



Tomah Middle School



March 2021 Newsletter

Dear Parents/Guardians:

As we near the middle of the 3rd quarter, we are eager to use the time we have left to help your child make a difference in their learning. Whether virtually or blended, being in school all day, every day, helps your child get the most out of middle school. Please help your child by encouraging good attendance with these ideas:

- Point out there is no substitute for being in class. Your child needs to be present to get direct core instruction from their teacher to explain concepts, participate in group projects, class discussions, and to ask questions.
- Please try to avoid absences by checking our school calendar before scheduling appointments during school days.
- March through May we have our state assessment. Sleep is very important to their success during this time. Please set reasonable bedtimes to allow your child to get eight to nine hours of sleep. For the best sleep, please have your child unplug electronically 30 minutes prior while keeping those devices in another room.

The state assessment will focus on the areas of Math, Literacy, Science and Social Studies for our students. Just like any other day, it is very important for your child to be present when the test is given, allowing him/her to take it with their classmates. The overall testing window for our building has been set for March 22nd through May 14th. As mentioned above, we ask you to please refrain from making appointments to avoid your child from being absent during this window of opportunity so we may learn what your child has retained. Your child will not be testing in every class during this block of time. Tests will be spread out during the day within this window allowing students the ability to have breaks between testing to get a true picture of what they have learned.

March is officially designated as middle school month. This is the month when we take time to place extra focus on all that comes with being middle school students. As parents you can attest being a middle schooler can be some of the most challenging years for your children. These are the years they begin to explore who they want to become. They search to fit in with their classmates and peers. For many, their voices and physical appearances start to change. One of the joys of being a middle schooler is the friends they create during their time here. As more students start to come back to school from virtual only learning, this will become even more important.

Congratulations to Cadence for winning this year's District Spelling Competition between all fourth through eighth graders. Congratulations also goes out to all our TMS finalists: Jackson, Madilynn, Logan, Madeline, Wyatt, and Mitchell. Everyone did a wonderful job!

This is the time of the year our staff tackles twice the amount of planning. Continuing to look for ways to keep students engaged and finish strong while starting to plan for next year. For eighth grade parents, you will start to see more and more information coming from the high school about registration and their course offerings. On behalf of our staff, we want to thank you for all you have done for your middle schoolers and wish you and your children the best as you look ahead to high school.

To all parents and guardians, we also want to thank you for all the support and flexibility you have provided for your child through the first half of the year as we look forward to finishing strong. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us regarding your child's success at Tomah Middle school.

Sincerely,

Michael Chapes
Principal
The Timberwolf Way!

Amy Langner
Assistant Principal

NEWS FROM THE TEAMS

Northstars (Team 6-1) Mr. Kirschbaum

Good day! We are almost through the 3rd quarter, and all classes are in full swing. Many students have had the winter blues and had a challenging time keeping up with their daily assignments. Any help you could give your child to complete their daily work will be greatly appreciated by both your student and the teachers. Students need to check Schoology daily. Each teacher posts the daily activity or assignment for them to complete. If you have any questions for any of your child's teachers, please use email as your form of communication.

Sky-High Learners (Team 6-2) Mrs. Rabe

As we continue through the third quarter, we hope spring comes quickly and stays. You can expect your child will be studying these topics in classes:

- Math—Dividing Decimals and Fractions
- Social Studies— World War 1, 1920's and the Great Depression
- Language Arts—Information Writing/Writing an E-Book
- Science—Earth's History/Weathering and Erosion

Leading the Pack! (Team 7-1) Mr. Manke

ELA: We have been learning how to summarize an article and how to collect evidence. In March, we will learn how to write an argument essay.

Science: We just finished Physical Properties of Matter and wrapped up our unit on Programming and Robotics. In March we are going to be working on microscopes and learning about the cell and its processes.

Math: We will be finishing up Unit 4: Algebraic Thinking. In February, we learned how to write equivalent expressions involving rational numbers and understand reasons for rewriting expressions. In March, we will be learning how to write and solve multi-step equations and inequalities. We will also be celebrating Pi Day this month! Mrs. Korth will give you more information on the fun festivities that will occur for Pi Day in class.

Social Studies: Students will adventure across the USA and Canada to read about and explore the physical geography, history, and daily life. Students are encouraged to continue diligent work on their online materials to maximize their learning. 4th quarter holds a shift to government and civics studies as we transition into the second main area of study at the 7th grade level of Social Studies.

The 72'ers (Team 7-2) Mr. Ewers

ELA: Mrs. Brookman's class will be investigating school issues to create an argumentative/persuasive essay.

Social Studies: Mr. Brieske's students will be learning about the origins of our democracy.

Science: Students in Mr. Ewers' class will be learning about the levels of complexity in living organisms. Studying genetics, the cardiovascular system and our body's immune response.

Math: Mrs. Hove's students will be continuing their work on writing, simplifying, and solving expressions, equations, and inequalities. They will also be celebrating Pi Day and the significance of the irrational number in the context of circles. If you have any questions or concerns throughout the year, please feel free to call, email or set up an appointment to meet with us.

The Rockin'Roosters (Team 8-1) Mrs. Hruska

As we approach the end of 3rd quarter, please check your child's grades to be sure they have turned in all assignments and retaken any quizzes that can be taken. In April we will begin Forward testing, our yearly state tests, which will last four weeks. 8th grade students are tested in all four core academic areas: math, language arts, social studies, and science. Please be sure your children get a lot of sleep, eat a healthy breakfast, and get their homework done. Speaking of sleep, we have noticed many students coming to school tired and unable to focus. Quite a few of our students have said they are staying up past midnight playing video games. Students need at least 8 or 9 hours of sleep every night, and research shows that looking at screens right before bed makes it harder for them to sleep.

Here is what is coming up in March for class:

ELA: Poetry and test prep

Math: Finishing slope and moving on to functions

Social Studies: Finishing up the History of Russia and the Cold War and continuing with Geography of the Middle East.

Science: Mixing it up with chemical reactions. We will be looking at how and why reactions take place. We will also be discussing the differences between acids and bases and how they affect the world around us.

The Survivors (Team 8-2) Mr. Balz

With 4th quarter fast approaching, we wanted to thank everyone once again for their patience and fortitude this year. We know it hasn't been easy, and we appreciate all the work our students have done. The quarter ends on March 25th, and we encourage parents to check their child's grades regularly.

ELA: Students are in the middle of a book club based around books the students have chosen for themselves.

Social Studies: Students are learning about Russia and the Cold War.

Math: We are working on slope and linear equations and will be starting systems of equation very soon.

Science: Students are learning about chemistry, with a focus on bonding and chemical reactions. Please reach out with any questions.

March is Middle School Month. TMS is excited to celebrate our amazing middle school students. We have many fun ways to honor them and have some friendly team competitions scheduled throughout the month. Many of these events will occur during the week of March 15th through March 19th. There will be dress up days, trivia questions and games, art designs and more. We encourage all students to join in the fun! One of the competitions is called The Domino Effect of Kindness. TMS students are encouraged to bring in "boxed" food items (see next page for more details). The donated items will be used to make a domino trail at TMS, and then will be donated to the community food pantry.

THE *DOMINO EFFECT* OF KINDNESS

THE TOMAH MIDDLE SCHOOL WILL BE COLLECTING **BOXED NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS** FOR A FOOD DRIVE

The twist: the boxed items will be used by students to create a dominos-like course through the corridors of the middle school!

If each student brought just one item to contribute- that would total over 700 donated items and a dominos course worth bragging about!

**bring donations to
your science teacher
between 3/1 - 3/17**

**Domino Course Event to
Take Place 3/19/21**



A FOOD DRIVE AND EVENT
PRESENTED BY: **TMS**
TOMAH MIDDLE SCHOOL

COUNSELORS' CORNER



TOMAH MIDDLE SCHOOL
March / 2021

MARCH AWARENESS DATES

3/1: Self-Injury Awareness Day

3/2: Read Across America Day/
Dr. Seuss's Birthday

3/8: International Women's Day

3/21: International Day for the
Elimination of Racial Discrimination

3/31: Transgender Day of Visibility

Gender Equality Month
Women's History Month
Music in Our Schools Month
Youth Art Month
National Nutrition Month
Middle Level Educational Month

MARCH 2021

Your school counselors:

- Ms. Windl: 6th grade and 8th graders last name A-K.
- Ms. Hayes: 7th grade and 8th graders last names L-Z.

March is Middle Education Level Month! Let's kick it off with some **LOVE!** This has been a hard year for everyone, staff, families and students alike, but it has showed us the power and importance of connection with our students. This year we want to ensure the connection with students continues even outside of the school year. We want to plan to send our students into the summer in a positive way by showing students we care even when they are gone for the summer. Our goal is to make "Summer Love" bags to send home with students who need a reminder of our care and support. These bags would include a book, a journal, writing materials, a small game or toy, activity book and some snacks. We also hope to provide every incoming 6th grader with a book going into the summer as a "welcome to the TMS family" and provide the opportunity for them to feel a connection with us as well. We are conducting a

virtual fundraiser with Scholastic books. Please share this link with anyone you feel who would like to contribute to our campaign. We will be running our campaign through May 6th!

Learn more about my campaign and contribute:

<https://shop.scholastic.com/viewCampaign?campaignId=881553a6-8287-46fd-a4b8-ce39302fe455>

If you are looking for a different way to contribute, we are holding a book drive in honor of Brenda Szefflinski, our beloved and influential Instructional Coach, who passed away last year. We will be collecting book donations in the Counseling Office beginning Monday, March 1st through Wednesday, March 31st. These books will be utilized for our incoming 6th grade class and given to them sometime in May.

Our goal is to donate 60 Summer Love bags and 211 books for our incoming 2021-22 6th grade class. If you have any questions, please reach out to Autumn Hayes, at 608-374-7887 or AutumnHayes@tomah.education.

Thank you for all do you!

Paula Stevenson-DiBenedetto (TMS Library Aide) & Autumn Hayes (TMS School Counselor)

MARCH 2021 EVENTS

MIDDLE SCHOOL MONTH

Sunday, March 14

Daylight Savings Time Begins



Tuesday, March 16

Wednesday, March 17



Saturday, March 20



Thursday, March 25

End of 3rd quarter – End of 4 ½ week classes

Friday, March 26

No School – Teacher Collaboration/Grading Day

Monday, March 29

Begin 4 ½ week classes