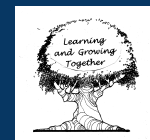


801 Northmen Drive
Petoskey, MI 49770
Main Line 348-2150
Attendance Line 348-2293
Fax 348-2234

PETOSKEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

February 2024 Edition NEWSLETTER



Upcoming Dates

Feb. 6 - Parent Teacher Conferences (5:30 - 7:30 pm)

Feb. 7 - Pre-Festival Band Concert (7:00 pm)

Feb. 8 - PHS Scheduling meeting for 8th grade (5:30 or 6:30)
MSPA Meeting (7:00)

Feb. 15 - Board of Education Meeting (7:00)

Feb. 16 - No School, Professional Development Day

Feb. 19 - No School, Mid-Winter Break

Feb. 20-23 - 6th Grade Snowshoeing

Feb. 22 - Band Festivals



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.

Preparing 8th Grade Students for the Transition to PHS

This marking period is a busy time for our soon-to-be high school students! While we definitely do not want them to get “senioritis” already, we have many things set in place to help with the first steps in this transition.

In preparation for the upcoming PHS Career Technical Education (CTE) visits, 8th grade Career Day, and the 4-year planning process for high school, Mrs. Kelley and Mrs. Pinney worked with students last week on career and college exploration.

On February 14, they will walk over to Petoskey High School to visit and observe the CTE class offerings, which will be available to them beginning next year. PHS student tour guides and CTE teachers will explain the various programs and answer any questions.

The following week, counselors will be presenting information about 4-year EDP's (Educational Development Plan) to all 8th grade classes. Students will receive information about graduation requirements, high school course sequences, and elective/CTE opportunities. They will be given a blank EDP and other information to begin developing their 4-year plan to begin to map out their high school course paths. While preliminary course selections are not set in stone and will be revisited each year of high school, we ask that parents approve their child's class selection for the 2024-25 school year so that they may be scheduled into those classes before spring break. Beginning February 20, the information we send home will also be available in *Schoology* “PHS Scheduling: Class of 2028.”

To help you and your child navigate this new and exciting territory, we encourage parents of 8th graders to attend the **PHS Parent Curriculum Meeting on February 8th** where high school counselors and administrators will be explaining their 2024-25 course offerings and scheduling process, as well as going over graduation requirements and answering questions.

In March, we will hold our annual 8th grade Career Day during which over 20 members of our community will share their professional experiences and expertise with our students. After Petoskey Police Chief Rocky Karr's keynote address, each eighth grader will rotate through four different career sessions, which are assigned in large part based on your child's interest and preference. That event runs from 8:30 - 11:00 on Wednesday, March 13.

After spring break, 8th graders will be taking the PSAT8, the state-mandated test in reading and math. This will be your child's first opportunity to take a practice SAT. The test will be administered from a digital platform, similar to the standardized tests students have taken in the past. Look for more information in the March newsletter!

Planning for high school and beyond is an exciting time, but we understand it can also create some nervousness for both students and parents. We will continue to provide information along the way, but also please feel free to reach out to either PMS or PHS counselors with questions!



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!

STAYING UP-TO-DATE WITH GRADES & ASSIGNMENTS

Now is also a great time to remind parents ways to stay up-to-date with your child's educational progress. You can utilize PowerSchool as the source of information regarding grades and Schoology is a great place to reference any assignments and lesson plans for the week. One of the main challenges we see is students making up work after an absence. PowerSchool and Schoology are great resources. If you need login information, please contact your child's homeroom teacher. Also, ask your child to show you the Schoology pages and their grades in PowerSchool. Every student in our building will know how to navigate both of these resources. As always, feel free to reach out to your child's teachers, counselors, or administrators if you have any questions.

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

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!





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.

NEW IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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**



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

Upcoming Speakers / Presentations

On February 28, our 7th and 8th grade students will have the opportunity to listen to Michigan State Trooper Corey Hebner present about online safety and the potential impact of online behavior. Trooper Hebner has been sharing this presentation with our students for many years. The information he imparts to students is impactful and relevant. This presentation was originally supposed to take place in January, but has been rescheduled due to a snow day.

Next Dance is Thursday, March 14

Our next dance will be a March Madness themed dance, and will take place from 3:15 to 5:00 on March 14. If parents are interested in chaperoning, please call our office.

ATHLETIC INFORMATION

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

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!



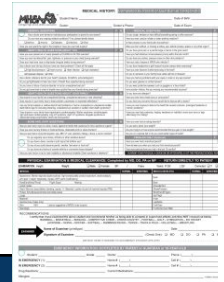
Sports are Up and Running

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](#). 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.

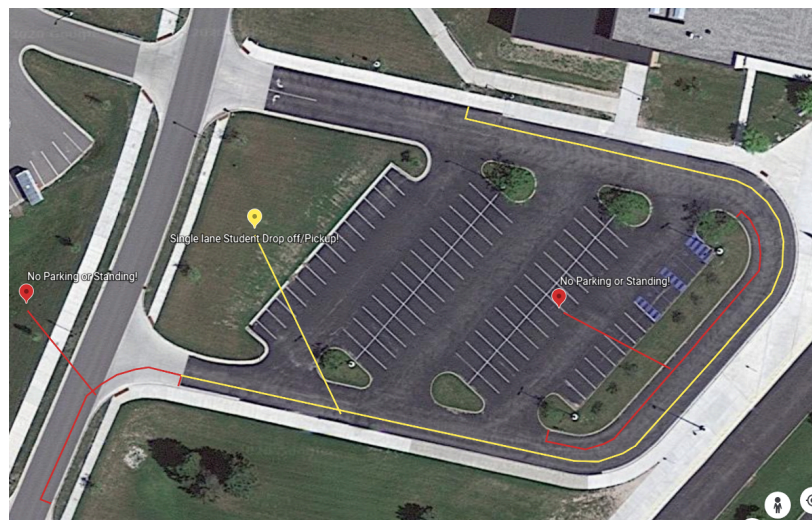


DROP OFF / PICK UP PROCEDURES

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!



PARENT CURRICULUM AND SCHEDULING MEETING



**FEBRUARY 8, 2024
5:30-6:00PM
OR 6:30-7:00PM**

PHS AUDITORIUM

JOIN US

- ✓ **REVIEW COURSE OFFERINGS**
- ✓ **ASK QUESTIONS**
- ✓ **LEARN HOW PHS HELPS ALL STUDENTS PLAN FOR THEIR POST SECONDARY PLANS**



Northmen Night

Save the Date

Friday, March 8, 2024

6:00 – 10:00 pm

Grand Unity Center

Hearty hors D'oeuvres, Entertainment, Silent and Live Auction

Please show your support in one or more of the following ways:

- Be a sponsor of the event
- Purchase a ticket to Northmen Night & bring your friends
 - Donate a prize for the live or silent auction
 - Buy a \$20 raffle ticket
- Join the committee to help the fundraising efforts

Northmen Night was started 18 years ago when funding for the athletic department was dramatically cut. The goal is to continue to offer exceptional athletic programs that our students deserve.

Tickets are \$50

Proceeds from Northmen Night go directly to the Athletic Department to support our Athletic Programs

Call 231-348-2220 for more information or go to
<https://www.biddingforgood.com/petoskeyschools>

