



Menomonie Middle School Newsletter

December/January 2021-22

Mark Your Calendar

Tues. Dec 14:
Orchestra Concert 7pm

Thurs. Dec 16:
6pm: 7th Grade & Bel
Canto Choir Concert
7pm: 6th & 8th Grade
Choir Concert

Mon. Dec. 20:
5:30pm: 6th Grade
Band Concert
6:30pm: 7th Grade
Band Concert
7:30pm: 8th Grade
Band Concert

Thurs. Dec 23: Sun.
Jan. 2 – No School

Mon. Jan. 3: School
Resumes

Mon. Jan 17: No
School – PD Day

Wed. Jan 19: End of
Term 3 Encore

Thurs. Jan 20:
Beginning of Term 4
Encore

Fri. Jan 21: End of
Term 2

Fri. Jan 21: 8th Grade
Music to Come From
Away

Mon. Jan 24:
Beginning of Term 3

**Mon. Jan 31: Band-A-
Rama @ MHS**

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. For example, students who need some extra help with reading comprehension or fluency will now get the help they need. This will be like a seven-week personal training session for reading or math.

We are also proud to announce that we are offering an after-school academic support club called "Mustang Minds." Please see the flyer on the back of the newsletter if you are interested. The club meets on Tuesday and Thursday from 3:15-4:45. There are a limited number of seats for the current session but we will offer another session starting January 18th.

Thank you,

Bart Boettcher - Principal
Attitude + Effort = Success!

December 1, 2021

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. 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 please 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 MMS 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,

Bart Boettcher
MMS Principal

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. Prior approval must be received from the bus company to ensure space on the bus.
- ✓ 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 pick up, 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 are not required to come to the office prior to leaving the school building. You may call upon arrival and office staff will send your student out.
- ✓ Students returning to school after appointments must check in the front office before returning to class. Students will 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.



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 – Taylor Cobian —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

Dean of Students/Guidance Office – Jason Mountin - ext. 30110

Questions regarding students in 6th grade.

Guidance Office - Nancy Horner - ext. 30112

Questions regarding students in 7th grade.

Guidance Office – Adrianna Harrison - ext. 30108

Questions regarding students in 8th grade.

Main Office - Tina Potter—ext. 30111

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

Email: tina_potter@msd.k12.wi.us

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 predicator 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

We proudly provide well-balanced, nutritious choices that contribute to lifelong eating habits.

Many of our menu options are made from scratch, incorporating local foods and food from our school gardens when possible. We feature fresh fruits and/or vegetables, included with every lunch at all grade levels.

Our menus are carefully planned, utilizing student preferences, to provide the calories and nutrients necessary for students to be successful during their school day.

For the 2021-22 school year, ALL students may receive breakfast and lunch free of charge.





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.

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!

Student Chromebook Procedure

If your student is having issues with their chromebook, please follow these directions:

1. If a student has a chromebook issue, go to the library with your chromebook in the bag.
2. Library staff will check out a loaner chromebook to the student. **LOANERS NEED TO BE BACK AT THE END OF THE DAY, STUDENTS CAN NOT TAKE THEM HOME.**
3. Student will use the Student Tech Ticket link on the MS Portal to send their own tech ticket. **ALL GRADES HAVE BEEN SHOWN HOW TO DO THIS IN LANGUAGE ARTS.**
4. At the end of the day, the library staff will let Tech know that there are chromebooks that need to be picked up.
5. The student will be notified when the chromebook is back and ready to be picked up in the library.



BATTLE ^{of the} BOOKS

Get ready for the Winter reading challenge! The MMS Library is hosting the "**Battle of the Books**". Stop by the library to sign up! The challenge is to read as many of the books on the list as possible, and answer trivia questions against other teams. Our meetings will be held

during your lunch on Mondays, the first will be Dec. 20th to introduce and give you an opportunity to check out books for the Winter break, but you don't have to wait till then to start reading. Find the book list [Here](#), & stop by the library to sign up and get a bookmark with the list too. Checkout the Battle Books display and get your 1st book to start reading today! Lunch time Meeting dates: 12/20, 1/24, 1/31, 2/7, 2/14, Final battle meeting 2/21. Adults you are welcome to read too! What a great way to encourage your student to read by seeing you as excited for books as we are in the library. Happy Reading!

Yearbook



The final deadline for ordering yearbooks at the middle school is February 25th, 2022. Yearbook staff decided on the colorful cover pictured here. The yearbook is a full color 64-page book featuring pictures from all activities and events that take place throughout the year. You can add customization including icons and your student's name to the yearbook cover for \$7.50. The final yearbook price (not including personalization) is \$25. A yearbook can be purchased at www.jostens.com/yearbook

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.





Mustang Minds



What: After School Academic Support focused on Math and English Language Arts

When: Tuesday and Thursdays from 3:15pm-4:45pm: Starting November 30th, 2021. Students will need to be picked up at 4:45pm.

Where: Middle School Library (virtual participation also available)

- ★ Menomonie Middle School teachers will be available on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 3:15pm-4:45pm to help students develop and deepen their skills in the areas of Math and English Language Arts. Students taking advantage of this programming will be asked to be consistent with attendance as there are a limited number of seats that will initially be available.

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- I would like my student to participate in the Mustangs Minds Program
 - I acknowledge that participation in this program requires regular attendance for an 8-week period
 - I understand that there is no bussing after the program, students will need to be picked up or walk/bike after programming

Student Name

Guardian Name

Student Grade

Guardian Signature

Please return completed form to Mr. Anderson, Middle School Assistant Principal