

NYM Principal's Update-Grades 7-12

November 2023

Good afternoon! October went by in a flash.....it was a "spirited" month full of fun! Students and staff alike were very enthusiastic about spirit week and other homecoming traditions. Thank you to Student Council for sponsoring and planning the activities!

Over the past few weeks we have been taking a close look at attendance-including student tardies and how they are impacting academics and -- the connection is clear! Research shows that missing 10 percent of the school year, or about 18 days in most school districts, negatively affects a student's academic performance. That's just two days a month and that's known as chronic absence. If you add tardies to the equation the number for 1st and sometimes 2nd period classes missed rises causing an even more dramatic impact on student achievement in those courses. Please encourage and insist your children get to school on time when they are not ill. Attendance truly is the easiest way to boost student learning outcomes.

Also, keep in mind that the NY Mills UFSD Board of Education policies include an "Extracurricular Participation Policy" that requires students maintain certain academic standards and be present in school to participate in sports and extracurricular clubs -- tardies are included for consideration in this policy.

Here is an excerpt from the policy regarding attendance and tardies:

"A student who is absent or tardy because of personal illness during the afternoon session of a school day may not practice or participate in any games scheduled, rehearsals, performances or activities for that day or night. A student, in order to participate in practice, rehearsal, activity or athletic contest scheduled for that day or night, must be in attendance for **the full day** of the scheduled event in order to participate. A Friday absence because of illness may exclude a student from playing on Saturday. However, there remains the possibility that the student may sufficiently recover. Parent(s)/Guardian(s) permission in this instance is required for the student to play on Saturday."

A full-day means students are in their homerooms by the 7:45 bell and present in school until 2:05. I have been working with Ms. Rys, our Athletic Director to clarify and emphasize this with students and coaches for the upcoming Winter sports season. Please help us by reinforcing this at home. The full policy can be viewed in our online or hard copy student handbook or on the website under the Board of Education tab.

Looking ahead-the PTSO Craft Fair is back December 2nd & 3rd! This is their main fundraiser for the year and the group needs everyone's help to pull it off. Please consider signing up to volunteer at some point during the weekend to help make the event a success. You can do so using the link below:

<https://m.signupgenius.com/?mibextid=Zxz2cZ#!/showSignUp/10C0E4AA9AA2DA2FEC43-44907804-nymills>

The PTSO supports our students in so many ways throughout their time here and this is a great way to show them that they are appreciated. Please encourage your children in grades 7-12 to also sign up for a shift or two--they can get volunteer credit towards the graduation requirement.

In Other News:

Positivity Project (P2) Traits explored in the month of November:

10/30-11/3-Creativity

11/6-11/10-Bravery

11/13-11/24-Gratitude

11/27-12/1-Other People Matter Mindset: Knowing my words and actions affect others.

Student Council will be organizing a Thanksgiving collection for the Emmaus House. Each grade level (7-12) will adopt a family in need. The shopping for groceries is typically done by the class officers, but they encourage other classmates to bring in various items like a can of sweet potatoes, a box of stuffing, a jar of gravy, and other stuff that can be used/eaten by the family for Thanksgiving! We encourage students to sign up and bring something to help these families. Thank you for supporting this generous endeavor!

The New York Mills Chorus will be holding their annual Brook's BBQ fundraiser on December 1st, 2023. Dinners include 1/2 a BBQ chicken, baked potato, dinner roll and coleslaw. All proceeds go to funding the 7-12 Chorus competition in New Jersey in May of 2024.

Pre-order your dinners starting November 15, 2023 through any chorus member or the attendance office. Each dinner costs \$14 and will be available for pick-up by driving up to the cafeteria where you will be greeted by one of the chorus members who will bring your dinner to your car.

Thank you for your support of the 7-12 Chorus program here at New York Mills!

Upcoming Dates:

November 7: Board of Education Meeting 6:00 pm, HS Library

November 3 & 4: **Elf Jr.** Elementary Musical 7pm

November 8: PTSO Meeting 6:30 pm, HS Library

November 9: Winter Sports Meeting 6:00 pm Auditorium

November 10: Veteran's Day-NO SCHOOL

November 14: Picture Re-Take Day

November 21: First Quarter report cards mailed

November 22-24-Thanksgiving Recess

That's all for now!

Mary Facci