

PARENT NEWSLETTER

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

NORTH MIDDLE SCHOOL HOME OF THE JR. HUSKIES MAY/JUNE 2009

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

MAY/JUNE 2009

Dear NMS Families:

As the school year winds down and I reflect on the events of 2008-2009, we have so much to celebrate. Our first year as a Michigan's Integrated Behavioral and Learning Support Initiative (MiBLSi) middle school has provided numerous opportunities to create a learning environment where there is a school-wide theme of *Respect, Responsibility, and (positive) Relationships*. As a MiBLSi school, we teach behavioral and academic expectations hand-in-hand. This instructional approach helps to support a safe and orderly learning environment, our school mission statement, and school improvement goals.

With Positive Behavior Support (PBS) we teach, model, practice, and recognize expected behaviors. Thanks to our PTO who has been instrumental in supporting our weekly and monthly Jr. Huskie student drawings and assemblies and the Jr. Huskie Den. During our daily 20-minute Advisory Periods (AP), students have strengthened their reading skills as demonstrated in a recent friendly competition. I am proud to report that during March reading month, over 51,548 pages were read and reported during a six-day period. A huge Jr. Huskie applause goes to the following Advisory Period teachers: Jennifer Barnhard, Andy Blackman, Jen Bonner, Becky Dalecki, Amy Hamet, Nancy Honeysett, Aaron Kaylor, Tim Kennedy, Don Kitchin, Nicole Lahaie, Kendra McVay, Craig Medd, Lonnie Richardson, Alice Srackangast, Anne Stohrer, Matt Swanson, Johanna Toth, Kathy VanderWal, Chad Wagner, Mary Roobol, and Sarah Wilson.

As our 8th grade class makes the high school transition, I have noticed a tremendous amount of growth socially, and academically. One example is the recent "People-to-People" trip to Washington, DC. One Monday, May 11th, Justin Tummel, Sujay Dewan, Raimond, Jesaitis, Steven Tagett, and Andrew Lielzuika will present their week-long experience at our staff meeting. We offer kudos to Brice Calco who will participate in "People-to-People" this summer.

After the rain... the warm weather may bring on some uncertainty about what students can/can not wear to school. I have a special request of parents, as well as a gentle reminder. Please help make sure your student is dressed in a manner that is appropriate and reflects the Jr. Huskie Way! Tops that show midriff, as well as shirts and shorts that are too short are prohibited. We know that what is acceptable at home and on the beach is clearly not middle school attire. Whatever help you can provide in this area is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your continued support.

Join me in celebrating National Educator Week (May 4), as well as our Annual Effort Breakfast (May 7). These last few school days will be filled with important activities and continued learning opportunities. To help you plan for musical concerts, school parties, and other year-end events, specific details are included in this parent newsletter issue.

As the school days wind down, and our thoughts turn to summer...enjoy time with family, and friends and have a safe and enjoyable summer.

Lastly, if you have specific questions, concerns, or celebrations to share please contact me at 323-5755 or by e-mail at charris@portageps.org. I look forward to working with you and having a very successful 2009-2010 school year.

Dr. A. Celeste Shelton-Harris, Principal
Portage North Middle School



6th GRADE NEWS

6th Grade Item Donation Drive to Benefit the SPCA

The sixth grade took part in a donation drive to benefit the SPCA. Mariah Cronin, a sixth grade student, along with support from Mrs. Toth, led this effort to assist the animals.

Mariah kicked off this endeavor by speaking to each of the 6th grade English classes about the needs of the shelter. She also created posters to hang in each of the classrooms. Participating students brought items to Mrs. Toth.

The drive took place from April 22 to May 1; however, any donations brought in after the due date will gladly be accepted. Please feel free to bring in items until the end of the school year!

The SPCA's wish list:

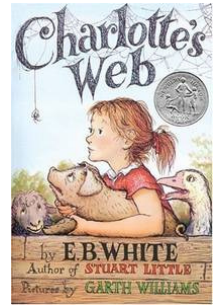
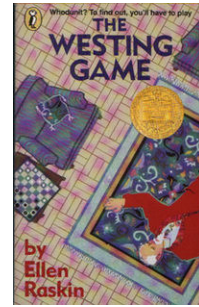
- Dog and Puppy Food
- Leashes
- Dog Toys
- Collars
- Towels and blankets (used is fine)
- Cat and Kitten Food
- Cat Toys
- Medium size crates/cages
- Tall Cat Tower
- Copy Paper
- Postage Stamps
- #10 envelopes
- #8 small envelopes
- Manila file folders
- Mailing labels
- 2 pocket folders for kits given to adopting families
- Laundry soap
- Bleach
- Non-toxic sanitizing cleaner



ENVIRONMENTAL



Sixth graders as well as environmental club members celebrated Earth Day by walking to Celebration Cinema to view the DisneyNature's Earth movie. The movie taught the students how some animals interact with each other and their environment with breathtaking visuals and stunning special effects. As an added bonus in honor of Earth Day, Disney planted a tree for every ticket we purchased as a school!



6th GRADE ADVISORY CELEBRATES MARCH READING MONTH

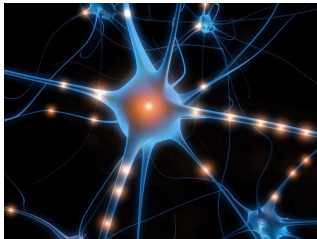
Stephanie Wagner's 6th grade advisory class celebrated March's Reading Month by creating "book covers" of their favorite novels. Many popular choices included Twilight, The Wrestling Game, Diary of a Wimpy Kids, The Giving Tree, and Charlotte's Web. Students also wrote a summary of their novel on the back of their covers. The art work will be donated to a local nursing or retirement home where they will be enjoyed by the residents there.



7th GRADE NEWS



The seventh grade science classes will be focusing on ideas related to the conservation of mass and energy. In addition, they will be discussing open and closed systems, heat-conduction interactions, infrared-radiation interactions, and chemistry between now and the end of the school year. Students will conduct experiments, collect evidence, and then discuss their evidence to draw conclusions with their cooperative learning group or as an entire class. "Interactions in Physical Science," the seventh grade science program, is an inquiry-based program. Students will develop their ideas in class and then confirm their ideas with scientists' ideas. "Interactions in Physical Science" teaches students to think like a scientist and to use the powerful tool of scientific reasoning by collecting data and developing ideas from the carefully collected data.



The Seventh-Grade Teaching Team



8th GRADE NEWS



LANGUAGE ARTS

The 8th grade Language Arts students will develop an oral learning experience for their classmates to convince them that their position on the social issue they have been analyzing all year is the best! In addition, they will be creating their own science fiction short stories after reading both science fiction short stories and a novel. This year has provided experience with both short term and long term writing projects, as well as a variety of genres in literature and writing. The skills they have developed should serve them well in high school and beyond!

SCIENCE

April was an exciting month this year in the science classrooms of North Middle School. During the week of April 20, 2009, we attended the Challenger Learning Center and Planetarium at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum. These two programs build on many of the science concepts taught throughout the year in eighth grade. The Challenger Learning Center mission allowed students to practice team building and problem solving skills in a simulated mission, in which they were involved in a Mars crew exchange and the building of a probe that was deployed during the mission. The missions were a huge success!

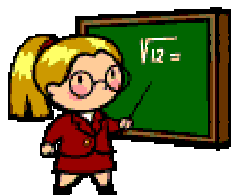
The Eighth-Grade Teaching Team



DONUTS FOR DOLLARS

Student Leadership and Harding's Friendly Markets will be sponsoring "Donuts for Dollars" on Friday May 1st, May 8th and May 15th. On those days, students and staff will be able to buy donuts for a donation of \$1.00 or more, with the proceeds going to the Roof Sit organization. Roof Sit assists young people who have been abused throughout Kalamazoo County. We would like to extend our appreciation to Harding's Friendly Markets for the donation of the donuts.





MATH HELP IS HERE!

Are you looking for math tutorials, practice, and games to help your student brush up on math skills? Try looking at the PPS math e-board,

<http://www.ppsmath.portage.site.eboard.com>. Set up by Rhonda Miller, a Portage Central Middle School Teacher and **former** Portage North parent, this e-board 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 tabs labeled and scroll through a variety of mathematics topics. What a great way to help your student practice the skills they need now and over the summer!



BIGGS

Last fall, North Middle School was chosen to participate in a three year site-based mentoring program offered through a partnership with State Farm Insurance and Big Brothers/Big Sisters—a community of caring. During this year, fourteen sixth graders were provided benefits to their middle school learning experience through a goal-oriented mentoring program which gave a hands-on opportunity for students to connect with mentors in a professional setting. Twice a month, students spent one hour with their volunteer mentors at the State Farm facility on Portage Road. In May, we will celebrate the successful completion of year one. Both students and mentors are excited to continue this rewarding program in the fall. Because of the relationships formed, many “BIGGS and LITTLES” are extending their mentoring connection outside of the school setting for this summer. We thank State Farm Insurance and Big Brothers/Big Sisters for their commitment to our Jr. Huskies.

In response to student interest, Big Brothers/Big Sisters will also hope to provide out of school mentoring available to other Jr. Huskie students in the fall.



8TH GRADE PARENTS

Again, the NMS staff, Student Leadership, and Parent Teacher Student organization (PTSO) are working collaboratively to plan another successful 8th grade end-of-the year party. This communication serves as a means of clarifying and more fully informing you of this exciting eighth grade event on Saturday, May 16, 2009, from 7:00 until 9:30 p.m.

This years theme is *Super Heroes*. All NMS 8th graders are invited to attend this event and end another chapter in their middle school experience. This year, the students selected and voted to have a party theme. We are discouraging students from wearing formal attire, strapless and/or elaborate dresses that are not appropriate. We remind students and parents that this is a middle school party and not a high school prom.

Parents are also welcome to attend and assist as chaperones. If interested, let us know in advance so we may plan accordingly. The party officially ends at 9:30 p.m. and arrangements for safe transportation home are expected to be planned in advance. After party social functions are discouraged and are not sanctioned by the school. Your cooperation in helping us make the 8th grade end-of-the year party a truly enjoyable middle school experience for our students is greatly appreciated.

If you would like to make monetary donations, drinks (water/can sodas only), or cookies, please contact Carrie Johnson at 324-0997.



MAY / JUNE 2009

CALLING ALL PARENTS

Do you want your student to ride the school bus next year?
Do you want to save time and money and help the environment at the same too?

With the start of the 2009-10 school year the Portage Public Schools will be requiring all parents requesting transportation to register their students for bus service.

Portage students will *not* be scheduled for bus service unless the parents/guardians notify the transportation department in writing. You may sign up online after May 1 at www.portageps.org; or you may download the form at <http://www.portageps.org/departments/transportation/requestform.aspx>; and submit it to the transportation office.

If you do not have internet access, you may obtain a Transportation Request form at any Portage school or transportation office.

Obtaining an accurate list of students who will actually be riding our buses is very important for us to design efficient, low cost bus routes and to assure the safety of the students.

As a reminder, all students may be expected to walk up to 1-½ miles to school. Elementary students may walk up to ½ mile to a bus stop and middle & high students may walk up to 1 mile to a bus stop wherever appropriate walkways and traffic signs are available. Eligible students signing up for transportation will be assigned to bus stops based on their home address.

If you would like your students to ride the bus next year, please sign up early. Bus assignments will be based on the student's home address as listed on the schools records. Students signing up by June 30 will receive a postcard in late August with specific transportation information.

Students not replying by June 30 may compromise our ability to provide timely bus service in the fall.

For more information, please ask your bus driver or call Transportation at 323-5151. Thank you in advance for your timely responses.

Don't delay, sign up today. You don't want to miss the bus!



Sport Physicals

Physicals will be offered at Northern High School on May 21 from 6:00-7:00pm. Students must bring a completed 09/10 physical form with them that is signed by a parent. The form can be found on the NMS athletic website or in the front office. The cost is \$30.00 and checks should be made out to Northern High School.

Intramural Golf

Golf will take place May 18-29. All students in grades 6-8 can participate. For more information, contact Coach Moiles (jmoiles@portageps.org).

Fall Sports

Please check the school website in August for a list of practice times and locations. Students must have current physicals on file in the office in order to practice on the first day of practice.

For more information regarding fall sports please contact the following coaches.

Sport	Coach	Gra
Cross Country	Becky Zoppi	6-8
Football	Craig Medd	7-8
Volleyball 8	Jim Moiles	8
Volleyball 7	Jodi McIntyre	7



SUMMER VOLUNTEENS PROGRAM

The Volunteer Center of Greater Kalamazoo is now accepting applications for the 2009 VolunTEENS program. VolunTEENS is a volunteer program that invites students (13-18) to explore careers, learn new skills, acquire job references, and earn community service credits for academic and scholarship programs.

The 2009 VolunTEENS Catalog and application is now available in the guidance counselor's office. Additional catalogs are available online at www.volunteerkalamazoo.org or at the Volunteer Center, 709-A S Westnedge Ave, Kalamazoo. Each summer hundreds of students participate in this program so we encourage you to apply early. Completed applications are accepted on a first come, first served basis.

For more information see your Guidance Counselor, call the Volunteer Center, or visit www.volunteerkalamazoo.org.

Volunteer Center of Greater Kalamazoo
709-A S Westnedge Ave, Kalamazoo, MI 49007
Phone: 269-382-8350
Email: volunteens@volunteerkalamazoo.org

SWINE FLU PREVENTION

April 27, 2009: School districts in the county have been working with the Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department about any potential problems with contagious diseases and through Kalamazoo RESA for Homeland Security issues, which includes prevention and reaction to an issue such swine flu.

According to a Health Alert received today from the Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services, no cases have been reported in Michigan. Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that anyone with the following symptoms isolate themselves and not attend work or school and avoid public places: fever, sore throat, and cough. Read more at: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/swine>.

VOLUNTARY STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE PROGRAM

During this school year the Portage Board of Education made available a voluntary student accident insurance program. Since the District has made this insurance available, an increasing number of parents/guardians have been taking advantage of this inexpensive policy. This fact dictates that as a community service, we will continue to offer this voluntary insurance.

The District offers this program because of trends in rising family health and dental insurance costs, increased deductibles, and co-payments. Furthermore, in an attempt to limit the Districts' rising insurance costs, this program provides an alternative for claims due to accidental injuries that unfortunately occur on our property. This is the case for both during and after school hours.

The plan described in the brochure you'll receive in the fall has been designed to respond to diverse family insurance needs. Coverage provided can help decrease the burden of unexpected medical and dental expenses, including those left unpaid due to family insurance deductibles and co-payments.

As it relates to middle and high school interscholastic athletics, this voluntary insurance plan also provides coverage for all sports except grades 9 through 12 tackle football. In that the District requires athletic insurance, you should consider this policy for the coverage it will provide you and your child. A separate policy for high school interscholastic football is also made available before practice begins in August.

Please watch for the enrollment forms at the start of the next school year.



MAY/JUNE 2009



SUMMER READING LIST

The following books are popular at NMS and would be excellent summer reads.

Series are really hot this summer. Some good ones are:

The Clique novels – L. Harrison

The Chronicles of Narnia – C.S. Lewis

Pendragon – D.J. MacHale

Guardians of Ga'Hoole – K. Lasky

The Princess Diaries – M. Cabot

Lost Years of Merlin – T.A. Barron

Dark is Rising Sequence – S. Cooper

Shadow Children – M.P. Haddix

Maximum Ride – J. Patterson

Warriors – E. Hunter

Uglies – S. Westerfeld

Underland Chronicles – S. Collins

Children of the Red King J. Nimmo

Dragon books – C. D'Lacey

Lord of the Rings – J.R.R. Tolkien

Eragon & Eldest - . Paolini

Twilight – S. Meyer

Book of Ember – J. DuPrau

Harper Hall Trilogy – A. McCaffrey

Percy Jackson & the Olympians – R. Riordan

The Chronicles of Prydain – L. Alexander

Tales of the Frog Princess – E.D. Baker

The Deptford Mice Trilogy – R. Jarvis

Pit Dragon Trilogy – J. Yolen

The Dragon Chronicles – S. Fletcher

A Samurai Mystery – D. & T. Hoobler

Young Wizards Series – D. Duane

The Seventh Tower – G. Nix

The Keys to the Kingdom – G. Nix

The Alex Rider Adventures – A. Horowitz

The Authur Trilogy – K. Crossley-Holland

Heartland – L. Brooke

Harry Potter Books – J.K. Rowling

Artemis Fowl Series – E Colfer

The Abhorsen Trilogy – G. Nix

The Immortals – T. Pierce

Anne of Green Gables Novels – L.M. Montgomery

The Quilt Trilogy – A. Rinaldi

Sally Lockhart Trilogy – P. Pullman

The Redwall Series – B. Jacques

A Wrinkle in Time Series – M. L'Engle

Recommended by Mrs. Anne Stohrer, NMS Media Specialist

SIXTH & SEVENTH GRADE AFTER-SCHOOL PARTY

The final after-school party for our 6th and 7th graders will be Friday, May 8, from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m. Students will be able to enjoy fun in the gymnasium, pool, and the dance floor. If the weather permits, the outdoor basketball court will also be available.



2007/2008 YEARBOOK DISTRIBUTIONS

Our NMS Yearbooks will be distributed to students on Friday, June 5. We encourage sharing them with friends, classmates, and staff for “autographing.” There will be reminders on the PA and from staff regarding the expectations for writing comments in friends’ books. These yearbooks are intended to last a lifetime and an inappropriate comment can destroy the intended meaning. If a student chooses to write an inappropriate comment in someone else’s yearbook, they may be purchasing a new yearbook for that classmate.



SIXTH GRADE TRACK & FIELD

The 6th grade Track and Field Day will be on June 8th. The rain date for this event is June 10th. This is a fun day for the entire 6th grade class! However, the success of their day is not possible without all of our wonderful volunteers. If you would like to be a part of this fun-filled fitness day, please contact Mrs. Lahaie at nla-haie@portageps.org. Thanks in advance for all of your time and efforts!



STUDENT MEDICATION

Prescription medication for students will be given to them on Tuesday, June 10, 2008. The Counseling/Guidance staff will return prescription medication to each individual student the last 45 minutes of the day. Students will be reminded to take their medication home. Any over-the-counter medication that is not picked up by the end of the day, will be discarded. If a parent wishes to pick up the medication, please advise Deb at 323-5777.



ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB

The Environmental Club has been very busy this year. Several of the club’s activities include: running an expanded recycling program, creating informational posters displayed around the school, beautifying the school grounds, making environmentally green household cleaners, writing social responsibility, political action letters, and hosting a guest speaker. Our club members practice applications of science, social responsibility, and language arts skills using real world situations. We learned about the positive impact that individuals can make to save energy and reduce the effects of climate change by simply changing a few habits at home from our guest speaker, Dr. Jarod Kelly. The Environmental Club enriches our school culture by focusing on Respect of Self and the Planet and by fostering a sense of community responsibility and citizenship. We not only care about our school community; we care about the world.



BAND 2009/2010

Attention Students and Parents interested in Marching Band!

We are currently registering students for the 2009 PNHS Marching Band! We have an exciting year planned as well as a great show! To find our more information, please go to the band website at www.pnbands.org and click on Marching Band. There you will find our Frequently Asked Questions page, the Online Registration, as well as the fee guide. All online registrations must be complete and the \$35 payment made to PN Band Boosters by June 1st to secure your spot!

MAY / JUNE 2009



HONORS ASSEMBLIES

Students who will receive awards at their grade level Honors Assembly will be notified by mail. We hope that many parents will be able to join us. Date and times for assemblies are as follows:

8 th Grade	Wednesday June 3	NHS Auditorium 7:00 p.m.
7 th Grade	Wednesday June 3	NHS Auditorium 10:00 a.m.
6 th Grade	Wednesday June 3	NHS Auditorium 8:30 a.m.



SPRING CONCERTS

The NMS Orchestra Concert will be held at our school on Tuesday, June 2; the Choir Concert will be on June 9; and the Band Concert will be on June 1. Both the band and choir concerts will be held at the Portage Northern High School Auditorium. All concerts will begin promptly at 7:00 p.m.

MICHIGAN ADVENTURE

Our eighth grade end-of-the year trip to Michigan Adventure will be Friday, June 12, 2009. An informational parent packet has been sent home with all 8th graders. Please take the time to go over the information with your student. If you have not received this informational packet, please contact Jim Moiles at 323-5704.



END-OF-THE YEAR STUDENT BEHAVIOR

As we approach the end of another successful school year, the concern for appropriately celebrating such a time of the school year is heightened. Parents and students are reminded that such things as squirt guns, shaving cream, firecrackers, and other disruptive or non-educational items are not allowed at school or on school property. Students who choose to bring (or use) such items will be disciplined according to the Code of Student Conduct, which includes loss of after school privileges, detentions, and/or suspensions. Parents and students should also be aware that because of the heightened anticipation and excitement at this time of year, students in the past who have engaged in pranks with disruptive items mentioned above, have ended up in situations that resulted in personal harm, property damage, and police involvement. Consequently, parents and students are reminded that North Middle School does not promote, condone, or tolerate celebration activities at school or on school grounds. Furthermore, celebrations that have "spilled" into adjacent neighborhoods have also been problematic and are not welcomed. Parents and students who desire to participate in such activities are encouraged to do so on their own private property. For the safety and well-being of all of our students at North Middle School, we expect and appreciate the cooperation of both students and parents.

MAY / JUNE 2009

INCOMING 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.

STAY INFORMED OVER THE SUMMER... 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 about Portage Schools, any of the individual schools, or about the two district foundations, The Portage Education Foundation and the 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.

REMINDERS FROM THE COUNSELORS

- Thursday, June 11th is a half day for students - students will be released at 11:00.



- Students can begin to bring home items that have been in their lockers such as clothing, old projects, unused notebooks.



- Incoming 6th graders, practice for combination locks during the summer so you can get into your locker quickly in the fall.



- Swimsuits - pick up a swimsuit a size larger at those summer sales. Swimsuits will be needed for the Physical Education requirement next school year.



NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION

All incoming 6th grade students, as well as 7th and 8th grade students who are new to the district, are invited to a new student orientation on the Tuesday before school begins. Specific procedure and times will be on our web-site and provided in the August edition of the NMS Parent Newsletter. Class schedules will be given to new students at this orientation. The school office will be open after the summer break beginning on August 1, 2008.

“School’s Out for the Summer!”

No homework! No early mornings! But now what? What should we encourage our children to do with their free time this summer?



Get Them Moving—Many young people are hooked on computer use or playing video games. Neither activity is bad in limited sessions, but a study by Douglas Gentile, in the latest issue of *Psychological Science*, suggests that gaming can be used...”in a way that is out of balance and harms various other areas of their lives.” Thus, children can become isolated from genuine interaction with others. Children need to get out with others and get some exercise every day, promoting a healthy body and preventing childhood obesity, a growing issue for America’s young.



Consider “Leisure Play” This kind of play may perhaps be a result of a child’s curiosity and creativity, make believe, bringing children together for fun: swimming, bike riding, pick up ball games, storytelling, play productions. In psychologist Peter Gray’s view, as expressed in an article in *Boston College*, structured activities and sports for children, especially adult driven, have prevented the experiences of ...”the normal, noncompetitive forms of social play that are essential for developing a sense of equality, connectedness, and concern for others.” These forms of play, that are healthy for our young people, are “freely chosen, age-mixed, non-adult organized-noncompetitive.” Encouraging our children to engage in “child’s play” with others reinforces cooperative, empathetic behaviors.



Practice Thinking....Encourage your child to participate in activities that require critical thinking. Problem solving, thinking logically, as with puzzles, Brain Quest, etc., on a regular basis, keeps the brain in tip top shape. Keeping the brain active in decision making and problem solving is crucial to all areas of life for people of all ages but especially for our young people who are growing intellectually. Being involved in activities that challenge and stimulate thinking should be included in summer activities.



Encourage Reading....any kind of reading from newspapers, magazines, comics, to novels and nonfiction. Reading throughout this summer will keep your child in the habit of using the brain processes needed during the school year. Read to learn, read to have fun. Once a person finds the type of reading materials that *fit*, reading becomes a joy and a vicarious adventure.



**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

Ms. Kim Kirshman, M.A., Ed.
Assistant Principal

Guidance Department:

Mr. Harold Swift, Counselor

Mrs. Nellie DeLong, Student Assistance Coordinator/Peer Coach

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ACTIVITY CALENDAR

May 5	PTSO Meeting - Media Center - 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. Don't Forget to Vote!
May 7	Effort Breakfast 6:30 to 7:40 a.m.
May 8	6th and 7th grade party 3:00 to 4:30 p.m.
May 12-13	6th grade Wolf Lake Fish Hatchery educational field trip
May 14, 15	7th and 8th grade State Choir Festival 6th grade Science/Stream educational field trip
May 15	8th grade party 7:00 - 9:30 p.m.
May 25	Memorial Day Observance No school students/staff
June 2	6th grade Orchestra Spring Concert 7:00 p.m. North Middle School
June 3	Honors Program 6th grade 8:30 a.m. NHS Auditorium 7th grade 10:00 a.m. NHS Auditorium 8th grade 7:00 p.m. NHS Auditorium
June 4	Track and Field Banquet 5:00 - 9:00 a.m.
June 5	6th grade Merrill Park educational field trip
June 8	6th grade Track and Field Day Rain Date June 10
June 9	Orchestra Banquet 7:30 p.m. WMS 6th, 7th, 8th grade and Select Choir Concert - 7:00 p.m. NHS
June 11	End of 2nd Semester/Last Day for Students 1/2 day for students
June 12	Last Day for Teachers



Middle School Back to School Supplies - General
However, specific teachers may request additional classroom supplies.

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Pencils | Pens |
| Erasers | Markers |
| Notebooks | Colored Pencils |
| 3-Ring Binder | Highlighters |
| Back Pack | Scientific Calculator |
| Locker Accessories | Flash Drives |

Every student will receive a Jr. Huskie assignment notebook /planner.

Principal's Wish List

- | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2 boxes tissues | Antibacterial Hand Sanitizers | Disinfectant Wipes |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
- Ink cartridges to recycle may be brought in to the main office**