

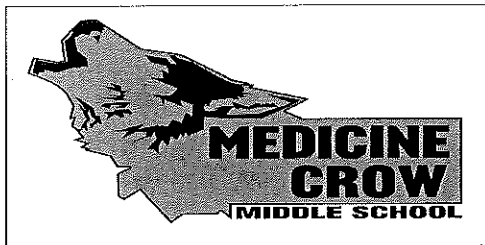
MEDICINE CROW MIDDLE SCHOOL

November 2021 NEWSLETTER

"Welcome to the Wolfpack"

Principal: Mrs. Nikki Hofmann

Associate Principal: Mrs. Traci Doll



Dear Students & Parents:

Happy Fall Medicine Crow Family!

It seems impossible that just a few short months ago we were just starting the 2021-22 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 7th grade, students will continue to take the MAP Test, as in years past. This year, the 8th grade will be taking the PreACT test. As the name says, the PreACT is the precursor to the ACT, which Juniors take for college entrance. The PreACT assessments are designed to provide students with an indication of their educational progress in the context of preparing for the ACT® and exploring postsecondary educational and career options. The PreACT assessments include four multiple-choice tests: English, math, reading, and science. This test also gives students a preview and chance to practice this type of test. This Testing window runs from January 10-21.

Winter Test Dates: Test Window opens November 30 and closes December 22.

Reminders for Testing:

- Attendance is key! Please make sure your student is on time for school and in attendance on testing days.
- 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, PowerSchool gives you an updated view of your student's grades, attendance, and email links to teachers. The District also uses PowerSchool to go "paperless" with enrollment forms and other paperwork - which means you need PowerSchool, either available online or through a phone app. The email listed on the PowerSchool account is also the email used most to contact parents electronically. The goal? 100% of our parents have PowerSchool 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

- 19 Six Week Grading Period
- 24-26 No School: Thanksgiving Break
- 30 MAP Testing in Math & English Classes (testing window opens)

DECEMBER

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

JANUARY

- 3 School Resumes
- 14 End of 1st Semester
- 17 PIR Day: No School

FEBRUARY

- 8 Skyview Parent Open House for next year 9th Graders-Skyview Theater at 6:30 pm
- 15-16 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 Jolene Laugheryt at 281-8620 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

2nd & 4th Wednesday per month
2:15-4:00 pm
Mrs. Jeffers/Room 1125

Tech Ed Club

1st & 3rd Tuesdays
3:15-5:00 pm
Mr. Mikkola/Room 1102

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

Every other Wednesday
7:45-8:05 am
Mrs. Meyer/Library

Debate and Speech Club

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

All Nations

Beading Club

3rd Thursday/month
7:30 am
Mrs. Jeffers/Room 1125

Yearbook Club

Every other Monday
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

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

Swing Choir (Balaxi)

Thursdays 7:00-7:50 am
Mr. Hammond/Room 1305

ReAct Club

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

Pokemon Club

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

Rock Band

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

Student Council

First & Last Tuesday of each month
7:40 am
Mrs. Hudgins & Mrs. Fender
Room 2118

Geography Bee

Mondays (for 2 months)
3:15-3:35 pm
Mr. Zink/ Room 1117

Spelling Bee

Thursdays (for 2 months)
3:15-3:45 pm
Mrs. Meyer/ Library

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 Google Calendar.**

Every student receives a Chromebook and uses a Google Calendar in which to record homework assignments. Teachers provide time at the start of every class to copy this information from the board into their calendars. Parents often wonder if their students have homework. They ask them, but sometimes doubt the response. The calendar is a tool to encourage accountability. Parents can review the calendar with their students and create consequences at home if the calendar isn't filled out completely and correctly each day.

2. **Check PowerSchool.** Sometimes checking your student's calendar 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. 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

We are using a new company, Walsworth, to put our Yearbooks together this year.

Students will be able to start ordering Yearbooks at the beginning of next week. You may order online at: www.yearbookforever.com through Walsworth and search for Medicine Crow.

Once the online store for the Yearbooks is active, Mrs. Meyer will add it to the Medicine Crow Middle School Website.

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. Our first concert of the year will be on Monday, December 6th. Please put this date in your family calendar, and I will send out more detailed information to you soon. Feel free to reach out with any questions.

Best,
Kassidy Rispens

BAND

The Medicine Crow Bands have been hard at work and cannot wait for our first live performance of the year on Thursday, December 9th at 7:00 pm. All bands will be performing in the gym. Students should arrive in their **concert dress (see band manual)**, 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. It's been full speed ahead in skills development and repertoire preparation for our first performance of the year on Thursday, December 16th. All of our Choirs will be performing in our Commons area. Please watch for more information as more becomes available. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Hammond. Thank you

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 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

UPCOMING MIDDLE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Boy's 7th & 8th Grade Basketball will start on December 6th and run through February 4th. We will start sign-ups the week of November 22nd. Girl's Volleyball will start on February 7th. 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 281-8601.

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. Ms. Laughery and Miss. Parry, our 8th grade counselors, 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 15 & 16, Skyview counselors will be in your child's science class to review this information and officially register them for their freshman 2022-23 school year.

Your child in grades 6-8 will be exploring the Career Cruising program through their classes 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 online 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:

December 8th & 9th: Counselors will visit History classes discussing pre-registration for high school

January 31 & February 1: All 8th graders will tour the Career Center

February 8: Parent Open House at Skyview- 6:30-7:30 pm

February 15-16: Official registration for high school classes during Science Class with Skyview

Counselors

April (TBA): Student Open House at Skyview

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

HEIGHTS EXCHANGE CLUB: 8TH GRADE STUDENT OF THE MONTH

One 8th Grade student is chosen each month to represent Medicine Crow Middle School as being respectful, accountable, safe, and determined leaders in the school. These students are nominated as the Billings Heights Exchange Club Student of the Month Award. Our winners for September-November are: Amelia Nelson-Williams, Ian Worden, and Kenna Pfeifle. Congratulations and thank you for representing the Wolfpack!

MEDICINE CROW MIDDLE SCHOOL

STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Teachers nominate two students at each grade level, 6, 7 and 8 each month for this honor. Teachers will nominate two students per month who exemplify any or all of the Wolfpack traits of Respectful, Accountable, Safe and Determined for this recognition. Students selected will have their name in the parent newsletter, have a picture on the recognition board and receive a treat from our Student Council. Congratulations to our Students of the Month!

| | 6TH GRADE | 7TH GRADE | 8TH GRADE |
|-----------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| SEPTEMBER | Ruby Sheridan Baylee Smith | Kory Galloway Marleigh Rodriguez | Ameera Don't Mix Hunter Farris |
| OCTOBER | Sophie Lessard Jakob Anderson | Konner Erickson Chloe Grabarek | Isiah Hopkins Kenna Pfeifle |
| NOVEMBER | Ellie Longfellow Jackson Free | Landon Peel Jaevonna Bellrock | Aleena Williams Jeremiah Harris |

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. You may access updated COVID information on the district website. The Billings Public Website is located at billingsschools.org You can then click on the "COVID-19 UPDATES". This will give you all of the latest updates from school.