

Menomonie Middle School

Newsletter

December/January 2023-24

Mark Your Calendar

Tues. Dec. 12: Orchestra Concert, 7pm

Wed. Dec. 13: Student Council Fleece Tie Blankets

Thurs. Dec. 14: Band Concert (see page 7)

Thurs. Dec. 14: Encore Term 2 Ends

Fri. Dec. 15: Encore Term 3 Begins

Tues. Dec. 19: Choir Concert, 7pm

Wed. Dec. 20: MMS Music Holiday Tour

Fri. Dec. 22 – Tues. Jan. 2 No School – Winter Break

Wed. Jan 3: School Resumes

Thurs. Jan 4: HS Counselors meet with 8th grade about HS registration during WIN

Mon. Jan. 8: Mustang Preview Night for 8th graders at MHS, 5:30pm

Thurs. Jan 11: Referendum Presentation Q & A, 6pm

Fri. Jan. 12: 8th Graders register for High School during WIN

Fri. Jan. 19: Term 2 Ends

Mon. Jan 22: Term 3 Begins

Mon. Jan. 29: Band-A-Rama at High School, 7pm

Greetings from Principal Boettcher!

One of the Middle School goals is that each student will achieve grade-level expectations. We want to partner with parents to achieve this goal. Students should set aside at least thirty minutes on school nights for homework or reading. You can view all assignments on the grade level "Week At A Glance" page which can be accessed on the Middle School website. Please reach out to your students CARES teacher, counselor or principal if you have any questions.

As we move towards a winter wonderland, I want to remind everyone to use caution and be careful as you enter and exit the parking lot as it can be slippery. Our maintenance staff works hard to keep up with the snow and ice. Please continue to use the entire drop-off area to keep traffic flow moving. The parking log should not be used for drop off in the morning as it is dangerous for student to cross traffic. Enjoy the holiday season.

Thank you,

Bart Boettcher - Principal
Attitude + Effort = Success!

MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS

Winter can be hard on our mental health.
Check out the student Services website
for Emotional Wellness Resources!

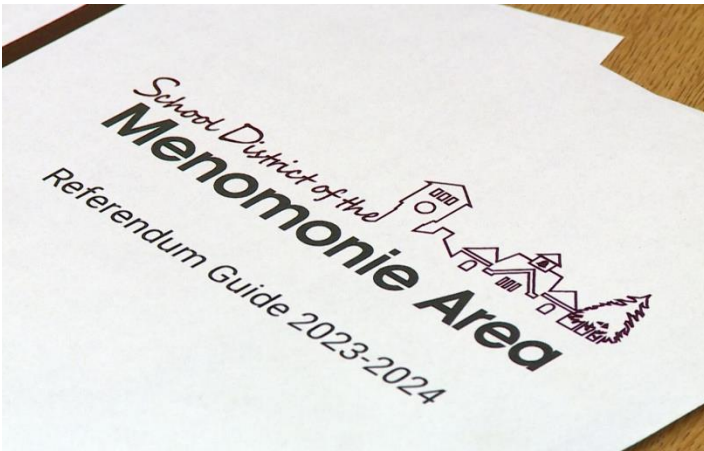
<https://mms.sdmaonline.com>

click: Student Services

Referendum Informational Meeting

Thursday, January 11th

SDMA residents will be asked to vote on a school referendum on February 20, 2024. [Information about the referendum](#) is posted on the school district website, and Dr. Zydowsky will be hosting an informational meeting at MMS beginning at 6:00 pm on Thursday, January 11. All parents, staff, and community members are welcome to attend.



December 1, 2023

Dear MMS Families,

Are you planning a family trip for the holidays? As you think about your arrangements, we want to stress the importance of sending your child to school every day possible. Every year, absences spike in the weeks before and after the winter holiday as families squeeze in a few more vacation days. It's time to break that cycle. We know that just a few missed days here and there, even if they're excused absences, can add up to too much lost learning time and put your child behind in school. Put simply, too many absences at any age can affect a student's chances for academic success and eventually for graduation.



We recognize that holidays are an important time for reconnecting with families far away. But please keep in mind the costs to your children's education if they miss too much school -- and the message you will be sending about the importance of attendance. Even if you've got a homework packet from the teacher, it doesn't make up for the interaction and learning that happens in the classroom. Our MMS teachers will be teaching, and our students will be learning, right up until vacation starts and the first day back. You can help us convey that message. This holiday season, give your children the gift of an education and the habit of attendance.

Sincerely,

Bart Boettcher
MMS Principal

Mark Anderson
MMS Assistant Principal

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.

Reading Tip

Build vocabulary, background knowledge, and feed the hungry!

Check out freerice.com.

100% of the funds generated in Freerice go to the World Food Programme! Be sure to adjust the difficulty level to give yourself a good challenge!



Math Tip

Looking for a fun game? Check these out! They improve skills in spatial awareness, problem solving, and critical thinking!

- Kanoodle
- Rush Hour
- Genius Square
- Genius Star
- Blokus



Notes from the Front Office:

RE: Student Bus Passes, Student Appointments, Student Messages



Middle school students are busy young people!

The MMS front office assistants are available to support families and students when the need for a bus pass, pass from class, or student message occurs. To better serve you and to minimize classroom interruptions, keep the following guidelines in mind:

- ✓ Students can be notified at lunch about messages or deliveries.
- ✓ Students cannot be paged during the school day: 7:43 am through 3:00 pm.
- ✓ Bus passes must be requested by students/families in writing. Text messages are not accepted.
- ✓ Students can be released from class to attend appointments by securing a Classroom Pass Release from the front office. A Classroom Pass Release requires a written excuse from a parent/guardian. This excuse must include the following information: date, time of pick up, and general reason. The time listed on the excuse will be minutes prior to the anticipated parent arrival time.
- ✓ **Written excuses are preferred rather than parent/guardian phone calls to avoid unnecessary interruptions to the classroom. Please try to avoid showing up to pick up students at the last minute.**
- ✓ Students released from class during the school day must wait in the front office reception area for a parent/guardian to arrive. Parents are not required to come to the office prior to leaving the school building.
- ✓ Students returning to school after appointments must check in the front office before returning to class. Students will get a pass back to class upon their return. Parent/Guardians are not required to come into the building. If you get a note from the doctor, your student can turn that in upon arrival.
- ✓ Please do not text students during class as students are not allowed to use their cell phones during the school day. Try to make arrangements prior to the beginning of the school day.

Thank you for supporting our MMS front office.

Lost and Found

We accumulate many, many clothing items and lunch bags/boxes from the start of the school year. Please take the time to check our "Lost and Found" table when you are in the building. The "Lost and Found" is located in the hallway by the main office. Or even better, encourage your student to look for their missing items.



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 – Taryn Carryl —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

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

Questions regarding students in 8th grade.

Guidance Office – Paula Haugle - ext. 30635

Questions regarding students in 6th grade.

Guidance Office – Adrianna Harrison - ext. 30740

Questions regarding students in 7th grade.

Main Office - Tina Potter—ext. 30111

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

Email: tina_potter@msd.k12.wi.us

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. 42124.



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!



See you on January 3, 2024!

No School!

**Friday, December 22
through
Tuesday, January 2**

Toppers Dough-Nation Night

A HUGE thank you to Topper's and all who purchased pizza's for our Dough-Nation Night with Topper's in November. We were able to earn 25% back on all purchases. The final total is in and we raised \$299.26! Thank you to Topper's for your generosity and to everyone that participated by ordering pizza. We look forward to partnering with Topper's again for this great fundraiser. The funds will be used in our PBIS Intervention Program.



IT'S CONCERT SEASON!

6th Grade Band

Date: December 14th

Student call times: 5:00 pm

Concerts starts at: 5:30 pm

Location: MMS Gym

Performer attire: nice concert clothes

7th Grade Band

Date: December 14th

Student call times: 6:00 pm

Concerts starts at: 6:30 pm

Location: MMS Gym

Performer attire: Black bottoms, white top

8th Grade Band

Date: December 14th

Student call times: 7:00 pm

Concerts starts at: 7:30 pm

Location: MMS Gym

Performer attire: Concert black (all black)



MMS Orchestra

Date: December 12th

Student call time: 6:15 pm

Concert starts at: 7:00 pm

Location: MMS Gym

Performer attire: All grades- All black or black and white

6th, 7th, & 8th Grade Choirs

Date: December 19th

Student call time: 6:30pm

Concert starts at: 7:00pm

Location: MMS Gym

Performer attire:

6th – Dress up

7th – Choir Robes

8th – Choir Robes

Student Council is hosting a fleece drive!



December 4th to December 8th

Fleece will be used to make blankets for the cats at the Dunn County Humane Society on Wednesday, December 13th after school.



MHS Mustang Preview Night



A night to welcome incoming 9th graders and families.

January 8, 2024 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM

5:30-5:55 PM- Auditorium Welcome & Introduction to Menomonie HS.

5:55-7:00 PM- Commons Curriculum and Activities Fair

MHS Department Websites

<u>Agriscience</u>	<u>Activities/Athletics</u>	<u>Art</u>	<u>Business & Marketing</u>
<u>English/Language Arts</u>	<u>Family and Consumer Sciences</u>	<u>Math</u>	<u>Music</u>
<u>Physical Education & Health</u>	<u>Student Services</u>	<u>Science</u>	<u>Social Studies</u>
<u>Technology & Engineering</u>		<u>World Language</u>	

Visit us at <http://mhs.sdmaonline.com/>

Smart Girls Rock!



Smart Girls Rock! took place at Menomonie Middle School on Wednesday, November 8, 2023. Smart Girls Rock! is a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) event meant to spark interest in STEAM careers among middle school girls. In its seventh year, 237 sixth through eighth-grade girls were able to meet 47 women in various STEAM careers in an open-house format to explore 22 stations. This year it showcased women professionals from 3M, Anderson Windows, Mayo Clinic Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation, Hoof and Paw Veterinary Clinic, Phillips Medsize, Gibson Aviation, Eau Claire 4-H, SDMA Tech, Agsource, Big Dot of Happiness, and UW-Stout: Psychology, Industrial Design, Nutrition & Dietetics, IT, Packaging, Craft Artist. As well as women in the careers of biomedical engineering, packaging, quality technician, engineering, and manufacturing.

Cardinal Glass/Phillips Medsize

Eighth grade students went on a field trip to Cardinal Glass and Phillips Medsize on the morning of November 17th. They got a glimpse into some of the manufacturing that occurs right here in Menomonie and all of the science that is involved in the process. Both places were great examples of how useful elements and minerals are to society!





BOX TOPS

HOLIDAY EDITION 2023

Easy ways to make a difference for your school.



YOU CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE

Low-income schools receive approximately \$1000 less per student in state and local funding, which contributes to lost opportunities for those students.

During the holiday season, Box Tops is encouraging participants to switch their settings in the Box Tops app to support a school in need for a week (or more!).

Follow these steps in the app to support a school in need near you:



PROFILE ICON



MANAGE SCHOOLS



ADD SCHOOL



FIND A SCHOOL IN NEED

HOLIDAY TIMESAVERS THAT GIVE BACK

Stock up on Box Tops products before the holiday season starts! So many of our delicious, versatile products are perfect for helping save time in the kitchen as you prep for your seasonal celebrations. Just don't forget to scan your receipt as the holiday season gets busier and busier.



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

