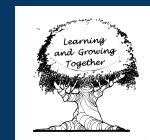


801 Northmen Drive
Petoskey, MI 49770
Main Line 348-2150
Attendance Line 348-2293
Fax 348-2234

PETOSKEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

December 2023 Edition NEWSLETTER



Upcoming Dates

Dec.4-12 - Hoops for the Holidays during Homeroom

Dec. 7 - MSPA Meeting (7:00)

Dec. 13 - 6th grade Band Concert, PMS Auditorium (6:30)

Dec. 25-Jan. 2 - Holiday Break

Jan. 3 - School Resumes

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

Jan. 19 - End of 2nd Quarter



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.

Northmen DRIVE Recognition

In last month's newsletter, we highlighted the middle school's Northmen DRIVE Award, our Positive Behavior (PBIS) model designed to promote and celebrate positive contributions to our school community. Everyone at PMS is encouraged to nominate anyone who they feel has exemplified the FVA. Staff members regularly acknowledge students for their displays of determination, respect, integrity, voice, and empathy, and recently students began recognizing other students and staff members as well. The response to this program has been so enthusiastic and well-received we'd like to extend this program to include parents! If you would like to recognize a student or staff member for a Northmen DRIVE Award, please fill out this [nomination form](#)!

As a staff, we would like to thank the parents of our students. Thank you for entrusting us with your child's education. We do not take this partnership lightly.

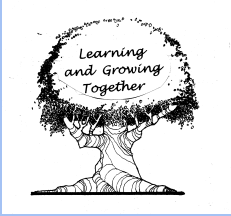
- Jon Wilcox, Principal



PMS Earns Designation as "US News Best Middle School" Again

US News and World Report released its latest ranking of middle schools in Michigan. We are proud to report that Petoskey Middle School has earned the designation of "US News Best Middle School" by ranking in the top 30% of middle schools across the state. More specifically, we were [ranked 67th](#) out of 2,026 middle schools in Michigan, putting us in the top 3% in the state!

This is an outstanding honor, recognizing our entire staff, whose professionalism, work ethic, and authentic care for children is noticeable every day. Our great students, supportive parents, and focus on the whole child are truly what make this an outstanding school.



RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

Attendance

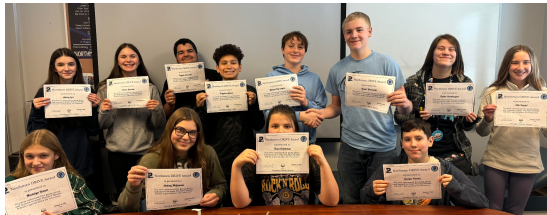
If a student is going to be absent or tardy, a parent or guardian must call the attendance line at 348-2293 by 9:00 a.m., or the absence will be considered unexcused until we receive a phone call or note. If your child does not feel well and you are calling to excuse them from school, please include 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!



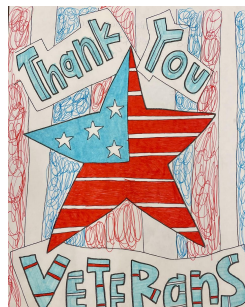
"Mary Poppins Jr." was a Hit!

We hope everyone had an opportunity to watch the fall show. It was simply outstanding! Big shout out to the cast, crew, and directors for putting on an incredible show!



Veterans Day Breakfast

On Veterans Day, Petoskey Middle School hosted our annual appreciation breakfast. We are grateful for all those who attended. Thank you for your service!



After School Study Lab

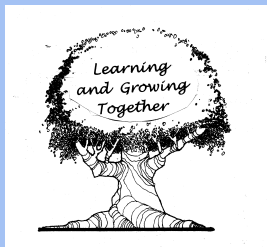
Study Lab is held from 3:15 to 4:15 pm, Monday thru Thursday in the Media Center. Students attending should come prepared with their books, homework, and a pencil. Our own academic aides supervise this study lab and are ready and willing to help!

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.



Youth in Government Conference

In November, 39 middle school students represented Petoskey Middle School at the YMCA Michigan Youth in Government Conference in Lansing. Students spent the fall learning about the legislative process, drafting their own bills, and learning parliamentary procedure. Students then acted as representatives and senators and debated their bills with students from across the state in the actual house and senate chambers! Eli Kennedy and Trevor Schoenborn both ran great campaigns. Luci Rushford and Jonah Corcoran earned "best committee chair." John Go and Crosby Ringle had their bill passed and signed by the Youth Governor.



G3 Robotics Teams Qualify for State!

Geeks, Gears & Gadgets (G3), Petoskey Middle School's 7th and 8th grade First Robotics Team is excited to share an update from their recent competition on December 2nd in Pellston. We competed with 34 other teams from all over Michigan. Both our Blue Team (8621) and Green Team (5411) took home Think Awards; this award goes to teams who excel at conveying their engineering process as it relates to the building and designing of their robot as well as other aspects of their season. The award is based on information found in their Engineering Portfolio, or the written component of their presentation. Team 5411 was invited to the State Competition in Howell, Michigan, on December 16th & 17th. Both teams are excited to travel to states for this experience.



NEW IMPORTANT INFORMATION

SBRIT Program Available

This summer, our school district worked with Alcona Health to implement the SBRIT (Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment) program. This program was put into place to provide students support in reducing and/or avoiding substance use. If you

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!



are interested in your child receiving this service, please reach out to us. Please see flyer at the end of this document for more information.

Art Donations Needed

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

- Magazines- current
- Newspapers
- Paper bags - lunch bags or grocery size
- Cardboard tubes
- Old costume jewelry
- Beads, twine, fishing line
- old house paint (still usable)
- Cereal box cardboard (or anything similar)
- **any other arts/craft items you might have around that you aren't using**



IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Get your PMS Gear!

Help support our Youth in Government program by ordering [PMS gear](#)! The store closes on December 10th.



This and more at <https://fivestarscreenprintingplus.com/petoskey-middle-school/>

COMING SOON

HOOPS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

From December 4th to December 12th, all students will be participating in a "Hoops for the Holidays" fundraiser one day during homeroom. Each student will have the chance to shoot baskets for a quarter per shot or five shots for a dollar. The homeroom with the most baskets will receive a holiday treat. All money collected during "Hoops for the Holidays" will go towards buying holiday gifts for a family in need. Start collecting your quarters!



ATHLETIC INFORMATION

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

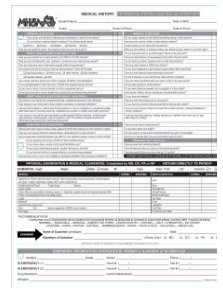
Sports are Up and Running

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.

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!

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.

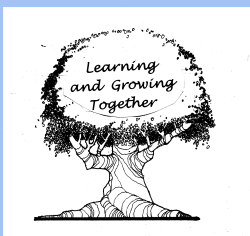


DROP OFF / PICK UP PROCEDURES

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!





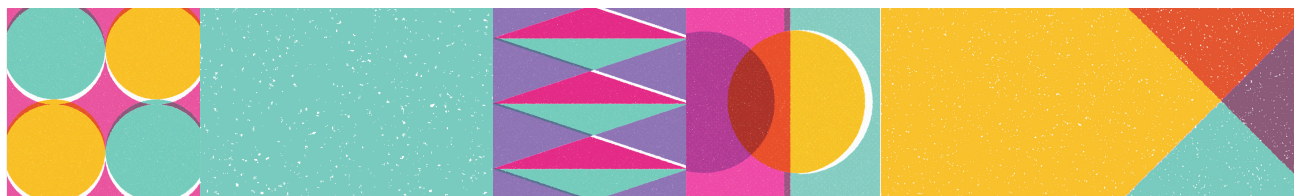
Petoskey Middle School
We Have

NORTHMEN DRIVE!

DETERMINATION
RESPECT
INTEGRITY
VOICE
EMPATHY

Learning and Growing Together





SBIRT

Screening, Brief Intervention,
and Referral to Treatment

SBIRT is well-suited for identifying and intervening with adolescents who are at-risk of developing substance use disorders or those adolescents whose substance use puts them at risk for injury or illness.

Program Goal

Goal To provide students with an opportunity to receive confidential, brief counseling sessions aimed at guiding them toward discovering their own motivations for reducing and avoiding substance use that could interfere with their ability to achieve their best future.

About SBIRT

- Screening quickly assesses the severity of substance use and identifies the appropriate level of treatment.
- Brief intervention focuses on increasing insight and awareness regarding substance use and motivation toward behavioral change.
- Referral to treatment provides those identified as needing more extensive treatment with access to specialty care.



Motivational Interviewing



Motivational Interviewing is an interpersonal counseling method that helps people find the internal motivation they need in order to change their self-destructive behavior. Furthermore, MI acknowledges how difficult it is to make life changes.

Contact Information

Jen Sickmiller, RN 231.412.2671

Connie Millstead, LLMSW 231.412.6459



This collaboration of the Public Schools of Petoskey and Alcona Health Center is supported through funding from Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS).



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.