



Menomonie Middle School Newsletter

January/February 2017 Newsletter

Mark Your Calendar

Jan. 23 – Band O Rama

Jan. 24 – District Choral Festival

Jan. 30 – “Skate for Change” Assembly

Jan. 31 – School Dance

Feb. 1 – District Spelling Bee

Feb. 6 – MHS Curriculum Night – 8th Graders and Parents

Feb. 9 – Forensics meet

Feb. 23 – 8th Grade Field Trip to Christie Mountain

Feb. 24 – No School!

Feb. 27 – 5th Grade Visits MMS

Feb. 28 – 5th Grade Visits MMS

March 1 – 6th Grade Music Trip

March 2 – 5th Grade Visits MMS

March 13 – 17: Spring Break – No School!

March 24 – 7th Grade Music Trip

March 31 – 8th Grade Music Trip

April 1 – Solo & Ensemble Festival

April 7 – Spring Pictures

April 14 – No School!

MMS Welcomes Mike Smith!

Whether it's motivating students or employees to change the culture of their school or their workplace; or teaching others how to start and maintain successful brands and organizations; or showing others how easy it is to give back to the homeless and lesser fortunate in their communities; Mike has the experience and expertise to inspire others to be extraordinary.

Your life isn't ordinary. You matter. What you will do with your life will boil down to one question:

What do you want to be remembered for?

Mr. Smith will be speaking at the Menomonie Middle School during the school day on Monday, January 30th. If you would like more information on this exciting speaker, please visit his website, mikesmithlive.com. We will also be hosting a “Dude Be Nice” week the days preceding Mr. Smith's visit.



Greetings from Principal Everson!

Partner with Us!

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

Whew! We are half-way through the 2016-17 school year! This means students and teachers have half of the school year to continue doing what is working with regard to learning and achievement. This also means students and teachers have half of the year to improve upon what is not working well. Our goal is to empower each student to reach proficiency with all learning standards. ***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 or staff member you trust.** 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 principals.** Meeting the needs of students and parents/guardians is extremely important to me, Principal Everson and to Assistant Principal Mark Anderson. 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.
- **Contact your guidance counselor.** Ms. 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!
- **Explore our MMS website and MMS Team pages.** Many teachers use 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 paper form.** Students are required to send parents/guardians a progress report each Wednesday. Progress reports include information about current assignments, grades received, and what assignments might be missing. This is a great way to stay connected with middle school achievement on a weekly basis. 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.
- **No concern should go unnoticed!** Visit our online Idea Box to share an idea or concern electronically. Or, write a memo to MMS staff and drop it in one of our Idea Boxes located on the walls in our hallways to be found throughout our MMS school building.

- **Students -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. Teachers, counselors and principals can help you find a sport, club or activity that is right for you! When necessary, we can also support financial need associated with getting involved.
- **Parents/Guardians – Get Involved!** Partnering with parents/guardians is very valuable. When our students see relationships forming between home and school, students tend to learn more and achieve at higher levels. MMS invites parents/guardians to participate in conferences, frequent conversations with teachers by telephone, email or appointment, volunteer activities in and out of the classroom, Site Council meetings, Family Night events and more. We are also open to your ideas about how to get involved in our school mission and vision.
- **No student should be bored!** Does your child need an additional challenge in a course or two? Don't be shy! Talk to your teachers about alternative learning projects (4 level learning projects) that interest you! Teachers are equipped with a variety of 4 level strategies to meet your learning needs!

BE RESPONSIBLE! PARTICIPATE! MAKE GREAT EFFORT! Student Work Habits Matter!

Make every day of middle school count! Each day is one day closer to high school where grades and reports count forever!

*Learn On,
Principal Everson*



MMS Partner with the Principal

Sometimes parents/guardians are unsure how to get involved or get informed at the middle level. This year, we are trying something new!

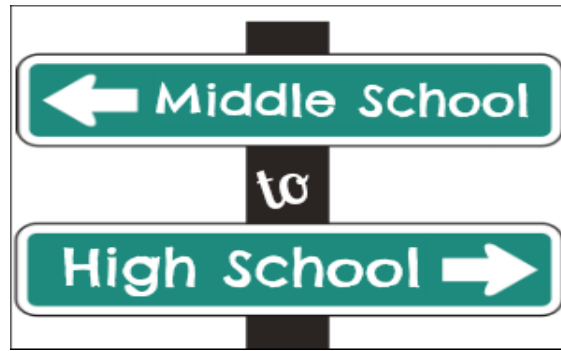
Please consider joining Principal Everson for a cup of coffee, tea or water on the date listed below:

Location: MMS Front Office Conference Room

- **Wednesday, March 8 – 7:00 am to 8:00 am**

If you plan to attend, send an email to Principal Everson - stacey_everson@msd.k12.wi.us or call her at 715-232-1673 Extension 30104. Knowing you plan to attend will help us plan for seating and beverages!

If the date and time listed above do not work for you, don't hesitate to contact Principal Everson to schedule an alternative date and time to meet.



Important information from the Guidance Office for Parents and Guardians of 8th graders about the upcoming High School registration process and transitioning to Menomonie High School.

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

***Week of January 31st** MHS Counselors will meet with 8th graders (class of 2021) to introduce and discuss registration process for their freshman year.

***Monday, February 6th**- 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. A good opportunity for students and their families to meet teachers, counselors and the administration and to ask any questions they may have.

*** Week of February 6th**- MHS counselors at middle school for online registration for class of 2021.

***February/ March** CARES meetings with Mrs. Horner regarding high school transition information such plans of study, grading, report cards, and activities.

*** 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 will receive information by mail and during school Summer Orientation.



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.

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 inquires 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. 42194.





Yearbooks Price Increase on January 28, 2017

Yes, you can still order a yearbook. The easiest way to order is to log onto Jostensyearbooks.com. The current price is \$23 for a standard yearbook. This price will go up to the final cost of \$25 on Jan. 28, 17. Jostens will accept credit or debit cards and electronic checks online. The **final deadline** for ordering a Yearbook for this year is February 24, 2017.

A second way is to pick up an order form from the front office, or from Mrs. Creviston in room 418. Then, return the form to Mrs. Creviston, or the office, with a check made out to **Menomonie Middle School** or send EXACT cash. **DO NOT** write a check to Jostens, please. Your child's yearbook order will be entered and your child will come home with a receipt a few days later.

Also, you can still help build our school's yearbook and digital Time Capsule. Parents and students are invited to share and view Menomonie Middle School photos by going to ReplayIt.com or by downloading the free ReplayIt app available for iPhone and Android. This website is the home for all the photos from our school year, check it out today! Go to www.ReplayIt.com or with the free ReplayIt app. We are always looking for photos from after school events that yearbook staff weren't able to attend.

Don't forget, when you purchase a yearbook, it now comes with access at the end of the year to the digital Time Capsule, where you will be able to see all the extra photos that were uploaded on ReplayIt.com for years to come.

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Schemenauer at Oaklawn at 715-232-3798 or Mrs. Creviston at the Middle School at 715-232-1673.

MIDDLE School Dance!

Come warm up and dance the cold away!

Tuesday, January 31, 2017

3:00 – 6:00 pm

Admission: \$4.00

Concessions will be available!



MMS Winter Book Fair

Our Scholastic Book Fair will be coming to our library February 16th-February 23rd. The fair will be open before school, during lunch, and after school. 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!

High School Boys Soccer Information

Parents of soccer players who plan to play at MHS in the fall are invited to attend the MHS BOYS SOCCER PARENT MEETING on January 18th from 7:30 – 8:30 pm in the Lecture Room at MHS. Players are welcome to attend the meeting if they want, but there will also be open soccer happening simultaneously for anyone interested.



Music Notes



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

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

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

Band O-Rama - January 23rd

District Choral Festival - January 24th from noon until 7pm at MHS (Concert at 6pm in HS Auditorium)

6th Grade Trip to Minnesota Orchestra - March 1 during school day

7th & 8th Grade Music Trip to Matilda at Orpheum Theater - March 31 3pm to midnight

District Solo & Ensemble Festival - April 1 at EC North

8th Grade Band & Orchestra to Large Group Festival - April 4th at Plum City

8th Grade Choir to Large Group Festival - April 20th at EC Memorial

Eighth Grade Christmas for Kids Fundraiser



The eighth grade class raised \$536 and collected 25 blankets for the Christmas for Kids program. The Christmas for Kids program works through Dunn County United Way to provide gifts for families in need. Students donated money and blankets from December 1st through the 9th. For every dollar donated, a student's name was entered in the raffle. A student's name could be entered ten times. A blanket donation equaled five entries into the raffle. The eighth grade celebrated with a raffle drawing on the last day of school before winter break. The following organizations and people donated items for the raffle: Culver's, eighth grade teachers, Family Video, Taco Bell, Taco John's and Thrivent Financial.



The MathCounts season is well on its way!

We had our home competition in December and would like to Thank all the parent volunteers and staff that helped to make it a success. A big thank you to ConAgra Foods for donating pudding cups for students to enjoy during the competition!

The MathCounts team added, subtracted, and multiplied their brains during the competition at Eau Claire DeLong on January 10th. They all worked well together and did a great job! The Geometry Team of Morgan Selchow, Summit Fox-Schultz, Patrick Schwartz and Jenna Paulson took 2nd place. Individually, Summit and Patrick tied for 3rd and Morgan placed first. The Algebra teams placed first and second. Alex Slaback, Isaac Hoyt, Sam Christianson, and Madey Moses took first. Lauren McNally, Emma Rood, Maisah Wilson, Shane Drazkowski, and Lane Lowrey took second. In the 8th grade division, the team of Matthew Glaus, Isabella Karufmann, Kayla Kelsey, and John Kluge took second with Matthew placing 3rd, individually. The 7th grade team of Tessa McGovern, Anna Imsande, Catlynn Kissh, and David Ding placed 2nd. Emily Zukowski tied for 1st place in the 6th grade division. Congratulations!

We will be traveling to Rice Lake on January 19th for our next competition. Our top twelve students will then compete at regionals at Eau Claire DeLong on Thursday, February 2nd for a chance to qualify for the State Competition in March.





On December 12th - the Fuel 60 Club and 4 chaperones traveled to Thorp to the Gouda Dairy and Cheese Factory. We then traveled on to Lambeau Field where we tailgated and attended the Larry McCarren Show. A special thank you to Nancy Horner and Chris Larsen for chaperoning. We would also like to thank Menomonie Middle School, Conagra, Dunn County Dairy, Styer Farm/Alfa Lawn, and Advanced Dairy (Jeff and Grant Pessig) for their generous support of our bus. Fuel UP to Play 60 is a statewide program with the help of the NFL and the American Dairy Council that promotes 60 minutes of activity each day for children. They provide funding to schools, and opportunities throughout the year.



On Saturday, January 7th, 44 of our Middle School Science Olympiad students traveled to the University of Minnesota for the Gopher Invitational. Our students competed against 26 other teams from Minnesota, Wisconsin and North Dakota.

We are proud to announce that our students brought home the 2nd place trophy!

3rd Place Bronze medals went to:

Ellen Dingwall and Chloe Ohler in Disease Detectives
Molly Smith and Walter Webinger in Dynamic Planet
Morgan Selchow and Jenna Blomquist in Ecology
Carben Weghorn and Patrick Schwartz in Wright Stuff
Peter Bendel and Teagan Christianson in Road Scholar

2nd Place Silver medals went to:

Summit Fox-Schultz and Andrew Jevne in Food Science
Molly Smith and Carben Weghorn in Meteorology
Molly Smith and Kira Nevin in Mission Possible
Patrick Schwartz and Summit Fox-Schultz in Optics

1st Place Gold Medals went to:

Kira Nevin, Summit Fox-Schultz and Kevin Leach in Experimental Design
David Ding and Peter Bendel in Wright Stuff

Many students were just out of medal range: We had three 4th place finishes and seven 5th place finishes.

Well done everyone!

The Science Olympiad teams will now begin to prepare for the Regional Tournament in February.

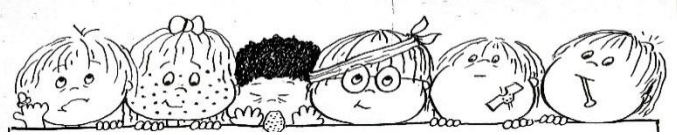




Lost and Found

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.

Notes from the Health Office...



The Health Office is covered by one of the 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.

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 a permission slip on the first day of school your child should have received services in November and December. Clinic staff will be returning to the Middle School for follow-up visits for students who are already signed up. Please contact the school office at 715-232-1673 if interested in the dental clinic for your child. Enrollment forms are available if you need these services.



DUNN COUNTY COMMUNITY INFORMATIONAL SESSION

Dunn County Mental Health Improvement Project is pleased to present the Dunn County Mental Health Services Informational Session on **January 23rd from 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm** at the Menomonie Public Library. The session is free and open to the public which will provide information about local mental health related issues or various types of related education and no solicitation of services will occur. There will be an opportunity to ask questions about the presentation at the end of the session.

Mental Health First Aiders and community members are encouraged to attend this session to learn about **SUICIDE PREVENTION: It's a Family Affair**. The presenters are:

Amy Polzin, LPC
and
Chelsalyn Smith, RN, BSN

For additional information and questions please call Sheli Jo Metzger, Project Coordinator, at 715-235-4537 ext 224 or, email at smetzger@arborplaceinc.com.
