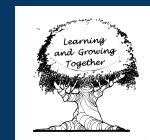


801 Northmen Drive  
Petoskey, MI 49770  
Main Line 348-2150  
Attendance Line 348-2293  
Fax 348-2234

# PETOSKEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

## October 2023 Edition NEWSLETTER



### Upcoming Dates

Oct. 4 - Count Day!

Oct. 11 - Hot Topics  
Parent Forum, 6:30 pm

Oct. 12 - Middle School  
and Parent Alliance  
meeting, 7:00 pm

Oct. 16 & 17 - Yellow  
Ribbon presentation for  
7th grade students

Oct. 17 - Picture Retakes

Oct. 18 - Hot Topics  
Parent Forum, 6:30 pm

Oct. 19 - Board of  
Education Meeting, 7:00  
pm

Oct. 20 - No School,  
Professional Development  
for Staff

Oct. 27 - Halloween  
Dance

Oct. 31 - 6th Grade Field  
trip to Northern Lights

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.**

### **SOCIAL MEDIA**

One of the greatest obstacles adults have to overcome is teaching our children to use electronic and social media tools appropriately since we did not grow up using them. This makes giving the “when I was your age...” talk difficult to have as it relates to the use of social media. The effects of social media on the developing mind continue to show mostly negative results. Many argue that while online, teens tend to use poor communication skills, are bombarded with misinformation, and do not fully understand the ramifications of their actions. Teens often focus on getting “likes,” which unfortunately helps fulfill social validation for which teens so intensely yearn. Social media usage also does not allow students the time to escape from their peers. This constant connection and pressure can lead to unintended and negative outcomes, such as anxiety, sadness, and depression.

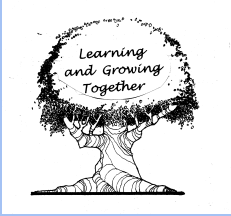
If social media is permitted, we have to set boundaries in terms of its usage. According to the [Pew Research Center](#), 95% of teens report having access to a cell phone, while 46% say they are online almost constantly, doubling since 2014-15. Because social media consists mostly of peer-to-peer interactions, children too often do not learn how to utilize this tool effectively and appropriately.

As a school, we are aware of the multitude of online and social media issues students deal with. This is one of the many reasons we do not allow students to carry a phone on their person during the school day. On October 11, we will be offering a parent forum on risky behaviors. Please see the Hot Topics flier at the end of this newsletter. We hope to see you there!

There are numerous other resources available to help parents navigate teen social media usage. Here are some other sites you may find useful: [www.waituntil8th.org](http://www.waituntil8th.org), [www.common sense media.org](http://www.common sense media.org), <https://protectyoungeyes.com/>,

**We encourage all parents to seriously consider the ramifications of social media usage before allowing your child to log on.** If you do decide to allow social media, please monitor your child’s online activity closely (they are most likely doing more than you think), and talk to them about your expectations. Tell them not to post or send something online that they wouldn’t say to someone’s face, not to post or send anything that is hurtful, and not to post or send anything that they wouldn’t want their grandparent to see. Again, a simple conversation with your child can go a long way in this regard.

By working together, we can help our children learn how to appropriately navigate this powerful media.



### 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

### Harbor Springs Festival of the Book School Visit

On September 22, the Harbor Springs Festival of the Books sent authors into area schools to talk about books, writing, and the creative process. Our entire school had the amazing opportunity to hear from prizewinning author Alan Gratz talk about his books and what encouraged him to become an author. His books are very popular with our students. It was a great experience! Ask your child about his visit.



### OK2SAY Presentations

On September 21, each of our grade levels attended an OK2SAY assembly in which they learned about not only how to Speak Up, but also why it is important. Our presenter was very passionate about making sure students know that if they see or hear something concerning, they need to say something. Please talk to your child about the assembly!



Stop the Silence. Help End the Violence.

As a reminder, if you or your child feel unsafe or are worried about the safety of someone else, please speak up by contacting [OK2SAY](https://www.ok2say.org). 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!

## NEW IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### Behavior at PHS Athletic Events

We have been asked by the PHS athletic department to address our middle school students' behavior at athletic events. If a student attends an athletic event, they are

### After School Study Lab

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

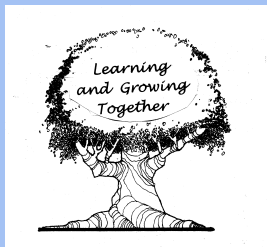
Students attending should come prepared with their books, homework, and a pencil. Our own academic aides supervise this study lab and are ready and willing to help!

### 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.



expected to watch the event. We have been having issues with students trying to get into the games without paying, handing tickets through the fence to avoid paying, roughhousing, and being disrespectful. If a student continues to be a behavior issue at an athletic event, they will be asked to leave. We would appreciate it if you would not leave your child unattended at an athletic event and talk to them about behavior beforehand.

### New Petoskey Middle School Sign

The staff of Petoskey Middle School would like to thank the Kroeger-Mainland Family Fund for their generous gift of our new Petoskey Middle School sign. This newly installed sign looks great! We also appreciate Marty at Hill Mountain Signworks for helping us with the design. We hope this sign will last a long time!



### Safety and Security Bond Proposal

Dr. Leslie is providing the following opportunities for our community members to learn more about the Public Schools of Petoskey Safety and Security Bond Proposal:

10/2	7:00PM	The Carnegie Building, Upper Level	Community Forum
10/4	5:30PM	Backlot	Sunset Rotary
10/10	12:00PM	City Park Grill	Noon Rotary
10/12	7:45AM	PHS	Parent Alliance
10/12	7:00PM	PMS	Parent Alliance
10/17	7:30AM	Sunrise Rotary	Rotary
10/19	3:15PM	Sheridan Elementary	Sheridan PTO
10/19	3:45PM	Ottawa Elementary	Ottawa PTO

### 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](mailto:OK2SAY@mi.gov). Tips are then shared with the appropriate agencies, who respond to keep everyone safe!



## IMPORTANT REMINDERS

### Attendance Procedures/Expectations

Please call the attendance line at 231-348-2293 as early in the day as possible. If you don't reach a secretary, leave a voicemail stating: **your name, your child's name and the reason for their absence** or you may email this information to [burriss.la.y@northmen.org](mailto:burriss.la.y@northmen.org).

When a student needs to be checked out for illness or other all day absences: Follow the directions above. If there are symptoms of fever, vomiting, or diarrhea please indicate this in your call and observe the district's 24 hour fever/diarrhea/vomit free policy.

When a student needs to be checked out mid-day for an appt: Appointments can be excused in advance. However, if your child needs a note (to be reminded of their dismissal time) please call the office **on the day of the appointment**. In an ideal situation, your child will come to the office on time.

When scheduling an absence 3 or more days in length: Notify the office in advance and request that your child be provided with a trip slip. This document is used to communicate absence and request advanced assignments. It must be signed by a parent & principal prior to departure. A copy will remain on file, and the student should reference the original during their trip.

## COMING SOON

### 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 October 12th at 7:00. If you are interested or have questions, please call Jon Wilcox at 348-2150.

### Halloween Dance

On Friday, October 27, we will have our Halloween Dance from 3:15 to 5:00. While we don't dress up during the day for Halloween, this is an opportunity for students to wear their school-appropriate Halloween costume.



Due to behavior at recent dances, students will not be allowed to use their cell phones during the dance. We will be enforcing our building policy on cell phones, that they must be kept in students' lockers.

Also, if you are interested in chaperoning, please contact the main office. A background check will need to be completed beforehand.



### Yellow Ribbon Presentation for 7th grade

For the past many years, we have provided our 7th grade students the opportunity to attend a presentation of the Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention program. This one hour presentation will take place on either October 16th or 17th, depending on your child's homeroom teacher. Opt-out forms were emailed earlier.

## 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!

### Boys Basketball

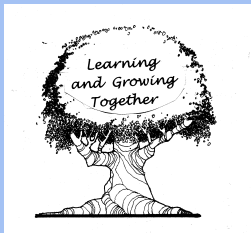
Boys Basketball try-outs will begin on Monday, October 23rd. Watch the announcements for more information.

Contact Gavin Fralick for 8th grade information at [fralick.gd.t@northmen.org](mailto:fralick.gd.t@northmen.org)

Contact Jeremy Stempky for 7th grade information at [stempky.je.t@northmen.org](mailto:stempky.je.t@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!**



# PETOSKEY NORTHMEN FOOTBALL

## Pink Game



## CANCER

*Play with Purpose*

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2023, 7 PM

VARSITY CONTEST VERSUS THE PIONEERS OF CLARE

### We are looking for Pink Game Sponsors!

**Event Sponsor \$500** - Event Sponsors will be announced throughout the game and will have their business name and logo on the Pink Game t-shirts and in the Pink Game program insert.

**Varsity Jersey Sponsor \$100** - Player Jersey Sponsors will be announced along with the person they are playing in honor/memory of (if applicable).

For example: *Tom Brady #12* (player name and number), is sponsored by *Carrie Underwood* (business name or individual name) and playing in honor memory of *Brian Piccolo* (person's name being honored/remembered).

Funds raised will be split between the **Petoskey Family Fund**- a school fund used to help those within the Petoskey Public School community with cancer related expenses and the **Oncology Patient Assistance Fund** through McLaren Northern Michigan Foundation- a fund that assists patients to overcome financial barriers as they seek diagnostic services and cancer care.

-----  
 Event Sponsor \$500                      Sponsor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Varsity Jersey Sponsor \$100      Sponsor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsored V player name and #: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsorship in honor of / memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

(circle which one)

Please make checks payable to Petoskey High School and include "Pink Game-Family Fund" in the memo. Online donation/sponsorship option available at <https://fivestarscreenprintingplus.com/pink/>.

**2023 Pink Committee Members**- reach out with questions and return forms/money to:

Tanya Janes: (231) 357-3985 Jennifer Dohm: (810) 449-1567 Cari Olson: (231) 340-0635  
Amanda Swiss: (231) 881-4473 Deb Webb: (231) 878-3534 Phyllis Wodek: (231) 838-3509  
Melissa Hahn: (231) 499-2648 Barb Elliott: (231) 330-0196 Chana Black (616) 490-3838

# HOT TOPICS

Join us in person  
for 2023-24!

## Risky Behaviors and How to Respond to Them

Helping parents and caregivers of teens connect!

We are pleased to bring back the Hot Topics seminars for the new school year. This year, sessions will be formatted into two back-to-back meetings on the same/similar topics. Here's what's ahead:

Adolescence is a time of adventure and risk taking. But how do we, as caregivers, guide teens toward healthy risks and help them navigate through potentially dangerous situations? Join us for a two-part series **exploring technology and substance use** in the teen years. We will share what we know about local and national trends and ways to talk openly with your teen about risk-taking behavior.

**Oct. 11, 2023 ■ 6:30-8 p.m.**

### **Social Media, Technology and Teens**

Michigan State Police officer Corey Hebner will discuss what teens are doing on social media, and ways to help monitor and protect your teen's social presence.

**LOCATION for both sessions:  
Petoskey Middle School Media Center**

**Oct. 18, 2023 ■ 6:30-8 p.m.**

### **Substance Use Trends for Teens**

**SAFE in Northern Michigan "Hidden in Plain Sight" trailer open 6-6:45 p.m.**

Petoskey Public Safety Officer Benjamin Carlson, school liaison officer, will discuss substance use trends for teens in our community. Visit the SAFE in Northern Michigan trailer ahead of the presentation to learn ways teens disguise substance use "in plain sight."

**"Now what?"** As part of each session, Christine Carpenter, LMSW Health Department of Northwest Michigan, and Rebekah Pederson, LPC, CAADC Alcona Health Center, will follow up with how to communicate with your teens about risk-taking behaviors.

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.