



Menomonie Middle School Newsletter

December/January 2019-20

Mark Your Calendar

Tues. Dec. 3: 6th Grade
Band Recording Day at
High School

Mon. Dec. 9: 6th/7th Grade
Band/Choir Concert, 7pm

Tues. Dec. 10:
Parent/Guardian Alliance
Meeting – 5:30pm

Wed. Dec. 11: MathCounts
competition at MMS

Fri. Dec. 13: Gymnastics
performance night, 5pm at
EXA

Mon. Dec. 16: 6-8 Orchestra
Concert

Tues. Dec. 17: 8th Grade
Band/Choir Concert

Fri. Dec. 20: All school
Stout Basketball Trip

Fri. Dec. 20: Last day of
class before Winter Break

Mon. Dec 23 – Wed. Jan. 1:
No School Winter Break

Thurs. Jan. 2: School
resumes

Thurs. Jan. 9: 8th Grade
ACP Parent Meeting, 8-9am

Tues. Jan. 14: 3 on 3
Basketball Tournament
Fundraiser

Tues. Jan. 14: 8th Grade
ACP Parent Meeting, 5-6pm

Tues. Jan. 14: 8th Grade
ACP Parent Meeting, 6:30 –
7:30pm

Fri. Jan. 17: Last Day of
Term 2

Mon. Jan. 20: No School –
PD Day

Tues. Jan 21: Term 3 begins

Tues. Jan 28: Band-A-Rama
@ High School

Greetings from Principal Boettcher!

Welcome to a winter wonderland. I want to remind everyone to use caution and be careful as you enter and exit the parking lot as it can be slippery. Our maintenance staff works hard to keep up with the snow and ice. Please continue to use the entire drop off area to keep traffic flow moving.

One of the Middle School goals is that each student will achieve grade level expectations. Some of our students need a little extra help to achieve grade level expectations. We are very fortunate to have a reading and math specialist to help our students. We will be piloting a way to reach more students that need help with reading or math. We have inserted a reading and math lab into the Exploratory rotation. Students who need some extra help with reading comprehension or fluency for example will now get the help they need. This will be like a seven week personal training session for reading or math.

We also offer after school Math tutoring sessions.

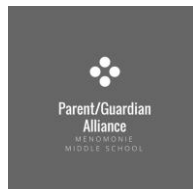
6th grade Thursday 3:05-4:00
7th grade Tuesday 3:05-3:45
8th grade Thursday 3:05-3:45

Thank you,

Bart Boettcher - Principal
Attitude + Effort = Success!

Parent/Guardian Alliance Group!

The MMS Parent/Guardian Alliance is a group of parents/guardians and teachers who actively foster a spirit of cooperation and a sense of support, pride and enthusiasm for education. Nurturing a sense of community and engagement for families is our ambition.



Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 10th,
from 5:30 – 6:30 pm in the MMS commons.

We are scheduled to meet on February 11th and April 14th.

For more information please email: MenomonieMSAlliance@gmail.com

We also have a Facebook page: Parent/Guardian Alliance of MMS

All are welcome and encouraged to attend!

December 1, 2019

Dear MMS Families,

Are you planning a family trip for the holidays? As you think about your arrangements, we want to stress the importance of sending your child to school every day possible. Every year, absences spike in the weeks before and after the winter holiday as families squeeze in a few more vacation days. It's time to break that cycle. We know that just a few missed days here and there, even if they're excused absences, can add up to too much lost learning time and put your child behind in school. This is as true in kindergarten as it is in high school. Put simply, too many absences at any age can affect a student's chances for academic success and eventually for graduation.



We recognize that holidays are an important time for reconnecting with families far away. But keep in mind the costs to your children's education if they miss too much school— and the message you will be sending about the importance of attendance. Even if you've got a homework packet from the teacher, it doesn't make up for the interaction and learning that happens in the classroom. Our teachers will be teaching, and our students will be learning, right up until vacation starts and the first day back. You can help us convey that message. This holiday season, give your children the gift of an education and the habit of attendance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'B. Boettcher', written over a horizontal line.

Bart Boettcher
MMS Principal

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Anderson', written over a horizontal line.

Mark Anderson
MMS Assistant Principal

Notes from the Front Office:

RE: Student Bus Passes, Student Appointments, Student Messages



Middle school students are busy young people!

The MMS front office assistants are available to support families and students when the need for a bus pass, pass from class, or student message occurs. To better serve you and to minimize classroom interruptions, keep the following guidelines in mind:

- ✓ Students can be notified at lunch about messages or deliveries.
- ✓ Students cannot be paged during the school day: 7:43 am through 3:05 pm.
- ✓ Bus passes must be requested by students/families in writing prior to 11:00 am. Text messages are not accepted.
- ✓ Bus pass requests after 11:00 am may not be authorized due to passenger count.
- ✓ Students can be released from class to attend appointments by securing a Classroom Pass Release from the front office. A Classroom Pass Release requires a written excuse from a parent/guardian. This excuse must include the following information: date, time of appointment, and general reason. The time listed on the excuse will be the time the student is released from class.
- ✓ **Written excuses are preferred rather than parent/guardian phone calls to avoid unnecessary interruptions to the classroom. Please try to avoid showing up to pick up students at the last minute.**
- ✓ Students released from class during the school day must wait in the front office reception area for a parent/guardian to arrive. Parents must come to the front office and sign their student out on the registry prior to leaving the school building.
- ✓ Students returning to school after appointments must check in the front office before returning to class. Students must sign the front office registry and get a pass back to class upon their return.
- ✓ Please do not text students during class as students are not allowed to use their cell phones during the school day. Try to make arrangements prior to the beginning of the school day.

Thank you for supporting our MMS front office.

Lost and Found

We accumulate many, many clothing items and lunch bags/boxes from the start of the school year. Please take the time to check our “Lost and Found” table when you are in the building. The “Lost and Found” is located in the hallway by the main office. Or even better, encourage your student to look for their missing items.



Dental Clinic at MMS

Bridging Brighter Smiles, Inc. provides preventative dental care right at school! Services offered include, oral screenings, dental cleanings, sealants, fluoride varnish applications, and referral assistance. Visits are held throughout the school year. This program is open to all students in the district 4K through 12th grade.

To enroll your children, simply go to enrollment.bbsmiles.org to complete an enrollment form right online.

Questions? Call Bridging Brighter Smiles at (262) 896-9891, or visit them on the web at www.bbsmiles.org.

We're here to help you! Sometimes it can be confusing to know who to talk to. Here are a few of the main phone numbers and people to talk to.

Main School Number: (715) 232-1673

Attendance Secretary – Kelly Steinmeyer - ext. 30100

Student will not be at school

Student is leaving school early—appointment

Student has a planned absence—vacation

Have a question about your student's attendance.

Nurse's Office – Amanda Eastvold —ext. 30103

Student is sick and would like to leave school

Questions regarding medications and plans

Food Service - Kari Sisko - (715) 232-2606 ext. 42124

Food Service is located at the High School

Questions about lunch accounts

Guidance Office – Mykayla Sygulla - ext. 30110

Questions regarding students in 6th grade.

Guidance Office - Nancy Horner - ext. 30112

Questions regarding students in 7th grade.

Guidance Office – Katherine Hugo - ext. 30108

Questions regarding students in 7th grade.

Main Office - Tina Liestman—ext. 30111

Have a question about your student's fees—PE lock fee, device insurance, athletic/club fees, etc.

Parent/Family Online Access

Online Family Access is available for all families in the district. To obtain a username and password, contact our district office at (715) 232-1642. Please, for security reasons, do NOT share your parent login with your child. Go to www.sdmaonline.com and click on the **Family Access Login** link on the left side. You can access your child's attendance, grades, fees and lunch balance.

Attendance Reminder

Good school attendance is one predictor of academic success. All Menomonie Middle School students are required to be in attendance from 7:43 am to 3:05 pm. Additionally, students are reminded that they have a maximum of 10 school days that can be missed during the school year for personal illness, religious services, and family activities. If a student needs to attend an appointment during school hours, a note from a parent/guardian or that business office needs to be turned into the Attendance Office the morning of your appointment so we can get your student a pass and that it does not count against those 10 days. If your child is absent, please call the Attendance Office.



Parents

Sign up to receive daily announcements, newsletters, and other important updates. The link is available on the middle school website.



Go to Parents & Community, then to Parent Tools. You will see a drop down menu listing Daily Announcements. Click on that link. This will take you to the Middle School Announcements page. On the right side is a Subscribe button. Click on that and follow the prompts.

Please remember to update your information, emergency contacts, and fill out permission forms on Skyward Family Access for your student(s). This is important for field trip permission, student and bus code of conduct, video/photographing permission, computer network agreement, health services standing orders, and more. You can also pay online fees for the middle school and sports fees.

Free and Reduced Lunch

Families who may be experiencing financial hardship are encouraged to apply for the free and reduced lunch program. Guidelines change and family circumstances change as well. Applications are available in the middle school office, as well as the district office. Many times our families are struggling to make “ends meet” and if they are eligible for assistance, it could really help their family. In addition, students who meet free and reduced eligibility are often times eligible for other programs. However, if an application is not submitted, they cannot receive that service. To learn more about eligibility criteria or receive an application, contact the Food Service Office at (715) 232-2606 ext. 42124.



2019-20 Core Value Poster Winner!

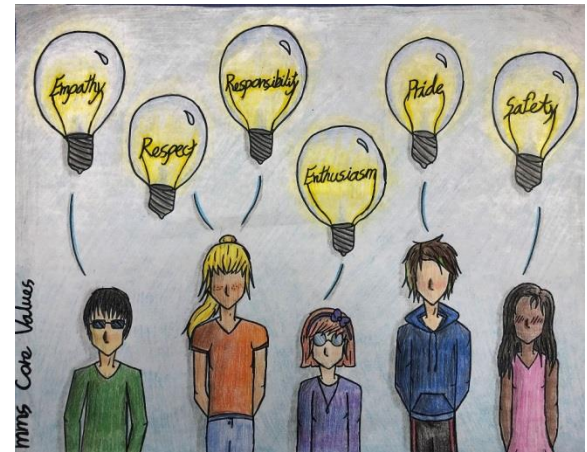


Congratulations to Amber Remington for winning this year's core value post contest. Students voted for their favorite during lunch. All entries were so creative!

The winning poster will be hung on our LMC Wall of Fame and Amber was awarded and recognized at our Term 1 assembly.

Congratulations to Amber and thank you to all students for all of the great entries!

You made the decision a hard one.



MUSTANG 5K

On Saturday, October 26th, we held our MMS Mustang 5K. We had over 100 participants! Thank you to everyone who helped to make this day a great success. A special thank you to all of our sponsors and to all who donated food/drinks and time for the runners and items for the silent auction.





Music Notes



Music Notes

Concerts are approaching quickly...

7pm at MMS December 9th - 6th and 7th grade Band and Choir

7pm at MMS December 16 - 6-8 grade orchestra

7pm at MMS December 17 - Bel Canto and 8th grade Band and Choir

Please check handbooks and watch for reminders about specific call times and attire expectations from your music teacher!

Thank you to all families who supported the Music Department through the Magazine sale! We would not be able to have the programs we have without your continued support!

If you would like to become involved in actively supporting the MMS music programs, please check out the NEW MMS Music Parents Boosters group!

For more information, connect on Facebook

at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/mmsmusicboosters/> or contact a music teacher.

We'll see you at the concerts!

James Anderson – Orchestra

Jean Enyeart – Choir

Tara Grubbe – Band

Ben Mackie - Band

National Junior Honor Society

Students in 8th grade have the opportunity to become involved in National Junior Honor Society (NJHS). There are four main requirements:

1. Character: as evidenced by extracurricular and community Involvement
2. Leadership: as evidenced by leadership roles/involvement at school and in the community
3. Service/Citizenship: as evidenced by volunteering (10 hours required)
4. Academic Achievement: as evidenced by grades in four core subjects Term 1, 2, & 3



In October, students were given a brief introduction to NJHS during CARES. Then in early November, all interested 8th graders met with Mrs. Haworth, the NJHS advisor, and were asked to join the NJHS google classroom (code is jh7txak).

Volunteer sign-up and other important forms are available in google classroom. NJHS meetings will be held each month and volunteer opportunities will be made available throughout the year. Parents/Guardians can also access NJHS information on the MMS home page under the Activities tab. In April, students will need to turn in the form documenting proof of all four requirements and will need to submit an official letter requesting acceptance into NJHS.

Students will be notified in early May and then invited to an induction ceremony.

If you have any questions please contact the NJHS advisor, Kristin Haworth:

kristin_haworth@msd.k12.wi.us or call 715-232-1673 ext. 30625.

Notes from the Health Office...

Winter Health Reminders

A healthy school environment starts at home! Make sure your student is getting at least 9 hours of sleep every night. At least 5 servings of colorful fruits and vegetables on a daily basis will help boost your student's immune system. Especially those high in Vitamin C, Vitamin D, Zinc and Selenium. (Selenium is found in meats, eggs, oatmeal and more!) During this time of year incidents of strep throat, respiratory and gastrointestinal illnesses increase. A healthy diet, adequate sleep, and 60 minutes of exercise daily will help keep your student happy and healthy during the school year.

To stop diseases from spreading please do the following:

- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water.
- Cover your mouth and nose when you sneeze
- Stay away from people who are sick
- A fever is 100.0 or higher. Please do not come to school with a fever.
- Do not touch your eyes, nose, or mouth. Germs spread this way.
- Get your flu shot. If your doctor is booked out, local pharmacies like CVS and Walgreens are giving them out as well.
- See the attached flyer for additional information



Menomonie Middle School does not keep acetaminophen or ibuprofen in stock. You are welcomed to bring over the counter medication for your student to *store in the health office*. Students are not allowed to keep medication on their person or in their locker, backpack, etc. A Non Prescription Medication Form must be filled out and signed. This form is not online, it can be obtained from the health office.

BOXTOPS

Thanks for your continued support for our school!

*THE NEXT GENERATION OF **BOX TOPS** IS HERE! Box Tops is changing to fit today's families. The new and improved Box Tops mobile app uses state-of-the-art technology to scan your store receipt, find participating products and instantly add **Box Tops** to your school's earnings online.*



SCAN: If you see this label, do not send it to school. Use the new [Box Tops App](#) to scan your store receipt within 14 days of purchase. The app will find participating products and instantly add Box Tops to your school's earnings online.



CLIP: Traditional Box Tops clips are being phased out of production, but you can still send unexpired clips to school. Every valid Box Tops clip is worth 10¢.

The collection bin is located in the office.

Download the [BOXTOP APP](#) now!!!

Earn Money for Our School!

Shoparoo

- Turn your shopping receipts into donations for our school. Just download the Shoparoo app and select the school you want to receive the donation. Just download the Shoparoo app and start scanning your receipts.

Shop: Shop for any product, at any store

Snap: Take a picture of your receipts

Earn: Shoparoo donates to your school

- Where does the donation money come from? Their founders are former teachers and retail executives who have found a novel way of matching schools' need for financial support with major consumer brands' need for market research. When you use the Shoparoo app to raise money for your school, your receipt data along with any answers you provide to optional surveys is made anonymous and summarized in market research reports that brands purchase. All research data remains anonymous, and this enables them to give money back to schools!

Middle Years

Working Together for School Success



Short Stops

A cozy tradition

Family traditions give tweens a sense of security as they deal with the ups and downs of adolescence. Here's one idea: Have hot chocolate parties on cold winter days. Set out toppings like marshmallows, cinnamon, and nutmeg. Then, chat about your day while you enjoy your treat.

Welcome, second semester!

Before your child goes back to school, remind her to check her schedule for any changes second semester will bring. She should make sure she knows where new classrooms are and what supplies she'll need. *Tip:* Send an email introducing yourself to any new teachers she has.

Middle school dating

If your tween mentions classmates who are dating, ask him what that means in middle school. Often, tween relationships start with "talking," which means texting or chatting on social media. Ask your child whether he's interested in anyone, and share your expectations, such as only exchanging messages and photos he'd be okay for you to see.

Worth quoting

"There are no shortcuts to anyplace worth going." *Beverly Sills*

Just for fun

Q: What word is spelled wrong in every dictionary?

A: Wrong!

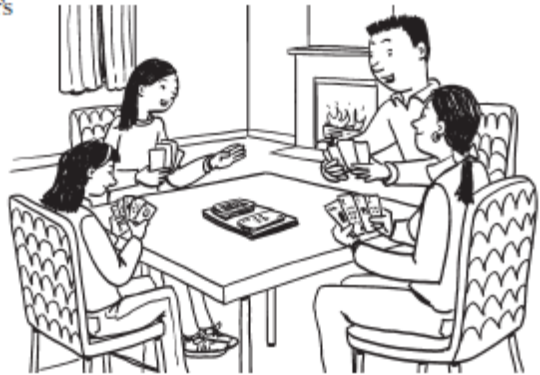


Healthy technology habits

Limiting your middle grader's screen time encourages her to interact with people in real life and focus on schoolwork. Try these tips.

Join in

Setting limits on electronics use for the whole family may make your tween more likely to cooperate. Ask everyone to silence and put away devices during game nights or car rides. You can enjoy conversation and pay attention to each other. Also, set up a charging station where everyone leaves devices at night so that sleep isn't interrupted.



Socialize face to face

Suggest that your child brainstorm screen-free activities to do with friends. *Examples:* Make up dance routines, work on a giant jigsaw puzzle. Or they could use electronics in ways that don't involve staring at screens. Maybe they'll sing along with a free karaoke app or go

outside and see who can take the coolest nature photos.

Stay focused

When your middle grader uses electronics for homework, have her close all apps or windows that she doesn't need for the assignment. She should also turn off notifications so she's not tempted to reopen the apps she closed. And if she takes a break, encourage her to make it screen-free. Perhaps she'll go for a short walk or play with her dog. 👍

Developing a growth mindset

Does your child know that learning actually makes his brain grow? Help him adopt a *growth mindset*, or an attitude that he can develop his abilities if he works at them, with this advice.

■ **Find alternate routes.** Say the dialogue in a story your tween is writing sounds unrealistic.

Rather than thinking, "I'm just not a good writer," he could look for ways to improve his writing. Perhaps he'll ask someone to act out the story with him and decide how the characters would really talk.

■ **Aim for variety.** Encourage your child to strengthen the growing connections in his brain by learning new information in multiple ways. For example, to study Spanish vocabulary, he could choose a picture book and listen to an audiobook version of it in Spanish while he follows along in the book. That way, he'll see, hear, and say the words he's learning. 👍



Meaningful math

Math isn't just for the classroom. Numbers help to determine professional football team rosters, which TV shows stay on the air, and how new cars are designed. Your child can work with data, ratios, and percentages in areas that interest him. Share these examples.

Sports

Let your middle grader compare stats of teams and players in his favorite sport. He might look up and chart a hockey team's win-loss record and the star player's goals, assists, and total points. What percentage of the team's goals has that player scored so far this season?

TV shows

Television networks and streaming services decide which shows to keep based on how many people watch them. For a



month, suggest that your child follow weekly Nielsen ratings online for your family's favorite shows (see nielsen.com/us/en/top-ten/). By what percentage do viewer numbers change from week to week for each show?

Cars

Engineers use math to design fuel-efficient cars. Ask your tween to look up the weight and gas mileage for various cars and calculate the weight-mileage ratio. He'll discover that lighter cars generally get better gas mileage. 👍



Q & A Spread kindness

Q I recently overheard my daughter and her friend making mean remarks about another girl. How can I encourage my child to be kinder?



A Being kind has benefits that matter to tweens, like helping them make and keep friends and feel good about themselves.

Suggest that your daughter challenge herself to do at least one kind act each day. Maybe she could smile and say good morning to the bus driver or custodian, or invite someone who's sitting alone in the cafeteria to eat lunch with her.

When you ask your child about school at the end of the day, be sure to include, "Who were you kind to today?" and "Who was kind to you?" Tell her what you did that was kind, too—you'll give each other ideas to try another day. 👍

OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ideas that promote school success, parent involvement, and more effective parenting.

Resources for Educators, a division of CCH Incorporated
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www.rfeonline.com
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Ready, set, debate

When would you want your tween to argue with you? During a friendly debate! Knowing how to make a strong argument can help her write persuasive essays and participate in class discussions. Here's a fun way to practice.



- 1. Choose a topic.** You might debate whether it's better to shop online or in stores, or whether we should colonize Mars or the moon.
- 2. Prepare arguments.** Have each person write down facts that support each side. *Examples:* Shopping online saves time because you don't have to drive to a store, and you can quickly compare options from several sites. But in a brick-and-mortar store, you can choose the vegetables you want or try on clothes, and you'll get in more steps for the day.
- 3. Hold a debate.** Assign half the family to one side and half to the other. Then, present your arguments for your side. Next, swap sides—each person argues the opposite position. Did anyone's opinion change as a result of the debate? 👍

Parent to Parent

Nervous? Try this

My son Ben loves to play piano, but he was nervous about this year's recital. I recently gave a big presentation at work, so I knew how he felt. I decided to talk to him about strategies I used to calm my nerves.

I told Ben that I practiced a lot. That helped me feel more confident because I knew the material better. Then during the presentation, I looked for friendly faces in the crowd. I

also kept going even when I stumbled over a few words.

Ben has been practicing for his recital, and he has also asked me to listen so he could play in front of an audience.

He said that on recital day, he plans to glance at our family for a boost of confidence before he sits down to play. I'm hoping that following my advice will make him a little less nervous. 👍



MMS Is Tree Nut / Peanut Allergy Aware

Severe allergies related to tree nuts and peanuts and other related food products are on the rise. To protect the health and safety of all students who experience this type of life-threatening allergic reaction to tree nuts, peanuts, and/or products containing trace elements of these nuts- **MMS is a tree nut / peanut free school zone.** Students and families are reminded to refrain from the consumption or use of nuts at MMS. Your awareness and cooperation could save a human life!



MMS IS A BULLY FREE SCHOOL ZONE

Principals, teachers, counselors, and other staff members at Menomonie Middle School are always willing to listen to and consider the ideas, concerns, and needs of our students and parents/guardians. Several options for communication exist:



- **Talk to an adult you trust face to face**
Choose an adult staff member you trust and talk! We like talking with students and parents/guardians! If the adult you trust seems busy, ask to set up an appointment to share later.
- **Call an Adult You Trust**
Using the telephone to communicate is perfectly OK!
- **Write to an Adult You Trust**
If talking face to face or on the telephone is too hard, write a message to an adult you trust. Written messages can be delivered to an office or classroom. We will respond to you in a timely manner.
- **Use Our MMS Idea Box**
Written messages can be dropped off in our Idea Boxes located in the middle school hallways. Paper forms are available next to each box.
- **Send an Email to an Adult You Trust**
Sending an email to an adult you trust is a safe and easy way to share. We will respond in a timely manner.

All students should feel safe at school! No concern is too small! “Stand up” for yourself and “stand up” for your friends and peers. Together, we can eliminate bullying in our school!

Do You Have Questions About How to Use “Skyward Family Access”?

If you have questions about how to use our Skyward grading data base “Family Access”, you are not alone. Parents/guardians often have questions or difficulty when navigating this site. Do not hesitate to contact our front office for guidance when this occurs. We are ready and willing to assist you. To login to Family Access, go to the Parents & Community tab, go to Parent Tools and a drop down menu will come up with Skyward Family Access on it. Click on this option to access Family Access.



Is it Influenza (Flu), a Cold, or Whooping Cough?

Symptoms

Flu

Cold

Whooping Cough

Fever	Usually present and high (102–104°F or 39–40°C); typically lasts 3–4 days	Uncommon in adults and older children	Uncommon. If present, typically mild (99.5–100.4°F or 37.5–38°C)	
Headache	Very common	Uncommon	Uncommon	
Aches and pains, muscle aches, chest discomfort	Common, often severe	Slight to moderate	Uncommon	
Fatigue and weakness	Moderate to severe; can last up 14-21 days	Mild	Mild to moderate	
Extreme exhaustion	Very common in early illness	Extremely rare	Rare	
Stuffy or runny nose	Sometimes	Common	Common, early in disease	
Sneezing	Sometimes	Common	Common, early in disease	
Sore throat	Sometimes	Common	Uncommon	
Cough	Type	Non-productive ("dry") cough is typical; nighttime cough rare	Hacking cough, often productive; nighttime cough rare; usually responds to cough medications	Variable; fits and attacks and nighttime cough are common; characteristic high-pitched "whoop" sound, generally not responsive to cough medications
	Severity	Moderate	Mild to Moderate	Variable; can be mild in adults and very severe in infants and young children
	Duration	Typically 3-7 days; occasionally to 14 days	Typically 3–7 days	Persistent cough, almost always more than 1 week, usually 2-6 weeks, sometimes more than 10 weeks
	Cough attacks/fits	Uncommon	Rare	Common
Infectious Period	1–2 days before symptom onset to 5–10 days after	Variable; typically 4–7 days after symptom onset; can be longer	From start of increased mucus production (before cough begins) to 21 days after cough starts*	

*or until taking five days of appropriate anti-pertussis antibiotics.

