

PARENT NEWSLETTER

5808 Oregon Ave. ~ Portage, MI 49024 ~ (269) 323-5700

HOME OF THE JR. HUSKIES

PORTAGE NORTH MIDDLE SCHOOL

where... "Failure is NOT an Option!"

December 2011-January 2012

Dear NMS Jr. Huskie Parents & Families,

As we continue with the holidays during this time of year, it gives us a chance to reflect, prepare for new beginnings, and create resolutions. This is also an opportunity to welcome our new parents who will be joining us in the fall of 2012. Please take some time to peruse this edition of our parent newsletter and take note of the upcoming school events. You will find valuable information to help prepare you and your child for the adventures of middle school at North!

In addition, the 5th Grade Parent Orientation is scheduled for Wednesday, February 1, 2012. This popular, interactive and informative program will give parents a taste of the middle school academic day. Mark your calendars early and expect to receive reminders and more details over the next several weeks. Please note that the orientation is for parents ONLY! New students who enter NMS next year will have a school visit in the spring and new student orientation in the fall.

It is always my pleasure to celebrate our successes: a continued high turnout for our PTC; great feedback for the Academic All-star Awards (approximately 85% of our students qualified). It is also my pleasure to recognize individual accomplishments. On January 17, 2012, Maisie Snyder (8th grade) will perform at De Vos Hall as part of the Michigan Music Conference. Approximately 2000 students from across the state auditioned for the conference, and Maisie will be the lone *Jr. Huskie* to join a select group of about 375 middle and high school students.

Again, I welcome our new North Middle School families where... "*Failure is NOT an Option!*". As always, if you have questions, suggestions, or good news to celebrate, please give me a call at (269) 323-5700 or send me an email at charris@portageps.org.

Go Jr. Huskies!

Dr. A. Celeste Shelton-Harris, NMS Principal

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SON'S OF THUNDER

On Tuesday, January 24, during 1st hour our NMS students will attend a 45 minute assembly covering topics such as bullying, teamwork respecting parents & teachers, academic & athletic excellence, cyber-bulling, etc. This presentation is brought to us by the Sons' of Thunder which includes athletes such as Detroit Lions running back, Cory Schlesinger, American Gladiator Paul Rogers & former Mr. Michigan Don Foor. They will discuss the aforementioned subjects as well as perform feats of strength.

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Dec./Jan. Celebrations



- Hanukkah - Begins December 20
- Bodhi Day - December 8
- Christmas - December 25
- Kwanzaa - Begins December 26
- New Year's Day - January 1
- International Thank You Day - January 11
- MLK Day - January 16
- Michigan became the 26th state - January 26

PTO CONGRATULATES ACADEMIC ALL-STARS!

More than 500 students—about 85% of our students achieved an average B grade or higher in the first marking period. Wow! The PTO celebrated their achievements with an ice cream party during lunch and gave out limited edition wristbands that read “Huskie All Star”. We are PROUD of your students, and know that you must be too. The awards are part of our Good Grades pillar for 2011-12. Encourage your students to keep reading, completing their homework and studying for tests. It pays off! **Special thanks to Meijer on Westnedge for contributing a \$100 gift toward this effort!**

PENNY WARS CONTINUE THRU DEC. 16

In an effort to help low-income families, the PTO is hosting a penny war between the grades through Dec. 16. Pennies count positive points...silver and bills count as negative points. If students want to ‘penalize’ another grade, they put their silver and bills in the other grades’ buckets! Good fun for a worthy cause, and the winning grade gets a ‘free’ lunch period with music and can bring electronic games to play.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

The PTO is grateful for the generosity of so many North Middle families toward our parent contribution drive. We are now at about 60% toward our goal of \$1,000 for the year. If you have not yet contributed, and are able to do so, would you consider making a contribution today? You may do so online by going to www.portagepto.org and click on the ‘donate’ button. We thank you!

North Middle School
Barnes & Noble
Bookfairs

Friday, December 2
6:00-9:00
6134 South Westnedge

Come see performances by our talented North Middle School music students!

Can't attend our bookfair at Barnes & Noble?
Visit BN.COM/bookfairs to support us online from 12/02/11 to 12/07/11 by entering Bookfair ID 10582732 at checkout.

A percentage of your Barnes & Noble purchases will benefit our school.

GOODBYE AND GOOD LUCK

As we enter the month of December at NMS, our staff would like to extend a hearty thanks to our interns who have become part of our daily learning and instruction. We send our best wishes with Ms. France and Mr. Mowinski as they prepare for the next step in their careers. These developing teachers have been working with our students under the mentorship of Mrs. Kelly and Mrs. Wagner & Mr. Wagner respectively. We thank them all for their hard work and collaboration during the first semester of the school year!

SNOW DAY ANNOUNCEMENTS

In the event that the District must cancel school due to weather, there are several ways for you to stay informed. Prior to 6 a.m., the announcement will be on the School Closing Hotline (323-6800), sent out via Twitter and Facebook, posted on the District's homepage (www.portageps.org), and also, of course, through the news media.

PORTAGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS ADMINISTRATION

The administration building will be closed the week of December 26th. Sorry for the inconvenience.

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6th Grade Classes



The 6th, 7th, and 8th grade English/Language Arts Core curriculum develops and integrates skills in the communication areas of listening, reading, writing, viewing and reasoning. Study skills are also emphasized. Literary analysis occurs within a variety of novels read throughout the year. The John Collins Writing Process, which students began in elementary school, continues to be implemented during middle school.

Sixth grade students studied Realistic Fiction in the first quarter and enjoyed reading *Esperanza Rising*, by Pam Muñoz Ryan. This story takes place in the 1930's on a Mexican migrant farm.

In the second quarter, sixth grade ELA students study the genre of Mystery. Some classes have already begun reading *The Prairie Dog Conspiracy* by Canadian author Eric Wilson. This mystery takes place in Winnipeg, and NMS students thoroughly seem to enjoy this "edge-of-your-seat" mystery!



Student's emphasis in sixth grade will be to see the world through a geographer's eyes. Students will learn how geographers, economists, and political scientists organize and analyze information. Geography will help students explain why and how people live in both the Eastern and Western Hemispheres. By mastering a multitude of skills, students will be able to see how the world is separated into regions, and that humans have adapted to different environments by using different means. Students will learn how different countries, regions, and subcultures throughout the world are similar and different, and how some of these differences make important connections between the past and the present. Students will also discover how migration and settlement patterns change societies, and how globalization impacts international economic and political relationships.

Find yourself looking for more information on a math topic or looking for more practice for your student?

Check out our district's math eBoard at www.ppsmath.portage.site.eboard.com. This eBoard contains information and content for grade levels K-8, as well as for the subjects of Algebra, Geometry, and Advanced Algebra. Simply pick your grade level or subject from the labeled tabs and scroll through a variety of mathematical topics, tutorials, and games. What a great way to help your student practice the skills they need! You can also visit your student's teacher's eBoard for classroom specific information.



Wondering what your student is studying? Look

below for the key concepts for the next month:

6th grade: surface area and volume of rectangular prisms, and more fractions, decimals, and percents

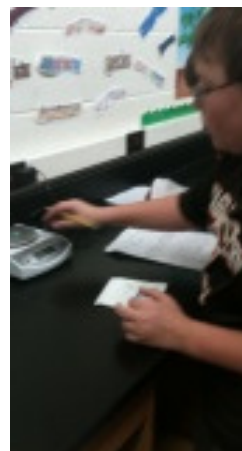
6th grade math plus: scale factor, ratio, and proportions



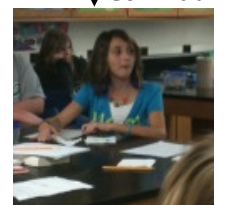
Sixth grade science focuses on the interactions of living things and their environment. The units help the students develop fundamental concepts in biology and ecology. Topics include interactions and relationships among ecosystems. In Science we are currently working on our ecology unit as well as performing the steps of the scientific method in various hands on labs. We are also monitoring our salmon tank closely as they have begun to hatch.



Meat Lab ↑



↓ Gum Lab



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7th Grade Classes



In ELA this marking period, we will read about the adventures of King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table. Additionally, we have started work on our Hero Papers, an ambitious and rewarding writing project about a person whom each individual student views as a personal hero. Parts of this paper will become a component of the student portfolio compiled in the third marking period. Student writings will be collected and then combined to give an overview of the student's writing skills for the 7th grade. Taking several weeks to complete, it can become a treasure that each student can keep for a lifetime. The purpose of the project is to help the student discover more about him or herself through skillful writing and computer research. We appreciate the support parents give their students on this journey of discovery.



Seventh grade students will be able to compare and contrast hunter-gatherer societies from pastoral societies to our first farming societies. Students will learn the major consequences of the agricultural revolution, and how it changed the development of civilizations. Students will discover how ancient civilizations in both the Eastern and Western Hemispheres interacted with each other, and impacted future eras to the present time. Students will learn how our form of democracy started in ancient Greece. By analyzing ancient Rome, students will understand how ancient civilizations and empires are built, and can be destroyed. Students will learn how each of the world's religion and belief systems originated and continue to grow. With knowledge of beliefs and practices of world religions and belief systems, students will be better able to live in a modern society where acceptance is the norm, and how these belief systems contribute to the cultural integration of communities around the world.

Looking for more information on a math topic or looking for more practice for your student? Check out the sixth grade math article on page 3 for a helpful link.



Wondering what your student is studying? Look below for the key concepts for the next month:

7th grade math: scale factor, ratio, and proportions

7th grade math plus: Pythagorean Theorem, Exponential Relationships vs. Linear Relationships, and simplifying expressions

The 7th grade science curriculum is called Interactions in Physical Science. This curriculum is an inquiry-based approach to learning physical science. Thus far, the 7th grade students have learned about the nature of scientific investigation, how to design accurate experiments and write complete conclusions. We have studied Magnetic, Electric Charge and Electric Current Interactions. Our next unit will focus on measurement of all states of matter.



MUSIC



Band: This course will develop skills in instrumental music. The 7th and 8th grade Bands are preparing for their Winter Concert on Dec. 8.

Choir: This course will develop skills in vocal production, theory, music reading, styles and periods of music and composers. Currently 6th grade choir is preparing for the Winter Concert (Dec.8) and for their auditions for the sixth grade musical. The 7th and 8th grade choirs are preparing for the Winter Concert (Dec.8) and District Choral Festival (Feb 2012) performances. All grades are preparing for all-school musical *Honk, Jr.*



Orchestra: 6th grade students are continuing to develop fundamental techniques for creating sound, reading note names, and reading rhythms. Each of these areas culminate in a performance where their basic skills are demonstrated to their friends and family. The 7th and 8th grade students are continuing to master their fundamental techniques acquired during their 6th grade year and work towards group and individual skill sets in the areas of rhythm, intonation and group ensemble.



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Part of the 8th Grade Language Arts curriculum is to examine social issues. Eighth graders choose a topic of interest for their in-depth examination of a concern of society today. It provides a means to instruct research strategies and skills they will need in high school. Students explore a variety of sources to determine their position on the controversy within the issue and to accumulate support material to use in their papers and presentations. Complementing this investigation is the reading of novels of historical fiction, realistic fiction, and science fiction which further analyzes the challenges of these social issues.

Eighth grade students will understand how change occurs within a nation by analyzing the ideas and experiences that influenced the colonist's decision to declare independence from Great Britain. Students will then analyze the consequences of the American



Revolution through our changing views on freedom, equality and our nation's concern over the distribution of power. Our students will discover how our political and social leaders solved domestic and international problems faced by our new nation, and addressed challenges presented by regional economic growth. By evaluating the causes, event and consequences of the Civil War, students will be able to develop an argument regarding the character and consequences of Reconstruction. Our school year will end with our students analyzing how major changes in communication, transportation, demography and urban centers linked regions together, and helped to make the United States of America an industrial and trading giant among nations.



Find yourself looking for more information on a math topic or looking for more practice for your student? Check out the sixth grade math article on page 3 for a helpful link.

Wondering what your student is studying? Look below for the key concepts for the next month:

8th grade math: Pythagorean Theorem, Exponential Relationships vs. Linear Relationships, and simplifying expressions

8th grade math plus: Linear Relationship, Linear Systems, and their Semester Exam



The eighth grade science curriculum focuses on the energy transfers and forces that shape our planet. The units help the students develop fundamental concepts in Earth Science. Topics include Geologic Time, The Rocks Cycle, Meteorology (Severe Weather), Surface and Groundwater Systems and Plate Tectonics (volcanoes and earthquakes). In science, students just finished or are finishing the Geologic Time-line and the Rock Cycle. Some are currently beginning our Plate Tectonics Unit. As we progress into February and the second semester the focus of our next unit will be water. Specifically, we will be learning about such topics as groundwater, surface water, water pollution, and water conservation.

SERVICE LEARNING

Students in Mrs. VanderWal's service learning class have had a variety of experiences this fall. Each one is assigned to a teacher in our building. They have put up displays in showcases, organized sports equipment in the gym, shelved books in the media center, cleaned overheads in math classrooms, graded papers, and made posters for the hallways. Everyday, a couple of students wash tables after lunch and clean floors in the hallways. Students aid in Miss Oldham's classroom by teaching, playing games and helping their peers. Other service learning students have made flashcards for world language teachers, labeled folders, and organized classrooms. Some students help the class with homework, reading, or making book packets. Service learning is indeed a valuable class for students helping them gain maturity, and the joy that helping others brings to each student.

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Middle school students begin their study of a world language (Spanish, French or German) in 7th grade. The programs consist of vocabulary acquisition and master of grammatical concepts with emphasis on all four language components (reading, writing, speaking and listening). These skills form the foundation for further study in high school. In order to complete level one of the world language program, students must begin in the 7th grade and continue their study in the 8th grade. Two years of middle school instruction is comparable to one year of high school instruction.

World Language classes have accomplished a great deal since the start of the year. Both language and culture are priorities in all of our language classrooms and we are proud of the overlap that our content area has with other CORE areas such as social studies and ELA.

In 1st year French class, we are off to a great start. Students are about to finish Chapter 1. We will start assessments for that chapter after Thanksgiving break. During the next six weeks, the French students will learn how to talk about their daily routine at school. In order to do so, they will study new vocabulary and new verb conjugations. In class, comparisons will be made between the American school system and the French school system. The students may be jealous when they find out that in France, some students do not go to school on Wednesday. That sentiment will not last long, however, as French children have to go to school on Saturday morning!

Eighth grade French students are learning about food and food shopping. Along with new vocabulary, they are studying new irregular verbs such as “vouloir” (to want) and “pouvoir” (to be able to). They are also dealing with the complex French topic of definite and partitive articles.

This year our main focus is to improve reading skills and second-year French students are becoming quite good at reading small French original stories.

The first-year Spanish classroom has been busy, and the students and their teacher is extremely proud of the progress they’ve made already. Our curriculum emphasizes four crucial areas of language development: speaking, reading, writing and listening. We also make a point to emphasize the complexity, uniqueness and value of cultural differences and similarities.

Thus far, students have developed a number of very practical language skills. First-year students are now

becoming very comfortable with greeting one another appropriately and making introductions; talking about the day, date and time; and describing themselves and others.

In the coming weeks, we will particularly emphasize the discussion of leisure activities, sports, likes, and dislikes, and we will also focus on becoming more fluent in discussing school, school supplies, and pointing out needs.

Second-year Spanish students are in the midst of Chapter 6: “¡A comer!” (“Let’s eat!”). The vocabulary focus of this unit is concerned with foods, beverages, place settings, and preparing food. Our focus on grammar, as always, is rooted in both Spanish and English, and we will soon delve into the meaty issues of giving informal affirmative commands and using stem-changing verbs, and we will continue to compare the verbs “ser” and “estar”. The practical skills that our students are developing throughout the course of this chapter include being able to ask for something in a restaurant, discussion of meals and foods, and making requests of others. Our next unit focuses on the body, health, leisure activities, and salutary choices for both body and mind.

For both levels of language learning, no matter what language your child is studying, we strive to encourage a comprehensive understanding of the language, and much instructional emphasis is placed on grammar and intensive vocabulary acquisition. Ask your student about some of these vocabulary topics while you are out running errands or sitting around the dinner table. Better yet, if time allows, take time to quiz her/him on the most recent vocabulary and grammar notes from class! If your student can explain the concepts to you, chances are, she/he has a very thorough understanding of the material.

German Club meets the first and third Wednesdays of the month. The first Wednesday (from 2:50 to 3:20) is to plan an activity, which will be held on the third Wednesday of that same month. The times for third Wednesday activities will vary according to what is planned. Signs and announcements will be made; some activities will be for German students and others will be open to interested students who want to sign up. (Space will be limited.)

President - Hunter Pietrzykowski (Alternate - Isaiah Timm)

Vice-President - Cameron Pietrzykowski (Alternate - Hayden Graham)

Secretary - Delaney Landis (Alternate - Carter Knapp)

Club Advisor: Mrs. Philpo-Denney

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ART

Sixth grade students have just completed their first two projects. They created a collage out of paper that was inspired by Henri Matisse. We first learned about some history about Henri Matisse. We studied composition, color schemes, geometric and organic shapes during this unit. Our second project in 6th grade was a self portrait inspired by the style of Picasso. Students created paintings that were representations of themselves while using the same cubistic style that Pablo Picasso did in his work. We studied and analyzed a Picasso painting called the "The Weeping Woman". In this unit we studied the use of color to express emotion and facial proportion and how to distort it. They used their creativity to come up with expressions, fun nose shapes, interesting eyes, etc. They produced truly creative and unusual self portraits.



Seventh grade just finished up a color pencil drawing using 2 point perspective. To create cubes that looked three dimensional on paper they used the technique called 2 point perspective. Not only did they learn to draw box form in 2 point perspective but also doors, windows and castle tops. Each student created a composition of boxes with a variety of doors, windows and castle tops. The boxes then were shaded using warm and cool color schemes to help express the cubes volume. We also studied the importance of blending our values so that our color/value changed gradually. To help the color pencil stand out the boxes were drawn on black paper. The results were quite shocking and look amazing!

Eighth grade just finished a unit that focused on expression of emotion through facial expression and color. We studied and looked at portraits and brainstormed emotion for inspiration. We discussed the importance color plays in a painting or drawing. Students selected an emotion that they were going to portray in their own portrait. Once their portrait was taken the image was divided up into a grid. A grid breaks down a picture into manageable size pieces and helps one draw the image in proper proportion. In this unit we also learned the importance

color plays in a drawing's interpretation of an emotion or feeling. To help express the emotion they chose they used cool and warm color schemes in oil pastel that matched and would best express the emotion of their choice. While the shading of these faces is non traditional these portraits turned out quite striking and delightful to view!

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Our Physical Education classes at NMS are designed to promote total body fitness through activities designed to meet your physical, mental and social needs. While working on teamwork and communication skills, you will have the opportunity to play team activities like volleyball, hockey, basketball and Takraw. You will also be given the chance to improve your individual skills with units like tennis, archery, dance and fishing. Currently, 6th graders are working on throwing and catching, 7th graders are finishing up badminton, and 8th graders are playing volleyball. Stay tuned for Archery, Floor Hockey, Dance and Basketball during the marking period.



POWER TRAINING

Power Training is a fun and active fitness course that is offered to 7th and 8th grade students as an elective choice. The program helps students to excel physically, mentally, and socially. The class focuses on strength, speed, quickness, movement patterns, power, endurance, flexibility, balance, agility, coordination and overall physical fitness. Mental aspects of training are also stressed, including sportsmanship, goal setting, positive attitude, and determination as well as the importance of proper rest and nutrition. Power Training is a course that can benefit all students, and the program strives to promote healthy habits that should last a lifetime.



For more Encore Classes check out pages 4 and 5.

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Boys Basketball:

December 1 7th grade @ Linden Grove
8th grade vs. Linden Grove
3:30pm
December 6 7th grade vs. Central
8th grade @ Central
3:30pm
December 8 7th grade vs.
Mattawan
8th grade @ Mattawan
3:30pm



Girls Basketball (7th and 8th Grade):

Tryouts will begin after school Monday January 9 and will run from 3-4:30pm. Please make sure that students have a ride home at 4:30pm. If you have questions or need additional information contact the following coaches:

7th grade Harold Swift (hswift@portageps.org).
8th grade Ahren Kaylor (akaylor@portageps.org).

Wrestling (6th, 7th and 8th Grade):

Practice will begin Monday January 9 and will run from 3-5:00pm. Please make sure that students have a ride home at 5:00pm.



For more information contact coach Brad Warncke (Blwpnwrestling@gmail.com). Pre-Season Conditioning will begin December 1 and will take place every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 3-4:30pm. Conditioning will not take place over winter break.

GIRLS ON TRACK

The NMS Girls On Track Season will come to a close after 10 weeks of self-esteem and confidence building lessons and workouts. This year, our girls decided to give back to the community by volunteering at Curious Kids. Twelve of our girls donated their practice time to read with the 2 and 3-year olds. The girls did an exceptional job, and the little ones loved it! Our celebration run this year is called the Girls On the Run Hot Chocolate 5k and is being held at Linden Grove Middle School in Kalamazoo on December 3rd. All of the girls have worked through many tough workouts in harsh weather to get to this point. Congratulations Girls! Have a great time on Saturday!

Looking Ahead:

Swimming practice will begin in April.

Students must have a current physical on file in the office in order to practice on the first day. Pay to Participate fees must be paid by January 13, 2012 for all athletes playing basketball or wrestling.

ALL SCHOOL MUSICAL: HONK, JR.

There was an informational meeting, Nov. 21 in the NMS Choir Room. If you did not attend the meeting and are still interested see Mr. Jordan as soon as possible.



December 5: Auditions, 3-5 pm, NMS Choir and Band Room

December 7: Auditions, 3-5 pm, NMS Choir and Band Room

December 14: Call Backs, 3-5 pm, NMS Choir Room

January 12: Mandatory Parent Meeting for those who are cast in the show, 7-8 pm, NMS Choir Room

January 13: Pay to Participate Fees for the musical Honk Jr. are due

BIBLE CLUB

Students in Bible Club will continue to meet on Wednesday mornings at 7:05 a.m. in room 94. Attendance is open to any interested student.

BOOK CLUB



Do you LOVE to read?

If so, a new Book Club is forming in the Media Center. We will meet every other Wednesday beginning December 14th. There will be brand new books that aren't in the library yet. Take a book home, read it over the two weeks, come to Book Club and chat about how much you loved the book (it's ok if you didn't love the book too!). We'll have a blog that you can post comments and questions on. We'll play games about the books you're reading. You'll even get to do some silly activities. If you LOVE reading, this is the club for you! See Mrs. Hanson in the Media Center to sign up.

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Mrs. Jessie Bierlein

Counselors' Corner

Mrs. Alysia Lehmann



Planning for 2012-2013 School Year:

5th TO 6th GRADERS!!

We are so excited to welcome our new Jr. Huskies as they begin middle school in the fall!!!

North Middle School is proud to provide the finest education for all. In addition to our superior curriculum, we have implemented a positive behavior support we call "The Jr. Huskie Way," which teaches our children literacy, life skills and behavioral expectations to be successful here at North. We take pride in our highly qualified instructors, who are committed to the growth and achievements of every child.

Transitioning to middle school is an important step both academically and personally for your children. During their first year, sixth graders are enrolled in Core classes: Math, Science, Social Studies, and a two hour Language Arts block. Every other day, students will have physical education and music: choir, band, or orchestra. A nine week rotation of four classes gives our sixth graders a "taste" of Art, Computers, Family and Consumer Sciences, and Technology. Our sixth grade program provides teams of teachers and a counselor to work with your new sixth graders to assure a comfortable and successful adjustment. Your children will be introduced to our programs and school this spring. We will be visiting your children over the next few months at their elementary schools, and they will visit NMS in May.

6th TO 7th GRADERS!

Moving into seventh grade brings new opportunities and experiences. Your children will have their first year of world language: Spanish, French, or German. Consequently, Language Arts in 7th grade is a one hour class. Another new change is that Physical Education is every day for one semester. Seventh graders love that they have many elective courses from which to choose for the first time. These new electives include: Power Training, Sports Fitness, Service Learning and many more. They will continue with their Core courses Math, Science, Language Arts, and Social Studies. Support from the Guidance Department continues to all our sev-

be helping your children begin the process of selecting classes for seventh grade. Course selection forms will come home for your approval and signature before being returned to school.

7th TO 8th GRADERS!

Eighth graders are the Top Dogs!! Jr. Huskies, that is! As the leaders of our school this is an important final year here at North. Students continue to build their skills in preparation for their high school experience. In addition to Core courses: Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies, this year provides a second year of world language. Your student will continue with one semester of Physical Education and be able to choose from many of the same electives offered during seventh grade. This process of course selection will begin soon. Look for the course selection forms to come home for your approval and signature before being returned to school.

8th GRADERS TO NORTHERN!!

As our students move from their middle school experience to their high school career, we will do all that we can to prepare them for this big transition. Be watching for important information about preparing for high school registration. There will be an incoming ninth grade Parent Night at Northern High School this winter, on February 8th. Be sure that you and your child attend, so you can be involved with scheduling for the high school. Also, next semester the guidance counselors, who will be your child's counselor for his/her high school career, will come from Northern to North in early February. They will give your child the official high school course of studies book, which includes information to be used for all four years, and help them make a plan for ninth grade. Ninth grade offers extensive choices in course selection as well as state required courses. Northern High School is one of few International Baccalaureate (IB) schools in Michigan. Those who excel in math and science will be contacted by the Kalamazoo Area Math and Science Center, KASMC, asking for them to apply. Parents are encouraged to take an active part in the process of high school course selection. The high school also requires parent signature on course selection forms.

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

School Address:
5808 Oregon Ave.
Portage, MI
49024

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



VISION:

All Portage North Middle School students will be on target for career or college readiness before high school.

MISSION STATEMENT:

NMS will deliver high quality instruction and provide the necessary developmental support to ensure that each and every student reaches his/her highest level of learning and is prepared for an ever-changing global society.

Administration:

Dr. A. Celeste Shelton-Harris
Principal

Mr. Craig Medd, Ed.M.
Assistant Principal

Guidance Department:

Mrs. Jessie Bierlein, LPC
Counselor

Mrs. Alysia Lehmann, NCC
Counselor

DECEMBER/JANUARY CALENDAR

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1 Ski Club Meeting 6pm - NMS	2 **Barnes & Noble Book Fair 5-9pm	3
4	5 Musical Auditions 3-5pm	6	7 Musical Aud. 3-5pm 6/7 Orchestra Concert 7pm	8 Band/Choir Concert 7pm BIG Event 1:57-2:40 pm	9	10
11	12	13	14 Musical Call-backs 3-5pm	15	16 PTO Mtg. 12-1 pm	17
18	19	20 8 Orchestra Concert 7:30 pm	21	22 8 Orchestra Concert 7:30 pm	23	24
 25	26	27	28	29	30	31
WINTER BREAK - NO SCHOOL						

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	WINTER BREAK CONTINUES					
8	9 Classes Resume Girl's B-Ball tryouts	10	11	12 Musical Mandatory Parent Mtg. 7-8 pm	13	14
15 Dr. King Jr.'s Birthday	16	17	18	19	20 PTO Mtg. 12-1 pm	21
22	23	24 Student Assembly	25	26 Last day of first semester	27 Records Day -No School	28
29	30 First day of second semester	31				