

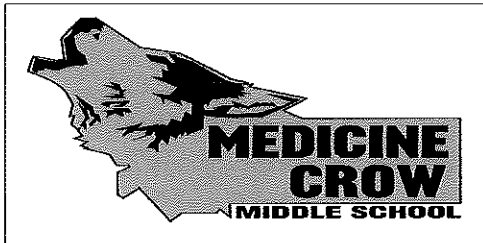
# MEDICINE CROW MIDDLE SCHOOL

## November 2020 NEWSLETTER

*"Welcome to the Wolfpack"*

**Principal: Mrs. Nikki Hofmann**

**Associate Principal: Mrs. Kristen Merchant**



Dear Students & Parents:

Happy Fall Medicine Crow Family!

We made it to Thanksgiving - HOORAY! We are so proud of how students have adapted to school this fall. They are positive, excited to be here and thriving.

Thank you all for the flexibility and grace you have shown as we navigate COVID procedures. Your cooperation is helping to keep us safe and children in school. Our biggest challenge now is contact tracing. Many of you have gotten the call saying your student has been a "close contact" to someone testing positive for COVID. In simplest terms, that means your child has been within 6 feet for 15 minutes or more, of someone testing positive for COVID. The new CDC guideline adds a 24 hour time frame to that; while that impacts school, we more commonly see that within a class period. When your child has been considered to meet this definition, you will be called to pick up your student from school as soon as possible. That student then remains on quarantine for 14 days; the count of days starts the day after the student was exposed. One of the most important things for students during close contact is keeping up with school work. All teachers are posting assignments on Google Classroom. Students have been using Google Classroom since day one in their classes. They know the logins and how it works. If a student or parent has questions, PLEASE message or email teachers. If your child does not have access to a device, the office checks a Chromebook out to the student. The student is still responsible for the work being done while on quarantine; there is no reason to come back from quarantine with no work completed. If there are questions or concerns, feel free to contact the main office! We are here to help. Included in this

newsletter is also a quick reference guide for parents about attending school and COVID.

I know it seems early, but we need to talk about winter testing! All students will continue to take the MAP test.

**Winter Test Window: Tuesday, November 30 and closes Thursday, December 23, in Math and English classes.**

#### Reminders for Testing:

- Attendance is key! Please make sure your student is on time for school and in attendance.
- A good breakfast starts the day off right.
- Getting plenty of sleep the night before a test is important.
- 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 PowerSchool for Parents, it is never too late! PowerSchool gives you an updated view of your student's grades, attendance, and email links to teachers. It is also interesting and enlightening to have your student log you on to Google Classroom and show you around! If you need help with either of these things, please contact us.

Thank you for all you do to help make school successful for students!

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

Stay safe and well,  
Nikki Hofmann, Principal



# MEDICINE CROW MIDDLE SCHOOL

## IMPORTANT DATES

### NOVEMBER

- 20 Six Week Grading Period
- 25-27 No School: Thanksgiving Break
- 30 MAP Testing in Math & English Classes (testing window opens)

### DECEMBER

- 23 MAP Testing in Math & English Classes (testing window closes)
- 24 Winter Break Begins

### JANUARY

- 4 School Resumes
- 15 End of 1st Semester
- 18 PIR Day: No School

### FEBRUARY

- 8 Skyview Parent Open House for next year 9th Graders- (May be virtual this year!)
- 22 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 my 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 a hold 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

One Wednesday per of month  
2:15-4:00 pm  
Mrs. Jeffers/Room 1125

### Art Club

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

### Chess Club

Mondays  
3:10-3:40 pm  
Mrs. Hale/ Room 2113

### SHOCKK (3.5 GPA to attend)

Tuesdays  
3:15-3:45 pm  
Mrs. Feichle/ Room 2126

### Library Leadership Pack

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

### Debate and Speech Club

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

### Over Reader's/ Book Club

Monday  
3:15-4:00 pm  
Mrs. Meyer/Library

### Yearbook Club

Tuesdays  
3:15-4:00 pm  
Mrs. Meyer/Library

### Math Club

Every other Thursday  
3:15- 3:40 pm  
Mrs. Steiner & Ljunggren/Room 2112

### Equality Pack

Mondays  
3:15-3:45 pm  
Ms. Ljunggren/ Room 1110

### Sunrise Strings

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

### Swing Choir (Balaxi)

Mondays 3:15-4:00 pm  
Thursdays 7:00-7:45 am  
Mr. Hammond/Room 1305

### ReAct Club

Every other Thursday  
7:40-8:00 am  
Mrs. Steiner Rm 2112

### 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

Every other Monday  
7:40 am  
Mrs. Gullett & Mrs. Fender  
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 email 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](http://YBPAY.LIFETOUCH.COM)

Medicine Crow Yearbook ID Code: 13008921

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**

It has been a joy to see and make music with the orchestra students again this year! Thank you for getting them prepared for class with all of their supplies. We are currently awaiting district approval for our concert plan, and I will be sending out an email to all families as soon as we have some definitive information to share. For now, keep the concert date of December 7th in your family calendar, and hopefully I'll have more information for you soon. Feel free to reach out with any questions.

Best,  
Kassidy Rispens

### **BAND**

The Medicine Crow Band Department plans to present their first concert of the year on Thursday, December 10th in the Medicine Crow Gym at 7:00pm. I will be sending out more information on our concert plan, as soon as we have the directions from the district office. 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 classes are moving along in a safe and socially distanced way, with singing masks and breaks from singing for the air in the room to be cleaned by a purifier. It's been full speed ahead in skills development and repertoire preparation, but we're not sure yet whether we will present a live, in-person performance on Thursday, December 17th, or if we will be recording and sharing with parents via YouTube. Both scenarios are currently on the table, but a live concert will be significantly different than in past years, likely split by grade level and with audience limited per participant. Please watch for more information as more becomes available to us. You may rest assured, however, that you'll hear your child singing one way or another.

### **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. This will be done virtually this year. Ms. Catron, 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 22nd, Skyview counselors will be in your child's science class to review this information and officially register them for their freshman 2021-22 school year.

Your child in grades 6-8 will be exploring the Xello (formerly Career Cruising) program through their classes in middle school. Xello 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@billingsschools.org](mailto:boonet@billingsschools.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.billingsschools.org](http://www.billingsschools.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 (TBA): All 8<sup>th</sup> graders will tour the Career Center (virtually)

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

February 8: Parent Open House at Skyview (Time: TBA - May be virtual)

February 22: Official registration for high school classes during Science Class with Skyview Counselors

April (TBA): Student Open House at Skyview (Time: TBA-Virtual)

TBA: Falcon 101 - 8th Grade students will tour Skyview during a school day to meet students and faculty.

### **UPCOMING MIDDLE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES**

Boy's 7th & 8th Grade Basketball will start on December 7th and run through February 5th. We will start sign-ups the week of November 23rd. Girl's Volleyball and Boy's and Girl's Wrestling will start on February 8th. Volleyball and Wrestling 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](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.

**\*\*We are also doing a Fundraiser through Universal Athletics through November 30th. Students brought home flyers with ordering information. You may purchase these items through November 30th. You can use this link to order: <https://medcrow2020holiday.itemorder.com/> All profits will be given back to Medicine Crow to help pay for end of the year parties.**

**There is a copy of this flyer at the back of this newsletter.**

## 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.

## NOTE FROM THE SCHOOL NURSE

**We are including information on where parents can go to access guidelines when deciding on whether they should send their child to school or not. The link to access this reference sheet is at:**

**<https://billingschoolsnews.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/COVID-Safe-Return.pdf>. You may also access this reference sheet on the district website. The Billings Public Website is located at [billingschools.org](http://billingschools.org) The updated COVID and reference sheet is located on the "School Nurse Page" (under Departments then School Nurse & Health Services) and click on the COVID Info for parents link. This link has all of the documents for parents in one place to find the most up to date information. We are including a copy of these guidelines in this newsletter. However, please check back to the website for the most up to date information on the COVID guidelines.**

**Riverstone can be contacted by parents and staff directly if they need isolation or quarantine paperwork. The contact person at Riverstone for this is Jana at 651-6415 ext 5. You may also call Riverstone at 651-6415 ext 1 for test results if tested at the Riverstone Health community test site.**



## COVID-19 RETURN TO SCHOOL REFERENCE FOR PARENTS

### SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19 MAY INCLUDE ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING:

fever (temperature greater than 100.4), chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, body/muscle aches, fatigue, headache, new loss of taste/smell, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, congestion or runny nose, and sore throat.

\*Testing is strongly recommended for any person experiencing symptoms of COVID-19

### Can my child attend school?

YES	NO
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• My child does not have any symptoms of COVID-19.</li> <li>• Everyone in the home is well and not experiencing any symptoms of illness at this time.</li> <li>• My child's COVID-19 test result was negative and my child has been fever free and without vomiting or diarrhea for greater than 24 hours.</li> <li>• My child had a positive test but has met ALL 3 of the the following requirements:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.</li> <li>2. Symptoms have improved/resolved.</li> <li>3. At least 24 hours have passed without fever (without the use of fever-reducing medications).</li> </ol> </li> <li>• Someone else in the home is in quarantine as a close contact but has not developed symptoms and my child does not have symptoms.</li> <li>• My child had an illness symptom that resolved quickly and he/she has been completely fever and symptom free for greater than 24 hours without the use of over the counter fever reducing or other symptom reducing medications.</li> <li>• My child has completed a 14 day quarantine for being identified as a close contact and my child has remained symptom free.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• My child has one or more symptoms of COVID-19.</li> <li>• My child has been tested for COVID-19 and we are waiting for results.</li> <li>• Someone else in the home is ill and is waiting for a COVID-19 test result.</li> <li>• I have decided not to have my child tested for COVID-19 and my child has symptoms of illness.</li> <li>• Someone else in the home is ill with suspected COVID-19 symptoms and has opted not to receive testing or seek diagnosis for symptoms from their healthcare provider.</li> <li>• My child tested positive for COVID-19 and:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ My child is feeling better but has not yet completed 10 days of isolation.</li> <li>○ My child has completed 10 days of isolation but still has a fever or is not feeling well and is still having significant symptoms (vomiting, diarrhea, frequent coughing, etc.)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• My child has been identified as a close contact.</li> <li>• Someone else in the home is in quarantine as a close contact and that person and/or my child has developed symptoms.</li> <li>• My child is in quarantine as a close contact and has not yet completed the 14 days but he/she was tested and the result is negative.</li> <li>• My child is in quarantine for being identified as a close contact and has developed symptoms</li> </ul>

### DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED FOR RETURN TO SCHOOL:

- If your child tested positive for COVID-19: **"Release of Isolation" note by Riverstone Health**
- If your child tested negative for COVID-19: **documentation of the negative result**
- If your child is quarantined for being identified as a close contact by the school or Riverstone Health: **copy of the letter from Riverstone Health stating the date your child is released from quarantine.**
- If you do not have your child tested for COVID-19 but he/she is diagnosed by their healthcare provider with a different illness that is causing the symptoms (strep throat, influenza, etc): **Note from your child's healthcare provider indicating the alternative diagnosis and return to school instructions.**