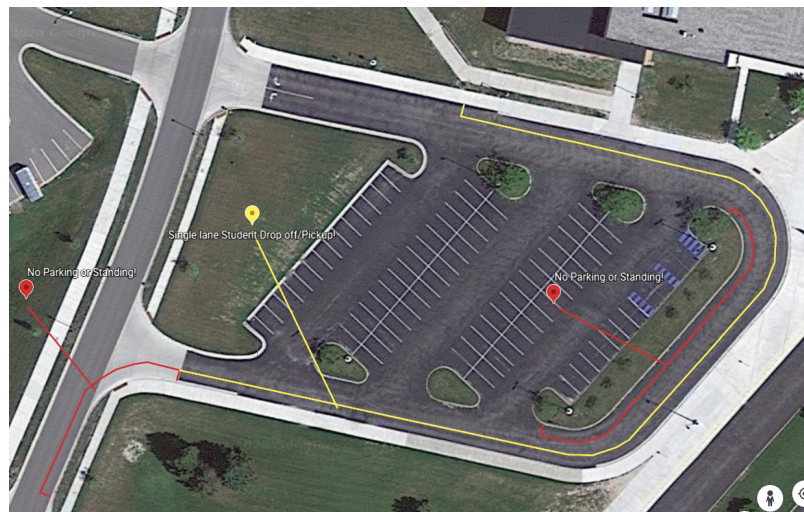
Only MHSAA sports physical forms will be accepted at middle/high school athletic departments. Forms are available on the MHSAA website, and our offices have cardstock forms available. The submitted form must be the original form with the doctor's signature. You can obtain these cards in your middle/high 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!**





# Public Schools of Petoskey

The Food Service Department, at the Public Schools of Petoskey, is pleased to announce that the Michigan School Meals Program was signed into law for the 2023-24 school year.

- 1) What does this mean?
  - a. School breakfast and lunch meals are FREE for all students attending public schools during the 2023-24 school year.
- 2) Do I still need to complete a Free and Reduced and Summer EBT Application?
  - a. YES! It is extremely important for all households to take a moment and complete the 100% confidential Free and Reduced and Summer EBT Application online at: [Petoskey.familyportal.cloud](https://Petoskey.familyportal.cloud) OR complete the paper application that will be sent home the 1<sup>st</sup> day of school.
- 3) Why do households need to complete a Free and Reduced and Summer EBT Application if meals are free?
  - a. The Public Schools of Petoskey will need to collect the information to ensure the district will continue to receive state and federal funding for education programs. Without this funding, the district will be denied additional support and services for our students.

## STUDENT DEBT-

In order for all buildings to opt into this amazing program, ALL STUDENT DEBT IN FOOD SERVICE MUST BE PAID IN FULL.

Letters to household's who owe funds for meals, were mailed out in early August. If you are unsure if you owe funds, please email: [Kavanaugh.ba.u@northmen.org](mailto:Kavanaugh.ba.u@northmen.org)

# Free & Reduced Application Information

## On-line Application Form: Petoskey.familyportal.cloud

The Michigan School Meals program was signed into law in the Fiscal Year 2024 Michigan State School Aid Budget. The funding allows for all Public School students, grades Pre-K to 12, to eat breakfast **and** lunch for free, regardless of the household income.

It is extremely important for all households to take a moment and complete the 2023-24 Public Schools of Petoskey School Meals and Summer EBT Application for free and reduced meals form, even if you think you will not qualify. **(One application per household; 100% confidential when completed online: Petoskey.familyportal.cloud** OR the completed paper application can be mailed to: Petoskey Food Service, 1500 Hill Street, Petoskey, MI 49770.)

The Application for Summer EBT and Education Benefits with the Michigan School Meals Program collects information needed to ensure the school receives state and federal funding for education programs. Without this information, the Public Schools of Petoskey could lose important state funding for educational programs that our students are entitled to. These supplemental grants and programs have the potential to offer supports and services for our students including, but not limited to:

- Instructional
- Teaching supplies and materials
- Counselors and Social Workers
- School Nurses
- Professional Learning

Petoskey.familyportal.cloud

We encourage every household to complete an application form, even if you think you will not qualify. The application information helps the district obtain grant funds to support learning in the district as stated above.

- 1 (one) application per household.
  - If you complete the on-line application at: Petoskey.familyportal.cloud; please DO NOT complete the paper application form.
  - If you complete and turn in the paper application form; please DO NOT complete the on-line application.
- **Please use a blue or black pen** and NOT a pencil on the paper application form. Pencil applications will be denied benefits per USDA/Federal guidelines.
- Why use the on-line application form: Petoskey.familyportal.cloud
  - 100% confidential



- Fastest processing time
- Reduces paper, ink, stamps and mailing time
- ZERO chances of human error when processing the application
- Paper applications can get lost when the exchange happens between your children, teacher and secretaries
- Paper applications are not 100% confidential
  - Multiple people handle your application before it is sent to the food service department
- Processing time is longer due to missing information

### **Charging Guidelines & Prices**

Middle & High School: There will be no charging of a la carte items, second entrees or milk. Funds must be on accounts at the Middle & High School to purchase more than 1 (one) meal. There will be no exceptions.

Elementary School: There will be no charging of a la carte items, second entrees or milk. We will provide a cup for your child to fill with water if you do not have a drink packed in their lunch brought from home.

All students will be able to 1 (one) meal for breakfast and 1 (one) meal for lunch. 1 (one) milk is included in the breakfast and lunch meal if they choose to take it.

### **Breakfast and Lunch Prices: FREE for all students regardless of household income.**

A milk by itself is NOT a meal. Students must take 3 of the 5 meal components to qualify for the Michigan School Meals Program.

Breakfast Times: 7:50am – 8:15am

If you have any questions, please email: [Kavanaugh.ba.u@northmen.org](mailto:Kavanaugh.ba.u@northmen.org)

**PETOSKEY HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS - THE ONLY GAME IN TOWN!**  
**2023-24 PHS/PMS ATHLETIC TICKET INFORMATION**

**FAMILY PASS** - Admits parents and all school age children \_\_\_\_\_ x \$150.00 = \$\_\_\_\_\_  
**(K-12)** to all home, regular season athletic contests  
 (does not include hockey or MHSAA Post-season)

**ADULT PASS** - Admits one adult to all home, regular season, \_\_\_\_\_ x \$75.00 = \$\_\_\_\_\_  
 athletic contests (does not include hockey or MHSAA Post-season)

**STUDENT PASS** - Admits student **(K-12)** to all home athletic \_\_\_\_\_ x \$40.00 = \$\_\_\_\_\_  
 events (does not include hockey or MHSAA Post-season)

**SENIOR CITIZEN PASS** - Admits Senior Citizens over the age of 60 \_\_\_\_\_ x \$25.00 = \$\_\_\_\_\_  
 to all home athletic events (does not include hockey or MHSAA Post  
 Season)

TOTAL     \$\_\_\_\_\_

I won't pass on this play! Indicate names to appear on passes. Please include school for students.

- |          |          |
|----------|----------|
| 1) _____ | 5) _____ |
| 2) _____ | 6) _____ |
| 3) _____ | 7) _____ |
| 4) _____ | 8) _____ |

Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to:  
 Petoskey Public Schools

Amount     \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Cash \_\_\_\_\_ Check \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Athletic passes may be ordered and picked up at the Petoskey High School Athletic Office located at 1500 Hill St., Petoskey, MI 49770, beginning August 14, 2023. Please call 231-348-2220 with any questions.

**All replacement passes are \$10.**