

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear NMS Parents,
Students, & Families,

Opening day is just around the corner and I am delighted that you are a part of the Jr. Huskies' family. As we settle into a new school year, please take the time to review the "need-to-know" kind of information found in this selection. We are proud to announce a new assistant principal her at NMS. It is a familiar face from around the building...please help me welcome Mr. Craig Medd in his new role. We are also excited to have gained many other new staff members; see names listed below.



August/September 2011

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Schedule Distribution Information	2
School Supplies	3
Parent Involvement	4
Lunch & Yearbook Prices	5
Fall Athletics	6

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

All students will report to their homeroom on Sept. 6. Throughout the morning students will be learning about the building/behavior expectations that align with our MiBLSi district initiative. Students will learn what the Jr. Huskie Way means and will have an opportunity to see appropriate behavior explained and modeled. The day will conclude with students receiving class schedules. Students do not need any supplies on Tuesday.

WELCOME TO NEW STAFF

New Staff Members/ Department

Derek Dee—Math
Margie DeGroot—Art
Rebecca Hanson—Media Secretary
Nancy Jaskiw—School Psychologist
Alysia Lehmann—Counselor
Katie Oldham—CI Classroom
Loren Osborne—At-risk Parapro
Sherry Sims—Media Specialist
Nicole Zielonka—Math

Fall Semester Student Interns- Mentor Teachers

Amanda France—Sharon Kelly
Andre Hicks—Jessie Bierlein
Michael Mowinski—Stephanie Wagner
& Chad Wagner
Craig Poyser—Jeanne Burnham & Don
Kitchin

STAY INFORMED...

SIGN-UP FOR PPS E-MAIL UPDATES

The District offers a free list service for anyone who would like to get regular e-mail updates or information regarding Portage Schools, an individual school, or district foundations, Portage Education Foundation and Portage Athletic Foundation.

To sign-up, simply visit the district's homepage at www.portageps.org, and click on the box in the lower right corner. That will take you to a page allowing you to select the list service messages you would like. Once you subscribe, you will receive a confirmation alerting you that your order went through. Call 323-5000 with any questions.

Portage Schools is also on Twitter, the micro-blogging social media tool. You can sign up for your free Twitter account at the District homepage at www.portageps.org and then click the "follow" icon on our Twitter site to receive regular brief updates about Portage Schools.

You can also receive North Middle School updates by signing up for their distribution list found at the bottom of the NMS homepage, www.portageps.org/schools/middle/nms. At the beginning of each month the monthly newsletter is posted along with other parenting resources

CLASS SCHEDULE DISTRIBUTIONS

New students and 6th graders received their class schedules during the August 29th New Student Orientation. Returning 7th and 8th graders will receive their schedules on the first day of school during 1st Hour. First Hour Class Lists will be posted on the exterior doors of the school by 4:00 p.m. Friday, September 2. If a student's name does not appear on the 1st Hour Class Lists, he/she should report to the Guidance Office on the first day of school (September 6th).



SCHOOL HOURS

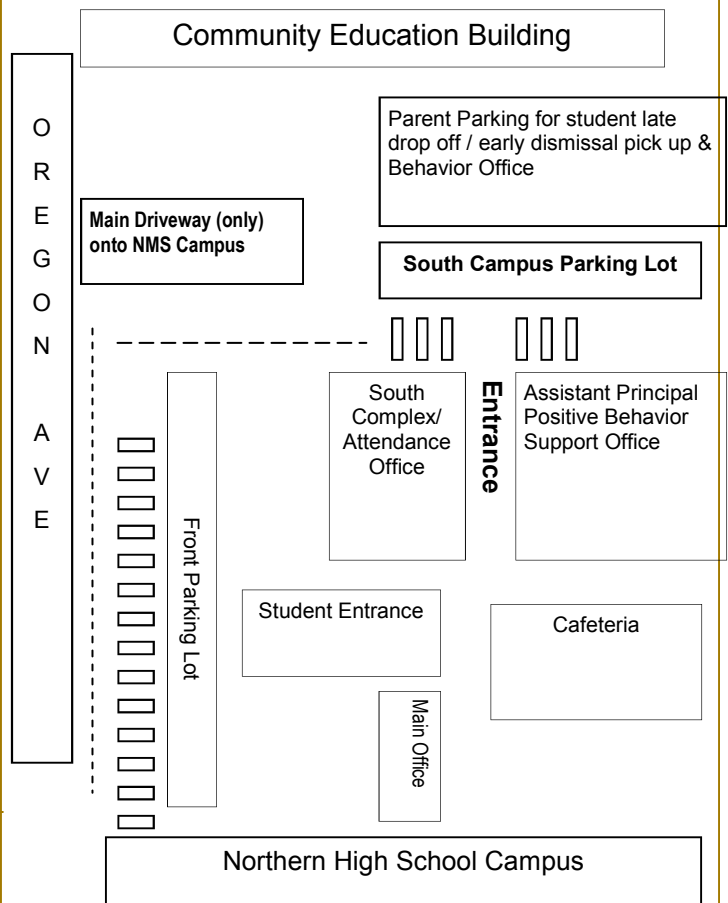
The regular school day begins at 7:43 a.m. and students are not permitted in the building before 7:25 a.m. The regular school day ends at 2:48 p.m.

GETTING AROUND...

Now that NMS has two offices it is important to know where to report and how to get answers to important questions and assistance. The South Complex, which houses the Positive Behavior Support office is located in the **SOUTH END** of NMS. Parent/Visitors who have appointments with the Assistant Principal, can enter through the south entrance.

Parent/Visitors with an appointment to see the principal, Dr. Celeste Harris will enter through the main entrance and swing a right to head to the front office. Most other tasks can be accomplished at either office, with one exception that all students going home sick will be picked up from the front office.

See map below outlining the campus layout:



AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 2010

Fall 2011

PEST CONTROL SERVICE DATES

Due to Acts 636 and 637 of the Michigan State Department of Agriculture's Pesticide Notification of Schools, we are required to inform you of the scheduled pest control service days. Please note the following Friday dates for NMS:



September, 9, 2011	March 9, 2012
October 14, 2011	April 13, 2012
November 11, 2011	May 11, 2012
December 9, 2011	June 8, 2012
January 13, 2012	July 13, 2012
February 10, 2012	August 10, 2012

NEW 6TH GRADE PARENTS

Welcome, again, to North Middle School – the home of the Junior Huskies and the educational community that embraces learning and celebrates achievements. Here are a few bits of information that pertain specifically to incoming sixth graders.

The immunization requirements for all 6th graders must be current on all required shots before entering middle school. The required shots include 4 doses DPT/10 year booster; 3 doses Polio, 2 doses MMR, 3 doses Hepatitis B, and 1 dose of Varicella or history of chickenpox disease.

The Michigan State Law prohibits children from entering school until parents provide proof that all immunizations have been given, or have a waiver on file. If updated immunization records are not at your current elementary school, please do so by the end of the school year. If you have specific questions, please call our Counseling/Guidance Office at 323-5777 or your elementary school office.

If you are aware of new students who have moved into the North Middle School attendance area and are not yet enrolled in school, please encourage them to do so before school starts. The Student Services Office will be open from 8:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Additional information and forms may be accessed through the PPS district enrollment information site at: <http://www.portageps.org/visitors/tasks/enrollment/enrollment.asp>

BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Pencils/Pens	Notebooks/Filler Paper
Erasers	Color Pencils
Markers	2 Combination Locks
3-Ring Binder	Highlighters
Back Pack	Scientific Calculator
Flash Drive	Locker Accessories

Every student will receive a Jr. Huskie assignment notebook /planner. A lost planner will cost \$5 to replace.

TRANSPORTATION

Postcards were mailed in mid-August with specific bus pick-up and drop-off information to families who submitted transportation requests prior to June 30th. However, those families signing up after that date may not get postcards and will need to contact the Transportation Department at 323-5151. So to avoid any delays, sign up today at: <http://piv.portageps.org/bussched/>.

ADDRESS/TELEPHONE NUMBER CHANGES

Anytime during the school year, please be sure to notify the school office with any changes you may have regarding your home address, telephone/contact/emergency numbers. It is extremely important that we have updated information on file at all times.

Before school begins is also a good time to review emergency arrangements with your student to make sure your son/daughter knows where to go should a problem arise.

EARLY DISMISSALS/LATE ARRIVALS

The Attendance Office is also located in the **South Complex office**. Students **arriving late** need to be **dropped-off** at the south end of the NMS building. Students need to arrive to school no later than 7:35 a.m. in order to be in 1st hour when the bell rings at 7:43 a.m. and not be tardy. Please call 323-5700 if your student is out ill or will be arriving late.

Any students that are being **picked-up early** need to come to the front office with a note in the morning to receive an early dismissal pass. Those students will continue to be picked-up and signed-out from the **front office**.

AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 2011

Becoming Involved

PTO PARENT COFFEE

The Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) will hold its annual Parent Coffee-Welcome meeting on **Wednesday, September 7th** in the Media Center at **7:45 a.m.** This will be an excellent opportunity for you to meet other parents. We are so proud of the parent involvement and strong support – and our goal is to get 100% parent participation for the new school year. There is something for everyone! The Parent Coffee is also an ideal time to sign-up to chaperone for one or more of the student/school activities. On Facebook? So is the PTO.



Check out their page at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Portage-North-Middle-PTO/219273851446284>

MAGAZINE DRIVE

Before you renew your favorite magazine and journal subscriptions, please wait and do so with our annual school-wide magazine fundraiser. The kick-off assemblies will be **Friday, September 16, 2010**. Other items are also available such as decorative wrapping paper, candles, DVD's, CD's, and so much more.

The staff magazine drive coordinator is Mrs. Stephanie Wagner. Last year's sales were awesome...so the bar has been set!

MEET AND GREET/OPEN HOUSE

Please join us on **Tuesday, September 20** for our official back-to school "Meet and Greet" night. The event will be held from 6:00-8:30 p.m. Parents are encouraged to visit with principals in the Media Center at 8:00 p.m. Unlike last year Open House will be for all students and parents. More information regarding the format for the evening will be available on our website.



CLOTHING – SCHOOL ATTIRE

As some of you begin your back-to-school shopping, please be cognizant of appropriate school clothing. Whereas we are not sure of the weather, some students will want to start the year with shorts and tops that were worn over the summer. Please check the length and suitability of summer items that were acceptable at home during the hot summer days. Should students come to school in what is considered inappropriate attire, parents will be contacted and a change of clothing will be requested.

Also, please note that hats, scarves, bandanas, sagging pants, sleeveless t-shirts for boys, etc. are NOT appropriate for middle school.

SCHOOL SECURITY

All visitors are to report directly to the Front Office or South Complex and sign-in on our Visitors List and receive a Guest Pass. If you forget to do this, staff members will politely introduce themselves and request appropriate identification. Thank you in advance for your cooperation regarding this matter. Your role in fostering our safe and orderly learning community is critical to our students' success.



PARENT INTERNET VIEWER

Letters with access codes for the Parent Internet Viewer (PIV) will be mailed to home addresses. Questions prior to receiving the PIV information may be obtained at pivsupport@portageps.org. The PIV will be available to parents on September 20, 2011.

eBOARD HOW-TO:

Parents can go to the NMS school website and click on STAFF → eBOARDS to get to the page below. A list of staff members with a completed eBoard can be viewed. Look for updates of your student's teachers' weekly assignments, quizzes, vocabulary words, handouts, and so much more!



<http://www.portageps.org/schools/middle/nms/staff/eboards/default.aspx>

AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 2011

Student Directory Opt Out

Portage Public Schools occasionally provides student directories to organizations such as Parent Teacher Organizations, colleges and libraries offering special programs to school age children, and political action committees. This information may include the student's name, address, telephone number, email address, date of birth, parent/guardian name(s), honors, activities, and awards, grade level, and dates of attendance. We also provide contact information for those students who may benefit from targeted programs to other educational and community partners offering supplemental educational programming and services. Parents wishing to opt a student out of directory listings should contact the main office in writing to request omission. Please note – exercising this right will exclude this information from all external requests for directory information, including PTO's. It will not impact the inclusion of information in school publications such as yearbooks, school newspapers, extra-curricular programs, etc. If you wish your student's information excluded from these publications as well, please contact the school's main office.

YEARBOOK SALES (Advance)

It's never too early to cherish school day memories. Now is the time to order your child's yearbook so you won't forget during the madness of the school year! Even though the official yearbook sales campaign is not until October, you can order a yearbook now!

Parents, you are encouraged to place orders ONLINE, using your credit card which will give you an instant receipt or purchase. Hand delivered orders will still be accepted, but for your convenience, parents will be able to access yearbook orders at

<http://www.yearbookforever.com/YBMerchandise.aspx?sid=1-5H-3423>

Price Options for this year:

Advance Purchase: \$24

Regular Sales: \$25

Late Order: \$30 (\$25 + \$5 late fee)

For discounts on multiple book purchases for more than one student in your family contact Mrs. Janet Johnstone, yearbook adviser, at 323-5759 or jjohnstone@portageps.org

Important Information

SCHOOL MEALS

DID YOU KNOW?



If you qualify for reduced priced meals you only pay \$.30 for breakfast and \$.40 per lunch! That's a savings of \$391 at the elementary level and \$436.00 at the middle and high school level over the course of the school year! If you qualify for free lunches, you won't pay anything at all! Students who participate in the Free and Reduced Meal Program provide extra state and federal funding for reading and math programs in their buildings.

Free and Reduced Meal Benefit Applications can be filled out anytime during the school year. Applications are available through your school office, at www.portageps.org or by calling 323-5155

BREAKFAST AND LUNCH

Beginning September 7th, breakfast and lunch will be served daily. Students may purchase a la carte items separately. Pre-payments should be made in the cafeteria before the school day begins to assure prompt service during lunch. Students may not charge meals. Due to a proposed increase in prices, please check the PPS district website.

Lunch Meal Prices: Have increased at the secondary level this year. The prices will be as follows:

Breakfast - \$1.45

Lunch - \$2.15 / \$2.40 (HS - \$3.10 for Toast Post)

Milk - \$.45

Adult Breakfast - \$1.65

Adult Lunch - \$2.75 and up depending on station – basically no change for adults

Student Ala Carte Entrée - \$2.15 or \$2.40 depending on station

Student Ala Carte Premium Entrée - \$2.40

AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 2011

Fall Sports

A current physical is needed to participate in athletics. Please see the district website for pay to participate information at www.portageps.org and select the pay-to-participate tab.

Cross Country:

Cross Country practice will begin September 7 and will run from 3-4:30 daily.

September 20	North vs. Central/West/ Mattawan 3:45 pm
September 22	North/West/Milwood @ Linden Grove 3:45 pm
September 27	North/West/Maple @ Hillside 3:45 pm
September 29	North/Maple St/Linden Grove @ Mattawan 3:45 pm

Football:

Football practice began on August 22. Practice runs from 4:00-6:00 Monday through Friday until school begins. For more information contact Coach Jeff Anderson. Email: jeffi-abc@yahoo.com

September 14	North @ West 3:45 pm
September 21	North vs. Hillside 3:45 pm
September 28	North @ Mattawan 3:45 pm



Volleyball:

Volleyball practice dates are August 30, 31, and September 1st. Practice will be held from 3:30 until 5:00. Practices will resume on the Tuesday after Labor Day thru Friday from 3:00 until 4:30. Eighth graders will practice at the NMS gym, and Seventh graders will practice in the Igloo at NHS. Cuts will be made by the Wednesday after Labor Day. Games will start the following week. For more information contact :

Volleyball 7th Grade

Kristen Stanfill: kstanfill@portageps.org

Volleyball 8th Grade

Jim Moiles: jmoiles@portageps.org

September 13	7th Gr. @ West 8th Gr. vs. West 3:30 pm
September 15	7th Gr. @ Central 8th Gr. vs. Central 3:30 pm
September 17	7th/8th Gr. Tourney @ Portage Central 9:00 am
September 20	7th Gr. @ Hillside 8th Gr. vs. Hillside 3:30 pm
September 22	7th Gr. vs. West 8th Gr. @ West 3:30 pm
September 27	7th Gr. @ Milwood 8th Gr. vs. Milwood 3:30 pm
September 29	7th Gr. @ Maple St. 8th Gr. vs. Maple St. 3:30 pm

**Bolted name = home team

**NORTH MIDDLE
SCHOOL HOME OF
THE JR. HUSKIES**

School Address:
5808 Oregon Ave.
Portage, MI
49024

Phone: (269) 323-5700
Fax: (269) 323-5790



Mission Statement:

North Middle School is an educational community that embraces learning and celebrates achievements.

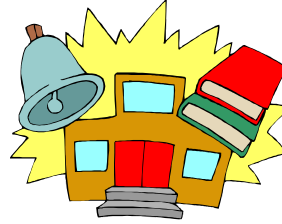
Dr. A. Celeste Shelton-Harris
Principal

Assistant Principal

Student Services:
Mrs. Jessie Bierlein, LPC
Counselor

Mr. Harold Swift
Behavior Specialist

**SCHOOL BEGINS ON
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6th
7:43 - 11:00 A.M.**



AUGUST/SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
21	22 NMS Office Opens	23	24	25	26	27
28	29 New Student Orientation 9:00 a.m.	30	31			

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1	2 First Hour Class Lists Posted	3
4	5 Labor Day	6 First Day of School - Half Day for Students	7 PTO Coffee 7:45 a.m. Media Center	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16 School Pictures School Party - 3-4pm, 6th Gr. ONLY	17
18	19	20 Open House 6:00-8:30 pm	21	22	23	24
		MAGAZINE SALES				
25	26	27	28	29	30	
	MAGAZINE SALES					