

Raider Newsletter



Portland Middle School

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Principal's Corner

We are working towards building a school culture to ensure students are provided multiple opportunities to gain the necessary skills needed in today's competitive society. Leadership skills is one of the most important attributes a student can learn. Here at Portland Middle School students are able to participate in Team Sports, Student Council, Book Club and Portland Federal Credit Union Student Branch, Each of these activities aids students in developing effective leadership skills. Effective communication skills, hard work and commitment are a only a few skills that students learn when participating in extracurricular activities.

I recently read the following article Research Link/Extracurricular Activities and Student Motivation by John H. Holloway. This article discusses the importance of students feeling connected to school. We hope that students will feel more connected to Portland Middle School when participating in their chosen extracurricular activity. We currently have Student Council student's organize and manage concession for all Middle School sports. Kristina Reynolds from the Portland Public Library and Stacy Castillo our Portland Middle School Librarian run a student book club during lunches. These are just a few examples of how students are given an opportunity to connect with their school and community.

We will continue to add extracurricular activities that inspire students to get involved. All teachers here at Portland Middle School encourage students to involve themselves. Our hope is students will invest their time in extracurricular activities and begin to feel more motivated academically. We know students will gain valuable leadership skills from being involved with the Portland Middle School structured activities.

RAIDER PRIDE!

Kevin Robydek Ed. S
Principal

Parent Teacher Conferences

Conferences will be held on October 19 & 20 from 5pm to 8 pm.

Conferences will be held in teacher classrooms this year. You will be able to sit down and discuss with the teacher things to benefit your child's success.

We hope to see you there.

New Faces

We have added some new faces to the building.

Patrick O'Rourke has joined our staff as a 6th grade Math Teacher

Bill Nowak has joined our staff as a 6th grade Science teacher. He was previously at Westwood.

Brenda Merrifield is now a full time 6th grade English Teacher. She was with us last year as an English Teacher for 7th and 8th Grade.

Connie Renn has joined the staff as a 7th grade paraprofessional.

Dana Beech will be our new School Social Worker. Dana has been with the Ionia Intermediate School District for several years. Her previous assignment was with Portland High School.

After School...

Students not participating in a PMS sponsored activity or utilizing the media center after school hours are not permitted to be in the building after 2:45PM. Supervision is not available in the afternoons. Athletes waiting for their PMS activity to begin may be in the cafeteria. The PMS Code of Conduct applies to students during this time.

Student Planners

Every student at Portland Middle School is provided a daily planner. We suggest that students use the planner as a resource to keep track of assignments, test dates and other important information. Parents are encouraged to check their student's planner on a daily basis and ask them to use it regularly. Sixth grade teachers spend advisory time during the first marking period covering daily assignment entry into the planner.

Family Book Fair Nights

During Parent Teacher Conferences the Library will be holding a Family Book Fair from 5 pm - 8 pm. This is a great time to purchase reading materials for your child. A part of the proceeds benefits our Middle School Library. You are able to pay with check, cash, or credit card.

All kids need is a little help, a little hope and somebody who believes in them.

-- Magic Johnson

RAIDER PRIDE

We have a dedicated team of teachers, paraprofessionals, and community who are committed to positive interactions with students. In working with the student body we have created school pride by using our Raider mascot. We want students to have values instilled in them that will help them not only become good students, but life-long learners and to be active citizens in the community. Student council has created our mascot to have meaning. Below you will see what Raiders are, and how students can make our school and community a better place. Students will be rewarded for meeting positive behavior expectations, as well as consequences for not meeting the behavior expectations. We ask for your support in this crucial area of your child's school experience. We are preparing our students for their life outside of Portland Middle School, and that begins with behavior expectations.

RAIDERS are...



Skyward

Skyward Family Access is a gateway to your student's academic progress. Logging in to Skyward can provide you with current grades, real time attendance, grade history, messages from teachers, and other student information. Guardians, as well as students, have access to Skyward. If you do not have Skyward access or need assistance accessing Skyward please call the office and we can assist you with setting up your account.

Reporting Absences

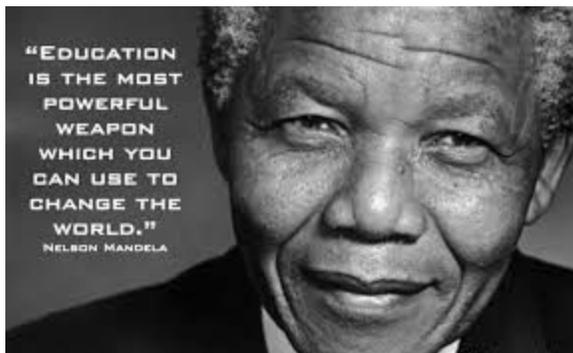
Parents are asked to call the Middle School office to report a student absence. You can reach the office at 517-647-2985. The office opens at 7:00AM, but messages can be left for Mrs. Gross before that time. If your student misses an extended number of school days due to an absence please provide the attendance office with a doctor's note.

Pick Up & Drop Off

We ask that parents use the Storz Avenue entrance for dropping students off in the morning. This change is to help maintain safety for our students. Buses drop students off in the main parking lot (Oakwood Elementary Side) every morning between 7:00-7:30. If you are coming to pick your student up during the school day you will need to use the main entrance on the Oakwood Elementary side. This is the same entrance used during athletic events.

Media Center After School Hours

The media center is open 4 days a week after school. Our media center specialist, Mrs. Castillo, will have the center open on Mondays and Tuesdays until 3:30PM, and on Wednesdays and Thursdays until 4:00PM. The media center is available for students in need of a place to complete homework, study for tests, or work on projects. Computers are available in the library for students to research, type papers, or check their grades in Skyward. We welcome students to stay after school and utilize this resource. Students staying after school must sign in at the desk in the Media Center by 2:45.



School Security

Over the summer we improved our security system by installing 15 cameras inside and outside the building. This will help us with day to day activities around the building and maintain a safe and secure campus. We are also in the process in improving our door system. When you visit the school you will need to enter the building from the Oakwood Elementary side of the building, and you will still need to ring into the building.

The end of the first marking period is November 6. To keep up on your child's grades and attendance. Please contact the office to get your Skyward information.