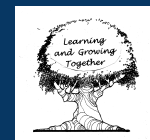


801 Northmen Drive
Petoskey, MI 49770
Main Line 348-2150
Attendance Line 348-2293
Fax 348-2234

PETOSKEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

January 2025 Edition NEWSLETTER



Upcoming Dates

January 9 - MSPA Meeting
(7:00)

January 14 - Board of
Education meeting (7:00)

January 16 - Hot Topics
Forum (6:00, see flier)

January 20 - No School;
MLK Jr. Day; Staff PD

January 24 - Half Day of
School, End of 2nd
Quarter

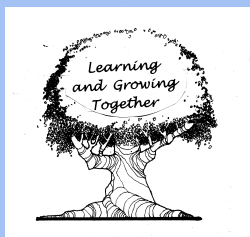
February 6 - Freshman
Parent Meeting at PHS
(5:30)

February 14 - No School,
Staff PD

February 17 - No School,
Mid-Winter Break

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.**



School Safety - ALICE Training Update

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The safety and welfare of our students and staff remain our highest priority at the Public Schools of Petoskey. We are dedicated to creating a secure environment where students can focus on learning and growth. To that end, we continue to make significant strides in improving school safety through both enhanced building measures and ongoing training for our students and staff.

As part of our 2023 bond project, we are enhancing safety across the district with key improvements, including the installation of secure vestibules, protective window film, and camera upgrades. We are also integrating the CrisisGo platform to streamline communication during emergencies.

This fall, we completed the first phase of equipping all staff with ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) protocols. This nationally recognized options-based program is designed to better prepare schools in the unlikely event of an active shooter situation.

The next phase of our initiative involves introducing students to ALICE protocols over the coming months. This training will be delivered in an age-appropriate manner, ensuring students feel empowered and secure without causing unnecessary worry.

We are fortunate to collaborate with the Petoskey Department of Public Safety and other county law enforcement agencies in this effort. Their expertise, along with the guidance of our two dedicated school resource officers, Officer Ben Carlson and Officer Larry Donovan, ensures that our training is both comprehensive and effective.

If you have any questions about the training or our overall safety initiatives, please feel free to contact your building principal. We value your input and are here to address any concerns.

We look forward to continuing our partnership with families, Petoskey Department of Public Safety, and community agencies to provide the safest possible learning environment for every student.

Thank you for your ongoing support. Together, we can ensure our schools remain a place of safety, growth, and achievement.

Respectfully,
Jon Wilcox, Principal

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 attend classes at Petoskey High School, please inform the office to also adjust the high school attendance. Thank you!



THANK YOU!

Thank you for all the generosity offered throughout the holiday season. Our Hoops for the Holiday campaign raised nearly \$1400 dollars that was used to help local families during the holiday season. Also, thank you to everyone who reached out and offered to support another family, and especially to Angie Kelley for coordinating all the help. In all, twenty families were supported by generous donations during this holiday season! Thank you!

Enrichment Opportunities Continue

Our Enrichment program continues to provide exciting and fun opportunities for our students at Petoskey Middle School. The Math Counts Club started in December and will run until February. This club is open to all 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students and will meet Thursdays after school. We will practice different types of math problems at our meetings, and then our top students will be invited to a Math Competition in Traverse City in February. Watch the announcements for more details!

Our whole building will be participating in the Scripps Spelling Bee during the Month of January. This building initiative allows students to bring their skills together to work as a team to get every student spelling and using Northmen DRIVE.

NEW INFORMATION / COMING SOON

8th Grade Students Start 4-Year Plans

In preparation for the transition to Petoskey High School in the fall, our 8th grade students will soon start working with counselors on career exploration and high school course planning. It is an exciting time to start thinking about their next big step! We have more planned to help prepare for this transition.

There will be an informational Freshman Parent meeting about scheduling and curriculum at PHS on February 6th at 5:30 pm in the PHS Auditorium. Look for more detailed information soon!

THANK YOU to the Youth Advisory Council

(There was misinformation in our last newsletter regarding the grant information, so we are resharing the correct information in this newsletter.)

The Petoskey School District, on behalf of the Petoskey Pack Therapy Dog Program, is very pleased to announce that they were selected to receive a charitable grant totaling \$7,500, to cover the training costs for a certified therapy dog. Upon completion of his training in the spring of 2025, "Ace," a yellow labrador retriever, will be assigned to Petoskey Middle School to provide emotional support for those in need. When school is not in session, Ace will be employed to visit the elderly in assisted care homes and wherever else he may be of service to the community.

This grant award was made possible through the generous support from the Fund for Youth, Ted and Brenda Frey, and the Thomas D Ogden Family Fund of the Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation.

The Petoskey Pack Therapy Dog Program is continuing to seek private donations and grant awards to fund the addition of "Hutch," Ace's brother, who will be assigned to Ottawa

After School Study Lab

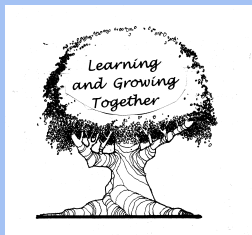
Study Lab is held from 3:15 to 4:15 pm, Monday thru Thursday in the Media Center. Students attending should come prepared with their books, homework, and a pencil. Our own academic aides supervise this study lab and are ready and willing to help!

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.

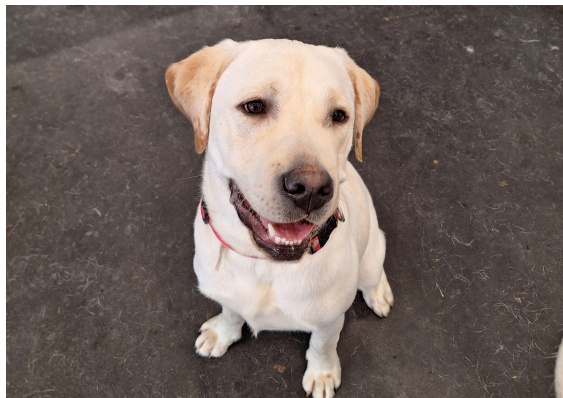
Medications

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.



Elementary. The Petoskey Pack program goal is to provide therapy dog in each of the schools in the Petoskey Public School District.

Anyone wishing to donate to the Petoskey Pack Therapy Dog Program is invited to contact Becky Smith at the Petoskey School District Administration building located at 1130 Howard Street in Petoskey or by calling 231-348-2100.



Ace should be joining our staff after Spring Break!

Board Appreciation Month

January is School Board Appreciation Month. In Petoskey, we are lucky to have such dedicated school board members. They work hard and make tough decisions, and they always do whatever they can to support the students in our district. So, thank you Mark Ashley, Kathy Reed, Denise Petoskey, Beth Flynn, and Jennie Attie for everything you do for our school district!

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

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





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.



ATHLETIC INFORMATION

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

Boys Basketball

Contact Nick Ralph for 8th grade information at nralph@petoskeysfx.org.
Contact Jeremy Stempky for 7th grade information at stempky.je.t@northmen.org.

Wrestling

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

Girls Basketball

Tryouts for Girls Basketball teams are on January 6 and 7 from 3:45 - 5:30. Contact Coach Wallace for 7th grade information at wallacer@charemisd.org and Mary Bielaczyc for 8th grade information at mbielaczyc@northmen.org.

There is an information meeting for IM Girls Basketball on Wednesday, January 8th during homeroom. Contact Mel Zamarron for more information at zamarron.ma.t@northmen.org.

Dance Team

Attention students interested in joining the PMS Dance team. There is a second meeting in Mrs. Hopkins room during homeroom on Wednesday the 8th. 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

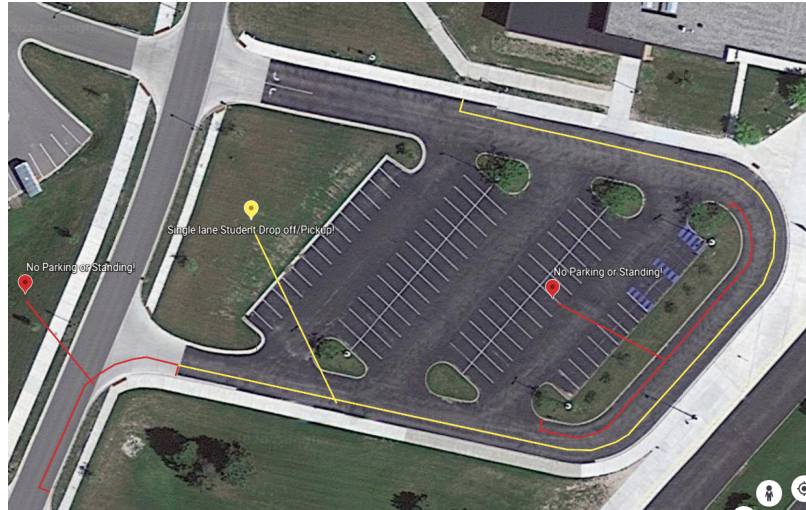
The parent drop off and pick up procedure is an extremely important process that everyone must abide by. There has been an article in this newsletter for the past several months explaining the procedure, but it is important to review for the safety of all of our children. Parents should drop off and 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

HOT TOPICS

Join us in person
for 2024-25!

TEENS, TECH & SOCIAL MEDIA

Help your teen navigate the online universe!

Helping parents and caregivers of teens connect!

Social media plays a big role in teen culture today. Most teens either have their own mobile devices or daily access to a smart phone. *On average, teens today are online nearly 9 hours a day, not including time for homework!* Up to 95% of teens ages 13-17 use social media. There are positive aspects of social media, but also potential risks.



This is a familiar sight...

Join Michigan State Police Trooper Corey Hebner as he reviews what teens are doing on social media and how they are using it differently than adults. Ways to help monitor and protect your teen's social media presence will also be discussed.

Thursday, Jan. 16, 2025 | 6:00–7:30 p.m.

PRESENTER:

Corey Hebner, Trooper, Michigan State Police

LOCATION:

Petoskey High School Media Center

Open to parents, caregivers & community.

On-site child care provided from 6:00–7:30 p.m. If you have questions or if transportation is a barrier, contact Christine at (231) 347-5326. Please RSVP also if child care is needed.

Presented by Petoskey Public Schools, Alcona Health Center, and the Health Department of Northwest Michigan.

Questions? Call (231) 347-5326.

PSWP **P** PETOSKEY SCHOOL WELLNESS PROGRAM

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY
2025

Physical and Mental Health Reminders

🧡 Health & Wellness Reminders for Winter 🧡

As the winter months roll in, staying healthy—both physically and mentally—is more important than ever. Here are some tips to keep you and your loved ones safe and thriving this season!

Physical Health Tips

Stay Vaccinated:

Ensure your flu shot and other vaccinations are up to date. Stop by our health center if you need assistance!

Hydrate, Even in Winter:

Cold weather can make us forget to drink enough water. Keep a reusable water bottle handy!

Boost Your Immunity:

Eat vitamin-rich foods like oranges, broccoli, and spinach. Consider taking Vitamin D to combat lower sunlight exposure.

Bundle Up:

Wear hats, gloves, and layers to protect against frostbite and hypothermia during chilly days.

Wash Your Hands:

Prevent the spread of germs by washing hands often, especially after coughing or sneezing.

Mental Health Tips

Beat the Winter Blues:

Spend time outdoors when the sun is shining. Even 10 minutes of sunlight can improve your mood.

Practice Self-Care:

Relax with activities you enjoy—reading, crafting, or journaling can help reduce stress.

Stay Connected:

Reach out to friends and family. Social connection is key to mental health.

Maintain Routines:

Keeping consistent sleep, meal, and study schedules can provide stability and reduce stress.

Ask for Help:

If you're feeling overwhelmed, anxious, or sad, visit our health center. We're here to help with counseling and support services!

☀️ Join Our PSWP Community Advisory Committee! ☀️

The PSWP Community Advisory Committee is seeking engaged parents and guardians to help guide and enhance our efforts in supporting students' physical and mental health.

As a member of this advisory group, you will have the opportunity to provide valuable insights, collaborate on initiatives, and contribute to shaping the programs and services that impact our school wellness program. Your participation can make a lasting difference in the lives of our students.

If you are interested in joining this meaningful effort, please contact Carley Dettloff at cdettloff@alconahc.org for more information. We look forward to your involvement!

Contact Info and Insurance Resource

- For more information or to schedule an appointment, visit our website or contact PSWP at (231)412-6371.

Stay well this winter,

The PSWP Team



Parent/Guardian Survey

School-Based Patient Satisfaction
Survey: Parents & Guardians



Please fill out this anonymous survey to let us know how your student's PSWP experience has been!