

NORTHFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL

Oct. / Nov. 2017 Newsletter

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Visit us on the web
www.northfieldschools.org

News from the Principal

The Importance of PRIDE Today.....

I have to admit that this short communication has been weighing on my mind for weeks. As I look at all the incredible people who come through the doors of the middle school, day after day, and see so many students smiling, laughing and learning, I find myself saddened by what makes headlines every night.

At Northfield Middle School, in your homes, and throughout our community we hold the “R” for Respect and the “I” for Integrity to the highest of standards. I feel now, more than ever it is important to keep reminding our students why this is so important for them personally and our community and nation as a whole. Just the other day I had a conversation with a student who was having “one of those days” we all have, and my message for them was the same as I remind myself each day. Our character is not formed when things are going well in our lives, it is formed by how we act when life is difficult or things become frustrating. This is why we teach Respect and Integrity as two of our five foundations and now is the time to both model and remind our students that they will make a difference in people’s lives. The only question is; what kind of difference will they make?

I am proud to work as an administrator in Northfield and cannot thank you enough for partnering with us in developing students with a strong sense of PRIDE.

Please take some time to look through this addition of our newsletter for important information and don’t hesitate to contact us if we can assist both academically or socially.

Greg Gelineau
Northfield Middle School Principal

NMS PRIDE

Prepared
Respect
Integrity
Dependability
Excellence

Fall Conferences



Parent/ Teacher Conferences will be held **Thursday, October 12 and Tuesday, October 17 from 3:30 – 7:30 pm.** The format will be arena / drop in conferencing. Parents are asked to sign in at the main entrance and wear a nametag while in our building. Maps and school information will be made available at the sign in tables. Healthy Community Initiative (HCI) will provide student directories, one (1) per family. A digital directory is also posted on Family Access.

NMS Site Improvement

Give to the Max Day 2017 - What if you could turn a \$10 donation into an additional \$1000 donation to Northfield Middle School? NMS Site Improvement Team invites you to participate in **Give to the Max Day on Thursday, November 16, 2017.** On November 16, every donation given through GiveMN.org will be entered into an hourly drawing for a \$1000 Golden ticket to be given to a Minnesota nonprofit for school. That adds up to 24 chances to maximize your gift on Give to the Max Day! And at the end of Give to the Max day, one donation will be randomly selected for a \$10,000 super-sized Golden Ticket! The more gifts we generate on GiveMN.org on Give to the Max Day, the more our chances increase to receive that additional \$10,000 donation. Imagine what we could do with \$10,000.

Our goal is to raise \$5,000 for our Site Improvement Team (SIT). SIT sets the annual achievement and climate goals for our school as well as administering fundraising dollars. All NMS staff members are eligible to submit proposals to our SIT for these funds. Your donation (of \$10.00 or more) can help our Site Improvement Team support unfunded projects like:

- The Courage Retreat, anti-Bullying program for 7th graders
 - Training for our WEB Leaders
 - Outdoor benches and tables to improve our use of outdoor space at our school
 - Student rewards for PBIS - Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports
- 8th Grade Fun Fest

Be sure to mark your calendar and make your gift by November 16 by visiting our project page <https://www.givemn.org/project/Northfield-Middle-School> or by visiting www.GiveMN.org and searching for Northfield Middle School Site Improvement Team (listed as a project on the **Northfield Middle School** page). Thank you!



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). Cori Yamry is on maternity leave. Ms. Nicole James will be replacing her until the end of October.

Resources we offer in the Student Support Office:

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 com-

municate. Our email is listed on the Student 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 with your student's grades, attendance and homework completion.

Academic Assistance at NMS:

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 Commu-

nity). 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: raffertyl@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)

Guidance
Counselor

Student Council

We are in the process of conducting the elections for our sixth grade representatives. The elections will take place on **October 5**. 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 Foodshelf: October 27, January 19, March 16

Dances: December 1, February 9, April 27

Details will follow as the dates draw nearer.

Frau Burkhead and Mrs. Kuehl
Student Council Advisors

**STUDENT
COUNCIL**

Speech Team

The Northfield Middle School Speech Team will begin its 2017-2018 winter season the week of **November 13-17!** 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, great speeches, and others. Students chose one category and one selection 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 able to participate in speech. The team will attend four festivals in the south metro area on Saturday mornings in January and February: January 13, 20, 27 and help host the meet in Northfield at NMS on Saturday, Feb 3. **An informational meeting will be held Monday November 13 and Thursday November 16.** If students cannot attend an informational meeting, they can talk to one of the coaches or stop into the main office to get information.

Ms. Halvorson, the coach at dhalvorson@northfieldschools.org or Mrs. Hebzynski, the assistant coach at khebzynski@northfieldschools.org



Choir News

It's still not too late to join choir!! Our first concert is **Thursday, October 26**, starting at **7 pm** in our own MS Auditorium. We will be sharing this concert with the MS orchestras as it is so early in the year. It is our only performance 1st quarter-worth 100 points. Be sure to look at the Choir Expectations for this year in Schoology. If anyone has extra or outgrown concert dress they would like to donate to the MS Choirs, please let me know. We are always looking for more ties, plain white blouses for girls, black dress pants for girls and boys.

After our 1st concert in October, we will start preparing for Winter Walk **Thursday, December 7**. Choir students (grades 6-8) need to be at Bridge Square by 4:50 pm that will be starting at 5pm. The 6th graders will be kicking off Winter Walk for the whole downtown at 5:00 pm sharp. This year we have been asked to start the Winter Walk off with a special song from the movie, The Grinch. We will sing a few carols as a large group and

then 7 & 8th grade singers will begin strolling in small groups up and down the streets. 6th grade singers will be done caroling by 5:30 pm. This year, 7 & 8th grade small groups will be caroling for 30 minutes, but picking the time that works with their schedule. 5-5:30 pm, 5:30-6 pm, 6-6:30 pm and 6:30-7 pm are all time slot choices. 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 2nd quarter-worth 100 points.

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. 663-0675 or cpenning@northfieldschools.org.
Cathy Penning
Vocal Music Teacher



October 2017 / November 2017

Band News

The middle school bands are working hard in preparation for the first concert of this school year. The concert is on **Monday, October 30 at 7:00 pm** in the High School Gymnasium. A band handbook with upcoming concert dates has been given to all students in schoology. Please review this with your student if you have not already done so. Please mark the performance dates on your calendar and sign the handbook signature

page on their iPad so that your student can submit the form to me in schoology. The attendance at our concerts has always been wonderful. Thank you!

Band lessons have started. Schedules are posted in schoology. All band students should be filling out their practice records on their iPads. Any and all encouragement or help you can give in terms of establishing and maintaining a regular

practice schedule is very welcome. Practice records should be signed by a parent or guardian before being submitted through schoology at the end of the quarter.

Your kids are wonderful! The year is starting off great.

See you at the concert!



Orchestra News

The first orchestra concert for this year is on **Thursday, October 26 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 19. Each student received a lesson schedule and calendar with their lesson days. Students receive one lesson every six days of school (students en-

rolled 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 instru-

ment 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 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.

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

Screening will take place on **November 14, 2017 from 7:57 am - 2:51 pm**. 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 student's 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

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**

W.E.B. - Where Everybody Belongs

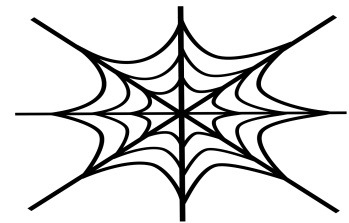
We are off to a great start with WEB this year! Seventy-five energetic 8th graders volunteered three days of their summer to help support the 6th graders transition to the middle school. Two days were spent learning how to lead activities and support the 6th graders in preparation for orientation on August 31.

On August 31 we had 300 excited 6th graders show up at 7:55 am 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 27, 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
~NMS WEB Coordinators



Yearbook

Order your 2017-2018 school yearbook and capture all the memories! Buy now for the best prices all year! Yearbooks are for sale now on the Northfield Middle School website. Click on the blue "Jostens Yearbook" link to place your order.



Academic Activities/Middle School Athletics

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

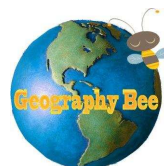
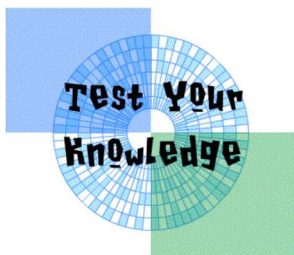
The programs and co-curricular activities take place at various times during the school year and, in some cases, the exact dates have not been determined. Students should listen to the daily announcements, and parents can check with the office for the specific dates when their activity begins. Registration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

We are pleased to offer the following academic activities:

Knowledge Bowl: End of September – January
Math League: End of September – January
Geography Bee: December
Speech Club: November – 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
Fitness Center: Session 1: November –

January (2nd quarter); Session 2: February – March (3rd quarter)
Wrestling: November -- January

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



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 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.)

October 2- 6	MS Spirit Week / Homecoming
October 2, 3, 9 &10	Social Science 7 - Historical Society Field Trip (During class period)
October 5	MS Pep Fest, 7th hour
October 7	Mid-quarter 1
October 9	Site Improvement Team, 3:15 pm, room 116
October 12 & 17	MS Fall Conferences, 3:30 - 7:30 pm
October 19 & 20	No School / Education MN
October 26	WEB Leader meeting, 7:15 am, Gym
October 26	MS Choir / Orchestra Concert, 7:00 pm
October 27	Grade 6 WEB event - Monster Mash, 6th Hour
October 27	Films for Food Shelf, 3:00 pm, MS Auditorium
October 28	HS Choir / Orchestra Concert, 7:00 pm
October 30	District Band Concert, 7:00 pm, HS Gym
November 3	End of 1st Quarter
November 6	No school / Teacher work day
November 7	Second quarter begins
November 7	Election Day
November 11	Veterans Day
November 14	7th Grade Vision and Hearing
November 15	WEB Lunch, 5D
November 22	No school / Staff Development
November 23 - 24	No school / Thanksgiving break
November 30	District Jazz Band Concert, 7:00 pm, MS Auditorium
December 1	MS Dance, 3:00 pm
December 4	Geography Bee, 7:00 pm, MS Auditorium
December 7	MS Choir @ Winter Walk, 5:00 pm, Bridge Square
December 12	Student Council Meeting, 7:00 am, room 217
December 12	Mid-quarter 2
December 18	MS / HS Orchestra, 7:00 pm, MS Auditorium
December 21-Jan. 1, 2018	Winter Break

NMS PRIDE

Prepared

Respect

Integrity

Dependability

Excellence