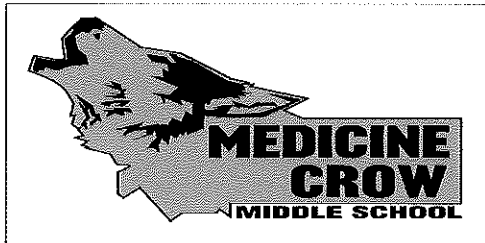


MEDICINE CROW MIDDLE SCHOOL

November 2018 NEWSLETTER

“Welcome to the Wolfpack”

Principal: Mrs. Nikki Hofmann
Associate Principal: Mrs. Becky Carlson



Dear Students & Parents:

Happy Fall Medicine Crow Family!

It seems impossible that just a few short months ago we were just starting the 2018-19 School Year. As we move into the fall and winter seasons, there is news to share.

Power Hour - We have implemented a new program called **Power Hour**. When a student is missing 5-7 assignments, the teacher will send the assignments up to the office. The students then attend **Power Hour** during their lunch and Advisory times to get the assignments completed. If students are missing eight or more assignments, they attend Power Hour after school. Bottom line - the goal is every student completes every assignment. If it is important enough for a teacher to assign, then the work is an important part of learning and needs to be completed. Please support this program at home by following up on any missing assignments, making sure that they get completed. If you need help accessing your PowerSchool account, please call the office and we can help get that set up. It is a helpful tool for parents to check to make sure that their child has all assignments turned in. Thank you for your help in making this program a successful one.

ADVISORY - For 25-30 minutes every day, students report to Advisory. An Advisory Program facilitates meaningful relationships with adults and provides the structure that creates “connectedness” in a middle school. Connectedness is a characteristic of a school culture in which students have meaningful relationships with adults within the school, are engaged in the school, and feel a sense of belonging to the school.

School connectedness is linked to higher grades, higher test scores, and lower dropout rates. What do students do in Advisory?

- Lessons regarding student expectations of being Respectful, Accountable, Determined and Safe
- Character Education and Motivation
- Book study of The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens by Sean Covey
- Grade Check/Missing work Check and make up work
- Time to retake tests, see teachers about missing work or get extra instruction
- Enrichment and reteaching

RIVERSTONE HEALTH CLINIC - Riverstone Health School Based Clinic is now open. They are located next to the Boys and Girls Club entrance/office. They are now open every day from 1:00 pm- 5:00 pm. We hope this partnership has been a benefit to our students and their families as they take care of their health needs. If you need more information or would like to make an appointment, please call their office at 247-3210.

We here at Medicine Crow wish you all the best and many things to be thankful for this season.

Sincerely,
Nikki Hofmann, Principal



MEDICINE CROW MIDDLE SCHOOL

IMPORTANT DATES

NOVEMBER

- 20 Six Week Grading Period
- 21-23 No School: Thanksgiving Break

DECEMBER

- 4-7 MAP Testing In Math Classes
- 6-11 MAP Testing In English Classes
- 24 Winter Break Begins

JANUARY

- 2 School Resumes
- 11 End of 1st Semester
- 14 PIR Day: No School

FEBRUARY

- 5 Skyview Parent Open House for next year 9th Graders-Skyview Theater at 7:00 pm
- 19 8th Graders will register for next year High School Classes during their Science Classes

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 contact 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 8:00 am

We appreciate your assistance, as we stress the importance of attendance.

TEEN FOOD PANTRY

Medicine Crow has a Teen Food Pantry that helps students and families in times of crisis. We would greatly appreciate our Wolf Pack Family to contribute any of the following items:

- Shampoo/Conditioner
- Deodorant- male/female
- Food items that have a long shelf life such as: canned vegetables and fruits; soups; boxed meals; granola bars; anything that contains protein, etc.
- \$10 gift cards especially for the Holidays

Any help is greatly appreciated!

Have any Skyview t-shirts or sweatshirts? We love those too! Please contact Tawnya Catron at 281-8619 or feel free to drop them off at the Main Office. Thank you!

Electronic Device

- ☐ We have implemented an "Away for the Day" cell phone/electronic policy.
 - Student cell phones, iPods, or other electronics with internet access are put away in backpacks and lockers from 8:00am-3:10pm.
 - In the morning, if I am outside I may use my phone, but if I am eating breakfast, then it should be turned off and put in backpack.
 - If I choose to bring my electronic device to school, I am responsible if it gets lost or stolen.

We keep a log at the office if it is taken away during the school day. Consequences will occur with repeated offenses.

If you need to get ahold of your student, you may call the front office to get a message to them.

MEDICINE CROW MIDDLE SCHOOL

MEDICINE CROW CLUBS

Native Nations Club

2nd & 4th Wednesday of the month
3:15-4:00 pm
Mrs. Jeffers/Room 1111

Art Club

Tuesdays
3:15-4:00 pm
Ms. Leafdale/Room 1106

Student Council

Wednesdays
7:40 am
Mrs. Gullett/Mr. Vierthaler Room 2103

SHOCKK (3.5 GPA to attend)

2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month
3:15-4:00 pm
Mrs. Felchle/ Room 2126

Service Learning Club

Thursdays
3:15-4:00 pm
Mrs. Barron/Room 2102

Debate and Speech Club

Starts in March- Mondays
3:15-4:00 pm
Mrs. Ebel/ Room 2109

Over Reader's Anonymous/

Book Club
Every other Thursday
3:15-4:00 pm
Mrs. LaFontaine/Library

Game Club

Mondays
3:15-4:00 pm
Mrs. LaFontaine/Library

Makerspace Club

Every other Monday
3:15-4:00 pm
Mrs. LaFontaine/Library

STEM Club

1st Thursday of the month
3:15- 4:00 pm
Mrs. Felchle/ Room 2126

Fiddle Club

Wednesdays
7:00-7:45 am
Mrs. Waiksnis/Room 1304

Swing Choir

Monday/Tuesday 3:15-3:40
Wed/Thursdays 7:35-8:00
Mr. Hammond/Room 1305

ReAct Club

2 X per month
3:15-3:45 pm
Mrs. Hersh/Room 2110

Pokemon Club

Tuesdays
3:15-4:00 pm
Mrs. Baker/ Room 1124

Rock Band

Tuesdays
7:00-7:50 am
Mrs. Maurer/Room 1303

Youth Alive

Meets twice a month
Days and Times Vary
Mrs. McClenahan-
Room 2121

Yearbook Club

Tuesdays
7:40-8:05 am
Mrs. Fricks/Room 2116

Newspaper Club

Tuesdays
3:15-3:45 pm
Mrs. Hersh/ Room 2110

Math Club

Tuesdays
7:30-8:00
Mrs. Steiner/Rm 2112

Nintendo Club

Thursdays
3:10-3:40 pm
Mr. Crofutt/Room 2124

Anime Club

Mondays
3:15-4:00 pm
Mrs. Barron/Rm. 2102

Sign Language Club

Mondays
3:15-4:00 pm
Mrs. Opp/ Room 2117

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!

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. If you need Login information (Username and Passwords) or help creating an account, please call the office at 281-8600. 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

FOUR HINTS FOR IMPROVING GRADES

With the second 6-week grading period coming to an end, parents may find it helpful to review the following four hints that teachers at Medicine Crow frequently recommend to parents who are looking for concrete ways to help their child improve their performance in all areas of school life.

- 1. Check your child's planner.** Every student receives a student planner in which to record homework assignments. Teachers provide time at the start of every class to copy this information from the board into their planners. Parents often wonder if their students have homework. They ask them, but sometimes doubt the response. The planner is a tool to encourage accountability. Parents can review the planner with their students and create consequences at home if the planner isn't filled out completely and correctly each day.
- 2. Check PowerSchool.** Sometimes checking your student's planner still leaves questions about whether or not an assignment has been completed (or completely understood). Parents can use PowerSchool, a great online informational tool, to view grades and attendance and to email teachers with more specific questions. Teachers can often respond more thoughtfully and completely to questions posed in an e-mail than over the phone. Of course, telephones still work as well. A message left for a teacher on the phone is another way for parents to get clarification about the information that their students are telling them. Contact us at 281-8600 if you'd like more information about setting up a PowerSchool account.
- 3. Seek extra help.** Teachers officially start their work day at 7:40 am and end at 3:40 pm. They are available to offer extra help and to meet for make up tests and assignments both before and after school during this time.

4. Expect Accountability. It's natural for any of us to seek reasons for our challenges and problems in the world around us, rather than within us. Children and youth need us to help them overcome this natural inertia that prevents us from exerting efforts to overcome old, ineffective habits and to replace them with new, more effective ones. We are here to help parents expect and encourage the personal accountability needed for students to take control of their own learning. If your student tells you, "I did my homework", we encourage parents to say, "That's great! Let's have a look at it together." In everything that our students tell us, we do them a great disservice if we don't expect to see their words expressed in concrete actions.

We encourage you to email or call your student's teachers or school counselor to set up a time for a parent meeting if you have further questions or concerns about your child's progress in school.

YEARBOOKS FOR SALE

Students are able to start ordering Yearbooks. You may order online at: YBPAY.LIFETOUCH.COM

Medicine Crow Yearbook ID Code: 13008919

There are many packages available starting at \$15 for soft covers and \$20 for a hard cover.

Parents and students can also upload images for placement consideration in the yearbook! Upload images at community.lifetouch.com Use Community Image Upload Site Access Code: OJLLYC

MEDICINE CROW MIDDLE SCHOOL



NOTES FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

ORCHESTRA

The Orchestra department had great success with the coupon book fundraiser, and raised \$1,640! Thank you to all parents and students who helped boost the Orchestra program! We are also beginning to gear up for our first concert of the year, which will be Monday, December 3rd at 7:00 pm in the MCMS Gymnasium. I look forward to seeing all of you there! Thank you for your continued support! Please visit the Orchestra website (tinyurl.com/j8mrk47) for any upcoming information. Please do not hesitate to call with any questions.

BAND

Thank you to all parents and students who helped boost the Band program by selling the coupon books! We raised \$3630. The Medicine Crow Band Department will be presenting their first concert of the year Thursday, December 13th in the Medicine Crow Gym at 7:00pm. Please come and support the students and help us to celebrate the holiday season! Students are to wear concert dress (see band manual), and meet in the band room at 6:30 pm. Please call Mrs. Maurer with any questions. Thank you.

CHOIR

The choir is happy to report a profit of over \$2500 through the September sale of the Preferred Coupon Books, which will go to paying for choir T-shirts and new music. This month the choir will be selling Cookie Dough and other holiday goodies to continue to build the choir library where the proceeds will go to increasing our library. Our first concert will be on Monday, December 10th at 7:00 pm.

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, resulting in approximately 1,000 children currently in Foster Care. 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. The next New Advocate training begins in January.

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

MEDICINE CROW MIDDLE SCHOOL

8th GRADE CAREER EXPLORATION AND SKYVIEW REGISTRATION

We are already planning times for your 8th graders to explore future careers, as well as begin planning for their high school classes. In January, all 8th graders will have the opportunity to tour the Career Center to see what classes are available to them during the course of their time in high school. Mrs. Catron and Mrs. Laughery, our 8th grade counselors, will spend two days in their History class late January to introduce them to high school credits, graduation requirements and course offerings in high school. Students will be encouraged to discuss this information with their parents. February 19th, Skyview counselors will be in your child's science class to review this information and officially register them for their freshman 2019-20 school year.

Your child in grades 6-8 will be exploring the Career Cruising program through their advisory classes here in middle school. Career Cruising is directly linked in their PowerSchool accounts. Encourage them to take you into their account and look at the opportunities they are being asked to think about. It is a great program to help them begin to build a goal oriented path towards a career choice that interests them. This program follows them into high school.

If students and parents decide to alter their class choices after registration they may do so. Please call Mrs. Boone at 281-5308 or email her at boonet@billingssschools.org. Please share the student's full legal name and which class they would like to drop/add. Please think about the class choices with your child. Changes must be made before the first day of school. After the start of school, students will not be able to make changes. Adjustments will be made over the summer to accommodate students who may need additional support, or those meeting honor class requirements. A printout with the courses your child registered for will be sent out later in the school year for verification. Please check the courses at that time for errors. A course catalog is available on line at www.billingssschools.org (click on students, course catalog). If you have any questions after this process, please contact Danette Cerise, Associate Principal at 281-5302 or Tina Boone, Skyview counselor at 281-5308.

IMPORTANT DATES:

January 8 or 10: All 8th graders will tour the Career Center one of these days

January 28-29: Counselors in History classes discussing pre-registration for high school

February 5: Parent Open House at Skyview (Time: 7:00 pm) in the Skyview Theater

February 19: Official registration for high school classes during Science Class with Skyview Counselors

April 10: Falcon 101 (8th Grade students will tour Skyview during a school day to meet students and faculty)

April 23: Student Open House at Skyview (Time: 6:00-7:00 pm)

UPCOMING MIDDLE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Boy's 7th & 8th Grade Basketball will start on December 10th and run through February 5th. We will start sign-ups the week of November 26th. Girl's Volleyball will start on February 4th. Volleyball is available to all 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade Girls. Have your student listen for more information on sign-ups in our Daily Announcements. If you have any questions, please call the main office at 281-8600.

MEDICINE CROW MIDDLE SCHOOL

MEDICINE CROW APPAREL

We have had a lot of parents asking where they can purchase a Medicine Crow T-Shirt or Sweatshirt, ect. It is all very convenient and can order online.

If you are interested in purchasing Medicine Crow Apparel, you can go to the Medicine Crow Middle School's Main website at: medicinecrowms.com

Click on the Activities Tab. Then, on the lower left hand part of the screen, you can Click on Medicine Crow Apparel. You can then order items and pay online. MoJo Graphics will then deliver your order to our school, and we can send home with your student.

RIVERSTONE HEALTH SCHOOL-BASED CLINIC

Riverstone's School based clinic is open to ALL Billings Public School students and families. They are able to provide the following services:

- Well-child exams with immunizations
- Sports physicals
- Urgent care - sore throats, colds, fevers, stomach aches
- Managing chronic illnesses - diabetes, asthma
- Behavioral Health Services

There is a sliding fee discount scale based on income and family size. No patient will be turned away, regardless of ability to pay. Please call 247-3210 for a Clinic enrollment packet and to schedule an appointment. They are located right in Medicine Crow Middle School by the Boys and Girls Club entrance in Room 1112.