



Menomonie Middle School Newsletter

October/November 2020

Mark Your Calendar

Thursday, Oct. 15:

PD Day –
NO SCHOOL

Friday, Oct. 16:

NO SCHOOL

Wednesday, Oct. 21:

Unity Day

Wednesday, Nov. 4:

End of Term 1

Thursday, Nov. 5:

Conferences
4:00pm– 7:00pm

Tuesday, Nov. 10:

Conferences
4:00pm – 7:00pm

Wednesday, Nov. 11:

Veteran's Day

Wednesday, Nov. 25:

NO SCHOOL

Thursday, Nov. 26:

NO SCHOOL

Friday, Nov. 27:

NO SCHOOL

Wed. Dec 23 – Fri. Jan 1:

Winter Break –

NO SCHOOL

Mon. Jan. 4:

School Resumes

Mon. Jan. 18:

PD Day
NO SCHOOL

Fri. Jan. 22:

End of Term 2

Greetings from Principal Boettcher!

Welcome to the 2020-21 school year!

The start of the 2020-21 school year has been different than any other. The Coronavirus has had a major impact on all of the operations and protocols at Menomonie Middle School. Even with many obstacles and challenges, our students and staff have accepted the personal responsibilities associated with learning during a pandemic. I have been so impressed with the flexibility, reliability and resilience of our students and staff. Students and staff continue to bring a positive attitude to school each day. We believe that bringing a positive attitude and showing effort will propel us towards success in everything we do! Our students have unlimited opportunities and education is the avenue to unlock those opportunities. The staff at Menomonie Middle School will work collaboratively to support all students on their path to achievement and success.

We continue to ask for your support in helping to mitigate the spread of Coronavirus:

Coronavirus (COVID-19) is a virus that is spread even before individuals show symptoms. It spreads from person to person through droplets created when we cough, sneeze, talk, sing or laugh. Thus, it is ever important for all students, family members, and staff members to closely watch for symptoms that are outside of their “normal,” and to stay home if they are ill. If symptoms occur, please contact your medical provider to request testing.

Please remember to slow the spread of COVID-19:

1. Stay home when ill.
2. Wear a face covering when in public if physically able.
3. Wash hands frequently with soap and water. Use hand sanitizer if soap and water are unavailable.
4. Clean frequently touched surfaces, such as doorknobs, tables, etc.
5. Limit unnecessary travel, events, or large gatherings.

We all need to continue to do our part to slow the spread of COVID-19, and to keep our students and staff members safe. Please contact the health department or the school nurse for more information.

Thank you,

Principal Bart Boettcher
Attitude + Effort = Success!

MMS Welcomes New Educators to Our Team!

Welcome – Raychel Bowman, 6th Grade Integrated Literacy
Welcome – Brittany Engel, District Nurse
Welcome – Rachel Garin, Paraeducator
Welcome – Fiona Greene, 6th Grade Social Studies
Welcome – Jada Hansen, Supervisory Aide
Welcome – Mackenzie Hearne, Interpreter
Welcome – Sarah Hirsch, Long-Term Sub, Health Assistant
Welcome – Grace Hoenisch, Physical Education
Welcome – Allison Kocik, School Psychologist
Welcome – Jessica Lamb, Teacher
Welcome – Jason Mountin, Dean of Students/Counselor
Welcome – Hayley Rau, 6th Grade Integrated Literacy
Welcome – Ethan Walraven, Supervisory Aide
Welcome – Tara Wolfe, Food Service
Welcome – Abigail Xelhuantzi, 8th Grade Language Arts



Doing What is Right Matters at MMS!

CORE VALUES 2020-21

We the students at Menomonie Middle School, in order to provide a safe, equal, fair, respectful, and positive learning environment for all associated with this school, set forth the following school-wide Core Values:

RESPONSIBILITY

Be a good role model with your thoughts and actions: be on time, be prepared, be honest, and trustworthy.

RESPECT

Be caring, helpful, and supportive of yourself, everyone, and everything. Act with integrity.

ENTHUSIASM

Have a positive attitude about life and school. Do your best and have fun! This is your chance: make it count.

SAFETY

Use common sense, self-control and appropriate behavior to keep our school free of harmful or damaging behaviors.

PRIDE

Believe in yourself. Never give up. Work together as a team toward success. Be your best.

EMPATHY

Be sensitive to other people's feelings. Put yourself in the position of others.

School Safety Protocol

The safety and security of our students is of the utmost importance. To that end, we continuously review our policies and practices to ensure that recent research and data support the policies we employ. The US Department of Education, International Association of Chiefs of Police, FEMA and the FBI all recommend having active plans that include decision making and options rather than school lockdowns, in the unlikely event of a school intruder. We have adopted ALICE, a nationally recognized program. ALICE is a proactive set of responses to an active school intruder event which empowers individuals to utilize human action. ALICE stands for:





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.

For more information please email: MenomoneeMSAlliance@gmail.com

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

All are welcome and encouraged to join!

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!



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.



Dental Clinic at school



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.

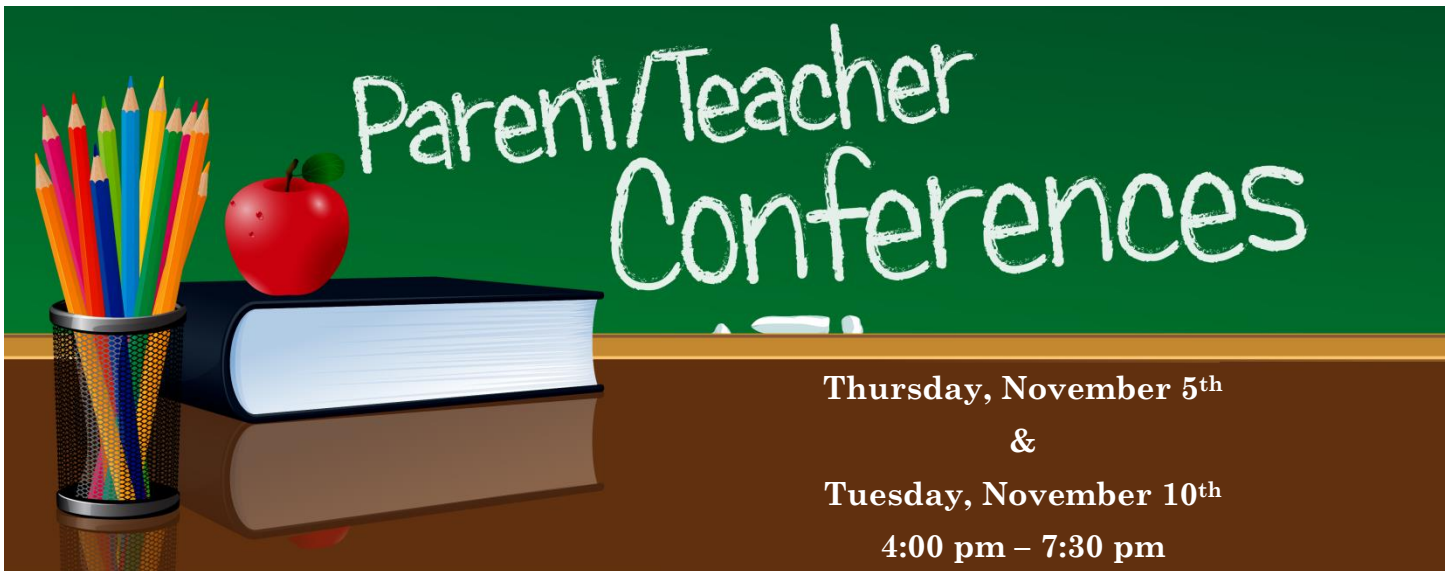
MMS IS A BULLY FREE SCHOOL ZONE

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!



Thursday, November 5th

&

Tuesday, November 10th

4:00 pm – 7:30 pm

For fall conferences, we will be offering both virtual and in person conferences. Your student’s CARES teacher will be reaching out to you to schedule a conference. If you are doing in person conferences, we ask that only parents/guardian and your middle school student attend. Please do not bring siblings or other family. You will check in at the table near the front entrance and provide your name and phone number before proceeding to your conference room. Please contact your CARES teacher with any questions related to conferences. Thank you for wearing a mask at conferences.

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

Main School Number: (715) 232-1673

Attendance Secretary – Kelly Steinmeyer - ext. 30100

Student will not be at school.

Student is leaving school early—appointment.

Student has a planned absence—vacation.

Have a question about your student's attendance.

Nurse's Office – Amanda Eastvold/Sarah Hirsch—ext. 30103

Student is sick and would like to leave school.

Questions regarding medications and plans.

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

Food Service is located at the High School

Questions about lunch accounts

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

Questions regarding students in 6th grade.

Guidance Office – Katherine Hugo - ext. 30108

Questions regarding students in 7th grade.

Guidance Office - Nancy Horner - ext. 30112

Questions regarding students in 8th grade.

Main Office - Tina Potter - ext. 30111

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

Parent/Family Online Access

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

Attendance Reminder

Good school attendance is one 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

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



Health Office Reminders/Procedures

Immunizations – Parents of students who are *behind schedule* or have *no record* on file will receive a notice. This notice will state a deadline to provide proof of immunization requirements or an “in process” status. Failure to provide proof of the requirements can result in exclusion from school. The Tdap requirement **affects ALL middle school students for the 2020-21 school year**. Thank you to all the families who have already submitted proof of the immunization requirements.

*Meningococcal Vaccine is recommended for all children at their routine pre-adolescent doctor visit (11-12 years of age). This is **not** a required vaccine at this time, but because of the recent deaths on college campuses, many colleges are now looking at requiring this vaccine on or before acceptance to their campus.



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.

Yearbooks!

Order your 2021 yearbook online at jostens.com/yearbook for the lowest price of the season at \$19. The prices for yearbooks increase after October 30th.



SPEADING KINDNESS



Mrs. Drake's LEAD class gets fresh air while chalk drawing welcoming messages for MMS.



Science Olympiad

Science Olympiad at MMS

The mission of Wisconsin Science Olympiad is to promote STEM education for students in Wisconsin K-12 schools by engaging communities in the thrill, excitement and challenge of science, technology, engineering and math competition. ALL interested students will be able to participate in Science Olympiad. There are NO Tryouts this year. If you/your student is interested, please fill out this [interest form](#). An organization meeting will be held on Oct. 13 and 16 after school until 4:15pm. In person practices will run from 3:15-4:15, most Tuesdays and Thursdays. Virtual and at home practices may also occur.



6th Grade Website

6th Grade would like to share again with families some resources we have for you. Our [6th grade website](#) has contact information for teachers from both sides. Each subject area has resources to support learning, both at school and at home. We also include links to our Weekly Checklist, found under "Week at a Glance." Students who may need to learn from home due to illness or quarantine can access all learning materials there. Students who are absent from school are still responsible for completing work, unless a specific agreement has been made with a teacher.



Menomonie Middle School qualifies as a School wide Title 1 building. This federally funded program under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act provides funds for our school with the goal of ensuring that all students have an equal opportunity to obtain a high quality education and meet the high academic achievement standards. Funding received from Title 1 allows MMS to provide additional staffing, professional development for staff, and supplies/books to be used with our students. Title 1 also is focused on building a partnership between our families and school, allowing us to create opportunities for family engagement activities. In order to meet requirements and receive this additional funding, our building must have at least 35% of students eligible for the federal free and reduced lunch program. Currently, the USDA has extended free lunches through the end of December 2020 to allow all of our students to receive a nutritious school lunch each day at no cost. Please continue to complete the free and reduced lunch forms as it helps our district in qualifying for additional programs to help our students.

October 2020

Middle Years

Working Together for School Success



Short Stops

Boost self-esteem

Your middle schooler's friends can have a big impact on how she feels about herself. If her self-confidence is lagging, ask, "Which friends make you feel good?" and "Do any friends put you down?" Suggest that she hang on to friends in the first category—and rethink how much time she spends with those in the second.

DID YOU KNOW?

Working in front of a computer screen can cause eye strain. To avoid headaches, blurred vision, and watery eyes, your child should use the 20-20-20 rule. For every 20 minutes of screen time, look up at something 20 feet away for 20 seconds.

Energy investigator

Learning about your family's energy use introduces your tween to science concepts—and gives him a chance to help take care of the planet. Have him search online for top energy-wasters and then find opportunities to correct them at home, like unplugging a fully charged phone or a printer that's in "sleep" mode.

Worth quoting

"Life is like a trumpet. If you don't put anything into it, you don't get anything out of it." *W. C. Handy*

Just for fun

Q: What do you get when you cross a stream and a brook?

A: Wet feet!



Limits for middle schoolers

Your tween might not admit it now that he's getting older, but boundaries help him feel safe and secure. Rules also teach him to make positive choices as he grows up. Consider these tips for setting limits.

Prioritize rules

Having too many rules can be confusing for everyone. Try to narrow them to key categories like health and safety (no drugs and alcohol, limit screen time), school (complete homework on time, keep grades up), and family life (do chores, be respectful).

Be clear and reasonable

State each rule simply but clearly, and try to phrase it in a positive way. *Example:* "Sign off from social media and put away your phone 1 hour before bed" vs. "Don't chat with friends at night." Listen to your tween's input ("My friends text late!"). Then explain your reasoning.

Stay on top of projects

A long-term project will seem more doable if your tween thinks of it as a series of smaller assignments. Recommend this strategy.

■ **Break it into chunks.** Your child can start by listing everything she needs to do. For a paper analyzing a famous speech, steps might begin with: "1. Read the speech," and "2. Research the speaker's life." Seeing that each step is something she can handle will give her the motivation to begin.

■ **Assign a deadline to each chunk.** Your middle grader could work backward to make a schedule for completing her project. On her calendar, she should write in the project's due date, then add her own due date for each step. 👍



("Screen time can interfere with sleep, and you need sleep to stay healthy and do well in school.")

Remain consistent

Stand firm in enforcing rules—letting something slide teaches your child that the rules don't really matter. Also, assign a consequence that's directly linked to each rule. Have him make and hang up a two-column list labeled "Rules" ("I agree to finish homework before playing video games") and "Consequences" ("If not, I understand that I can't play video games for one day"). 👍



Find meaning in books

Thinking “outside the book” often leads to deeper understanding when your child reads novels for school. Share these activities.

Pair it up. Encourage your middle schooler to find a poem or another book that’s related to what she’s reading. For a novel about the Dust Bowl, she might choose Langston Hughes’s poem, “Dust Bowl.” How does the poem affect her feelings about events in the book? Or she could read an ice-skater’s biography along with a novel about ice-skating.



What does knowing more about the world of ice-skating add to her understanding of the challenges the characters in the book faced?

Visualize it. Picturing people and places helps your middle grader comprehend books set in other times and lands. Suggest that she look up images online from the time period the book is set in. Ask her to imagine how people she reads about would

have dressed or what they might have eaten. Or perhaps she’ll learn more about a setting in her book by looking at images on google.com/earth/. 👍

Take a picture!

Snapping photos is a popular pastime for tweens. With these ideas, your child will boost his creativity as he takes interesting shots.

Experiment with subjects

Encourage your middle grader to shoot extreme close-ups of objects, such as marbles in a jar or the inside of an orange. Then, he can share the photo with family members and challenge them to figure out what’s pictured. Or he might snap photos related to a theme, perhaps water or happiness, and put them in an album to keep on the coffee table.



Explore all the angles

Your tween could try shooting the same scene or object from various perspectives. Maybe he’ll lie under a tree and point his camera straight up to take a picture. Then he can stand up, step away from the tree, and get a photo at a different angle. 👍

OUR PURPOSE

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

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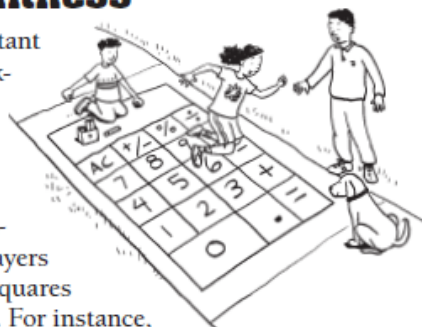
Parent to Parent

Fall for family fitness

I know exercise is important for my family’s health, but we weren’t making time for it. So now each week, we appoint an “activity director” who plans an active game to play.

My seventh-grader, Mariah, invented Calculator Hopscotch. She drew a calculator on the driveway, and on each turn, players toss a rock onto a number and hop onto squares to create equations equaling that number. For instance, when Mariah’s rock landed on 7, she solved $56 \div 8 = 7$ by hopping on 5, 6, \div , 8, =, and 7. Since her equation was correct, she scored 7 points. High score won the game.

My sixth-grader, Rafael, made up a nature scavenger hunt. He listed things to find, like an acorn or something blue, and we raced to find them. We’re having so much fun playing outside that we don’t even feel like we’re exercising! 👍



Q&A

Academic honesty—at home

Q How can I make sure my son doesn’t cheat when he works online at home?

A It can be tempting for tweens to copy and paste information from the internet or chat answers to friends. Or they may not even realize they’re cheating. Explain to your child that cheating is dishonest, can cause him to get a zero on his work—and will prevent him from learning.

Instead of copying and pasting, encourage him to read his

source material, close that window, and type the information in his own words. Point out that it’s not enough to rearrange words and sentences. He needs original explanations and examples, and he needs to cite the source. If he’s taking a test or quiz at home, make sure he turns off chat and email notifications. He won’t be distracted by pings or feel pressured to share answers.

Finally, praise hard work rather than focusing on grades—you’ll teach him to value both effort and honesty. 👍

