

Every student learning, growing ... succeeding.

January 2019
Volume 156

(262) 971-1820; www.muskegonorway.org
Check out Infinite Campus for daily school announcements.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Please know that other events will continue to be added, but here are the dates we know of:

- January 2:** School Resumes
- January 10:** 8th grade orientation at MHS, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- January 11:** Registration Materials sent home for grades 5, 6, and 7
- January 15:** PTO Meeting, 3:30 p.m. – 4:45 p.m. - 8th grade promotion planning meeting
- January 16:** 8th grade Course Information Night at MHS, 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- January 23:** Winter Choir Concert at MHS, 7:00 p.m.
- January 24:** End of second quarter
- January 25:** **NO SCHOOL** – Teacher Professional Day
- February 22:** Annual Dodgeball Tournament at Lake Denoon
- February 28:** Parent Teacher Conferences – 3:45 – 7:30 p.m.
- February 28:** PTO Ice Cream Social – 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.



2019-2020 SCHOOL CALENDAR

The 2019-20 school year calendar has been approved by the school board. [Click here](#) for calendar.

REGISTRATION FOR 2019-20 COURSES

Registration materials will be coming home **Friday, January 11**, for all current 5th, 6th, and 7th graders. Our 5th, 6th and 7th graders will register online with the help of a notes sheet walking them through the process. They will also need to return the program card signed by parents with rank orders of their elective choices by **Friday, January 18**.

MHS 8th GRADE ORIENTATION EVENING SCHEDULED

An orientation evening will take place at Muskego High School for all current 8th grade students and their parents/guardians on **Thursday, January 10, 2019 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.** The evening will focus on presenting academic and co-curricular information to incoming freshman and provide time for touring the high school. More detailed information will follow regarding the specifics of the program as this date approaches.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC BEE



Each year thousands of schools in the United States participate in the National Geographic Bee using materials prepared by the National Geographic Society. The contest is designed to motivate students to learn about the world and how it works. Students in grades 4 - 8 are eligible for this entertaining and challenging competition. With a top prize of a \$50,000 college scholarship -plus other prizes- the contest is designed to encourage teachers to include geography in their classrooms, spark student interest in the subject, and increase public awareness about geography. Students from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, U.S. territories, and the Department of Defense Dependents Schools are participating in the 2018 National Geographic Bee.

There are three levels of competition: school, state, and national. To compete for advancement from the school to the state level, the winning students at each school must take the written qualifying test. As many as 100 of the highest scoring students in a state or territory advance to the state competition. The state Bee champion advances to the national championship in Washington D.C.

The Lake Denoon Geography Bee is scheduled for **Monday, January 21**. Students will be signing up in their social studies classes after winter break.

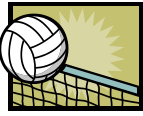
WINTER CHORAL CONCERT



The winter choral concert for grades 6, 7, and 8 will be at 7:00 p.m. on **Wednesday, January 23, 2019**, at the Muskego High School PAC. Please drop students off at the Muskego High School Performing Arts Center at 6:30 p.m. and have them report to their warm-up rooms.

Concert attire remains the same as previous concert. This concert student should wear a splash of white or blue in addition to their all-black outfit. Reminder: No skirts, dresses, shorts or related clothing allowed.

GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL



Eighth grade girls' volleyball tryouts are **Monday, January 21 from 3:05 – 4:45 p.m. and if needed, Wednesday January 23, from 3:05 – 4:30 p.m.** **Seventh grade** girls' volleyball tryouts are **Tuesday January 22 from 3:05 – 4:45 p.m. and if needed, Wednesday, January 23 from 3:05 – 4:30 p.m.** A physical card or an alternate year card from this year must be on file to try out. In other words, you must have turned in a yellow or salmon colored card to the Student Services office this year to try out. Check with Student Services if a card needs to be filled out. **If you do not have a card turned in this year, you will not be able to try out.**

YEARBOOK ORDERS

Our yearbook staff, made up of our Lake Denoon students, puts a great deal of work and creativity into building a hard-covered, yearbook full of colorful faces, activities and memories. Don't miss out on the opportunity to buy a yearbook this year. Individualize your child's yearbook with their name embossed on the front and include various icons representing their likes and interests. **Yearbooks are \$25** and will be **ordered ONLINE ONLY** by visiting jostensyearbooks.com or by calling Jostens at [1-877-767-5217](tel:1-877-767-5217) **before February 1, 2019**. Please do not send money to school with your child. E-mail Mrs. Ervin, Yearbook Adviser, with questions: michelle.ervin@muskegonorway.org.



OFF CAMPUS PASSES

Students who need to leave school during the school day must have written parental permission. Please have your student bring the written excuse to the Student Services office first thing in the morning so that a pass can be issued. With this pass, the student can leave the classroom at the time they are to be picked up, and office staff can avoid interrupting learning by calling into the rooms. **Please do not e-mail teachers with attendance. All attendance goes through Student Services.**

FROM THE DESK OF YOUR SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST

As a brief reminder for my readers, I've decided to use the parent newsletter to chronicle the ins and outs of parenting a 7th grade boy this year, as I believe that my experiences may mirror many of yours.

My 7th grader started wrestling for the first time this year. This son of mine has always moved at the pace of a snail and now has the ever-present ear bud in the right ear listening to music and half listening to me from his left ear. But what I can share with you is since starting wrestling, I have seen increased engagement, interest in his health and well-being, AND most importantly, after I pick him up from practice each night, a willingness to talk with me about so many different things. Maybe it's the darkness from our Wisconsin 4:00 night time so we don't see each other's' faces, the fact he is physically wiped out from push-ups and lunges and other strength training and cardio work, or a growing maturity (?maybe?), I'm not sure. But what we have been able to talk about, in a conversational way--no lecturing, no intimidation, no judgment--are topics including vaping, sexting, social pressures to act goofy and disrespectful in class, among so many other things less intense like how his classes are going and how tough practice was that night. While it is sometimes an annoyance to have to get back in the car in the dark and cold to pick him up after getting home from work, the value I have found in this time with my 7th grade son is immeasurable--even though it is only about 10 minutes.

We know, as school psychologists, that when we can increase our children's participation in school clubs, athletics, and rec programs, we see increased self-esteem and confidence, improved physical health, reduced signs of depression and anxiety, and better engagement with family and other adults in their small world. I am not naive to think that every child has an interest in what is offered at Lake Denoon, but I do know that the greater Milwaukee and Waukesha communities have so many different options for kids, including but not limited to theater, art, STEM, martial arts, etc. I encourage you as parents to not only consider how you can involve your child in extra-curriculars, but also to take that time on the commute to have those critical conversations to get to know your child, what their interests are, their concerns and worries, and address some of OUR fears and concerns we have as parents about what our children are exposed to and how they are developing.

In solidarity,
"Dr. R"

MATH CORNER

From Mrs. Quirk, Mathematics Coach

The results from the Wisconsin Math Forward Exam taken last May were recently released, which reported out the percentage of students who were proficient in mathematics. Out of the 19 Waukesha County middle schools, Lake Denoon placed 2nd. We ranked 1st out of 9 neighboring schools that are not in Waukesha County. We greatly appreciate all of your help with homework and positive study habits which provide support for high levels of performance.

A PARENTS' GUIDE TO INSTAGRAM

Our students communicate and socialize in all kinds of digital media tools and services, from apps to video game chat to texting on phones. Instagram is one of the thousands of social media apps that are used by some of our students and we thought you may be interested in the following information: [A Parents' Guide to Instagram](#)

A NEW AND DANGEROUS SOCIAL MEDIA CHALLENGE

Parents/Guardians: We have learned about, and wanted to inform you of, a social media challenge called "The Momo Challenge" that encourages children to contact "Momo", an anonymous cyberbully who uses a disturbingly ghoulish avatar, through Facebook or WhatsApp. Momo asks children to play a game that encourages them to post pictures or videos of them committing violent acts. If they refuse, Momo resorts to blackmail and threats. The outcomes have been fatal for some young people across the nation. Please monitor your children's devices and speak with them about the dangerousness of this and other challenges that appear on social media.

A link from CBS News is shared here, as well, so you can have a visual of the avatar in this challenge. [CLICK HERE FOR LINK](#)



WEATHER AND EMERGENCY CLOSING

Provided we have a current telephone number on file, families will receive a phone call if school is cancelled. You can also find information on our district website, through local media, or by following us on Twitter. When schools close, it is important to avoid jamming school phone lines. Instead of calling the school, **please check local television or radio stations that will announce/list school delays or closings.**

Regular attendance is important to success in school and we expect that when school is in session, students are engaged in learning. However, because we live in Wisconsin and our winter weather is unpredictable, the Muskego-Norway School District has established guidelines for decisions related to inclement weather. Please [click here](#) to refer to these guidelines when you have questions about possible school closings.

School closing decisions are not easy. Your child's education is important and we want to provide learning opportunities on as many days as possible. Almost always, some people will agree with the decision, and some will not. Please know that we use our best judgment with the information we have available at the time.





PTO UPDATE

Hello LDMS PTO Parents. Happy Holidays! Below is a brief year-end update on PTO happenings.

Active Projects and Successes:

- Successful Elegant Farmer fundraiser, thank you for your participation.
- Planning around an Ice Cream Social in conjunction with the parent-teacher conferences February 28. If you would like to help, please e-mail us at lakedenoonpto@gmail.com.
- Book Fair planning is in full swing in preparation for February; thank you to Julie Misiak for volunteering her time again this year to lead this event!

Needed!

- PTO secretary is needed for the next school year. Please e-mail inquiries or interest to lakedenoonpto@gmail.com.
- PTO co-treasurer needed for next school year as well. This year is a great opportunity to shadow our current treasurer.
- Parent volunteers needed for the Book Fair in February and Teacher Appreciation week in May.

A Reminder of Our Guiding Mission:

Encourage a team atmosphere amongst parents, teachers, and administration by lending our energy, talent, resources, and time to improve the quality of education and Lake Denoon Middle School environment.

2018-19 PTO Meetings at LDMS Library at 4:30 p.m.

- Tuesday, January 15, 2019
- Tuesday, March 12, 2019
- Tuesday, May 7, 2019

E-mail us at lakedenoonpto@gmail.com with questions or suggestions.



Effects of Tardiness on Your Child's Education

by Rachel Pancare

Arriving late causes a stressful start to the school day.

We all run late sometimes. For your child, arriving late to school occasionally won't cause major disruption. Inevitably, kids will feel sick or tired some mornings, or other situations will prevent them from being on time. But chronic lateness eventually takes its toll on a child's overall educational experience. According to the national initiative Attendance Works, missing just 10 percent of the school year in the early grades causes many students to struggle in elementary school, and lateness in later grades is associated with increased failure and dropout rates. Fortunately, parents can help prevent tardiness from becoming frequent enough to negatively impact their child's school life.

Disrupted Routines

One of the most important aspects of school is that it is organized, scheduled and predictable. Students depend on the structure of the day. They know where they have to be and when. They know the main purpose for being in school is to learn and that routines are in place precisely to help them focus on that learning. When students are repeatedly tardy, these routines are disrupted. Children who are often late have trouble settling in and mastering routines. Tardiness can throw off their whole morning or even their day, especially if the late commute to school was stressful.

Social Criticism

The social experience has a powerful impact on a child's feelings about school and his ability to be academically successful. When a child continuously shows up late to class, other students are distracted. Attention is drawn away from the teacher or assignment and toward the child who has just arrived. Over time, classmates may begin to criticize this child, affecting how he feels about himself in school. During adolescence, children are especially conscious of fitting in and being accepted by peers. If your child is repeatedly tardy, he may become a target or outcast over time, and negative peer interactions can hurt his ability to concentrate on learning. According to the Encyclopedia of Children's Health, children with steady friendships throughout the school year enjoy school more, and children who can make new friends tend to perform better academically.

Low Achievement

PerformWell, a nonprofit policy research and educational organization, reports that frequent tardiness is associated with lower grades and lower scores on standardized tests. It is also linked to low graduation rates. In addition, students who are routinely late at the elementary and middle school levels are more likely to fail in high school -- or even drop out. In many classrooms, particularly at the elementary level, morning routines are critical to daily lessons. Warm-up activities may introduce topics that will be learned later in the day, or review work offers students an opportunity to review previously learned skills.

Responsibility

Part of your child's education is learning to be responsible. The school experience teaches children how to meet expectations. They learn to follow schedules, obey rules, complete assignments and keep track of their materials. Learning responsibility in school is a precursor to functioning in the working world, as noted by William Kirby in his 2010 Dayton Daily News article "School Attendance Tied to Academic Success." Attendance is one of the ways children show they can meet their obligations. In many cases, a child's attendance depends on his parents' ability to help him be on time. Parents can teach their kids organizational techniques that will help them get out of the house faster, such as packing their bags and laying out their clothes the night before school. But parents who drive their children must also remember to be punctual and responsible. After all, you are the primary role model.