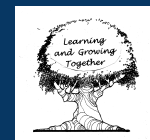


801 Northmen Drive
Petoskey, MI 49770
Main Line 348-2150
Attendance Line 348-2293
Fax 348-2234

PETOSKEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

February 2025 Edition NEWSLETTER



Upcoming Dates

February 5 - Pre-Festival Concert (7:00 pm)

February 6 - Freshman Parent Meeting at PHS (5:30)
DC Parent Meeting at PMS (6:30)

February 14 - No School, Staff PD

February 17 - No School, Mid-Winter Break

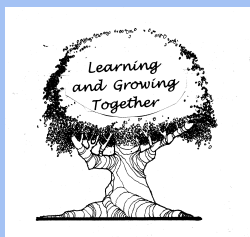
February 18 - School Board meeting (6:00)

February 28 - 7th and 8th grade field trips

March 6 - MSPA Meeting (7:00)

March 7 - Northmen Night (See Flier)

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.



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.

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 6th** where high school counselors and administrators will be explaining their 2025-26 course offerings and scheduling process, as well as going over graduation requirements and answering questions.

This Thursday, February 6, PHS counselors will be presenting information about 4-year EDP's (Educational Development Plan) to all 8th grade students. 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 tentatively 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 2025-26 school year so that they may be scheduled into those classes before spring break. The information we send home will also be available in Schoology, titled “Welcome to Petoskey High School: Scheduling.”

On February 13, the entire 8th grade 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.

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 12.

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!

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!



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!

Respectfully,
Jon Wilcox, Principal

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

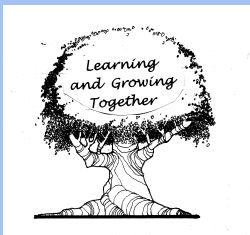
Study Lab is held from 3:15 to 4:15 pm, Monday thru Thursday in the Media Center. Students attending should come prepared with their books, homework, and a pencil. Our own academic aides supervise this study lab and are ready and willing to help!

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.



Enrichment Opportunities - Spelling Bee

Congratulations to the 12 participants in our school-wide spelling bee on January 28. Our top 3 finishers were Talullah Placido, Lena Grace, and Fiona Boyer. Talullah and Lena will advance to the Regional Bee in Traverse City in March! Congrats to all twelve for showing Northmen DRIVE!



NEW INFORMATION / COMING SOON

Kindergarten Registration Information - Please share!

The Public Schools of Petoskey is preparing to welcome the Northmen classes of 2038! [Kindergarten registration](#) is open for the 2025/26 school year to children turning 5 by September 1st.

CTE Camp Registration is Open

There are many Career and Technical Education (CTE) camps available to middle school students this summer. [Click here for more information](#) or check the flier at the end of the document. The camps are scheduled for June 17-19, and cover a huge range of topics. Check them out!

If cost is an issue, there are scholarships available. Please reach out if you need any help with this.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Box Tops for Education

If you are interested in participating in the well-known Box Tops for Education program, please click on [this link](#), or use the QR code. We use this money to purchase items to help our teachers. A few years ago we were able to purchase a laminator for our school using these funds.



Feeling Sick?

If your child is sick, please keep them home from school. There are many students out with illnesses lately, so we are asking to please abide by our school policy of keeping students



OK2SAY



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!

Custodial Notices

[Click here](#) for more information about chemicals used in or around the building.



home for 24 hours after a fever (100.4 or higher), or experiencing vomiting or diarrhea. Please notify the office of any flu, strep, or other contagious infections.

Also, if you know your child will be out of school for three or more school days, please have them fill out a [Trip Slip](#). This helps everyone stay on the same page!

OK2SAY

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](#). 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!



Stop the Silence. Help End the Violence.

Art Donations Needed

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

- Q-tips
- Gallon ziploc bags
- Bubble wrap
- Aluminum foil
- Parchment paper
- Newspapers
- Cardboard tubes
- Duct tape
- Old costume jewelry/beads
- Cereal box cardboard
- Paper and plastic bags
- House Paint - any color



ATHLETIC INFORMATION

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

Winter Sports are up and running!

Wrestling

Contact Tyler Hallstedt for PMS Wrestling information at thallstedt@northmen.org.

Girls Basketball

Contact Coach Wallace for 7th grade information at wallacer@charemisd.org.

Contact Mary Bielaczyc for 8th grade information at mbielaczyc@northmen.org.

Ski Team

Contact Noah Honaker for PMS Ski Team information at nhonaker@northmen.org.

IM Girls Basketball

Contact Mel Zamarron for more information at zamarron.ma.t@northmen.org.

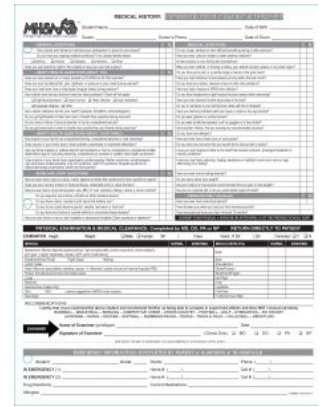
Dance Team

Contact Jen Hopkins for more information at hopkins.jn.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 2024-25 school year must be completed no earlier than April 15, 2024.



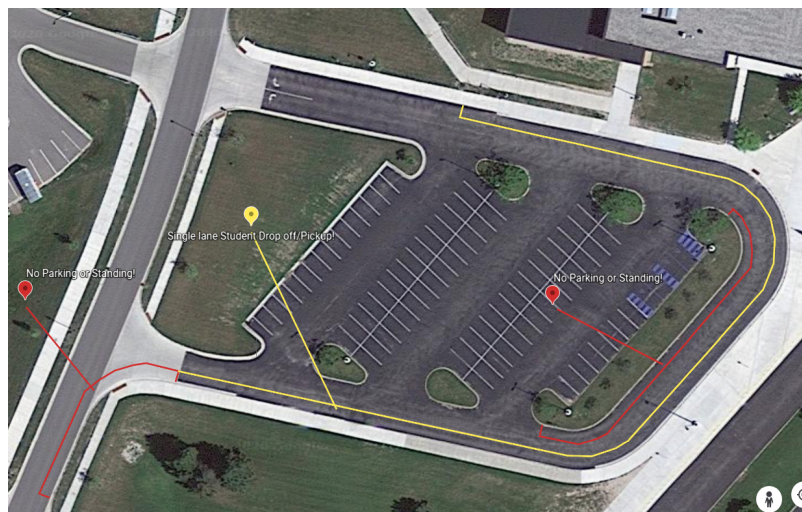
For the most up-to-date information, please visit the [middle school athletics website](#). Please watch the student announcements for sign-up information for the upcoming seasons. We encourage students to try new activities during middle school!

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!



Students crossing Northmen Drive at any time should use the tunnels!

The District will not discriminate against any person based on race, color, national origin, ethnicity, religion, sex (including pregnancy, gender identity, and sexual orientation), height, weight, marital status, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, military service, or any other legally protected class. The Board reaffirms its long-standing policy of compliance with all applicable federal and state laws and regulations prohibiting discrimination.

*Civil Rights & Title IX Coordinator, Becky Smith, Director of Teaching and Learning
Spitler Administration Building, 1130 Howard Street, Petoskey, MI 49770
231-348-2352, TitleIXCoordinator@northmen.org*

PARENT CURRICULUM AND SCHEDULING MEETING

**FEBRUARY 6, 2025
5:30-6:00PM**

PHS AUDITORIUM

JOIN US

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

Support Northmen Athletes Attend the 2025 Northmen Night!!



Friday, March 7, 2025

6:00 - 10:00 pm

Grand Unity Center

Tickets \$50

Visit

www.biddingforgood.com/petoskeyschools

or call

231-348-2220

for more information or to be a sponsor

Online registration
opens Feb. 3, 2025!
Details at
charemisdcareertech.org.



Char-Em
CA4K!
CAREER ACADEMY FOR KIDS
CHARLEVOIX-EMMET INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT



June 17-19, 2025 | 9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

THREE LOCATIONS: HARBOR SPRINGS, BOYNE CITY, PELLSTON

Career Academy for Kids is a summer program of enrichment classes for kids K-8, operated by Charlevoix-Emmet ISD Career & Technical Education!

Classes are designed for students **currently** enrolled in grades K-8 (2024-25). The cost for CA4K is \$100. **Registration opens online Feb. 3, 2025.**



HARBOR SPRINGS SHAY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Fun with Nature

Current grades: 2, 3, 4, 5

If you enjoy being outdoors, exploring nature, and being an active observer, you'll love our daily hikes or outdoor activities.

Be a Kid-Preneur!

Current grades: 3, 4, 5

Be the CEO of fun! Let your imagination run wild as you dream up an idea for a business.

Char-Em Street STEM

Current grades: 3, 4, 5

A STEM challenge each day will have students exploring science, technology, engineering and math in this fun offering!

Photography: Tourist in your own Town!

Current grades: 4, 5, 6

Learn basic photography skills first, then turn your images into promotional pieces by learning graphic design basics.

Fishing Explorers: Bait, Cast, and Catch

Current grades: 6, 7, 8

Students will learn essential fishing skills such as how to choose and use different types of bait, cast a line, and identify species.

Char-Em Beauty Salon

Current grades: 7, 8

Hands-on experiences in hair styling, makeup application, skincare, and nail art await!

PELLSTON HIGH SCHOOL POWERSPORTS BLDG

POWERSPORTS TECHNOLOGY

Current grades: 6, 7, 8

Learn to identify engine and chassis components and use manuals for repair of small engines and outdoor equipment.

BOYNE CITY MIDDLE SCHOOL

Street STEM 2.0

Current grades: K, 1, 2

A STEM challenge each day will have students exploring science, technology, engineering and math in this fun new offering!

Char-Em Med

Current grades: 6, 7, 8

Put on scrubs and enter the world of medicine. Learn what it takes to be a nurse, paramedic, surgeon and other careers.

CA4K Chopped!

Current Grades: 6, 7, 8

Kids will have an exploration in cooking with fun and tasty recipes while gaining experience that can be used in their home kitchens.

Painting and Drawing: Flowers & Plants, Insects & Birds, Oh My!

Current grades: 6, 7, 8

Learn how to identify, draw, and paint plants, flowers, insects and birds that live around us in Northern Michigan.

Complete course descriptions & registration link can be found online: www.charemisdcareertech.org

Additional classes will be offered - check back often!

Online registration opens Feb. 3, 2025

Questions or more info: camps@charemisd.org

It is the policy of Charlevoix-Emmet Intermediate School District to comply with all federal laws and regulations prohibiting discrimination and with all requirements and regulations of the U.S. Department of Education. It is the policy of Char-Em ISD that no person on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, age, gender, height, weight, marital status, or disability shall be subjected to discrimination in any program, activity or service for which it is responsible, or for which it receives financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Education. Contact the Civil Rights Coordinator at 231.547.9947.

Kesem is a community that believes every child affected by a parent's cancer deserves the chance to fully experience their childhood and be their best self. Volunteer college student leaders are the heart of our community. They model the emotional leadership and passion critical to providing these children with a fun, inclusive, and transformative experience where they can process, connect, heal, and thrive.

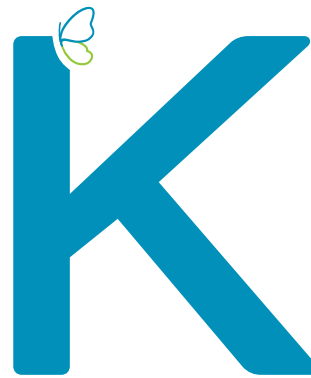


99%

of parents would recommend Kesem programs to other families affected by cancer

97%

of parents agree that Kesem had a positive impact on their family



Kesem's mission of supporting children through and beyond a parent's cancer, and our vision of ensuring that every child impacted by a parent's cancer is never alone, can only be realized through an ongoing, steadfast commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in every part of our organization.

Camp Kesem applications open in January each year. [Read more, sign up to be notified when applications open, or register your child at **KESEM.ORG**](#)



FOLLOW KESEM



GET IN TOUCH

support@kesem.org

253.736.3821

440 N Barranca Ave #2273
Covina, CA 91723



A child's friend through and beyond a parent's cancer, Kesem offers support at no cost to families.

kesem 

Why we do what we do.

The number of children who have lost a parent from or have a parent with a cancer diagnosis is over 5 million. This is a staggering number of children who may be facing:

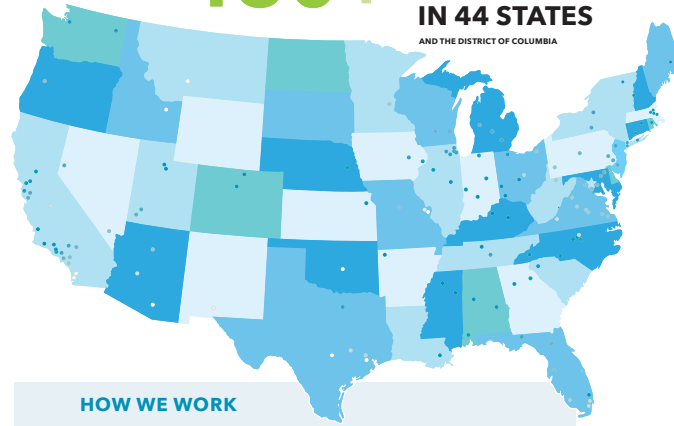
- isolation from peers
- low academic performance
- loss of social interest
- taking on adult roles

Kesem can help.

ABOUT KESEM AND CAMP KESEM

Kesem is the leading national nonprofit that supports children affected by a parent's cancer. Founded in 2000, Kesem's community of more than 4,000 volunteer college student leaders at more than 130 college campus chapters across the country provides year-round programs and services to support children ages 6-18 at no cost to families. Its flagship program, [Camp Kesem](#), is a week-long, sleep-away summer camp. At camp, kids have fun and build connections with each other and counselors who understand and are trained to support their needs. Beyond camp, year-round services such as care packages, personalized greetings, birthday cards, local gatherings, leadership groups, and affinity groups provide a continuum of touchpoints for campers and their families.

130+ UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE CHAPTERS IN 44 STATES AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



HOW WE WORK

MOBILIZE EMPATHETIC AND PASSIONATE COLLEGE STUDENT LEADERS FROM ALL IDENTITIES AND BACKGROUNDS TO COMMIT TO VOLUNTEER IN SERVICE OF CHILDREN AFFECTED BY A PARENT'S CANCER.



FOSTER STUDENT LEADERS' SKILLS, TALENTS, AND COMMITMENT TO ENSURE THE SUCCESSFUL DELIVERY OF THE FLAGSHIP PROGRAM, CAMP KESEM, AND OTHER FUN, CREATIVE, AND INCLUSIVE YEAR-ROUND PROGRAMS AND SERVICES THAT ALLOW EVERY CHILD TO FEEL SAFE, LOVED, AND RESPECTED.



EMPOWER CHILDREN TO FIND THEIR VOICE, ESTABLISH SUPPORTIVE RELATIONSHIPS, AND BUILD RESILIENCE, TRANSFORMING THEIR EXPERIENCE WITH A PARENT'S CANCER AND ITS IMPACT ON THEIR LIFE.



CULTIVATE AND STRENGTHEN ENDURING COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS THAT LAST THROUGH AND BEYOND A PARENT'S CANCER.



WHO CAN ATTEND? Camp Kesem serves children 6 to 18 years old who have lost a parent to cancer, have a parent currently undergoing cancer treatment, or whose parent is a cancer survivor—an estimated population of over 5 million children in the United States.

HOW LONG ARE THE CAMPS?

The camps are typically one week in length.

HOW MUCH DOES CAMP COST? Camp Kesem is completely **free** to all children who attend.

WHO RUNS THE CAMPS? Our camps are staffed by highly trained college student leaders. These students are carefully screened through a competitive interview process and undergo extensive training prior to camp. Our student leaders work year-round to raise funds, conduct outreach in their communities, and plan programming to make camp a truly unique and unforgettable experience. Each camp is also staffed with nursing and mental health professionals.

CAN CHILDREN RETURN TO CAMP KESEM MORE THAN ONCE? Yes! Kesem campers are part of our family for life and they love the bonds they form with friends who return year after year.

DOES CAMP KESEM PROVIDE THERAPY? No. Our student leaders provide a warm and loving environment where children are free to share their feelings with one another. Our model focuses on providing a strong peer-based support network where children can find strength, hope, compassion, and fun.

WHERE DO I FIND A LOCAL CAMP?

Visit [kesem.org](#).

HOW DO I APPLY? Applications open in January of each year and are processed on a first-come, first-serve basis. All applications are submitted online at [kesem.force.com](#).

FREE

2nd Saturdays



2025 DATES

Jan 11

Feb 8

Mar 8

Apr 12

May 10

Jun 14

Jul 12

Aug 9

Sept 13

Oct 11

Nov 8

Dec 13

FREE ADMISSION Noon-4pm

2nd Saturday of each month

- All ages, abilities and interests
- Enjoy fun hands-on science, history and art
- Explore the museum and animals
- Discover outdoor exhibits
- Strengthen creative and critical thinking skills
- Find opportunities for problem solving
- Build a generation of curious learners

Please no groups. Free 2nd Saturdays are reserved for quality family time.



Admission for families on Free 2nd Saturdays is in memory of Diane Strzelinski.