

NORTHFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL

Oct. / Nov. 2016 Newsletter

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Visit us on the web
www.northfieldschools.org

News from the Principal

Fall Has Arrived

Our students are off to a terrific start and the 6th graders have transitioned amazingly well. It is hard to believe that October is here, fall activities are winding down and the end of quarter 1 is in our sights. Please take some time to carefully read the newsletter for some important information that will help you support your student and keep you connected.

As we look ahead I would like to place on the front of everyone's mind that the school year is a marathon and not a sprint. We spend a lot of time getting students fired up for the start of the school year and students respond with an amazing work ethic and are motivated to balance activities and academics.

Now that we have come out of the gates so well, we need to remember the race has just started. As adults this means keeping up consistent communication with our students and helping them stay proactive in their courses. For students this means learning how to balance and prioritize school, activities and a social life. This will not be easy for most students and they will need some encouragement as they work through these decisions. As a parent, I can tell you from experience that this can be frustrating and difficult times in raising kids. We never want to see our kids struggle and we want to "fix" any mistakes they make. However, looking back on my three kids journey, I can tell you that the mistakes my kids made along the way have always been the times they have grown the most. One of my favorite sayings is, "one of the keys to life isn't to never make a mistake, but to never make the same mistake twice."

Fall is my favorite season of the year both at the middle school and outside. Keep encouraging your students to show their **NMS PRIDE** and working together we will see our students do some amazing things.

Greg Gelineau
Northfield Middle School Principal

NMS PRIDE

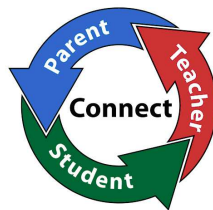
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Respect
Integrity
Dependability
Excellence

Fall Conferences

All parents and students are encouraged to attend Middle School Conferences on Thursday, October 13 from 4:00 – 8:00 p.m. and Monday, October 17 from 4:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Fall conferences will be a walk-in format (no appointment necessary). Maps will be made available at the main entrance as you arrive.

Parent Directories will be available for pick up at the Healthy Community Initiative table at the main entrance.



NMS Theater

NMS Drama is proud to announce its musical for 2016-2017,



WHEN: December 2nd and 3rd at 7:00PM

WHERE: Middle School Auditorium

Tickets are general admission and can be purchased at the door.

Adults \$5, Children \$3, Families \$12

It'll be Sparklejollytwinklejingley!

Student Support Services

There are two school counselors: Jenny Streefland (works with students with last names beginning with A-L), Cori Yamry (works with students last names beginning M-Z). We can be reached at 663-0664 or via email.

Some reasons you may contact the School Counselors.

We offer assistance with students who are struggling with academics. We support students and families who are struggling with divorce, family conflict, death of a loved one, and any sort of life changing event. Counselors can assist in exploring community resources, such as mental health and county providers. Also, students may struggle with peer relationships, bullying, and friendship turmoil which may need mediation.

Best ways to communicate with Northfield Middle School Counselors.

We can be reached at 663-0664. We will do our best to return calls in a timely manner. Email is also a great way to communicate. Our email is listed on the Stu-

dent Support Services Web site, which can be found at northfieldschools.org. On your student's Schoology accounts you can also find classroom assignments, due dates, and other class information. Finally, parents can sign up for Family Access, which can be found on the middle school and district website. Family access is a great way to keep up check your students grades, attendance and homework completion.

There are several opportunities for academic assistance at Northfield Middle School and in the community.

The Middle School Youth Center

The Youth Center is a place for middle school students to gather after school for fun, academic assistance, and social interaction with college students and friends.

The Youth Center is open Monday through Thursday 3:00-5:30pm.

Carleton Tutor Hotline

Carleton College students volunteer their time in many ways. One service that is

offered to our youth is tutoring through the ACT program (Acting in the Community). The service offers students a chance to receive tutoring from fabulous Carleton students. Tutors and tutees meet one hour a week in a public location.

To set up a tutor, please call (507) 222-5595. This is a voice mailbox, so leave a message and someone through the program will return your call. Email contact is: trachtenbergs@carleton.edu. Include in the message or email, your name and your child's name, contact information for you, subjects your child needs help in, and any preferred days and times for tutoring sessions.

Tutoring during the school day at NMS:

If you are interested in having a tutor during study hall, stop by the Student Support Services Office for details.

Jenny Streefland, Counselor (A-L)
Cori Yamry, Counselor (M-Z)

Student Council

We are in the process of conducting the sixth grade elections for our sixth grade representatives. The elections will take place on October 13th. There will be three representatives elected from each team. We will announce the results in the next newsletter.

Please make note, on your calendar, of these future student council activities.

Films 4 the Food Shelf: November 11, January 13, March 31

Dances: December 2, February 10, April 28

Details will follow as the dates draw nearer.

Frau Burkhead and Mrs. Kuehl
Student Council Advisors



Speech Team

The Northfield Middle School Speech Team will begin its 2016-2017 winter season the week of November 28-December 2! We are looking for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders who would like to improve and practice their speaking and performing abilities. Speech team isn't really about writing speeches, that is just one of the many categories. Students choose to expressively read literature from categories such as humorous and serious prose, poetry and drama; extemporaneous prose and poetry, great speeches, informative speaking, dramatic duo, storytelling, original oratory and creative expression. Students chose one category and one selec-

tion to perform throughout the season. One 20 minute practice session each week is required. Practice times are flexible, so students in basketball, ski club and other school activities are eligible to participate in speech. The team will attend four festivals on Saturday mornings in January and February.

An informational meeting will be held **Thursday, December 1st, 3 pm in room 272.** If students cannot attend the informational meeting on December 1, they can stop into room 272 any day after school the week November 28- December 1 to get information.

Find out more by attending the informational meeting on December 1 or talk to or email Ms. Halvorson, the coach at dhalvorson@northfieldschools.org or Mrs. Hebzynski, the assistant coach at khebzynski@northfieldschools.org The main office will also have information sheets to take home.



Choir News

LOVE TO SING? It is a brand new year and I would like to encourage anyone that would like to start singing to join choir. It's not too late. We are always looking to add new singers! I am excited to get to know your child and make many different kinds of music together! We have a number of concerts this year along with being part of the Winter Walk on December 8, Ordway trip was September 29, and choir tour to the cities in May for 7th & 8th graders and solos & small ensembles at the end of the school year (*you can choose to be recorded or not this year*).

NMS HONORS CHOIR: Our own Honors Choir started rehearsing the first day of school. They got to go to the Twin's game on September 22 to sing with 700 other singers, the National Anthem at the start of the game. Students will rotate bringing donuts, muffins or bagels for the end of each rehearsal.

Our first concert:
Thursday, October 27, 2016

Middle School Auditorium
7:00pm
Concert Dress: Boys-white collared shirt and tie, black or dark pants, dark shoes if possible
Girls: PLAIN white top (no spaghetti straps) and PLAIN black dress pants(no yoga pants or leggings unless worn with a skirt).
Singers will need to be in the choir room and band room by 6:30pm.



Next performance for us will be Winter Walk on Thursday, December 8TH starting at 5pm at Bridge Square. We are just finishing up the auditions for the MN State Honor Choirs 6-8 and a special year to try out for National Honor Choir. Updates when we get results.

As always, if you have any questions give me a call or send me an email.
663-0675 or
cpinning@northfieldschools.org
Cathy Penning
Vocal Music Teacher

October 2016 / November 2016

Band News

Come to the Band Concert! The District Band Concert featuring all band members, grades 5-12 is on **Monday, October 24th at 7:00 PM** in the High School Gymnasium.

6th Grade band members should meet at 6:40 in the High School cafeteria. 7th and 8th Grade band members should leave their coats and instrument cases in

the High School Choir room and find their seat on the gym floor at 6:45. All band members are encouraged to bring stands from home to use in the concert. Please label your stand so we can get it back to you if you forget to take it home. All the bands have already made considerable progress this year and are looking forward to showing you what they can do!

We have now started band lessons. The lesson times and the rotation schedule are on schoology. Any and all encouragement or help you can give in terms of establishing and maintaining a regular practice schedule is very welcome. See you at the concert!

Ethan Freier



Orchestra News

The first orchestra concert for this year is on **Thursday, October 27 at 7:00 pm.** This performance will feature the orchestras and choirs from Northfield Middle School. Orchestra students need to be at the Middle School by 6:30 pm to allow enough time to tune and warm-up before this performance. Concert dress is black and white (please refer to the Orchestra Syllabus for more detailed guidelines).

Orchestra lessons began on Tuesday, September 20. Each student received a lesson schedule and calendar with their lesson days. Students receive one lesson

every six days of school (students enrolled in private lessons need to fill out a Private Lesson Form instead, in addition to having 1 lesson each quarter with Mrs. Olivier). Lessons focus on technique and orchestra music.

Your child should be showing you their practice calendar to sign each week. Any encouragement you can give towards regular practice is greatly appreciated.

Please check that your student's instrument case is labeled, clearly, with their name, address and phone number. When cases look similar, it is very easy for a

student to bring home the wrong instrument without realizing it. Thank you for doing this.

I am enjoying working with all of these students. I look forward to sharing a great performance with you soon!

Mrs. Olivier



Nurse Notes

ATTENTION 6th Grade students: Minnesota State Immunization Law requires the following immunizations before entering 7th grade in the fall of 2017. **Please provide a copy for the Health office when shots are given so your health records can be updated at school.**

- Tdap, a new one needs to be given unless they had one after their 7th birthday.
- 2 Varicella vaccines OR proof of Chickenpox
- Meningitis (meningococcal) MCV
- All childhood vaccines must be on file
- OR, provide a notarized Legal Exemption, or medical exemption signed by your physician

You may schedule your immunization appointment now with your clinic. Get them done early since supplies become limited in August.

Strep

Signs and symptoms you may have:
Sudden onset of sore throat
Fever/nausea/vomiting/stomachache
Bad headache

Inflammation of throat, tonsils, enlarged cervical lymph nodes.
May have skin rash.

Throat culture is necessary for diagnosis, antibiotics are prescribed for treatment. May return to school after 24 hours of antibiotics and fever free.

Medication

For prescription medication to be given at school a completed School Medication Administration Form must be on file. The name of the medication, dose, time of day, parent & physician signature is required. School staff are not allowed to administer any prescription medication without this on file.

HEARING AND VISION SCREENING FOR 7TH GRADE

Date changed:

Screening will take place on **November 15, 2016 from 7:57-2:51**. A referral will be mailed home for those students in need of a checkup. Encourage your student to wear their prescribed glasses or hearing aids for success in school. Vision exams are recommended every 2 years. For students that have recently been screened by their physician, may opt out if parents provide a note.

Volunteers needed!! Without our volunteers we cannot have this screening. Please contact the school nurse at 507-663-0656. Thank you!

Sport Physicals

Middle school sports do not require a sport physical, however, if your student will be participating in a High School sport, a physical is required and must be on the Minnesota State High School League Sports Physical form. Those are good for 3 years. Those may be turned into the middle school nurse office and kept in your students health file. It is also sent to the High School activities office.



Nancy Becker, RN
nbecker@northfieldschools.org
Middle School Health Services
2200 Division St. South
Northfield, MN 55057

Middle School Athletics

Wrestling will begin in November with practices being held at the Middle School! Practices are Monday through Friday in the main gym from 3:00-4:45pm. To register for wrestling, please visit the main district website and click on 'Activities Sign up' under Quick Links, which is located on the bottom right hand side. Our scheduled meets can be viewed on www.big9conference.org or you can pick up a hard copy from the office.

The Fitness Center will be open Monday-Thursday from 3:00-4:30 p.m., starting in November and going through March. You will need to register online before participating. The Fitness Center is staffed by Curt Mikkelson and Paul Stanaway.

Please contact Mr. O'Keefe or Jen Henriksen at 663-0680 or jhenriksen@northfieldschools.org if you have any questions.

MS Activities Hotline: **645-3559**

This line provides updated information regarding competitive events only. Information regarding practice schedules, or changes to practice schedules ARE NOT announced on this line unless there is a cancellation due to weather.

Attendance

Please call the attendance line each day that your child is absent. You may reach the 24-hour voice mail system by dialing 663-0655.

E-mailing teachers DOES NOT count as official notification for state attendance records. When calling the attendance line, please leave your student's name, grade, reason for absence and your relationship to the child. If calling in an illness, please leave information regarding symptoms. Our health services staff is required to file a report

with the State Health Department if there is an unusual increase in certain illnesses. Students who are not called in will be considered unexcused until a parent/guardian notifies us. If you should forget to call in, your child may turn in a note to the attendance window outside the office when he/she returns to school. Students may not call in their own absences.

If your child is absent for **three consecutive days**, you may leave a request for homework on the attendance

line when you call in your child's absence information on the third day. Requests should be made by 9:00 a.m., so teachers can use their prep time to gather work. Homework will be requested on your behalf and any available homework can be picked up between 3:00-4:00 p.m.

Attendance Line
663-0655

Yearbook



Remember your 2016-2017 school year, and capture all the memories! Yearbooks are for sale now on the NMS website. Click on the “yearbook” link to place your order.

Academic Activities

Each year we have many opportunities for students to participate in academic activities.

The programs and co-curricular activities take place at various times during the school year and, in some cases, the exact dates have not been determined. Students should listen to the daily announcements, and parents can check with the office for the specific dates when their activity begins. Registration can be done on the main district website. Scroll to the bottom of the main page to Quick Links, and click on Activities Sign Up.

We are pleased to offer the following academic activities:

- Knowledge Bowl: End of September – April
- Math League: End of September – February
- Geography Bee: December
- Speech Club: December – February
- Spelling Bee: December
- Student Council: September – May (members were elected last fall)
- Yearbook: September – May
- Jazz Ensemble: October – May
- Honors Choir: September – May
- Chamber Orchestra: October – May

If you have questions about these activities, contact Jen Henriksen, Activities Secretary, at 663-0680 or jhenriksen@northfieldschool.org

W.E.B. - Where Everybody Belongs

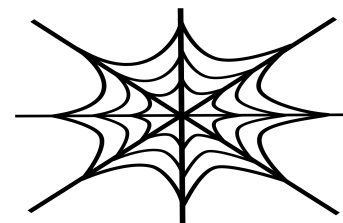
We are off to a great start with WEB this year! Seventy-five energetic 8th graders volunteered three days of their summer to help support the 6th graders transition to the middle school. Two days were spent learning how to lead activities and support the 6th graders in preparation for orientation on September 1st.

On September 1st we had 280 excited 6th graders show up at 7:55 A.M. for an eventful morning. The 8th graders led

them through a variety of large and small group activities and gave the 6th graders valuable advice for succeeding at the middle school. On September 21st we had our first WEB lunch; WEB groups were able to check in and reconnect.

We want to thank the 8th graders for the amazing job they have done to start this year in a positive way. We are looking forward to another great year of WEB!

Cori Yamry, John Bade, Rafa Estrella,
Rhea Mehrkens & Krista Betcher
~NMS WEB Coordinators



Cell Phones and Electronics

Cellular phone use is prohibited during school hours at the Middle School. All cell phones should be turned off prior to entering the academic wings and not visible during or between classes. Students who do not follow this policy could have one or more of the following consequences:

- Cell phone will be confiscated until the end of the day.
- Parent will need to pick up the cell phone in the office.

Radios, CD Players, MP3, I-Pods are not allowed in the classrooms and/or in the hallway. If a student chooses to listen to them on the way to school or on the way home, they must turn them off and keep them out of sight.

Violation of the above policy could result in one or more of the following consequences:

- Detention
- Confiscation until the end of the day
- Confiscation until the end of the year
- Parent Conference
- School Service Project

We appreciate your support with these policies.



Parent Phone Number and Address Changes

Has your family experienced a change in home or cell phone numbers, residence and mailing address changes or a change in e-mail address. If so, please notify the office of any changes. You may do so by calling 663-0664 or e-mail the change to

Kimberly Tousignant:
ktousignant@northfieldschools.org

Maintaining up-to-date parent information is the best way to insure that we can contact you in a timely manner. Thank you for your assistance with this request.

Northfield Middle School 2016-2017

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday

Period	Schedule
1	7:57 – 8:54
2	8:58 – 9:48
3	9:52 – 10:42
4A	10:46 – 11:11
4B	11:14 – 11:39
4C/5	11:42 – 12:07 *5D Students begin 5 th hour
5D	12:10 – 12:35
5	12:38 – 1:03
6	1:07 – 1:57
7	2:01 – 2:51

Wednesday ~ Late Start Schedule

Period	Schedule
1	8:57 – 9:42
2	9:46 – 10:24
3	10:28 – 11:06
4A	11:09 – 11:34
4B	11:37 – 12:02
4C/5	12:05 – 12:30 *5D Students begin 5 th hour
5D	12:34 – 12:59
5	1:02 – 1:27
6	1:31 – 2:09
7	2:13 – 2:51

Upcoming Events ~ 2016-2017 School Year

(Calendar may be subject to change. Please check website for updates.)

October 2	Mid-quarter 1
October 3	Kindness in Chalk Day
October 3 - 7	MS Spirit Week /Homecoming
October 4	Site Improvement Team, 3:15 pm, room 116
October 6	Grade 6 Team 1 – River Bend Nature Center Field Trip
October 7	Grade 6 Team 2 – River Bend Nature Center Field Trip
October 10	School Board Mtg., 7:00 pm, HS Media Center/MS Site Improvement Presentation
October 13 & 17	MS Fall Conferences, 4:00 - 8:00 pm
October 20 - 21	No School / Education MN
October 24	School Board Mtg., 7:00 pm, HS Media Center
October 24	District Band Concert, 7:00 pm, HS Gym
October 27	MS Choir / Orchestra Concert, 7:00 pm
October 28	HS Choir / Orchestra Concert, 7:00 pm
November 3	6th Grade Parent Session (watch for details to come from Greg Gelineau)
November 4	End of 1st Quarter
November 7	No school / Teacher work day
November 8	Second quarter begins
November 8	Election day, no evening events
November 8	School Board Mtg., 3:00 pm, rm. 116
November 11	Films for Food Shelf, 3:00 pm, MS Auditorium
November 14	School Board Mtg., 7:00 pm, HS Media Center
November 15	7th Grade Vision and Hearing (during the school day)
November 17	Sibley Choir Concert, 7:00 pm, MS Auditorium
November 23	No school / Staff Development
November 24 -25	No school / Thanksgiving break
December 1	Speech Team Information meeting, 3 pm, rm. 272
December 2	MS Dance, 3:00 pm
December 2 & 3	MS Musical Performances, 7:00 pm, MS Auditorium
December 5	Geography Bee, 7:00 pm
December 8	MS Choir - Winter Walk, 5:00 pm
December 12	Mid-quarter 2
December 19	MS & HS Orchestra, 7:00 pm, MS Auditorium
December 20	4th & 5th Grade Orchestra, 7:00 pm, MS Auditorium
Dec. 23 - Jan. 2, 2017	No school / Winter break

NMS PRIDE

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Community Services October/November 2016 – Middle School Newsletter

Check out some great recreational and enrichment programs for youth this fall with Northfield Public Schools Community Services! For more information or to register visit www.northfieldschools.org (follow the Community Services link), call 507-664-3649, or stop by our office on the first floor of the Northfield Community Resource Center at 1651 Jefferson Parkway, Northfield. **Scholarships are available for all programs.**

- **Prairie Fire Children’s Theatre – Fall Production: *Alice in Wonderland*** (grades 2 – 8)
Catch the fire! Enrollment is open to all district students.
Performances at 7 p.m. on Friday and 1 p.m. on Saturday.
\$ 69; Monday – Saturday, November 14 - 19
4 – 8:15 p.m., Middle School Auditorium
- **American Red Cross Babysitter’s Certification Course** (ages 11 – 17)
 - \$89, Sa, Oct. 8, 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.; Northfield Community Resources Center Youth Wing Rm. 108
 - \$89, Sa, Dec. 10, 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.; Northfield Community Resources Center Youth Wing Rm. 108
- **Northfield Ski and Snowboard Club at Welch Village** (grades 6 - 12)
Information is located in the Middle School office and the Northfield Community Services office. Online registration is also available at www.northfieldschools.org (follow the Community Services links.) Please call 507-664-3649 with questions. We hope to see you on the slopes.
Welch Village: \$165; Mondays, Dec. 5 – Feb. 27 (skip Dec.26 & Jan. 2); 3 – 9:15 p.m.; Welch Village Ski Area
- **Middle School Youth Center** (grades 6 – 8)
The Middle School Youth Center is dedicated to providing free after-school programming that engages youth with their school and community while developing individual strengths and talents. The program welcomes Northfield youth in grades 6 through 8.
 - Homework assistance
 - Clubs and workshops
 - Physical recreation
 - Cultural enrichment
 - Interaction with peers and caring adults
 - Opportunities to engage in community serviceThe center is open from 3 to 5 p.m., Monday through Thursday, when school is in session. Contact [Linda Oto](mailto:LindaOto@northfieldschools.org) (507.664.3655) for additional information or a registration packet. Grade level orientations start on Monday, September 26.