



Menomonie Middle School Newsletter

October/November 2023

Mark Your Calendar

Tues. Oct. 10: Picture Retakes

Tues. Oct. 10: Parent/Teacher Conferences 4-7:30pm

Fri. Oct. 13: No School!

Mon. Oct. 16: No School!

Thurs. Oct. 19: Encore, Term 1 Ends

Thurs. Oct. 19: Parent/Teacher Conferences 4-7:30pm

Fri. Oct. 20: WIN Rotation 1 Ends

Fri. Oct. 27: Term 1 Ends

Fri. Nov. 1: MMS Play at Mabel Tainter

Sat. Nov. 2: MMS Play at Mabel Tainter

Wed. Nov. 8: Smart Girls Rock

Fri. Nov. 10: Veteran's Day Program

Mon. Nov 20 – Fri. Nov 24: No School!

Greetings from Principal Boettcher!

Welcome to the 2023-24 school year!

Attitude + Effort = Success.

The start of each new school year is exciting for students and staff. We have developed a slogan at Menomonie Middle School where “*My Attitude Means Success.*” We believe that bringing a positive attitude and showing effort each day, will propel us towards success in everything we do.

Our MMS students have unlimited opportunities and education is one avenue to unlock those opportunities. The staff at MMS will work collaboratively to support all students on their path to achievement and success.

Each student starts their day by attending CARES which stands for *Cooperation, Assertion, Responsibility, Empathy and Self Control*. CARES is a special 26-minute period of time for students to start their day in a caring environment with a teacher mentor who provides social, emotional, organizational and/or academic support.

Each student will also have a WIN period in their schedule. Our WIN model is about finding the solution that is right for each individual student, by providing scheduled time for additional learning and support. Every day our students have a 30-minute block of WIN (What I Need) time. During WIN all students participate in enrichment opportunities or math/language arts intervention labs based on their specific academic needs. We look forward to supporting student learning through WIN this year!

Menomonie Middle School believes *ALL* students can learn and achieve grade-level expectations with the proper time and support.

Bart Boettcher - Principal
Attitude + Effort = Success!

Notes from the Front Office....

- **Absences:** Call the front office by 9:00 am to report an absence. (715) 232-1673 Option 1.
- **Late Arrival:** Bring a note from parent/guardian upon arrival to be excused.
- **Preplanned Absence:** If a student will be gone for an extended (3+ days), send a note and we will give them a homework sheet.
- **Bus passes:** Must be requested by a parent/guardian in writing. **Text messages are not accepted.**
- **Appointments/Early Release:** Students leaving during the school day should bring a note to the front office from a parent/guardian before school starts. This note must include the following information: date, time of appointment, and general reason.
- Written excuses are preferred rather than parent/guardian phone calls to avoid unnecessary interruptions to the classroom.
- Please plan ahead. We ask that you not show up at the last minute with no prior notification to avoid unnecessary interruptions in the classroom.
- Parents/Guardians should call the office at (715) 232-1673 when arriving to pick up their student. Office staff will log and send out student to vehicle.
- **Sick at School:** If your student becomes ill at school, students should go to the health room and they will determine and call if a student needs to be picked up. Students should not call/email home on their own.
- **End of Day Messages:** Messages are given out at the end of the day. Students are called on the intercom. It is the student's responsibility to listen for their name. All messages should be called into the office no later than 2:00 pm. Please try to communicate after school plans before the school day so we can avoid interruptions to class.

***In an effort to reduce the amount of calls interrupting classes daily, we will make announcements during lunch and at the end of the day to give students passes and/or messages. Students are responsible for coming to the office to get their messages.**

Thank you for your cooperation.

MMS Welcomes New Educators to Our Team!

Welcome – Maxwell Ellison, Band
Welcome – Paula Haugle, School Counselor
Welcome – Tyson Hoeft, 8th Math
Welcome – Justin Kretz, 7th Social Studies
Welcome – Rebekah Mathison, SPED
Welcome – Madalyn McCabe, Spanish/World Language
Welcome – Jessika Muns, SPED
Welcome – Erin Raygo, 6th Social Studies
Welcome – Wyatt Rottier, 8th Science
Welcome – Kaitlyn Williams, 6th Language Arts





Our school nutrition department works hard at offering healthy and good tasting breakfast and lunch daily. All students through 12th grade can receive free breakfast. For lunch at the Middle School, we offer 3 different options: the main event, and alternate entrée or the garden bar. You can check out the daily menu options for elementary school and the middle school by going to the district website at sdmaonline.com. Click on the Parents & Community tab. Under Parent Information you will see School Meal Menus. There you will find a quick link to our monthly menu.

Doing What is Right Matters at MMS!

CORE VALUES 2023-24

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:

ALICE
TRAINING INSTITUTE

ALERT
Initial Alert may be a gunshot, PA announcement, etc...
Avoid code words.

LOCKDOWN
If Evacuation is not a safe option, barricade entry points.
Prepare to Evacuate or Counter if needed.

INFORM
Communicate real time information on shooter location.
Use clear and direct language using any communication means possible.

COUNTER
As a last resort, distract shooters ability to shoot accurately.
Move toward exits while making noise, throwing objects,
or adults swarm shooter.

EVACUATE
Run from danger when safe to do so using non-traditional
exits if necessary. Rallying point should be predetermined.

AliceTraining.com



Do You Have Questions About How to Use “Skyward Family Access”?

If you have questions about how to use our Skyward grading data base “Family Access”, you are not alone. Parents/guardians often have questions or difficulty when navigating this site. Do not hesitate to contact our front office for guidance when this occurs. We are ready and willing to assist you. To login to Family Access, go to the Parents & Community tab, go to Parent Tools and a drop down menu will come up with Skyward Family Access on it. Click on this option to access Family Access.

MMS IS A BULLY FREE SCHOOL ZONE

Principals, teachers, counselors, and other staff members at Menomonie Middle School are always willing to listen to and consider the ideas, concerns, and needs of our students and parents/guardians. Several options for communication exist:



- **Talk to an adult you trust face to face**
Choose an adult staff member you trust and talk! We like talking with students and parents/guardians! If the adult you trust seems busy, ask to set up an appointment to share later.
- **Call an Adult You Trust**
Using the telephone to communicate is perfectly OK!
- **Write to an Adult You Trust**
If talking face to face or on the telephone is too hard, write a message to an adult you trust. Written messages can be delivered to an office or classroom. We will respond to you in a timely manner.
- **Send an Email to an Adult You Trust**
Sending an email to an adult you trust is a safe and easy way to share. We will respond in a timely manner.

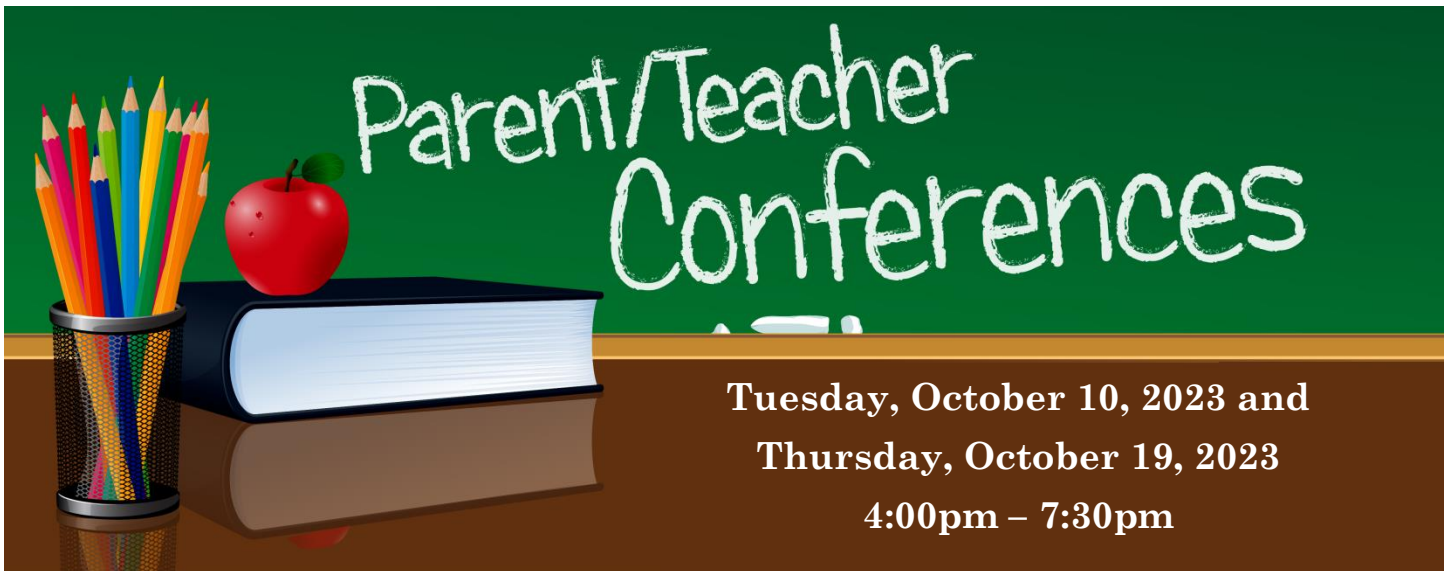
All students should feel safe at school! No concern is too small! “Stand up” for yourself and “stand up” for your friends and peers. Together, we can eliminate bullying in our school!

Student Chromebook Procedure

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

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



A graphic for Parent/Teacher Conferences. It features a green chalkboard background with the text "Parent/Teacher Conferences" written in white chalk. In the foreground, there is a stack of two books, a red apple, and a pencil holder containing several colorful pencils. The background is split into a green top half and a brown bottom half.

Parent/Teacher
Conferences

Tuesday, October 10, 2023 and
Thursday, October 19, 2023
4:00pm – 7:30pm

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.

GET PAID TO WATCH!



BUS DRIVERS NEEDED!

Do you have students that participate in extra-curricular activities? Why not get paid to watch their event? Menomonie Transportation is in need of extra-curricular drivers. Drivers are paid from the time they leave the garage until the time they return.

Please contact Menomonie Transportation (715-235-4995) if this piques your interest!

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.

LOST & FOUND

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 – Deanna Wilson - ext. 30103

- Student is sick and would like to leave school.
- Questions regarding medications and plans.

Food Service - (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 8th grade.

Guidance Office – Adrianna Harrison - ext. 30740

- Questions regarding students in 7th grade.

Guidance Office – Paula Haugle - ext. 30635

- Questions regarding students in 6th grade.

Main Office - Tina Potter - ext. 30111

- Have a question about your student's fees—tech, print fee, 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 3:00 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. 42194.



September Matters!!

While truancy issues affect a small percentage of our students, a larger group of students meet the definition of **chronically absent**. What is the difference people often ask? Truancy is defined by law as unexcused absences and indicates an intent on the part of the student and/or family to miss part or all of a school day. Chronic absenteeism is a term used to describe both excused and unexcused absences. This term more accurately describes the typical attendance issues found at the middle level. The cumulative effects of both excused and/or unexcused absences have a significant impact on a student's ability to learn.

Chronic absenteeism is defined as any student missing more than 18 days, or 10%, of a school year. At MMS, we don't wait until the student has missed 18 or more days before we begin to offer services. On a monthly basis, our attendance secretary will run a report of any student who has missed more than 10% of the days we have had school. This report allows us to progressively monitor absences throughout the year and identify any specific situations in need of intervention.

Middle school attendance in combination with a student's academic standing are the number one indicator of how a student will perform in high school. A recent study from the University of Chicago found students missing >10% in 8th grade will likely be off track in high school. Students missing >15% in 6th & 7th are at significant risk of failing when getting to high school, and missing >20% in 6th, 7th, & 8th almost guarantees a student will be off track to graduate at the end of the freshman year.

September is the perfect time to determine if your student's attendance is at risk of becoming chronically absent. A recent study from the Baltimore Education Research Consortium (2014) revealed these key findings:

- Students missing <2 days in September continue to average fewer than 2 days absent each month the remainder of the year
- Students missing between 2-4 days in September will continue to miss between 2-3 days/month totaling over 25 days for the year
- Students missing >4 days in September will miss an average of 6-9 days/month totaling over 70 days for the year
- 13% of students missing <2 days in September go on to be chronically absent
- In contrast, 50% missing 2-4 days in September go on to be chronically absent
- 88% of students absent for more than 4 days in September go on to be chronically absent

As we move into October, use your child's September attendance to help determine their potential for becoming chronically absent this school year. All students are allowed by law 10 days of excused absences during the year. After 10 days, a doctor's note is required as documentation to excuse the absence. As a parent myself, I understand that illness and unexpected life events may keep your child from school at some point. However, we must avoid any unnecessary absences not knowing what the remainder of the year could bring. For example, if you already have 4 or more absences following the first month of school, you are on pace to miss 36 days, or 20%. Now you are looking at 8 more months of school with only 6 more absences before a doctor's note is required.

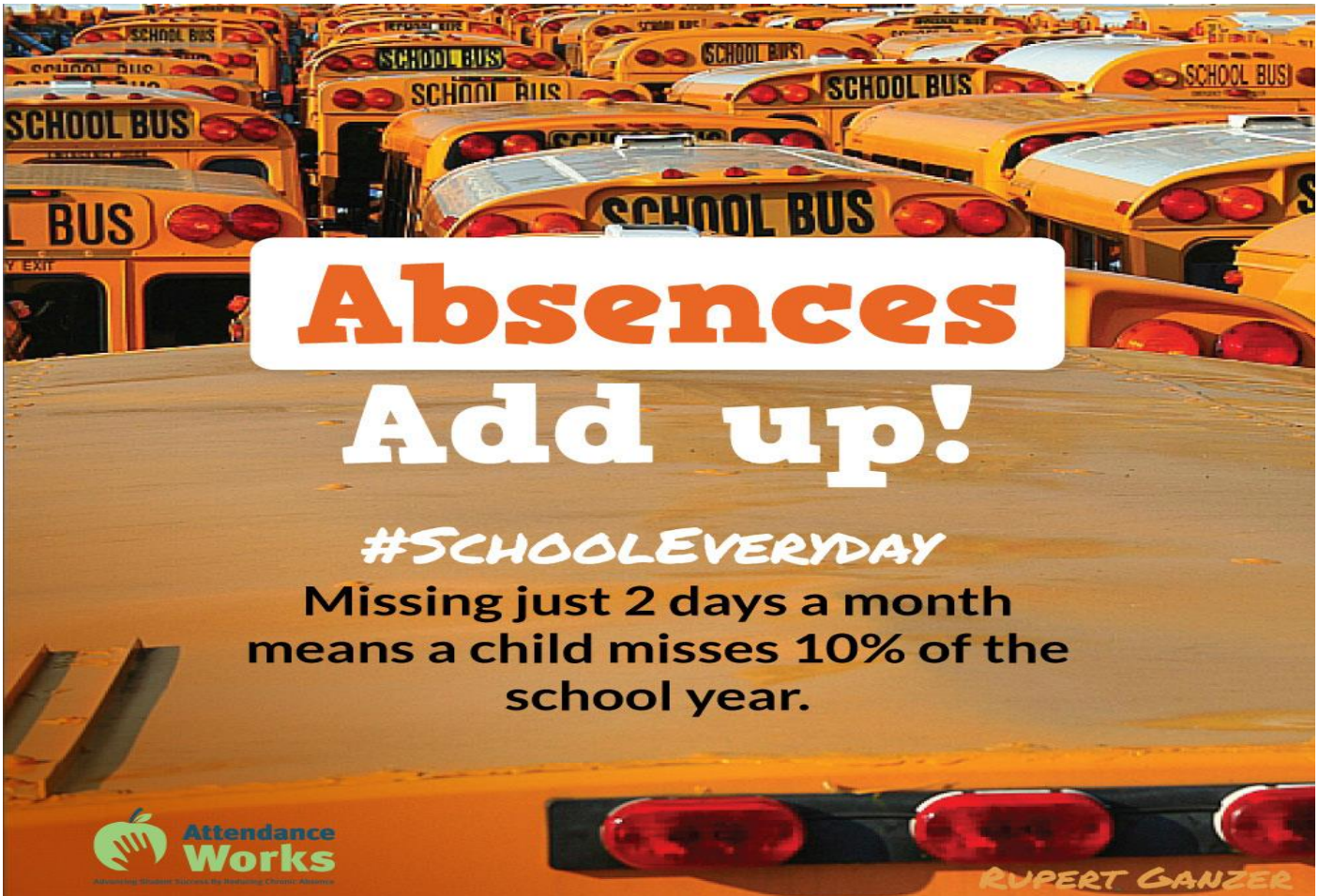
We recognize the impact that Covid-19 has had on students and their families. It reinforces the importance of being in school every day not knowing when you may have to miss an extended period of time due to illness or quarantine related to Covid-19. Even if you have to miss school, it is important you remain "present" in your learning by communicating with your teachers and staying engaged through online learning opportunities.

If there are issues surrounding your child's ability to attend school, please reach out to your child's teacher, counselor, or administration. When we are able to develop a strong partnership with the student and their family, we can make an immediate and positive impact upon their attendance.

Mark Anderson
Assistant Principal



Every student. Every day.



Student Drop Off



We appreciate your assistance in keeping the traffic flowing during morning drop off. By driving as far forward in the drop off lane as possible and exiting the vehicle along the entire drop off zone, we are able to keep a better flow to the traffic. Recently, we were able to have “drop off” zones painted along with right/left turn lanes as you exit the middle school to turn on 21st Street. We hope this helps to limit the backlog of vehicles leaving the middle school.

Most importantly, please use caution when dropping off your children. Unfortunately, we have had a couple of close calls recently as people accelerate through the open lane. People are using the open lane as they have either already dropped the students off or they are attempting to get to the front of the drop off line. For the safety of our students and staff, we ask that students are dropped off

in the right lane next to the sidewalk.

Recently, we have had an increased number of people choosing to drop off students in the staff parking lot. We do not encourage this practice as it results in students crossing through the traffic lanes. This has become even more dangerous as the people in the right lane have to look over their left shoulder anticipating traffic accelerating from behind. Their eyes should be focused ahead on the pedestrians crossing from the staff parking lot. This becomes even more dangerous as the mornings grow darker and roads turn snow covered and slippery. We also have more students being dropped off in the winter versus walking and riding bikes. Thankfully, the large majority of you exercise caution, patience, and proper protocol each day during drop off. We appreciate your cooperation.

8th Grade FACS Experience New Life



Students in Mrs. Kellander's 8th grade FACS classes are learning and experiencing pregnancy. We spend time talking and learning about prenatal growth and development as well as spend time learning about parenting. The brave folks to the left actually got a chance to feel what it's like to be physically pregnant (7 months to be exact) for a short time in class.

Students will also spend time learning about parenting, they'll try baby food, and practice swaddling before moving on to our next unit. Thank you to our brave volunteers!



Are you a middle school girl who is interested in Science, Technology, Engineering, or Math? Do you want to learn about future career possibilities in those fields? Then this event is for you! Join us for hands-on activities, demonstrations, and speed-mentoring with women professionals from the surrounding Dunn County Area.

Who: Any girl in 6th-8th grade

When/Where: Wednesday, November 8th from 8:00am-10am in
MMS Cafeteria

Teacher Contact: Ms. Yonash room 714

More information and sign ups will be coming soon!

Jarrett Creek Field Trip

On Wednesday September 20th, all 8th grade students took part in the annual stream monitoring field trip to Jarrett Creek. The science students conducted chemical tests (phosphorus, ammonia, chlorine, pH, and dissolved oxygen), and they also measured turbidity, stream flow and conducted a biotic index. We are trying to determine if a small tributary like Jarrett Creek contributes excessive nutrients and pollutants to Lake Menomin and the Red Cedar Watershed. It was a beautiful day and a fun learning experience!



FCA- Fellowship of Christian Athletes

Meets every 2nd and 4th Wednesday

6:50am in the MMS Gym

Come for donuts, games and a bible study!

Contact information:

shelly_duex@msd.k12.wi.us



Reading Tip

A simple life hack to improve your teens literacy development is to turn on the closed captioning function on devices your child uses!



Math Tip

As you grocery shop with your child, have them estimate the total cost. Make it a contest to see how close they can get to the actual number!





BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF THE GREATER CHIPPEWA VALLEY



- Thursday, October 5th - Menomonie's Got Talent event at the Mabel Tainter at 6:00 PM. This is a fundraising event with proceeds benefitting the Boys and Girls Club. Here is a link for more information: <https://cvclubs.org/events/>
 - Contact info:
 - Angela Payne, apayne@cvclubs.org and 715-379-5872
- Friday, October 27th - The first of our Monthly Teen Late Nights which will be Halloween themed and will involve Pumpkin Decorating and a Costume Contest. The permission slip will be available at our front desk.
 - Contact Info:
 - Steven Schimmel, sschimmel@cvclubs.org and 715-953-6366
 - Cheyanne Catura, ccatura@cvclubs.org and 715-233-2540

New Student Services Website

The student services department has a [new website](#) - check it out! Find our contact information as well as resources on Careers and Emotional Wellness. From <https://mms.sdmaonline.com/> click on **Student Services**, then Student Services.

Need Advice on Raising Your Middle School Child?

The school counselors will be holding informational presentations during Parent Teacher Conferences in the **Library**:

<u>Tuesday, Oct. 10th</u>	<u>Thursday, Oct. 19th</u>
4:45 pm	4:45 pm
5:30 pm	5:30 pm
6:15 pm	6:15 pm

These sessions will cover what to expect during middle school from your child, as well as some tips and tricks to help make the most of these years. No registration is required, just stop in when you're able. Each presentation will cover the same content and will be 15 minutes in length.

Morning Workouts with Mr. Bielmeier

Mr. Bielmeier leads a developmentally-appropriate, morning workout every Tuesday and Friday from 6:30-7:15 am. These workouts run the entire school year and are designed with athletes in mind, but are open to all students. The workouts are based on improving SPEED and STRENGTH, with one day each week specifically focused on one or the other. There is no sign-up necessary; students can simply show up any day they are able. Email Mr. Bielmeier at paul_bielmeier@msd.k12.wi.us with any questions.





WE'RE A BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION™ SCHOOL!

For over 25 years, Box Tops for Education has given nearly \$1 billion to schools nationwide, 10 cents at a time. Every kid deserves a chance to reach their full potential, and Box Tops can help us close the funding gaps in our school.

Scan the code to download the Box Tops app and start earning for our school today!



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BOX TOPICS

OCTOBER
2023

Easy ways to make a difference for your school.



It's time to trick or treat yourself to some of Box Tops' delicious seasonal products.

When you scan an earning receipt, you'll be entered to win **1,000 Bonus Box Tops** for your school and a **Monster Cereal Prize Pack** for you. Now that's an eerie-sistible offer!

Sweepstakes runs 10/01 through 10/31.
See btf.com/spooktacular_sweeps for more details.



HALLOWEEN REFER A FRIEND BONUS

For **One Week Only** when you refer a friend and they scan their first receipt, you'll earn **40 Bonus Box Tops** for your school. Ready, set ... refer! Bonus runs 10/25-10/31.



CARVE OUT SOME TIME FOR HALLOWEEN FUN

Decorate a jack o'lantern with your family! Our pumpkin stencils make it easy. When you're done carving or painting your pumpkin, take a photo of your creation, post it on social media and tag us. We'll repost your masterpieces in our story!

You can download the stencils at btf.com.



GET THE BOX TOPS APP & START EARNING FOR YOUR SCHOOL TODAY!

