

MEDICINE CROW MIDDLE SCHOOL

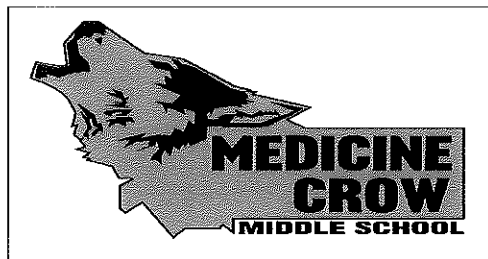
March 2023

NEWSLETTER

"Welcome to the Wolfpack"

Principal: Mrs. Nikki Hofmann

Associate Principal: Mrs. Traci Doll



Dear Students & Parents:

Hello Wolfpack Family!

While the winter slips its way to spring, life at MCMS has kept a steady pace! We are all, however, ready for the spring weather and sunshine! It is hard to believe less than 50 school days remain for the 2022-23 school year! With the onset of sunshine and blue skies, it is worth a few reminders to head off "spring fever" issues. One is that the onset of warmer temperatures brings spring/summer clothing into season. Please remind students that the dress code has not changed since fall and to dress accordingly. Additionally, we are seeing a lot of hands on behavior at all grade levels. Students have been reminded throughout the year to keep hands/feet to self to avoid injuries and peer conflict. Reinforcing this at home would be greatly appreciated!

As a District and as a building, we are focusing on Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS process). As the name implies, this framework has a tiered infrastructure that uses data to help match academic, instructional and behavioral resources to each student's needs. MTSS helps educators to be thoughtful about using resources appropriately and impactfully. It also allows the use of data to continually monitor and improve the effectiveness of their actions. MTSS in education allows teachers to focus on supporting all of their students using a systematic, consistent approach. Part of the process is having a framework for expectations in all areas of the building and in the classroom. While this is something MCMS has had in place, we have not been consistent with our approach and expectations. We are working to improve that. As such, reinforcing the four key areas of

Being Respectful, Accountable, Safe and Determined are a priority. We started with Respectful after break, as surveys done with staff and students demonstrated this was the greatest area of need. All students participated in an activity the day we came back from spring break. We are also working to schedule guest speakers to talk to students about the language they use and how they talk to each other.

Finally, attendance is such an important part of learning! Please make sure students arrive on time and attend every day possible!

With spring, the testing season has arrived for our students! MAP testing in English will be on April 20-26 and MAP testing in Math will be from April 27-May 3. You can help students have a successful testing experience by following a few simple guidelines:

1. Assure your student attends school on test days, arriving with plenty of time to make it to first period without a rush.
2. Make sure your student gets a good night's sleep the night before a test.
3. Breakfast is indeed the most important meal of the day, especially during testing! Please remind your child to eat breakfast on test days.
4. Reinforce with your child to do his or her best on the test.
5. If your child has test anxiety, remain positive. Staying calm will help your child stay calm. The test is just a snapshot of what they know. They have been working hard all year and the test is a check in to see how they are progressing.

Have a great start to spring! Please feel free to call or stop by with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,
Nikki Hofmann, Principal

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IMPORTANT DATES

MARCH

26 Track Sign-ups have begun

APRIL

3 Track Season Begins
7 No School
10 No School: Snow Day (if not a makeup)
18 Six Week Grading

MAY

5 No School: Vacation Day
29 No School: Vacation Day

JUNE

2 Last Day of School

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.

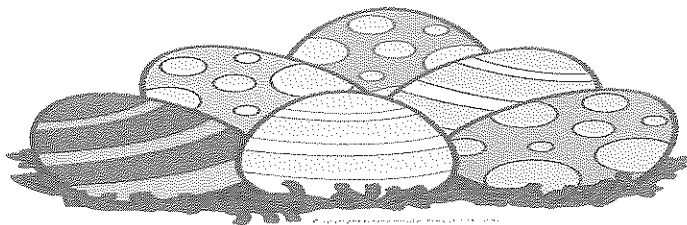
Have any Skyview t-shirts or sweatshirts? We love those too! Please contact Jolene Laughery at 281-8620 or feel free to drop them off at the Main Office. Thank you!

Parents, please be aware we have implemented some additional security measures at all of our Billings Schools:

BPS ENTRANCE PROTOCOL FOR ALL SCHOOLS:

When visitors arrive at the main entrance, the designated staff member at each building will ask the purpose of their visit and ask to see a picture ID prior to opening the door.

Please bring your photo ID with you when picking up your children during the school day. If you have any questions or concerns, please call us at (406)281-8600.



6th GRADE PARENTS

The State of Montana has immunization requirements for all students entering the 7th Grade. All 7th Graders must have a Tdap booster immunization before they start the school year. They will be sent home the first day of school if they are not up to date. If you are not sure if your child's immunizations are up to date, please feel free to call the office at 281-8600. If you have proof of the Tdap booster, please bring the record to the office and we will make a copy for our records.

There are a few options to look into in getting updated Immunizations.

- They are given at The Riverstone Health Immunization Clinic at 123 S. 27th Street by appointment only. Please call them at 247-3382 to make an appointment.
- You can make an appointment with your own doctor.
- We are also fortunate to have the convenience of having the Riverstone Clinic at Medicine Crow. Please call 247-3210 to make an appointment.

Please bring your student's immunization card to the school for verification after getting their shots. Thank you for your assistance.

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NOTES FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

ORCHESTRA, BAND AND CHOIR

Sunrise Strings, Wolf Rock Band and the Balaxi Swing Choir will be performing in their Ensembles Tour on March 28th. They will visit various Elementary Schools and enjoy lunch at Pizza Ranch. We are excited to be able to do this again this year, as have not the last few years due to COVID.

We have been practicing and preparing for our Spring Concerts as well. Band will be performing on April 25th, Choir will perform on May 1st and the Spring Orchestra Concert will be on May 15th at 7:00 pm.

Thank you for all of your support of music in our schools!
Kassidy Conlon, Denise Maurer and Tony Hammond

STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK

May 1- May 5

Dear Medicine Crow Parents:

Staff Appreciation Week is May 1-5th. We are hoping to do a featured snack for each day of the week (bagels, cookies, soup lunch, etc.) and a "special treat" for each faculty and staff member to let them know how much we appreciate their efforts with our kids this year. We could really use your help in making this week a success!

If you have items that we could use as door prizes, such as promotional items or gift certificates from your place of employment, your own crafts, gift certificates from friends or acquaintances' businesses, etc, we would appreciate the donation to give away to staff during this week. We would also welcome any cash donations that could be used toward the purchase of snacks. The staff at Medicine Crow have done an amazing job this year and we would like to reward them for their hard work and make sure that they feel valued!

POWERSCHOOL FOR PARENTS

Billings Public Schools has moved to an online system for registration and annual updates for the upcoming 2023-24 school year! This process will replace paper registration and the paper annual update packet sent home each year. A PowerSchool Parent Portal Account will be necessary to register any new incoming students, as well as to complete the back-to-school/annual updates for each student. At least one parent per student will be required to have an account to complete these processes.

If you already have an account to the PowerSchool Parent Portal, you will be notified when these online forms become available.

If you need help setting up your Parent Portal Account in PowerSchool or if you have any questions, please contact the main office at 281-8600.

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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 nearly 600 in 2017, 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 May.

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

YEARBOOKS FOR SALE

Students are still able to order a Yearbook. You may order online at: yearbookforever.com
There are also order sheets available at the main office. Students were each sent one home an order sheet as well.
There are many packages available starting at \$20 for soft covers and \$25 for a hard cover. They are on sale through March 31st!

SPELLING BEE

The top spellers of the Medicine Crow Spelling Bee were:
1st Place: Shaylie Robbins
2nd Place: Samuel Hall
3rd Place: Damion Stellingwerf
They represented Medicine Crow at the Yellowstone County Spelling Bee.
Congratulations to our top spellers and Damion Stellingwerf for winning the Yellowstone County Spelling Bee!

IMPORTANT DATES for 8th GRADERS GOING TO SKYVIEW NEXT YEAR:

- April : Falcon 101: All 8th graders visit Skyview (9-10:30 am) to tour the school and meet with students/faculty. This may be virtual this year.
- April : Student Open House at Skyview at 6:00 pm (Virtual this year)

UPCOMING MIDDLE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Track will start on April 3rd and run through May 23rd. Track is available to all 7th & 8th Graders and to 6th Graders for running events only. Have your student listen for more information on sign-ups in our Daily Announcements. The sign-ups have begun. If you have any questions, please call Dawn at the main office at 281-8600.

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SUMMER 2023 DRIVERS EDUCATION

Students must be enrolled in grades 9-12 for the 2023-2024 school year in order to register for the summer 2023 session. This includes 8th graders who will be in 9th grade fall of 2023.

ALL STUDENTS WHO REGISTER AND PAY BY THE DEADLINE ARE GUARANTEED A SPOT IN THE CLASS AT THE SCHOOL AND TIME OF THEIR CHOICE. STUDENTS WHO REGISTER AFTER APRIL 10TH OR PAY AFTER APRIL 20TH WILL BE PUT ON A WAITING LIST.

Registration Dates for both sessions: March 31, 2023 - midnight April 9, 2023

Registration is done online at billingsschools.org/programs/drivers-education

Payment Dates for both sessions: April 11, 2023 - April 25, 2023 at 3:00 pm

Payment may be made online at billingsschools.org/programs/drivers-education with a debit/credit card. If paying by check or cash, payment should be mailed or brought to 1470 Industrial Ave. Billings, MT 59101. Please make checks payable to BPS.

Card payments cannot be made at the office or over the phone – only online!

Session 1 Class Dates and Times: May 22nd, 23rd & 30th from 4:15 - 6:15. May 25th will be virtual class. June 5- June 30 M-F at the time chosen at registration - either 8:00am - 10:00am or 10:00am - 12:00pm. Students who attend Ben Steele, Castle Rock, Lewis & Clark, Medicine Crow, Riverside or Will James will be bused to the high school for class on May 22nd, 23rd & May 30th, if requested on the registration form. Transportation after class on those dates and both ways in June is the responsibility of the parent/student.

Students must be born on or before November 22, 2008 in order to take Session 1.

Session 2 Class Dates and Times: July 10th – August 10th 10:00am – 12:00pm

Students must be born on or before January 11, 2008 in order to take Session 2.

Fee: \$320

Students will drive 6 times outside of class time at times scheduled with the instructor.

Students are allowed 3 absences during the session which must be made up. If a student misses more than 3 classes or fails to attend the make-up session scheduled by the instructor they **AUTOMATICALLY FAIL THE COURSE.**

NO REFUNDS WILL BE ISSUED SO PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT DRIVERS ED FITS YOUR SCHEDULE AND THAT YOU WON'T HAVE MORE THAN 3 ABSENCES DURING THE SESSION BEFORE REGISTERING AND PAYING FOR IT!

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RIVERSTONE HEALTH CLINIC

Riverstone Health has a school based health clinic at Medicine Crow. They are located next to the Boys and Girls Club entrance/office. Please note the clinic is for SD2 families only and is not open as a clinic to the general public. We hope this partnership is a benefit to our students and their families as they take care of their health needs. Appointments are available daily from 1:00-5:00pm and they provide many services.

- Sports Physicals (schedule anytime in the month of May) There will be days in June or July as well, please watch for the dates! Appointments will start up again the week before school is in session in August.
- Well-child exams with immunizations
- Counseling and child psychiatry (behavioral/mental health)
- Sore throats, earaches, colds, fevers, stomach aches
- Asthma and diabetes
- Limited lab tests
- Referrals to community resources
- Assistance with health insurance options

Riverstone provides medical care to the whole family, including the adults, brothers and sisters- "Healthy Parents, Healthy Kids". Even if you have a regular doctor, once you enroll in the school clinic, your child can be seen if they have an earache, sore throat, cold or flu symptoms during the school day. Please call 247-3210 to set up an appointment.

XELLO

Xello (Formerly Career Cruising) is a career readiness program that helps students build knowledge, skills, and plans for future success. Through self-knowledge, exploration, and planning, students better understand their strengths, weaknesses and how these, along with their interests, tie in their academic and career options. Xello guides students through interactive lessons and is an easy to use engaging interface that allows them to explore and set goals for their success in school and beyond. Students access their accounts through Clever and we encourage them to share what they've learned about themselves, the world or work and their future options with their families. Exploration of the program begins in these classrooms: 6th graders during their Digital Literacy class, 7th grade through Empower, and 8th grade through a variety of classes. Xello's programming grows with students and will be utilized more extensively by them in high school.

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STUDENT OF THE MONTH

As we continue to grow as a school community, the staff at Medicine Crow seeks to recognize more of our students! We would like to recognize our Students of the Month award winners for each grade level. 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 their name on the recognition board and receive a treat from our Student Council. Congratulations to our Students of the Month!

	DECEMBER	JANUARY	FEBRUARY
6TH GRADE	Jasper Reid Cora Rosenthal	Kage Ireton Grace Lillie	Jaxson Nichols Kinleigh Wheaton
7TH GRADE	Douglas Rides The Bear Maya Brown	Jakob Anderson Adria Barbero	Ray Loomis Peyton Goodell
8TH GRADE	Jayce Sturgill Sunshine Big Day	Trever White Naomi Devine	Brooke Bendure Cevin Hightower

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 December-March are: Marianna Barbero, Tiffany Miramontes-Judkins, Sunshine Big Day and Cloe Cash. Congratulations and thank you for representing the Wolfpack!

HONORS TEA

Honors Tea is awarded to all 8th Graders who have maintained a 3.5 GPA for all Semesters during their time in Middle School. * denotes Presidential Academic Award winner (in addition to 3.5 GPA, student received an 85% or higher in standardized testing categories of Math or Reading)

Aquilar, Jasmine	Free, Bridger*	Nightengale, Josie
Barbero, Marianna	Geelan Todd, Jaden*	Peck, Paiton
Begger, Brenna*	Harper, Jayden	Peel, Landon
Bendure, Brooke*	Hecht, Ashlyn*	Piccioni, Jacob
Bennett, Brooke	Hernandez, Adianis	Rutschke, Tucker
Cannon, Erin*	Hernandez, Taylee	Stumpf, Eli
Cash, Cloe	Hightower, Cevin*	Tenney, Victoria
Coles, Leah	Jacobsen, Keeli*	White, Trever
Contway, Garrett*	Kaufman, Kyla	
Devine, Naomi	Losett, Zeke	*Denotes Presential
Dunn, Reese	Nickisch, Caleb	Award Winner
Farris, Joseph*		