



Menomonie Middle School Newsletter

January/February 2018 Newsletter

Mark your calendar

January 10: Bridging Brighter Smiles
January 12/13: All-State Choir
January 15: No School!
January 16: UWEC Honors Choir
January 17: MathCounts @ Rice Lake
January 18: MHS Band/Orchestra visits
January 22: Band-O-Rama
February 1: MHS Choir visits
February 5: Parent/Guardian Alliance meeting
February 5: Curriculum Night
February 7: District Spelling Bee
February 15: Conferences
February 19: 5th Grade Visits
February 20: Conferences
February 20: 5th Grade Visits
February 21: 5th Grade Visits
February 22: No School!
February 23: No School!
March 8: 6th Grade Music Trip
March 12 – 16: Spring Break – No School!
March 23: 8th Grade Choir to State Capitol
March 30: No School!

Happy New Year from Principal Boettcher!

Partner with Us!

Together, we will find a solution for every learning need!

The new year can be a time of reflection as well as a time to look forward. If the first half of the school year did not go as well as planned there is plenty of time to make a positive change. Menomonie Middle School staff is here for all students. Our goal is to empower each student to reach their full potential. ***Sometimes students may need a little help this time of year. If this is true for you, please consider the following options:***

- **Contact your CARES teacher** – Our CARES program provides a teacher mentor for each student and parent/guardian. When tricky issues arise, communicating with your CARES teacher is usually the first step as we discover solutions.
- **Contact a teacher.** All teachers and staff members are ready, willing and able to help students and parents/guardians to explore ideas and solutions to support you. Many teachers offer academic support for students during lunch and/or after school.
- **Contact your guidance counselor.** Mrs. Horner or Mr. Mountin have potential solutions for every problem! Don't hesitate to consult with our counselors. Success with learning and achievement at school is an important part of our job here at MMS!
- **Contact your principals.** Meeting the needs of students and parents/guardians is extremely important to us. Students and parents/guardians are encouraged to visit with one or both of us. You may visit in person or communicate by telephone or email.
- **Explore our MMS website and MMS Team pages.** Many teachers use Chromebook technology to provide helpful blogs, spaces, and educational links to help students and parents/guardians understand learning standards and assignments.
- **Review the weekly progress reports provided via email or have students show you on their chromebook.** Students with missing assignments discovered on Wednesdays are automatically ushered into our Golden Opportunity hour on Thursday mornings with expert teachers to complete those missing assignments and receive necessary help.

- **Utilize *Family Access*.** *Skyward Family Access* is an online grading tool that enables students and parents/guardians to view grading practices per course. Typically, grades are recorded on a weekly basis. Viewing *Family Access* regularly avoids a grading surprise at report card time. Parents/guardians must acquire a password code to access this tool. Password codes can be acquired by calling the Technology Department at our district Administrative Center – 715-232-1642. If you do not have a computer, you may also use your students Chromebook to access Family Access.
- **Get Involved** - Students who participate in extra-curricular activities often find a natural support group of friends and adults to support academic and emotional needs throughout the school year.

Attitude + Effort = Success

Bart Boettcher

chromebook Use and Care Tip

Students have done a great job using their Chromebooks this school year. Many parents have reported that they put a time limit on use of the Chromebook at home. For example, at 9pm students must put their chromebook on the counter to charge for the night and leave it there until morning. This allows for a good night of sleep for the student and the Chromebook is fully charged and ready for school in the morning.

SCHOOL BREAKFAST

We are as committed as ever to the academic success of all of our students. The first and best tool that we can use to make sure all of our students are successful in school is to guarantee that each child begins the day with a healthy and nutritious breakfast – at home or at school.

We want to remind you that the School Breakfast Program is available **FREE** to all students in elementary and middle school. These supervised meals are nutritionally balanced, and vary daily.

School Breakfast is an ideal solution on busy mornings when kids are running late or parents have early work schedules. Oftentimes, kids are not hungry when they first wake up but are ready to eat when school begins. Whatever the reason, if breakfast at home is not convenient, please take advantage of breakfast here at school. Studies have shown that children who eat a nutritious breakfast have better behavior, better attendance, and improved test scores.

Thank you for helping us to make sure that all of our students start the school day alert, well fed and ready to learn.

Michelle Kloser, Director of Nutrition Services
Bart Boettcher, Principal



Student Fees



All student fees must be paid in full by the end of the school year. Statements are sent out electronically monthly or by mail if your email is not up to date. Please check your student's fee under fee management in Family Access. Fees not paid by the end of the school year will roll over to the next year. If you qualify for free/reduced meals some of your fees may be waived, but paperwork must be filled out. Only current year fees can be waived. Some fees do not apply to the waiver. Please contact Tina at tina_liestman@msd.k12.wi.us or call (715) 232-1673 ext. 30111.

Lost and Found

If your child has misplaced something at the Middle School, there is a *Lost and Found* table in the hallway by the office. Please encourage your child to check this location to claim lost items. The PE Dept. has their own *Lost and Found* table in each of the locker rooms. We accumulate many, many items during the year.



MMS Newsletter is Green!

Our newsletter is posted on the Middle School website and you can receive it via email if you are signed up to receive daily announcements and your email is up to date in Family Access. We do keep a few paper copies in the front office and you may pick one up if you'd like.

MMS 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. Current Goals Include:

- *Create opportunities to engage families with the middle level experience
- *Provide academic and social support for our students and families
- *Communicate, collaborate and connect
- *Learn

Meetings will occur the first Tuesday every other month at 5:30. Email: MenomonieMSAlliance@gmail.com

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 6th at 5:30 pm.





Parent/Guardian Teacher Conferences will be held on Thursday, February 15th and Tuesday, February 20th from 4:00 pm to 7:45 pm at Menomonie Middle School. If you do not have a time set up, please contact your student's CARES teacher.

LET THE TRANSITION TO HIGH SCHOOL BEGIN!



Believe it or not we are getting ready to start registering 8th grade students for high school! There will be many parts to the transition to Menomonie High School. Here is a brief synopsis of the dates and times to make note of. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Horner in the Guidance Office at 715-232-1673 ext. 30112. We strive to make this a fun and exciting time for you and your student.

*Middle School Counseling staff will be introducing the district's new ACP (Academic and Career Planning) portfolios. We will have two ACP conference nights for 8th graders and their parents on January 18th and 22nd. Families may choose which night works best for them. Topics to be covered include the ACP portfolios, each student's Career Matchmaker results, high school grading, grade point average and class rank, four year planning, Plan of Study sheets, Career Day and summer transition timelines.

*The week of January 29th, MHS Counselors will meet with 8th graders (class of 2021) to introduce and discuss the registration process for their freshman year.

*Monday, February 5th- Curriculum night at MHS in the auditorium from 6:30- 7:00pm. This is a meeting for 8th Grade students and their families to hear about the high school registration process. This is a good opportunity for students and their families to meet teachers, counselors and the administration and to ask any questions they may have.

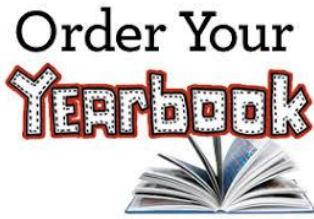
* The week of February 5th - MHS counselors will be at middle school for online registration for class of 2021.

* Summer Orientation -Usually in August, students and parents will receive sign up information about MHS Orientation from the high school in CARES in May.

* September 1st - The first day of school at MHS is just for Freshmen and parents/guardians. Families will receive information by mail and during high school Summer Orientation.



No School
Spring Break
March 12 - 16



Last chance to order your Middle School Yearbook this year! Yearbooks are pre-ordered for \$25 online at www.jostensyearbooks.com Ordering deadline is February 23, 2018. Don't wait and forget! Order your yearbook now. Go to www.jostensyearbooks.com to order with e-check or debit/credit card. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Schemenauer at Oaklawn Elementary, 715-232-3798 x 50102.

MMS Winter Book Fair

Our Scholastic Book Fair will be coming to our library February 15 – 27th. The fair will be open before school, during lunch, after school, and during parent teacher conferences. **Remember, all purchases benefit our school.** See you at the Book Fair!



Music Notes



Congratulations to all Band, Orchestra, and Choir students on wonderful December performances! These concerts are wonderful benchmarks to hear students' progress in their music classes.

In the space between Winter concerts and preparation for Spring performances, we make time for special events such as Solo & Ensemble and festivals, and focus on music fundamentals that make us better musicians.

8th Grade Choir Families - We recently received notification that we were accepted to perform in the Capitol Rotunda in Madison as part of the State Music in Our Schools Month Celebration. Please watch for an email from Mrs. Enyeart for further information. We will need chaperones for this exciting opportunity.

If your student is interested in auditioning for the State Honors Project, be sure to talk to your music teacher - deadline to register for auditions is approaching quickly!

Mark Your Calendar

January 12-13 - Wisconsin All State Choir in Wausau

January 16 - UWEC Middle level Honors Choir

District Choral Festival - Cancelled

January 22 - Band-a-Rama

March 8 - 6th Grade trip to MN Orchestra (School Day)

**NEW* March 23 - 8th Grade Choir to Perform at State Capitol (Full Day Activity)*

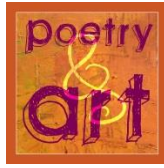
April 7 - Solo & Ensemble Festival

May 12 - Spring Swing

May 15 - 6-8 Band Concert at MMS (7pm)

May 21 - 6-8 Orchestra Concert at MMS (7pm)

May 24 - 6-8 Choir Concert at MHS Auditorium (7pm)



During the month of December, over 100 8th graders created poetry projects to be delivered around the Menomonie area. Students wrote poems and then used marbled shaving cream to create a design around the poems. Poems were delivered to The Neighbors of Dunn County, Comforts of Home, and to the local hospital. Surely these creative projects brightened many hallways and spirits during the holiday season. Great work 8th graders!

Christmas for Kids Fundraiser

The eighth grade student body at Menomonie Middle School conducted their annual Christmas for Kids Fundraiser during the beginning of December. The students donated \$1,182.00 and 33 blankets for the Dunn County United Way Christmas for Kids program.

Students names are put into a raffle for every dollar donated. They could donate more than \$10 but were only allowed to enter the raffle ten times. An ornament with the student's name on it is put on the pod tree for every \$5 donated. Before leaving for winter break, students celebrate with a raffle. Prizes in the raffle are donated from many local businesses.



MINERAL RESOURCES FIELD TRIP

8th grade students from Menomonie Middle School take part in annual Mineral Resources Field Trip to Cardinal Glass and Fairmount-Santrol.

All Menomonie Middle School 8th grade science students took part in the annual Mineral Resources Field Trip on Tuesday November 21. As part of the Earth Science Curriculum in Menomonie, students learn about rocks, minerals and mineral resources. The Menomonie area is quite unique in the fact that we have a sand mine that supplies minerals to the glass factory which produces float glass used in window manufacturing, including Andersen Corporation. For the past 10 years MMS Science Students have been privileged to see this process first hand. This unique field trip helps students to understand the role and importance of responsible mining and use of mineral resources in our community. We thank Fairmount-Santrol for their generous donation to cover transportation costs for this trip.



MMS students listen as Joe Nelson explains one of the steps in the process of manufacturing float glass. L-R: Joe Nelson (Cardinal employee), Cecelia Behrend, Grace Hasse, Grayson Obenberger, Helen Chen, Lauren Berg, Madeline Palmer, Skylar Jemilo, Anna Burns, Emma Hastings, and Angela Crowell (Cardinal employee).

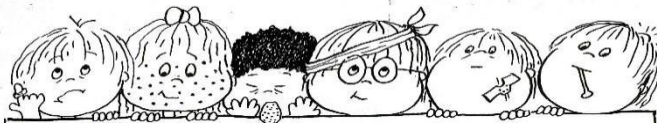


MMS Students listen to a presentation by Rich Budinger of Fairmount-Santrol.

MATHCOUNTS®

The Menomonie Middle School MathCounts team is off to a great start. MathCounts is a club that offers competition around fun and engaging math problems. It is open to all students grades 6-8. In December, Menomonie Middle School hosted a large local competition with over 230 mathletes. Middle schools from Rice Lake, Eau Claire, and Wausau participated. Many MMS mathletes received awards!

A big thanks to ConAgra Foods for donating pudding cups as a snack for all of the mathletes! Thank you to the parents, volunteers, and the School District of the Menomonie Area for the support and encouragement at our home competition!



Notes from the Health Office...

The Health Office is managed by Health Assistants and clerical staff. Our clerical staff is not medically trained beyond first aid. There is one school nurse for the entire school district. The Health Office is a space provided for sick or injured students. It is also where medications are safely stored and administered to Middle School students. The Health Office cannot accommodate several students who are ill or need to be picked up. Please provide the office with current work and cell phone numbers. Thank you for your assistance.

At this time of year, we have an increase in communicable diseases, especially influenza and gastrointestinal illnesses. Please have your family members pay special attention to preventing these illnesses. We ask you to discuss the following precautions with your child:

- do not share drinking glasses, eating utensils, water bottles or lip applicators
- wash hands before and after using restroom and before handling food

Parents please do not send your child to school if they are ill. If your child has a fever at school, we will contact you to pick them up. Students should be fever free for 24 hours before returning to school. Bed rest, drinking increased amounts of liquids, and taking pain reliever to help reduce the discomfort of illness may help your child feel better.

Students have the opportunity to go outside during their lunch break, please encourage your child to dress appropriately if spending time outside in the cold temperatures.

A study by Mayo Clinic has found that frequent headaches in children appear to be associated with sleep problems. 4% of girls and 2% of boys report chronic daily headaches. If your child has frequent headaches, talk with your primary care provider to determine possible causes. It may help to write down how many hours of sleep your child gets each night. If you suspect a link between disturbed sleep and headaches, discuss possible treatment with your care provider. A typical teen needs about 9 hours of sleep per night.



Bridging Brighter Smiles: School-Based Dental Program

The dental clinic is offering a yearlong program with multiple visits to provide dental care for all children PK-8th grade. Dental professionals staff the clinic providing oral health education, supplies and preventive treatment. If you completed an enrollment form, your child should have received services. Clinic staff will be returning to the Middle School for follow-up visits for students who are already signed up. Not sure if your child is enrolled, or due for care? Simply call Bridging Brighter Smiles at 262-896-9891 or email coordinator@bbsmiles.org. Please contact the school office at 715-232-1673 if you have questions regarding the dental clinic for your child. Paper enrollment forms are also available if you need these services.

Our next clinic date is Wednesday, January 10th.

Donations needed

The Angel Fund is used to help MMS students in several ways. We help with items such as clothing, shoes, winter attire school supplies, toiletries, field trip funding, activity fees and lunches. We have also helped families with Christmas gifts, holiday meals, and gas cards. Monetary donations can be made in the front office. Contact Jason Mountin or Tina Liestman with questions.
Your generosity is appreciated.

Donations can be sent to:

Menomonie Middle School
Attn: Angel Fund
920 21st Street SE
Menomonie, WI 54751

or bring in to the MMS Front Office

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!

COLLECTION CORNER!

Thanks for your continued support by clipping and turning in your collected items for our school!
The time and effort you give will help those in job skills class learn skills for the working world.

Plus money for our school - it's a WIN WIN!

The collection bin is located in the office.

BOX TOPS For Education



Found on almost every item in your refrigerator, freezer or pantry and much much more! Cut them out & bring them in!! A complete list can be found at www.bboxtops4education.com. We can earn money from collecting Box Tops cut from participating products. It is an easy way to give money to our school without spending any extra money!

Milk Caps - MILK MOOLA



Kwik Trip MILK MOOLA caps and bag top labels can earn 5¢ for each one you send in to our school. Please rinse the marked milk caps (leave labels on milk caps) &/or cut out the whole 5¢ strip top bag label and bring them in for our school!

Thanks for your support!

FYI: Labels for Education and Coke Rewards have ended their program.

Thanks for the support you have given!

If you have any questions regarding any of these fundraising projects,
feel free to contact Mary Ann Hitz (maryann_hitz@msd.k12.wi.us)

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 - Cindy Beaupre—ext. 30103

Student is sick and would like to leave school

Questions regarding medications and plans

Food Service - Julie Neubrand - (715) 232-2794

Food Service is located at the High School

Questions about lunch accounts

Guidance Office - Jason Mountin - ext. 30108

Questions regarding students in Grade 6 and Grade 7 - Silver Side

Guidance Office - Nancy Horner - ext. 30112

Questions regarding students in Grade 7 - Gold Side and Grade 8

Main Office - Tina Liestman—ext. 30111

Have a question about your student's fees—tech, print fee, athletic/club fees, etc. Waiver inquiries can also be made.

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 2:54 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 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) 232-2794 ext. 42124.





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.

February is National Children's Dental Health Month!

Brush your teeth with fluoride toothpaste and clean between your teeth for a healthy smile!!



Brush your teeth **twice a day for two minutes** using a fluoride toothpaste with the ADA Seal of Acceptance to prevent tooth decay.

Floss your teeth **once a day** to clean the areas in between your teeth that your toothbrush can't reach.

Healthy Smiles = Healthy Kids! Check out these apps that will have you dancing your way to a healthy mouth. Listen to music, track your progress, set reminders, earn badges and stickers....and keep the sparkle in your smile!



4 FREE Apps to Make Brushing FUN!



Disney Magic Timer by Oral-B: Collect digital stickers at each 2 minutes of brushing, track progress with stars and badges on the brushing calendar!



Brush DJ: Plays 2 minutes of music from your device. Set reminders to change your brush, brush at least twice a day and floss everyday. Customize your screen!



Brushy Time: Fun way to brush twice a day! Select your theme, tap the Brush button to start the timer. It's Brushy Time!



Let's Brush Free: Digital representation of upper and lower jaw, mouth is divided into quadrants to keep track of where you've brushed and what you've missed. Pick a song from your library to brush along to!