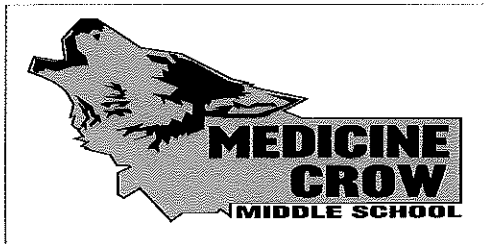


# MEDICINE CROW MIDDLE SCHOOL

## November 2019 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 2019-20 School Year. As we move into the fall and winter seasons, there is news to share.

I know it seems early, but we need to talk about winter testing! For 6th and 8th grade, students will continue to take the MAP Test, as in years past. 7th grade has changed to the ACT Aspire test. As the name says, the Aspire is produced by the same company as the ACT test that Juniors take as a gauge for college and career readiness. Taking this assessment in the 7th grade gives a snapshot of the student's probability of being on track to make that benchmark score for college entrance and career readiness. It also gives students a preview of the type of test they will take in high school to help guide decisions for post high school needs. Students will take the Aspire in 7th grade and 9th grade.

**Winter Test Dates: Tuesday, December 3 and Thursday, December 5, in the morning.**

**Reminders for Testing:**

- Attendance is key! Please make sure your student is on time for school and in attendance on December 3 and 5.
- A good breakfast starts the day off right.
- Getting plenty of sleep the night before a test is important.
- Encourage your student to do his or her very best.

- No stress! These assessments provide teachers, students and parents information on what a student knows and what needs to be learned. Just "show what you know!"

If you do not have Power School for Parents, now is the time! Currently, Power School gives you an updated view of your student's grades, attendance, and email links to teachers. By next fall, the District has plans to use Power School to go "paperless" with enrollment forms and other paperwork - which means you need Power School, either available online or through a phone app. The goal? 100% of our parents with Power School access! To get started, please call or stop by the main office.

In other reminders, we have modeled our cell phone/electronics policy after Away for the Day, a program based on research about how the use and overuse of technology is impacting our youth. Cell phones are not in use once students enter the building - they are in backpacks, in student lockers. With winter weather hitting early, we have had several mornings where students are inside the Commons in the morning until 8:00am. Normally, students stay outside in the back until 8:00am, unless they are eating breakfast. If students are outside, they may use their phones/electronics; if students are inside, phones/electronics are to be put in backpacks, not in use. That means mornings where it is too cold to be outside, all students are inside with phones/electronics put away. We just want to remind parents and students of this policy!

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

- 18 Six Week Grading Period
- 27-29 No School: Thanksgiving Break

### DECEMBER

- 3 & 5 MAP Testing in Math & English Classes
- 3 & 5 Aspire Testing
- 23 Winter Break Begins

### JANUARY

- 2 School Resumes
- 10 End of 1st Semester
- 13 PIR Day: No School

### FEBRUARY

- 4 Skyview Parent Open House for next year 9th Graders-Skyview Theater at 7:00 pm
- 20 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 or we are inside due to weather, 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

### All Nations Club

1st & 3rd Wednesday of the month  
2:15-4:00 pm  
Mrs. Jeffers/Room 1111

### Art Club

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

### All Nations Beading Club

Tuesdays  
7:30-8:00 am  
Mrs. Jeffers/Room 1111

### SHOCKK (3.5 GPA to attend)

Fridays  
7:40-8:00 am  
Mrs. Felchle/ Room 2126

### Service Learning Club

Every Other Tuesday  
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

Thursdays  
3:15-4:00 pm  
Mrs. Anderson & Meyer/Library

### Game Club

Every other Tuesday  
3:15-4:00 pm  
Meyer & Anderson/Library

### Traveling Helpers

Tuesdays  
3:15-3:45 pm  
Mrs. Lees/Room 2119

### STEM Club

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

### Sunrise Strings

Wednesdays  
7:00-7:45 am  
Ms. Rispens/Room 1304

### Swing Choir

Monday 3:15-4:00  
Thursdays 7:35-7:50  
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

### Student Council

Wednesdays  
7:40 am  
Mrs. Gullett  
Room 2103

### Yearbook Club

Tuesdays  
7:40-8:00 am  
Mrs. Steiner/Room 2112

### Newspaper Club

Tuesdays  
3:15-4:00 pm  
Mrs. Hersh/ Room 2110

### Math Club

Thursdays  
7:40 or 3:15  
Mrs. Steiner/Rm 2112

### Equality Pack

Mondays  
3:15 pm  
Ms. Ljunggren

### Origami Club

Mondays  
3:15-3:45 pm  
Mrs. Soeller/Rm. 1126

### Drama Club

Thursdays/Fridays  
3:15-4:00  
Ms. Ljunggren  
Mr. Hammond  
Room 1305

### Student Council

Wednesday  
7:40 am  
Mrs. Gullett  
Room 2103

## 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 are 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. Students should use WIN time to see teachers!

**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](http://YBPAY.LIFETOUCH.COM)

Medicine Crow Yearbook ID Code: 13008920

There are many packages available starting at \$15 for soft covers and \$20 for a hard cover. Yearbooks will have a price increase of \$2 if ordered after January 31st.

Order sheets will also be coming home with students and can be ordered this way as well.

# MEDICINE CROW MIDDLE SCHOOL



## NOTES FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

### **ORCHESTRA**

The Orchestra department had great success with the coupon book fundraiser! 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 2nd 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](http://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 were able to purchase some needed percussion equipment and new music for each band to play at the Spring Concert. The Medicine Crow Band Department will be presenting their first concert of the year Thursday, December 12th in the Medicine Crow Gym at 7:00pm. Please come and support the students and help 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 almost \$3000 through the September sale of the Preferred Coupon Books, which will all go towards our music program. This month the choir also sold Cookie Dough and other holiday goodies to continue to build the choir library. Our first concert will be on Monday, December 9th at 7:00 pm. Students are to arrive by 6:30 pm.

## **CASA VOLUNTEERS**

With the holidays approaching, there are 800 children in Yellowstone County foster care. Those 800 children will be spending their Thanksgiving, their Christmas, and their snow days in a home that is not theirs. They need a caring adult on their side, committed to being a constant for them for as long as it takes to find a safe and permanent home. You could be the voice for one of these children by becoming a volunteer Court Appointed Special Advocate. The next round of CASA training begins in January. Please give CASA of Yellowstone County a call at (406) 259-1233 or visit [yellowstonecasa.org](http://yellowstonecasa.org) to learn more about upcoming information sessions and how you can make a difference in the life of a child.

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

# MEDICINE CROW MIDDLE SCHOOL

## **8<sup>th</sup> GRADE CAREER EXPLORATION AND SKYVIEW REGISTRATION**

We are already planning times for your 8<sup>th</sup> graders to explore future careers, as well as begin planning for their high school classes. In January, all 8<sup>th</sup> 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. Ms. Laughery, our 8<sup>th</sup> grade counselor, will spend time in their History class in 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 20<sup>th</sup>, Skyview counselors will be in your child's science class to review this information and officially register them for their freshman 2020-21 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](mailto: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 online at [www.billingssschools.org](http://www.billingssschools.org) (click on students, course catalog) or can be accessed through Career Cruising Accounts. 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: All 8<sup>th</sup> graders will tour the Career Center (date TBA)

January: Counselors will visit History classes discussing pre-registration for high school

February 4: Parent Open House at Skyview (Time: 7:00 pm) in the Skyview Theater

February 20: Official registration for high school classes during Science Class with Skyview Counselors

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

April: Student Open House at Skyview (Date: TBA and Time: 6:00-7:00 pm)

### **UPCOMING MIDDLE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES**

Boy's 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Basketball will start on December 2<sup>nd</sup> and run through February 4<sup>th</sup>. We will start sign-ups the week of November 25<sup>th</sup>. Girl's Volleyball will start on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Volleyball is available to all 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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.

## NOTE FROM THE SCHOOL NURSE

From time to time, Measles become a hot topic in the news. Although there have been no confirmed cases of Measles in Montana, according to the CDC, "From January 1 to October 3, 2019, 1,250 individual cases of measles have been confirmed in 31 states." With the amount of international and interstate travel these days, no state is safe from exposure to Measles. So why is Measles such a big deal anyway?

1) Measles is highly contagious. It is spread through airborne droplets or contaminated surfaces. The virus can live for up to two hours in an airspace where the infected person coughed or sneezed. Up to 90% of the people exposed to the infected person who are not immune will also become infected (CDC.gov).

2) Measles can cause serious complications including pneumonia and encephalitis. About 1 in 5 unvaccinated people who get Measles in the US are hospitalized. 1 in 20 children infected develop pneumonia, which is the most common cause of death from Measles in young children. About 1 child out of every 1000 diagnosed develops encephalitis which can lead to convulsions, deafness, and intellectual disability. 1 to 3 of every 1000 children who become infected with Measles will die from respiratory and neurologic complications (CDC.gov)

The best protection against Measles is vaccination. Do you know if you have been properly vaccinated against measles? If not, now would be a good time to find out, in case Measles ever decides to pay a visit to Montana.

## 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.