

NORTHFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL

**Dec. 2017 / Jan. 2018
Newsletter**

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News from the Principal

Middle School Families,

We are quickly approaching the halfway point of the school year and I would like to take a moment to thank all of you for the kindness and support you have shown Northfield Middle School. Saying that "Northfield is a special place" is not only true, but something none of us should take for granted.

Looking ahead to these next couple months we have a tremendous number of events for students and families. The two events I would like to draw a little extra attention to are the December 7, 2017 presentation for students on internet safety & our digital footprint, and the December 11, 2017 parent event on the effects of screen time and how to manage it. Parents can view the film "Screenagers" and then have time for discussion. With technology being such a large part of today's world, we need to work together for the safety of our students.

A few additional reminders and pieces of information for our new families about winter. Soon enough we will have snow flying, which means late buses and possible school closures. Please start preparing your student that they will need to be ready a little earlier and have a little more patience. The goal is safety and during the winter months, it just takes a little longer. Speaking of safety, also remember our fabulous crossing guards are out every morning and afternoon. Please give them a little extra space and when in doubt, stop. The final piece about winter has to do with entering the middle school. We have a beautiful floor in the entire cafeteria area and hallways. Unfortunately, that floor is more like a skating rink when it gets wet. Please talk with students about going slow and "walk like a penguin" when entering the building. We dry the floors immediately after student's head to class, but wet boots and shoes make it difficult to keep up.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. No matter if you celebrate the season or not, it is a time to reconnect with family and friends during the break. I am incredibly thankful for all of you and the amazing students you trust us with. Let's make a commitment to work together even more in 2018, as we continue our journey to ensure all students receive the education they deserve and empower all learners to achieve their full potential. NMS PRIDE will shine brightly in 2018!

Blessings,

Greg Gelineau
Northfield Middle School Principal

NMS PRIDE
Prepared
Respect
Integrity
Dependability
Excellence

Visit us on the web
www.northfieldschools.org

NMS Musical

NMS Drama will have an informational meeting for students who are interested in the spring show, “Best of Broadway”. This variety show will include both musical numbers and scenes from some of Broadway’s most popular shows. Performances will be **April 6 and 7**. Rehearsals start in January and are typically from 3-5 pm Monday-Friday. Students will be called 2 or 3 days a week, depending on their role and availability.

The informational meeting for students will be on **Wednesday, December 6th from 3-3:30 pm** in the MS auditorium.

Contact us with any questions,
Rachael and Ty Hudson
rhudson@northfieldschools.org
thudson@northfieldschools.org
507-663-0684



December Greetings from the Media Center!

Now that the Scholastic Book Fair is packed and gone, and first quarter is behind us, we can put our attention to our “Eleventh Annual Tattered Pages Holiday Shopping Extravaganza”.

The dates for holiday shopping (and free gift wrapping) will be **December 14 (Thursday) through December 19 (Tuesday)**. The “sale” (remember, students use Tattered Pages coupons to make purchases, rather than real money) will be held during school hours.

Last year we sold, and gift wrapped over one thousand new and used books and gift items. Your students have earned coupons through out the year by doing jobs around the school and by donating gently used books to The Tattered Pages. Now they can take their hard earned coupons and purchase all their holiday gifts for family and friends without having to ask you for a single penny! Awesome, right?

To make this sale successful, we need your donations. Please consider looking for gently used items in your house that might make good gifts for our students to buy. Items such as mugs, candles, stuffed animals, dishes, statues, puzzles, and picture frames make perfect gifts. All items can be brought right to the middle School Media Center.

We also need volunteers to help gift-wrap and provide donations of healthy baked goods (these we sell during our Holiday Shopping Extravaganza for *real* money. This helps off-set the cost of gift wrap and bows).

What is The Tattered Pages?
The Tattered Pages is a free bookstore housed in the Northfield Middle School, where students “purchase” new and used books using coupons they have earned for completing various jobs (donating books, working on tasks around the school, demonstrating exemplary academics, demonstrating good citizenship, etc). The Tattered Pages currently has 4000 books in its collection. Roughly

300 new books are bought and sold (using coupons) each week.

Many of our youth are students who value books, want to own books, but don’t have the means to buy them in the traditional way (using real currency). Through grants and donations new books are purchased (at reduced prices) to fill gaps in the collection, especially Spanish titles. About half our books are new.

The Tattered Pages houses books for all ages; picture books, adult fiction and non-fiction, and of course middle school books. The Tattered Pages also offers a free gift-wrapping service for all books purchased as gifts.

Thank you so much, for all you do!

Amy Sieve



Student Support Services

Mentoring opportunities!

Project Friendship

Project Friendship is seeking students in grades 2-7 who would benefit from having a mentoring relationship with a Carleton or St. Olaf student. The mentoring relationship focuses on individual attention, empowerment and building confidence.

The mentor meets the child on campus on a regular basis during the academic year to share a campus based activity, adventure and conversation. Matches commonly last for two to three years but can establish friendship for a lifetime.

The development of healthy self-esteem is one of the most important elements of growing up and plays a major role in determining what kind of person a child will become. Mentors help children feel that they are important and that they are individuals who deserve respect and attention. It is our goal to increase the child's self-confidence, help them better their self-worth and provide guidance for the child to make healthy choices. www.projectfriendshipmentoring.org

Big Brother/ Big Sister

Big Brothers, Big Sisters are looking for students ages 6 through 18 who would benefit from mentoring with people from the community. They meet individually and at times as a whole group for fun events.

The mentor meets the child in the community either during the weekend or during the week. They work on developing positive relationships that have a direct and lasting effect on the lives of young people. www.bbbs.org and look under programs then community base for more information.

If you have more questions or would like to talk to someone about this program feel free to contact your child's School Counselor, Jenny Streefland (A-L) or Cori Yamry (M-Z) or Heather Stanton Ims, School Social Worker.



Student Council

As of October 5, the NMS Student Council welcomed six new 6th grade students to our leadership team. Our new members are: **Sam Boardman, Gracie Freyberg, Mari Hanson, Hal Shuffelton, Parker Sneary, Gwen Stopka**

On Friday, October 27, we sponsored the first Films 4 the Food Shelf of the 2017-18 school year. For this event, students were invited to join their friends and watch Journey to the Center of the Earth on the "Big Screen" in the NMS auditorium. Students were asked to bring a suggested donation of \$2.00 or a non-perishable food item. We collected **103 pounds** of food and **\$95**. All food and money donations went to the local food shelf.

The first Student Council sponsored dance is **Friday, December 1, from 3:00 to 5:00 pm**. This dance is open to students who attend the Middle School at least halftime. The cost is \$4.00, and there will be concessions for sale in the cafeteria. All school rules apply throughout this event. Students should be picked up promptly at 5:00 pm.

Frau Burkhead and Mrs. Kuehl
Student Council Advisors



Middle School Academic and Athletic Activities

Wrestling started in November with practices being held at the Middle School. Practices are **Monday through Friday in the Aux. gym from 3:00-4:45 pm**. To register for wrestling, please visit the main district website and click on the red "Activities Registration" clipboard. If you have any questions about registration, please contact Jen Henriksen at 507.663.0680 or jhenriksen@northfieldschools.org. Our scheduled meets can be viewed on www.big9conference.org or you can pick up a hard copy from the office.

The Fitness Center also started in November and is open **Monday-Thursday from 3:00-4:30 pm**. There are two sessions throughout the year, the first session starting in November and runs the entire 2nd quarter. The second session will start in January at the beginning of 3rd quarter. You will need to register

online before participating, by going to the main district website and clicking on the red "Activities Registration" clipboard. The Fitness Center is staffed by Curt Mikkelsen and Paul Stanaway.

The Geography Bee is coming up on **Dec. 4 at 7:00 pm** in the Middle School Auditorium. It is similar to a spelling bee, except that participants answer Geography questions. It is open to students in grades 6th-8th. There will soon be a sign up sheet and an informational letter on Mr. Sawyer's door in room 265. There will also be announcements on the morning news show.

Our MS play will start on **Tuesday, January 2**. Practices are from **3:00-4:30, Monday through Friday**. Performances will be on **Friday, April 6 and Saturday, April 7**. The play is staffed by Rachael

and Ty Hudson. Registration will be available online through our main district website. Click on the red "Activities Registration" clipboard.

Activities to look forward in the 3rd quarter and spring are Fitness Center (6-8), Boys'/Girls' Track (6-8), Boys' Tennis, Boys'/Girls' Golf (7-8), Boys'/Girls' Lacrosse (7-8), Boys'/Girls' Clay Target (7-8) and Girls' Softball (7-8).

Please contact Mr. O'Keefe or Jen Henriksen at 507-663-0680 or jhenriksen@northfieldschools.org if you have any questions.



W.E.B. - Where Everybody Belongs

On October 27, WEB groups met together to complete a team-work challenge. Small groups broke into three smaller groups and created part of a monster-the head, the torso or the legs. The monster was then assembled and competed for most funny, scariest, or best use of materials.

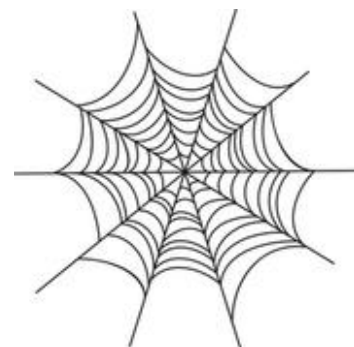
WEB Leaders participated in Costume Bowling on October 24. The leaders had a great time showing off their bowling skills in fantastic costumes. WEB leader only events are a great way to continue to build leadership throughout the year and thank leaders for their important role at NMS.

On November 15, WEB Groups met for lunch and a middle school check-in. This was a great way for sixth graders to reconnect with their WEB groups. We will have another social coming up in December...Stay tuned!

We have a sub-group of WEB leaders called MSL (Middle School Leaders). The MSL group is responsible for teaching

academic follow-up lessons to all sixth grade classes. The first lesson, taught in mid-October, was about how to improve study habits. Thank you to the MSL group for doing a fantastic job teaching your first academic follow-up lesson!

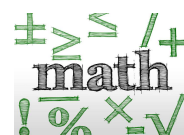
Cori Yamry, John Bade, Rafa Estrella, & Rhea Mehrkens
~NMS WEB Coordinators



Northfield Middle School Math League

The NMS Math League season is off to an excellent start! We have a record number of members this year - 24 mathletes, made up of 6th, 7th, and 8th graders. So far, we have competed twice and are in **first place** for the division! There are three meets left, so stay tuned for final results.

Advisor: Ms. Anne Jarvis



Band News

The Northfield High School and Middle School Jazz Bands had their first concert of the year on Thursday, November 30th. This year, our featured guest artist was saxophonist Kenni Holmen.

The next band concert is on **February 5**, for the 8th Grade band at **7:00 pm** in the Middle School Auditorium, and **February 8**, for the 5th, 6th, and 7th Grade bands at **7:00 pm** in the Middle School Auditorium.

As we did last year, we will stagger the performances with 6th Grade playing at 7:00 pm, 7th Grade Band playing at 7:30 pm, 8th Grade Band playing at 8:00 PM and the Jazz Band playing at 8:30 pm. Students should report to the band room 15 minutes before their scheduled performance time. Dress will be the same as the Fall concert.

For your new 2018 calendar: The Spring Band Concert is on **May 17**.

Band lessons are going great! Many students are practicing regularly and the effort can be heard in the musical progress being made every day!

Thank you for supporting the musical endeavors of your children. You will never regret it and neither will they. See you at the concerts!

Ethan Freier



Orchestra News

The Middle School Orchestras are preparing for their upcoming Winter Concert on **Monday, December 18 at 7:00 pm**. 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. Chamber Orchestra students will have a rehearsal in the auditorium beginning at **6:00 pm**. Concert dress for the evening is white and black (same as our October concert).

This concert will feature the Middle School Orchestras, Middle School Chamber Orchestra, High School Orchestras and High School Chamber Orchestra. We will also collect food and monetary donations for the Northfield Food Shelf prior to the concert. Last year, we raised \$322 and 54 pounds of food. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

I look forward to seeing you soon!

Mrs. Olivier



Choir News

CONGRATULATIONS to all of our 7 & 8th grade ACDA State Honor Choir students that were chosen to represent Northfield Middle School at the State ACDA (*American Choral Director's Association*) Convention in Mahtomedi, MN.

**John O'Leary
Landon Nissen
Andrew Ryden
Elizabeth Meehan
Jordyn Naumann
Madeline Radtke
Grace Ryden
Camille Schetnan**

6th Graders wanting to audition for the State ACDA Honor Choirs will start working on the audition material in January with the deadline for happening in early February.

It's still not too late to join choir! The Middle School Choirs are getting ready to be a part of the Winter Walk on **Thursday, December 7**. Choir students (grades 6-8) need to be at Bridge Square by **4:50 pm** starting promptly at 5 pm. The 6th graders will be kicking off Winter Walk for the whole downtown at 5:00 pm sharp.

Something special this year for the start of Winter Walk is a song that everyone in the community is invited to sing along with our 6th graders. We will be singing a song from the Grinch, "Welcome Christmas"! 6th grade will then sing carols as a large group while 7 & 8th grade singers will begin strolling in small groups up and down the streets. 6th grade singers will be done caroling by 5:30pm. This year, 7 & 8th grade small groups will be caroling for 30 minutes, but picking the time that works with their schedule. There will be small groups performing from 5-5:30 pm, 5:30-6 pm, 6-6:30pm, and 6:30-7pm. These are all time slot choices for 7 & 8th graders singing in small groups.

Something to be aware of, is the high volume of traffic all heading to Winter Walk at the same time. Every year, students are late getting to Winter Walk because it turns into a traffic nightmare especially with some of the streets blocked off for the event.

Parents: If you would like to help supervise and or sing with us give me a call or just show up to help. You can pick up your child by Bridge Square at 5:30 pm unless you have made other arrangements. Please make sure that

your child is dressed to be outside for an hour (winter coat, hat and mittens or gloves). Performing at Winter Walk will be our only performance for this quarter-worth 100 points. (If you want to sing the community song- "Welcome Christmas", join your child's Schoology- it is in a folder marked holiday songs).

If you know of someone within walking distance of the Middle School who would benefit from having some MS Carolers come sing during December, please give me a call or send an email.

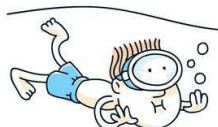
Any questions about choir related items; please give me a call or send me an email. Contact: Mrs. Cathy Penning, Vocal Music at NMS
663-0675, ext. 15675 or
cpenning@northfieldschools.org



Physical Education Department News

It's time to pull out those swimsuits again. Following winter break, we will be starting our **Swimming Unit** in P.E. It would be helpful if you would please put your name on your towel and swimsuit.

Thank you,
Physical Education Dept.



Nurse Notes

ATTENTION 6th Grade students:

Minnesota State Immunization Law requires the following immunizations before entering 7th grade in the fall of 2018.

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. You may FAX to 507-663-0660

Influenza

The flu is a respiratory disease caused by a virus that attacks the nose, throat, and lungs. It can be mild, but is sometimes severe and at times can lead to death. It is not the same as the “stomach flu”.

Symptoms include: fever, dry cough, sore throat, headache, extreme tiredness and body aches. These symptoms come on quickly and can be severe.

Screening tool for parents:

- Fever of 100 or higher?
- Sore throat?
Cough?

If yes, for fever and one other symptom, keep your student at home and fever free for 24 hours before returning to school, this may be 5-7 days.

****Prevention includes:** Use good hand washing, cover your cough and get a flu vaccine.

Concussions

A concussion is a type of brain injury that changes the way the brain normally works and is caused by a bump, blow, or jolt to the head. It can also occur from a blow to the body that causes the head and brain to move rapidly back and forth. Concussions can have a more serious effect on a young, developing brain and need to be addressed correctly. Go to the CDC website for more information.



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

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 507.663.0664 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.



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

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.



Announcements and News on the Web!

Middle School students start each day with televised morning announcements. These announcements are also posted on our middle school website during the school day. Parents can access the announcements by going to www.northfieldschools.org and clicking on Northfield Middle School and then announcements. Announcements usually remain posted by date for approximately two weeks. In the event that our webmaster is absent, there may be a delay in posting. Our eight-minute long, student

run morning news show is available for streaming from our website. Please check it out.

Our bi-monthly parent newsletter is also posted on the web. You can access this information by going to www.northfieldschools.org then clicking on News and Publications and then Newsletters. You will find newsletters for all buildings on this webpage. Parents are also invited to check out the Northfield School District web page at

www.northfieldschools.org If parents have not already done so, they can create a Family Access account to view student data. You can apply for an access user name and password on line. You should receive this information back via e-mail within a couple of days



Community Services Division News

Northfield Public Schools Community Services Division offers many great programs for Middle School students starting in December and January (**Registration opens on Friday, Dec. 8, 2017**). For more information, or to register for these great programs visit us online at www.northfieldschools.org (follow the Community Services link), call 507-664-3649, or visit our office on the first floor of the Northfield Community Resource Center at 1651 Jefferson Parkway, Northfield. **Scholarships are available for all programs.**

Child & Babysitting Safety Class (CABS)

(grades 4-8) S, Dec. 9, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

NCRC Room 108, Class #: 4351-F17B

Learn the responsibilities of being a babysitter. Topics include:

- Starting your own babysitting business
- child development
- proper feeding and diapering techniques
- personal safety
- medical emergencies
- basic first aid care
- fire safety

You will receive a CABS workbook and certification valid for 2 years through the American Safety and Health Institute and approved by the American Pediatrics Association.

Raider Yoga

(grades 7 - 12) W, Jan. 3 – March 14 (no class Feb. 14), 8 – 9 p.m.

High School Auxiliary Gymnasium, Class #: 1296-W18A

Raider Yoga is designed to help prevent injury and increase sports performance. You will work on mental preparation and breathing, releasing tension and stress and increasing mobility. The ultimate goal of Raider Yoga is to engage you in recovery techniques that will aide in reaching optimal performance. No yoga experience required. Yoga mat required. Yoga blocks, belt or strap, towel or small blanket are beneficial but not required. Drop in option \$10/time. No large bills please.

Northfield Ski and Snowboard Day Trip

(grades 5 & 6) F, Jan. 26, 7:45 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Welch Village Ski Area, Class #: 1318-W18A

No school on Friday, January 26th! Hit the slopes at Welch Village and spend the day slicing through the powder. All registrants will be required to take a lesson before skiing or snowboarding and will rent equipment from Welch. No personal gear will be able to be transported to Welch. Registration fee includes

rental package, lift ticket and lesson. This day trip will be supervised by staff of the Northfield Ski & Snowboard Club. Participants will leave from the middle school parking lot at 7:45 am and will return at 4 pm. Pack a sack lunch or bring money for the food options available at Welch.

Northfield Ski & Snowboard Club

(grades 6-12) M, Dec. 11 – Dec. 12 (no class Dec. 25 & Jan. 1) 3 – 9:15 p.m.

Welch Village Ski Area

Catch some powder! The Northfield Ski & Snowboard Club will be skiing and boarding at Welch Village on Mondays, December 11 - February 12. Buses will depart as soon as possible after school from the Northfield Middle School and Northfield High School. Students will ski and board until 8:15 p.m. and will return by 9:15 p.m. Fee includes transportation. Ski and snowboarding passes must be purchased from Welch Village separately. A single bus buy-on can be purchased for \$28 at the bus. Group ski lessons available on first day only. No snowboard lessons will be available. Participants are guaranteed eight trips to Welch. If weather permits, the club will offer make-ups or bonus days on Feb. 19 & 26.



Northfield Middle School 2017-2018

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 ~ 2017-2018 School Year

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

December 1	MS Dance, 3:00 pm
December 4	Geography Bee, 7:00 pm, MS Auditorium
December 7	MS Student Presentation: FBI Internet Safety and Digital Footprint, MS Auditorium
December 6	MS Drama: "Best of Broadway" informational meeting, 3:00 pm , MS Auditorium
December 7	MS Choir @ Winter Walk, 5:00 pm, Bridge Square
December 11	MS Parent Event: Screenagers, 7:00 pm, MS Auditorium
December 12	Student Council meeting, 7:00 am, room 217
December 12	Mid-quarter 2
December 14	WEB Leader meeting, 7:15 am, Large Gym
December 15	Grade 6 WEB Event: Winter Charades, 5th hour
December 15	WEB Leader Holiday Pasta Dinner & Games, 3:00 pm
December 18	MS / HS Orchestra, 7:00 pm, MS Auditorium
Dec. 21-Jan. 1, 2018	No School / Winter Break
January 8, 2018	Site Improvement Team meeting, 3:15 pm, room 116
January 9	Student Council meeting, 7:00 am, room 217
January 10	WEB MSL Follow up, 4th Hour Team 2, 5th Hour Team 1
January 15	No school / Martin Luther King Jr. Day
January 19	Films for Food Shelf, 3:00 pm
January 25	Spelling Bee, 7:00 pm, MS Auditorium
January 25	End of 2nd quarter
January 26	No school / workday
January 29	3rd quarter / second semester begins
January 30	Student Council meeting, 7:00 am, room 217

NMS PRIDE

Prepared

Respect

Integrity

Dependability

Excellence