

NY Mills 7-12 Principal's Update

December 5, 2024

Celebrating Success!

High Honor & Honor Roll

I am very proud to say that we started out the 2024-2025 strong! At the close of the 1st Quarter 50 students earned "High Honors," with an average of 94-100%, and 63 students earned "Honors" with an average of 88-93%! Congratulations and keep up the good work!

November Optimist Students of The Month

Congratulations to the following students for being selected as the Optimist Club's November Students of the Month! The Optimist Club supports these awards selected by faculty and staff each month. Awarded students in grades 7-11 receive a certificate as well as a coupon for a free pizza from Trio's Pizza. The Senior winner receives a plaque as well as a monetary award. Thank you to the Optimist Club of NY Mills for your continued support:

Grade 7 - Polina Donchuk

Grade 8 - Morgan Dam

Grade 9 - Adriana Karakalchu

Grade 10 - Rana Bilal

Grade 11 - Nevaeh Kimble

Grade 12-Emily Cognetti

Did you know...

The New York State Education Department will begin identifying schools with a high rate of chronic absenteeism in the 2024-2025 school year. Chronic absence is defined as missing 10 percent of school days within one academic year (18 days) for any reason. This includes excused absences, unexcused absences, and suspensions.

Schools that are identified with chronic absenteeism are at risk of facing a number of negative educational outcomes, including: lower grades, lower standardized test scores, increased risk of dropout, hindered development of critical skills, and lasting challenges throughout a student's life. Research has shown that students with high rates of absenteeism are at the greatest risk of falling behind and dropping out of school. According to the non-profit "*Attendance Works*," 26% of U.S. students are chronically absent indicating the significance of the problem nationwide.

What we know about chronic absenteeism...

- By 6th grade, chronic absence becomes an early warning sign that a student may drop out of high school.
- Students who are chronically absent in kindergarten and 1st grade are less likely to read proficiently by the time they finish third grade.
- By 9th grade, chronic absence is a better indicator than 8th grade test scores that a student may drop out of high school.

We can help by...

- Communicating
 - Talk with your child about acceptable and unacceptable behavior and grades.
 - Think about situations your child may face and talk about ways to handle these situations before they occur in lieu of avoidance by missing school.
- Being supportive:
 - Encourage your child to be active in school by joining clubs or participating in sports.
 - Teach them how to ask for help.

Here at NY Mills we are also seeing an increase in students being chronically absent and the effects that has on student performance. One of the strategies we are starting this year to curb that and encourage improved attendance is to award students quarterly for "Perfect Attendance." At the close of the 1st quarter 16 students had perfect attendance in grades 7-12 and an additional 32 students were here every day but, missed a portion of the day for an excused reason (ex. doctor's appointment). These students were awarded at the last assembly and we set a goal to see these numbers increase every quarter.

PTSO Craft Fair

The PTSO Craft Fair is scheduled for December 7th and 8th. At this time they are in desperate need of volunteers to bake for the bake sale and to help vendors on Saturday morning from 8:00-10:00.

Please consider signing up to



78

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084AAEA62AA0FDCF8-52654160-nymills>

This year in addition to hosting over 100 booths of crafters the Athletic Boosters will be selling spirit wear, as well as raffle tickets for an apparel basket. Please join us in supporting the PTSO and all that they do for our students.

December Positivity Project Strengths

December 2-6: Kindness

December 9-13: Other People Matter – Supporting others when they struggle

December 16-20: Self-Control

Junior Class Job Shadowing

On December 18th, fifteen Juniors will participate in job shadowing opportunities with the School and Business Alliance through BOCES. These students have researched, selected and been matched up with several local businesses in the fields of healthcare, manufacturing, and service to name a few.

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Dates to Remember:

- December 5, 2024-Brook's Barbecue Fundraiser to benefit the Chorus "Music in the Parks" trip.
- December 12, 2024-Jr./Sr. High Band & Chorus Winter Concert 7:00pm.
- December 14, 2024-Student Council's "Snacks with Santa," 9-11 am, High School Lobby
- December 17, 2024-Elementary Band/Chorus Winter Concert
- December 23, 2024-5 week Progress Report mailed
- December 23-January 3, 2024-Winter Recess-NO SCHOOL

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