

# Menomonie Middle School Newsletter



March/April 2018

## Mark Your Calendar

**March 8:** 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Music Trip

**March 11:** Daylight Savings Time – Spring Ahead

**March 12 – 16:** Spring Break – No School!

**March 21:** Kyle Wilkom – Action Packed Leadership Assembly

**March 23:** 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Choir to State Capitol

**March 30:** No School!

**April 3:** MMS Parent/Guardian Alliance meeting

**April 5:** Spring Pictures

**April 5:** Instrument Tryout Night

**April 6:** Jason Church – Assembly

**April 20:** No School!

**April 23:** Band-O-Rama

**April 24:** Family Night

**April 27:** Earth Day Celebration

**May 10 & 11:** Spring Play

**May 12:** Spring Swing

**May 15:** Band Concert

**May 21:** Orchestra Concert

**May 24:** Choir Concert @ HS

**May 28:** No School!

**May 31:** European Fair

**June 6:** 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation – subject to change

**June 6:** Last Day of School! – subject to change

## ***Changes Coming to the MMS Daily Schedule for the 2018-19 Year!***

MS Schedule change for 2018-19 school year.

MMS will implement some changes to the 2018-19 daily schedule. Staff and administration have worked hard to find a schedule that prioritizes academic, social and emotional growth for all MMS students. The biggest change will be students will transition from a 6 period day to a 7 period day. (56 minute classes will now be 47 minute classes).

Here are just a few highlights to show the advantages of our schedule changes:

- All students will have a 30 minute daily intervention and an enrichment period.
- The schedule will be the same each day.
- Each grade level will have their own lunch where they will be able to eat with their classmates.
- Health will be added back into the curriculum.
- Students will have Physical Education/Health and Music each day.
- Students can choose executive functioning and high school readiness/leadership classes.
- Encore classes will incorporate expanded (STEM) offerings.
- The schedule will allow for an interventionist to help students who struggle in math or reading.

We are very excited about the changes to our schedule and are eager to implement the changes next year.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me via email at [bart.boettcher@msd.k12.wi.us](mailto:bart.boettcher@msd.k12.wi.us) or phone (715) 232-1673 ext. 30104.

***Attitude + Effort = Success***  
***Principal Bart Boettcher***

# WELCOME 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE STUDENTS!

The transition has begun! Current 5<sup>th</sup> grade students from all elementary schools began their middle level adventure by visiting MMS in February. During this visit, 5<sup>th</sup> grade students met our middle school music teachers, school counselors, principals, teachers, and other students. The purpose of this visit was to familiarize 5<sup>th</sup> grade students with our music offerings: band, orchestra, choir or general music.

**All 5<sup>th</sup> grade students received a registration form at this visit. Each 5<sup>th</sup> grade student is to complete this form – choosing a music course for the 2018-19 school years. Registration forms are due to 5<sup>th</sup> grade home-room teachers by Wednesday, March 7. A parent/guardian signature is required on this form.**

**What's next? MMS invites all 5<sup>th</sup> grade students and their families to join us on Tuesday, April 24 for MMS Family Night! At 5:30 we will begin a school-wide passport of rotations; whereby students and their families may visit each department (Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, Exploratory, Music and Physical Education) to enjoy a fun activity and meet our teachers and specialists! Food will be served from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Prizes will be drawn at 7:00 pm.**

**Check your calendar! We hope you can join us for an evening of social fun and exploration!**

The transition to 6<sup>th</sup> grade will continue with summer orientation to be held in August 2018! Watch our MMS website, future newsletters, and the US mail for more information about orientation! Our MMS newsletter is available online.

Several dates and times will be available for 5<sup>th</sup> grade students and their parents/guardians to attend. The purpose of orientation will be to review a middle school schedule, tour our MMS school building, practice using combination locks to open and close lockers, listen to information about middle school life, ask questions, and explore!



Registration for the 2018-19 school year has begun! Students received registration forms in CARES class last week. The 7<sup>th</sup> grade forms are yellow. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade forms are green. All registration forms are due with parent/guardian signature by Wednesday, March 7. Registration forms should be returned to the MMS front office or your CARES teacher. Extra forms are available in the front office upon request.



# FAMILY NIGHT

Tuesday, April 24<sup>th</sup> - 5:00 - 7:30 PM

**FREE hot dogs, chips, bottled water, and a Dairy Queen Dilly Bar between 5:00 and 7:00 PM in the cafeteria.**

**WHAT: Family Night MMS Department Rotations**

*Come meet MMS Teachers, explore the pods, play games and take home free items from each rotation!*

**WHERE: Meet in the cafeteria for dinner, then to MMS pods, gym and the LMC for the rotations.**

*DJ, Nathan Paulson, will be playing for us from 5:00 - 7:00 PM.*

**WHEN: 5:30 PM Passport Rotations Begin**

*One FREE passport per 5<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grade student: pick up at sign in. Passports used to enter the end of the evening prize drawing (held in the cafeteria) for several awesome prizes.*

**WHO: Students in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade through 8<sup>th</sup> grade, parents/guardians and family members**





**No School**

**Spring Break**

**March 12 - 16**

## 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](mailto: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 pm.

Email: [MenomonieMSAlliance@gmail.com](mailto:MenomonieMSAlliance@gmail.com)

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30 pm.



## EUROPEAN FAIR!

The 7<sup>th</sup> grade social studies students will be putting on their annual European Fair on Thursday, May 31<sup>st</sup> from 3:30 – 5:00 pm in the gym. All are invited to attend.



## MMS BOGO Book Fair



The **buy one get one free** Scholastic Book Fair will be coming to our library April 20<sup>th</sup> to April 27<sup>th</sup>. The fair will be open before school, during lunch, after school, and during MMS Family Night. This reading event will provide popular books kids want to read. It's a wonderful selection of engaging and affordable books for every reading level. Reading for pleasure inside and outside of school has real and long-lasting benefits. It unlocks the power of information and imagination and helps children discover who they are. Please make plans to come to our Book Fair and be involved in shaping your child's reading habits. Remember, all purchases benefit our school. See you at the Book Fair!



## Music Notes



The past few weeks have been spent working on Solos & Ensembles, focusing on music literacy and fundamentals.

**6th Grade** - we will be attending a professional orchestra concert on Thursday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at Orchestra Hall in Minneapolis!

**8th Grade Choir Families** - Our trip to Madison to perform in the Capitol Rotunda is coming up quickly! Permission forms should have been returned to Mrs. Enyeart before Spring Break. Students will need to be picked up from the middle school around 8:30 or 9:00pm. Students will call home with an exact ETA.

**6th, 7th, & 8th Grade Choir families** - Due to a scheduling conflict with the HS Auditorium, the Spring Concert date will need to be moved. Details will be emailed and sent home before spring break.

### Mark Your Calendar

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

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

April 7 - Solo & Ensemble Festival at EC Memorial

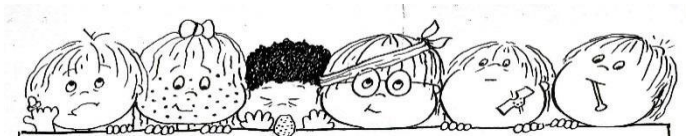
May 12 - Spring Swing

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

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

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

## Notes from the Health Office...



We have had an increase in communicable diseases, especially influenza, strep and respiratory 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 beverages/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.

We cannot administer medication that is expired, please check the date before bringing medication to school for your child. Please provide medication in the original bottle or package. Thank you!

Our office staff makes every effort to contact a parent when your child is ill or injured at school and needs to be picked up. However, this task can be very time consuming if we do not have current work or cell phone numbers. Please keep the middle school office informed of your current contact information.

## Planning Summer Appointments...



If your child is due for a comprehensive medical exam, summer is a great time to schedule that appointment. If your child is 11 years of age or older and needs a sports physical, that exam and paperwork can be covered during a comprehensive exam as well. You may schedule a sports physical only, if all other immunizations are current. A sports physical is required for all students participating in middle school sports. A sports physical is good for two years. You may call the middle school office to confirm if your child needs a sports physical.

If you have questions about immunization requirements, please contact the health office at (715) 232-1673 ext. 30103. Call your primary care provider to be sure your child's shot records are up-to-date before summer ends. Wisconsin immunization requirements affect ALL incoming 6<sup>th</sup> graders for the 2018-2019 school year. **Now is a great time to schedule an appointment to meet all physical and immunization requirements.**

Students with health plans/medication will receive a mailing during the summer to update their health concerns. Please help our health services coordinator by updating and completing this information **before** the start of the 2018-2019 school year.

# *Electronics and Social Media: What do Parents Need to Know?*

## **Age Restrictions**

Due to the Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act, websites that collect personal information are not able to collect information from a child under the age of 13. Thirteen is the minimum age of participation for all social media sites.

## **Tips and Recommendations**

- \* Just because you “friend” or “follow” your child does not mean that you have access to everything he or she sees. You may see what they post but may not see what their friends are posting>
- \* Knowing your Childs passwords should be mandatory. Let your child know that you may be accessing their accounts.
- \* Consider being the “keeper” of your child’s apple ID. If they have to ask you to add an app, you’ll always know which apps and social media sites they are using.
- \* It is a good idea to set aside screen free time(s) each day. No phones or tablets during diner.
- \* Have an electronic turn-in routine at bed time. Electronics too close to bed time can cause problems with sleep!
- \*Teach Netiquette: Consider the “Grandma Rule.” Encourage your child to always think about how her or his Grandma (or teacher, principal etc.) would feel if she saw the post.
- \*Talk about Cyberbullying and what to do if it happens.
- \* If you allow a social media site, set privacy settings together, and remember to stress that he or she never share personal information on line.

## **Resources for Families**

Internet Safety Project - How to articles

Netsmartz.org - Information for parents, teens and kids

CommonSenseMedia.org – Ratings on apps, games, movies and books

Netlingo.com/acronyms.php – Common Internet acronyms



## Menomonie Middle School Captures Regional Science Olympiad Title



Menomonie Middle School continued its long standing tradition as a leader in the Wisconsin Science Olympiad competition by winning the regional competition at Boyceville High School held on February 17th. The middle school program transitioned to new leadership this year, led by 8th grade Earth Science teacher, Brian Evans, and assisted by 7th grade Biology teacher, Natalie Topper. Longtime coach and science teacher for the district, Paul Verdon, remains involved in the program as a volunteer. “Paul did such a great job... and really taught us how to run the program in an organized way. We are definitely still learning from him,” Topper and Evans noted.

The coaches reported that they are fortunate this year to have the largest team in program history this year, 47 kids. “As coaches and educators, we felt it was important that every student who wanted a chance to be involved in science olympiad could get the opportunity. Science Olympiad is such a unique chance to develop new skills, foster curiosity, and learning about future careers in the STEM field. We wanted all students to be able to experience science olympiad and being part of the team,” Evans said. The high participation levels meant that Menomonie Middle School was able to field three complete middle school teams for regionals, a school first. The competition consisted of 23 events ranging from studying the Anatomy and Physiology of the human body, to solving crimes in Crime Busters... to building rockets that deploy parachutes at their peak. “It really is the ultimate challenge for both the kids and coaches,” Topper noted. “There are so many events that students are interested in, and it’s easy for students to find their “niche” or specialty area in science.”

The MMS Maroon Olympiad team placed first overall out of 29 teams, winning nine of the 23 total events. The MMS White team and Gold teams placed 6th and 10th overall, winning four first places. “We were really excited by how well all three of our teams did this year at regionals. It shows how hard the kids have been working and how much they have improved as scientists over the course of the year.” Two of MMS’s Olympiad Teams will compete at the state tournament being held at UW Milwaukee April 6-7, 2018.

First Place Finishes:

Anatomy and Physiology: Shannon Mason and Matt Glaus

Crime Busters: Ellen Dingwall and Autumn Larabee

Disease Detectives (exb): Hayleigh Husby and Ayana Srivistava

Dynamic Planet: John Kluge and Marlena Weghorn

Ecology: Shannon Mason and Allison Falkner

Experimental Design: Bella Kaufmann, Teagan Christenson, and Allison Falkner

Herpetology (exb): Madeline DeVries and Kayla Kelsey

Meteorology: John Kluge and David Ding

Optics: Bella Kaufmann and Teagan Christenson

Potions and Poisons (exb): Hayleigh Husby and Kajsia Xiong

Road Scholar: Peter Bendel and David Ding

Roller Coaster: Dylan Foslid





FCCLA

# Dunn County Humane Society Supply Drive



Menomonie Middle School FCCLA



Thanks to all those who donated! We were able to donate over 100 items to the Dunn County Humane Society! We are so excited to have hosted such a great supply drive. Students will use this experience to compete at the end of February in a FCCLA STAR Event!

## Christie Mountain 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Trip!



The 8<sup>th</sup> grade took a trip to Christie Mountain for some late season skiing and tubing on Friday, February 16<sup>th</sup>. For many students it was their first time at a ski hill. We had terrific conditions and we all had a blast! What a day!



APRIL  
**10**



# BINGO

**Stout Ale House**  
**7pm - 9pm**

Come support the Menomonie School District's Special Education Program with a fun night of Bingo! Proceeds will go towards field trips and community outings to help our students practice a variety of different social, community, and life skills. \$10 for a book of cards to play all night or \$1 per card per game.

**BINGO DAUBERS WILL BE  
AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE**



# Summer SAM 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians:

We're happy to let you know that we are offering Project SAM (Share A Meal), all summer long. SAM is open to all children ages 3 – 18, through the Stepping Stones of Dunn County Food Pantry. The purpose of this **FREE** program is to provide extra food for children over the weekend when school meals are not available. Project SAM is offered during the Summer School Academies at Menomonie High & River Heights Schools weekly June 18 – Aug. 17, and the Boys & Girls Club through August 24<sup>th</sup> which is also located at River Heights. Each bag will contain enough food for two breakfasts and two lunches. The food will either be ready to eat or will require minimal preparation. Even if your child is not going to be attending a Summer Academy or the Boys and Girls club they can still pick up a bag at the Boys and Girls Club site.

If you choose to enroll your child/children in SAM, they will receive a bag of food each week. Bags will be available at:

•Their Summer Academy Site on Thursdays  
OR

•The Boys & Girls Club (River Heights School) Thurs – Fri 3-5:30pm

*(Please be aware that peanut products are often distributed. We are sorry we cannot accommodate children with food allergies at this time.)*

**If you want your child to receive SAM during the summer, please complete the form below and return it to their school or to the Boys & Girls Club at River Heights Elementary School.**

If you have any questions please contact Stepping Stones Food Pantry Coordinator, Kris Pawlowski at: [foodpantry@steppingstonesdc.org](mailto:foodpantry@steppingstonesdc.org), 715.235.2920, x 4

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## PROJECT SAM Enrollment Form

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Child's/Children's Name(s) (please print)

Age(s)

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Child's/Children's Name(s) (please print)

Age(s)

I want to pick up Project SAM bags for my child/children at:

(Choose one)

- Their Summer Academy Site on Thursdays
- The Boys & Girls Club (River Heights School) Thurs –Fri 3-7pm

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Parent/Guardian Signature

Phone #

Date

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E-mail (if available)

Bags will be available at Summer School sites on Thursdays or River Heights on Fridays.

## 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.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.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](mailto: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) 232-2606 ext. 42124**

Food Service is located at the High School

Questions about lunch accounts

**Guidance Office - Jason Mountin - ext. 30108**

Questions regarding students with last name beginning A-L

**Guidance Office - Nancy Horner - ext. 30112**

Questions regarding students with last name beginning M-Z.

**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](http://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) 232-2606 ext. 42124.



## Allergy Aware School



### 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 aware 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.



