

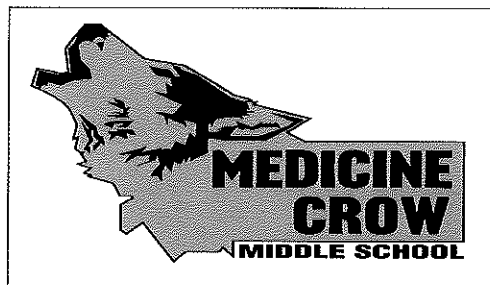
MEDICINE CROW MIDDLE SCHOOL

August 2018 NEWSLETTER

“Welcome to the Wolfpack”

Principal: Mrs. Nikki Hofmann

Associate Principal: Mrs. Becky Carlson



Dear Students & Parents:

WELCOME TO THE 2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR! The staff and I are so excited to be starting our third year in the building and are looking forward to a great school year. This will be our first newsletter of the year, and you can expect a newsletter to come home three more times during the school year. This particular newsletter contains the “everything you need to know” to start the year off right!

All 6th Grade & New 7th Grade (ones that are new to our building for the 2018-19 year): To help students reduce their anxiety over starting in a new school we have scheduled an **ORIENTATION** for all 6th & new incoming 7th graders on **Thursday, August 16, 2018. This will begin at 10:00am. Please enter through front doors and we will begin in the Commons Area.** This orientation should last about one hour. During the session, we will pass out class schedules, practice opening lockers, give tours of the building, and learn about middle school life!

There will be an Orientation for all Parents of 6th & new 7th Grade students that same evening beginning at 6:00 pm in the gym. This is the parent's opportunity to get a picture of life at Medicine Crow and what to expect. We are also asking that you write a letter introducing your student to us - nothing formal, just what you would like us to know or what your student would like us to know starting this new adventure. We will have a dropbox set up for the letters during orientation or you can email it to me at: hofmannn@billingssschools.org

7th & 8th Grade Students and Parents:

Existing Wolfpack, we are not forgetting you! Because you have “been there, done that” transition to middle school, you don't need the Locker 101 training or the “how to survive middle school!”

The 7th & 8th grade schedules will be available for pick up on Thursday, August 16th from 2:00-3:00 pm. Students in 8th Grade that are new to Medicine Crow, there will be an orientation at 2:00 pm just for you! The returning 7th & 8th Graders may just pick up your schedules, and find your classrooms. We are counting on you to be the leaders and help transition the 6th Graders into a positive middle school experience! 7th & 8th Grade parents, you are welcome to attend the Parent Orientation, along with the 6th and new 7th grade parents. It will be the same items covered when you transitioned your students into middle school.

If students are unable to attend any of the orientations or schedule pick-ups, please come to the school after August 16th to pick up the schedules. We will also mail home a final schedule before the first day of school.

We are very excited about starting our third year at Medicine Crow. We want to make Medicine Crow the very best place for all of us to learn, work, play and grow together. After all, a wolfpack is a family made up of distinct individuals of all ages, skills and abilities. To create this environment, we emphasize students to be **Responsible, Respectful, Prepared, Determined and Safe.** Our vision is a place for students to learn in an environment where they know the adults care for the welfare and learning of every student; where students strive for their very best, while supporting and being positive to one another, knowing that every adult in the building is pulling for their success. Please feel free to contact me about any questions or concerns you may have, and I am looking forward to a fun and successful year!

Sincerely,
Nikki Hofmann, Principal

MEDICINE CROW MIDDLE SCHOOL

IMPORTANT DATES

AUGUST

- 16 6th & NEW 7th Grade Orientation-10:00 am
7th & 8th Grade Schedule pick up- 2:00 pm
(Bus tickets, lunch accounts, sports forms/fees
will be collected)
- 20 Football Equipment pick up: 3:30-5:00 pm
- 20-22 Cross-Country, Football, Softball practices start at
3:30 pm
- 23 SCHOOL STARTS at 8:10 am
STUDENTS WITHOUT THEIR TDAP BOOSTER
WILL BE EXCLUDED FROM SCHOOL
- 30 Parent Open House at 6:00 pm

SEPTEMBER

- 3 NO SCHOOL- Labor Day
- 24 Fall Picture Day

OCTOBER

- 5 Six Week Progress Reports/Grading
- 11 Parent Teacher Conferences
- 12 Early Out

STUDENT PLANNERS

Each student will be receiving a Medicine Crow Student Planner which includes a Billings Public School's Student/Parent Handbook during their Advisory Class on the first day of school. The planner contains student procedures that pertain to Medicine Crow Middle School. **We are asking that each student bring \$5.00 on the first day of school to pay for the planner (the \$5.00 covers the cost and the shipping of the planner).** Please ask your child to bring the planner home, so that you can go through the planner with him/her. You will find that most of the information contained in the student planner and the Student/Parent Handbook will help you successfully navigate middle school with your child. Also, the planner is a very important organizational tool for each student. Please ask to see the planner from time-to-time throughout the year. This will help emphasize the importance of the planner's use to the child. Please notice the Billings Public School Student/Parent Handbook in your student's planner. This handbook contains every District policy and procedure approved by the school board that pertains to you and your child. An "Acknowledgement and Sign-Off Sheet" will be sent home with your student on the first day of school. This form is your acknowledgement that you have seen and read the Student/Parent Handbook. Each child and parent is asked to sign and return this sheet by Friday, August 24th to their Advisory classroom teacher.

OPENING DAY INFORMATION

- All students are to report to their Advisory Class at Medicine Crow by 8:10 am on Thursday, August 23rd.
- The doors will be open at 8:00 am. Students will be mailed a class schedule indicating what their Advisory Classroom is, in order to report on the first day. The regular hot lunch and salad bar will be available. The school day ends at 3:10 pm. If you are in Band, you do not need to bring your instrument on Thursday. Also, you will not dress out for PE on this day only.

WEDNESDAY'S 2:10 pm Dismissals

- Billings Public Schools will be having an early dismissal on EVERY Wednesday for Staff Training.
- School buses will run early on Wednesdays. Medicine Crow Middle School will be dismissing at 2:10 pm on EVERY Wednesday.

SCHOOL BUS REGISTRATION

Free busing will be provided for all students who live three (3) or more miles from Medicine Crow. However, because of safety concerns for the students crossing Main Street and students living in the Independent School District, these students may have access to ride a school district bus at the cost of \$150 per year. If students qualify for free or reduced lunches, this applies to the cost of busing as well. The cost will be prorated according to when the student begins riding the bus.

Students will arrive at approximately 7:40 am and will depart from Medicine Crow at approximately 3:20 pm.

Students need to pre-register at Medicine Crow for the bus. This applies to both those who ride free and those who pay a fee. Tickets will be available beginning August 16th from 7:30 am-3:00 pm in the Main Office.

Parent and students are reminded that non-bus students may not ride the bus, unless they have prior approval (three days in advance) from Sondra Baker, Director of Transportation 281-5581. Thank you.

MEDICINE CROW MIDDLE SCHOOL

MIDDLE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

SESSION 1 8/20-10/8	SESSION 2 10/15-12/7	SESSION 3 12/10-2/5	SESSION 4 2/4-3/26	SESSION 5 3/27-5/21
Girls Softball 7th & 8th Grade	Girls Basketball 7th & 8th Grade	Boys Basketball 7th & 8th Grade	Volleyball 6th, 7th & 8th Grade	Track 6th-(Running Events Only) 7th & 8th Grade- (All Events)
Football 7th & 8th Grade	Wrestling 6th, 7th & 8th Grade			
Cross-Country 6th, 7th & 8th Grade				

Stop by our Main Office to pick up the Activities Paperwork, which includes:

- **PHYSICAL FORM-** all 6th, 7th & 8th graders must have a new physical **every year** in order to participate
- **CONCUSSION FORM**
- **MEDICAL RELEASE FORM**
- **MEDIA RELEASE FORM**
- **BPS PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT**
- **PARTICIPATION FEE \$45 PER ACTIVITY (MC Shirts-required are \$9.00 and Shorts-optional are \$6.00)**
- **CODE OF CONDUCT**

Turn in the completed, signed forms to Medicine Crow's Main Office.

SPORTS PHYSICALS

All 6th, 7th & 8th grade students participating in a sport must have a physical which has been completed within one year of the sport. This has changed from previous years, as you will need a new physical each school year that you participate.

STUDENT INSURANCE COVERAGE

The BPS Activities Office has purchased a student accident insurance policy from Special Markets Insurance Consultants, Inc. (SMIC) which covers students involved in school sponsored extracurricular activities and physical education classes. There are several options available.

- Optional 24-hour accident coverage
- Optional school time accident coverage
- Optional 24-hour accident coverage extension
- Optional football coverage
- Spring/Summer weight and conditioning training only
- Optional 24 hour dental coverage
- PatientPlus Card-only \$9.95 per month

SMIC Insurance information will be sent home with your student the first day of school For more information, or to enroll go to: www.k12specialmarkets.com or call (800)-727-7642 ext 6103.

SOFTBALL

Softball is a fall sport for all 7th & 8th grade girls. The first practice for softball will be on Monday, August 20th at 3:30 pm. All paperwork as stated above, must be turned into the main office. In addition to the Participation Fee, you must purchase a Medicine Crow t-shirt for \$9, unless you purchased one last year. The same shirt may be worn for all sports.

FOOTBALL

Football season begins on Monday, August 20th at 3:30pm. Equipment will be issued for all interested 7th & 8th grade boys on Monday, August 20th from 3:30-5:00 pm. Each athlete needs to make sure that all paperwork, as stated above, must be turned into the main office. **In addition to the Participation Fee, you must purchase a Medicine Crow Football Jersey for \$35.**

Football players must wear the colored mouth guards that are provided, so that officials can make sure that they are wearing them.

We are anticipating an exciting season and hope to see many of you on the 20th in good shape and ready to play football.

CROSS-COUNTRY

The first practice for Cross-Country will be on Monday, August 20th at 3:30 pm. Cross-Country is available to all 6th, 7th & 8th grade girls and boys. All paperwork as stated above, must be turned into the main office. In addition to the Participation Fee, you must purchase a Medicine Crow t-shirt for \$9, unless you have purchased one last year.

If you haven't already begun your training for Cross-Country, you should start as soon as possible. We recommend that you start with one mile/day at least five days per week. Run in the morning if possible to avoid the heat. Be sure to drink plenty of water when you are training in hot weather. Biking and swimming are also excellent conditioning activities. Replace up to two days of running per week with either of these activities.

***TEAM PICTURES FOR FALL SPORTS WILL BE TAKEN AT PRACTICE ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24TH.**

MEDICINE CROW MIDDLE SCHOOL

REQUIRED IMMUNIZATIONS

6th Grade Students: Per State law, we must have verification that your child has received their 2nd Varicella Immunization, or proof from your physician that they have had the disease.

7th & 8th Grade Students: Per State law, we must have verification that your child has received their 2nd MMR, Tdap, and 2nd Varicella Immunization, or proof from your physician that they have had the disease.

Students without proof of these immunizations will be excluded from school on August 23rd.

RIVERSTONE HEALTH CLINIC

The RiverStone Health Medicine Crow School Clinic will be open starting, Tuesday, August 14th. It will be open Monday-Friday from 1:00-5:00 pm. The Clinic is located at Medicine Crow Middle School at 900 Barrett Road.

If your child still needs a sports physical please call us at 247-3210, to schedule an appointment with one of our medical providers. The cost is \$30 for the sports physical appointment. If immunizations are needed, they can be administered during this sports physical appointment. The MHA Sports Physical form needs to be completed by the parent.

PAYSCHOOLS

It's the mark of our times. The merging of the Internet with our day-to-day business. Now, the Billings Public Schools is among the first school systems in the country to bring that convenience to parents by offering an online payment processing system, "PaySchools". More and more busy people turn to the Internet every month to pay their bills online, and we saw there was a need to offer that same kind of service to the parents and community members in our district. Through this system, parents can access PaySchools through the school's website and pay for school-related fees and products online, either by e-check or MasterCard, Visa, or Discover cards. The parent will immediately receive an email receipt confirming their purchase(s). PaySchools does not save or store bank or credit card information to ensure privacy and security for users. PaySchools offers parents the ease of being able to make purchases 24 hours a day/ 7 days a week, the security of knowing the school has received payments, the protection of sensitive account information, and the convenience of having records of purchases and payments available online. Schools save significant labor costs by reducing manual processing of payments and handling fewer checks.

For more information about PaySchools, please contact Dawn at 281-8601, or visit the school's website at: www.billingsschools.org/medicinecrow

ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES

Parent verification of any absence is required. Parents are asked to call Mrs. Schaefer, Attendance Clerk, at 281-8618 each day your child is absent from school. If no phone call is made, the parent should send a note with your child when he/she returns to school the next day.

If you are planning an absence in advance (taking a trip, hunting, etc.), please send a note to school before the absence. The student may be given his/her assignments, so the work can be made up before the absence, or take it with them to have completed when they return to school. If books or other materials are needed, please call Mrs. Schaefer at 281-8618 for assistance. Materials can be picked up after 2:30 pm. **Please understand that we do not collect homework assignments, unless the student will be gone for two consecutive days.** If your child needs to leave school during the school day for an appointment, a note (or phone call) should be given to the Attendance Desk before the 8:10 am bell rings, so we can issue a call slip for the proper time. Students are not allowed to leave the building during the school day without first checking out at the Attendance Desk. If this does not occur, the absence will be treated as an unexcused absence. Our policy for leaving school to have lunch with a parent is:

- **Student must be accompanied by his/her parent**
- **Attendance Clerk must have a parent notification by 8:10 am**

We are always concerned about your child's whereabouts and thus are diligent about verifying any absences. We appreciate your assistance!

POWERSCHOOL

Parents will be able to access PowerSchool from the Medicine Crow website. There is a ParentConnect Module that provides parents with secured internet access to a wide array of their child's school data, such as: district, school, and classroom news, student demographics, student schedules, attendance activity, class assignments, report cards and progress reports, transcripts, standardized testing results, and email links to teachers, counselors, and school administrators. Parents can access the program through any internet-connected computer or cell phone. We will have letters available at the Open House on Thursday, August 30th with the sign-in information (Username and Passwords). Teachers will be asked to update their gradebooks by the end of the day on Thursdays (as much as possible). It is a very useful communication tool to keep up to date on how your child is doing in school.

MEDICINE CROW MIDDLE SCHOOL

CHECKS WRITTEN TO MEDICINE CROW

Parents and students: When writing checks to Medicine Crow, please remember:

- We cannot cash checks or give cash back
- If you are paying for an activity, breakfast/lunch, etc, please write separate checks, as the money is deposited into separate accounts
- Please put the student's name in the "memo" section of the check.

Thank you for your cooperation!

BREAKFAST AND LUNCH AT MEDICINE CROW

A computerized system for purchasing meals is used at Medicine Crow. Students use their assigned student ID numbers to access their accounts during meal services in the cafeteria. This number can be found on their class schedules. Students will punch their number into a keypad. **Please stress to your students they must not share their ID number with other students.** The student accounts will be utilized to deposit funds for meals and/or a la carte purchases. Depositing funds will keep lost or stolen money to a minimum and can be used for breakfast, lunch, milk, or a la carte items. The program will allow the purchase of one breakfast and one lunch per day at the meal price set up for Full Paying, Reduced, or Free qualifying status. If a student purchases a second meal, extra milk, or other a la carte items, they will be charged at the per item price regardless of eligibility. At the end of each school year, any remaining balance in your student's account will remain in their account for the next school year. **We will continue to have a "NO CHARGE" policy.** The cost of a full paying student lunch is \$3.00 per day (\$15.00 weekly, \$60.00 monthly).

BREAKFAST WILL NOT BE SERVED THE FIRST TWO DAYS OF SCHOOL. The cost of a full paying breakfast is \$1.30 (\$6.50 weekly, \$26.00 monthly). A Sodexo associate will be available in the cafeteria on August 16th from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm to collect money for student accounts. If you have any questions regarding the computerized system, please call Kim Boehm, our lunch clerk, at 281-8610.

Students are not allowed to order delivery of food themselves. With nearly 700 students, time and staffing do not allow for payment, pulling a student out of class to receive the delivery. Parents may drop off lunches at school.

SCHOOL PICTURES

- Sixth, seventh, and eighth graders will have their pictures taken on Monday, September 24th. Flyers will be sent home with information on picture packages.



HOMEWORK

The amount of homework varies. However, the suggested guidelines are for a student to have ten minutes of homework for each year in school. Therefore, a sixth grader would have 60 minutes of homework; a seventh grader would have 70 minutes and an eighth grader would have 80 minutes. Typically, our students have math homework every night. If your child is spending more than 1 ½ hours on homework every evening, you should talk to the teacher.



BOOK FAIR

Medicine Crow's Librarian, Ms. LaFontaine, plans to have a Book Fair the week of October 8-12th. Students will be able to browse and purchase books at any time during this week. The library will be open from 7:30 am - 4:00 pm every day. Money raised from the Book Fair will be used to purchase additional resources for the library.

Electronic Devices

- Yes, I may bring an electronic device to school....BUT.....
 - I may ONLY use it when instructed by the classroom teacher
 - I may not use my cell phone at lunch or in between classes
 - In the morning, if I am outside I may use my phone, but if I am eating breakfast then I need to eat breakfast and not use my electronics
 - If I choose to bring my electronic device to school, I am responsible if it gets lost or stolen

MEDICINE CROW MIDDLE SCHOOL

MEDICATIONS AT MEDICINE CROW

Medicine Crow is committed to meeting your middle school student's health care needs. Prescription and over the counter medications are allowed at school and can either be given by the nurse, or your student can keep them at the Attendance Office with Mrs. Schaefer, and take them accordingly. If the medication is a prescription, please come in and pick up the appropriate paperwork to be filled out and signed by your prescribing provider. If your student has trouble remembering to take their prescription medications, the school nurse will give the prescribed medication at the time designated by your student's provider. If your child remembers to take their prescription medications or wants to keep over the counter medication at school, example acetaminophen/ibuprofen, it will be kept at the Attendance Office with Mrs. Schaefer and self-administer paperwork must be signed by the parent. Medicine Crow staff does not dispense any stock medications (acetaminophen/Ibuprofen). If your child needs over the counter medication for a headache and they do not have their own supply with proper paperwork filled out at the Attendance Office, they will not receive any medication.

If your child has asthma, or has allergies that need medication, please come to the Attendance Office and get the appropriate paperwork to be signed by your child's medical provider. Please have your child's emergency medications (inhalers or epipens) available on the first day of school. We ask that our students keep a back up inhaler or epipen at the Attendance Office during the school year in case of an emergency. One of the school Nurses will be calling you to update or develop your child's emergency healthcare plan.

TEEN FOOD PANTRY

Medicine Crow Middle School has a Teen Food Pantry for students in need. We accept non-perishable food donations any time of the year. We are in need of any non-perishable items, especially dinner items and canned fruits, but we appreciate any donations. We also appreciate school supplies (especially binders and trapper-like keepers). Have any Skyview t-shirts or sweatshirts? We love those too! Please feel free to drop them off at the main office. THANK YOU!

ALL PARENT OPEN HOUSE

**Thursday, August 30th
6:00-8:00 pm**

Please come meet your child's teachers and walk through his/her day!

Medicine Crow Middle School Dress Code

The Medicine Crow dress policy is designed to provide an appropriate, distraction free learning environment. Just as adults will dress appropriately for work, students are expected to dress appropriately for school as that is their "job." Please see the SD2 Handbook Dress Code Policy #3203.

Basic Guidelines at MCMS:

- Shirts will be long enough to cover the stomach.
- Tank tops-think sleeveless shirt! Straps must be at least 2" wide on the shoulder. No spaghetti strap or racer back tops.
- All undergarments - bras (sports or otherwise), boxers, briefs, etc. - need to be covered at all times.
- All shorts and skirts must be within 2 inches of mid-thigh and the pockets must not be longer than the shorts.
- No slippers or pajamas are allowed.
- Leggings with sheer panels and jeans with cut-out holes need to be school appropriate and not show any undergarments.
- Suggestive/inappropriate slogans, advertisements for drugs/tobacco/alcohol are prohibited.
- School administration reserves the right to final decisions regarding gang related attire.
- Hats may be worn to school but need to be removed and placed in my locker by 8:10. I may not wear it on my belt during the school day.
- I may not wear a coat or jacket to class. Hooded sweatshirts are O.K. but I must remove the hood during the school day.
- My backpack/purse/drawstring bag needs to stay in my locker. If I'm headed to and from my PE class I may take my drawstring bag.

MET BUS TICKETS

September MET bus tickets and schedule books will be available in the main office beginning August 16th. **Students who purchase a September MET bus ticket pass by August 23rd, will be allowed to ride the MET bus free for the rest of August.** If purchasing a MET bus ticket at Medicine Crow and paying cash, please have the exact amount, as the main office doesn't usually have change. You can also pay by check. Please make checks out to MET. The price for a monthly ticket is \$21.

MEDICINE CROW MIDDLE SCHOOL

CASA VOLUNTEERS

The success of our future depends on the well-being of our children, but in Montana they are among the most vulnerable in our communities. Statewide, the number of children entering foster care due to abuse or neglect in recent years has skyrocketed. In Yellowstone County, the number of children removed from their home has increased drastically from 182 in 2014 to an astonishing 531 in 2016. Despite the enormity of these statistics, our children are more than numbers, and each one deserves a voice. You could be that voice by becoming a volunteer Court Appointed Special Advocate, with CASA of Yellowstone County. Give us a call 259-1233 or visit our website at YellowstoneCASA.org to learn more about our upcoming information sessions and how you can make a difference in the life of an abused or neglected child.

Warm regards,
Ben McKee
Recruitment Coordinator
CASA of Yellowstone County
406-259-1233

6th GRADE: SOS PROGRAM

We are pleased to have the opportunity to offer students in Billings Public Schools a chance to participate in a program called Signs of Suicide (SOS), as part of our suicide prevention efforts. SOS is currently the only school prevention program listed in the National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices. It provides school-based interventions that address suicide risks and prevention of suicide attempts.

Program Highlight

The program highlights the relationship between depression and suicide by teaching that most often suicide is a fatal response to a treatable disorder-depression. In addition, the program focuses on the relationship between depression, suicide, and drug and alcohol use. SOS provides information for students to recognize depression in his or herself, as well as in their peers. It also teaches action steps that youths can take if they experience signs of depression, risk of suicide or see these signs in a friend.

SOS Goals

The goals of the SOS prevention program are:

1. To increase understanding of depression as an illness, and suicide as a behavior related to untreated or poorly managed depression.
2. To improve attitudes about intervening with peers who are experiencing symptoms of depression, and who might be thinking about suicide.
3. To encourage youths who maybe contemplating suicide to seek help.

Program Presentation

Trained school personnel will be presenting the program. The presentations will occur in the Health Enhancement classes of all 6th grade students.

SOS Core Component

A core component of SOS is the "Brief Screen for Adolescent Depression," which will be administered during the presentation. The screening instrument asks students seven questions that require a "yes" or "no" response. Should a student score in the critical range on the screener, parents will be contacted.

Parent Meeting

There will be more information about SOS and a parent meeting regarding the SOS Program later in the Fall. Please note that you will have the option to "opt out" your child from the presentation. More information about the SOS Program and the "opt out" forms will come home with your child in the Fall, before the students start the program.