



Tomah Middle School



November 2024 Newsletter

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Our seasons have quickly changed, and our staff and students have wrapped up our first quarter with your children.

TMS Building Goal

Every year the teachers and staff at TMS choose a building goal to focus our attention and time. This year is no different. After looking over data from multiple sources, it became very apparent that our students need to build their proficiency in the areas of informational text comprehension (ELA) and number and operations (Math). This year's goal is to ensure that **ALL** TMS students will meet or exceed their typical growth score in both ELA and Math using our iReady screener. The typical growth score is the amount of growth in learning a student should have in a typical school year. While this is our overall goal, for many of our students we are also focusing on their stretch goal which shows the amount of growth a student should do within a year if they are significantly behind their grade level peers.

How can you help us reach our goal? The amount of time our children spend reading and talking about what they have read is a significant indicator of their academic and future success. Please continue to do all you can to encourage, provide, and model how important it is to read. A book, magazine, online blog, it doesn't matter. Find their interest and let them explore! It's the same for math. Math can be scary for students and parents alike. Number and operations are the basic mathematical skills that are foundational for all other areas of math. This includes basic math facts, place value of numbers, rounding numbers, decimals, multiplication, and division, and using mental math. Any time you can encourage your student to practice these skills will help ensure their overall success in math.

We ask for your ongoing support when it comes to how we can assist you and your children. When your child needs to miss school for an appointment, vacation, or other reasons, the earlier you can provide us with this information the better prepared you and your child will be. Should you need to drop something off for your child, please understand we will do the very best we can to get it to them. However, we value the instruction provided by our teachers and limit these interruptions as much as possible. We greatly appreciate your advance planning for our staff and ultimately your child.

Don't forget our Veterans Day celebration is on November 11th beginning at 8:45 am. If you plan to attend and have not yet RSVP'd, please contact me at 374-7883 or amylangner@tomah.education for our planning. This is always a great event, and it's our guests who always make it special.

We are excited to be working with the Woodsmen on, "Hunting for Donations," our donation drive to support our Rachel's Closet project. The Counseling Corner has more information regarding how you can help.

Thank you for all the support you have provided your child thus far this school year. We hope the school year is a great experience for them. If you ever have a question regarding your child's success at TMS, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher or our offices so we can assist.

Sincerely,

Amy Langner, Principal 608-374-7883

Amy King, Assistant Principal 608-374-7884

Jared Sasada, Dean of Students 608-374-7927

Counselors' Corner

Last week we celebrated Red Ribbon Week and emphasized the importance of staying drug-free and living a healthy lifestyle. These values are essential for our students as they grow and develop into strong, resilient individuals.

In addition, we had several community members join us for our morning announcements. They shared their insights on the benefits of a healthy lifestyle and the significance of making positive choices. Their messages of encouragement resonate with our mission to support our students in making informed decisions.

We encourage you to engage in conversations at home about the importance of health and well-being. Together, we can inspire our young people to lead lives full of promise and opportunity.

Thank you for your continued support in fostering a healthy community.

Rachel's Closet Opens Soon at TMS!

Rachel's Closet is a new resource for Tomah Middle School students. It is designed to ensure every TMS student has the essentials they need to succeed, whether it's a warm jacket for winter, nutritious food to fuel their day, or toiletries for personal care. By participating in the Hunting for Donations Drive, you are directly supporting the well-being of our school community.

The Wisconsin Woodsmen Hockey Team is partnering with TMS to stock Rachel's Closet. This project will establish a closet available to students who need clothing items, food, or personal hygiene products. The Wisconsin Woodsmen will have a donation bin for fans to drop off donations on home game days during the month of November. Attend a home game and cheer on the Woodsmen while also supporting Rachel's Closet. TMS will be hosting "Hunting for Donations" November 18th – 26th. This will be celebrated with designated attire each day in support of the opening of Rachel's Closet. The grade team with the most donations will be joined by The Woodsmen Hockey Team at TMS for some extra fun and games.

Donation Guidelines:

- **Clothing:** Gently used or new clothing in all sizes, including shirts, pants, jackets, socks, and shoes
- **Food:** Non-perishable food items such as canned goods, granola bars, and pasta
- **Personal Hygiene:** Toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, deodorant, feminine products, etc.

Please note: All donated items should be clean and in good, wearable condition.

Let's come together and make Rachel's Closet a success.

Thank you in advance for your generosity and support. Together we can make a real difference for our students and our school.

If you have questions or would like additional information about how you can help, please contact Ms. Whitwam at (608) 374-7943 or Ms. McGathy at (609) 374-7887.

Attendance Procedures

State law limits the number of days a student can be absent from school.

Please be sure to contact school staff when your child will not be attending:

Phone: 608-374-7881 (Any time of day you can leave a message.)

Vacations: Pre-excused absences need to be set up in advance

Appointments: Medical notes are requested from providers.

NOVEMBER 2024 EVENTS

Note: Please verify dates and times for sporting events on the website as they are subject to change.

Saturday, November 2

The Kids Clinic 7:45-4:00 p.m. (Performance 3:00 p.m.)

Sunday, November 3

Daylight Savings Time Ends – Set clock back one hour
Show Choir Spectacular Chili Lunch – Concert 1:30 p.m.



Monday, November 4

Begin new 4 ½ week classes
Lego Club 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, November 5

Full Advanced Jazz Band Rehearsal 7:00-7:35 a.m.

Wednesday, November 6

Lego Club 3:30-4:30 p.m.
Show Choir Rehearsal 3:30-5:00 p.m.

Thursday, November 7

Trumpet Sectional Advanced Jazz Band Rehearsal 7:00-7:35 a.m.
Math 24 Competition – LMC 8:30-11:30 p.m.
Student Council Meeting 3:30-4:30 p.m.
Forensics Meeting 3:30-4:30 p.m.
8th grade Boys' Basketball @Onalaska Middle School 4:00 p.m.
7th grade Boys' Basketball @Onalaska – Northern Hills Elem 4:00 p.m.
Dismissal 2:30 p.m.

Friday, November 8



Monday, November 11

We honor our Veterans -
Veterans' Day Program – TMS 8:45-9:45 a.m.
Fundraiser Pick-Up – Winnebago Park 3:00-5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, November 12

Full Advanced Jazz Band Rehearsal 7:00-7:35 a.m.
Boys' Wrestling Quad – Sparta Meadowview 4:30 p.m.
Dismissal 2:45 p.m.
8th grade Boys' Basketball vs. Winona – TMS 4:45 p.m.
7th grade Boys' Basketball vs. Winona – La Grange 4:45 p.m.

Wednesday, November 13

Show Choir Rehearsal 3:30-5:00 p.m.

Thursday, November 14

Low Brass Sectional Advanced Jazz Band Rehearsal 7:00-7:35 a.m.
8th grade Boys' Basketball vs. Melrose-Mindoro – TMS 5:30 p.m.
7th grade Boys' Basketball vs. Melrose-Mindoro – TMS 4:30 p.m.

Friday, November 15

Saturday, November 16

Wrestling @Jack Young Middle School 9:15 a.m.

Monday, November 18

Art Club 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, November 19

Full Advanced Jazz Band Rehearsal 7:00-7:35 a.m.

Fundraiser Kalahari Water Park Trip

8th grade Boys' Basketball vs. Longfellow – TMS 4:30 p.m.

7th grade Boys' Basketball vs. Longfellow – La Grange – 4:30 p.m.

Wrestling @West Salem Middle School 4:30 p.m. – Dismissal 2:50 p.m.

Wednesday, November 20

Art Club 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Show Choir Rehearsal 3:30-5:00 p.m.

Thursday, November 21

Saxophone Sectional Advanced Jazz Band Rehearsal 7:00-7:35 a.m.

8th grade Boys' Basketball @West Salem Middle School 4:30 p.m.

7th grade Boys' Basketball @West Salem Elementary 4:30 p.m.

Dismissal 2:50 p.m.

Friday, November 22

Monday, November 25

Wrestling @Logan Middle School 4:30 p.m. – Dismissal 2:50 p.m.

Tuesday, November 26

Full Advanced Jazz Band Rehearsal 7:00-7:35 a.m.

8th grade Boys' Basketball G-E-T TMS 4:45 p.m.

7th grade Boys' Basketball G-E-T La Grange 4:45 p.m.

Wednesday, November 27 –

No School – Thanksgiving Break



HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Friday, November 29

Holiday Parade – 7:00 p.m.



Tomah Area Community Resources

Food Assistance

Neighbor for Neighbor, Inc.
1118 W. Veterans Street
Tomah, WI 54660
608-372-6737
www.n4npantry.org
*Call for hours

Tomah Community Table
Masonic Lodge
520 E. Saratoga Street
Tomah, WI 54660
Mondays 4:30pm-5:00pm in-person
dining. Take out meals available
beginning at 5:00pm
*Closed if a holiday falls on a Monday

Second Harvest Mobile Pantry
Monroe County Fairgrounds-Located
in the Gold Building.
1st Tuesday of the month 3:30pm
1625 Butts Ave.
Tomah, WI 54660
608-223-9121
www.secondharvestsw.org/find-food-near-you/
info@secondharvestsw.org
*Check website for additional information

Tomah Baptist Church Food Pantry
1701 Hollister Ave.
Tomah, WI 54660
608-372-2071
tomahbaptistchurch.com/ministries/food-pantry
*By appointment. Contact the church office
During regular office hours to set up an
appointment (M-F 8:30am-4:30pm)



Food Assistance Cont.

Ruby's Pantry at Oasis Church
22547 State Hwy 21
Tomah, WI 54660
608-567-9230
www.rubyspantry.org/location/105
*\$25 cash donation per share.
*1st Monday of the month.
Registration begins at 4:30pm.
Food bundles available 5-6:30pm
* You can find information for Ruby's Pantry on
the Oasis Church website.

Tomah Area School District
Summer Food Services Program
www.tomah.education/food-services/summer-food-services
*Visit the website listed above for information
regarding the Summer Food Services Program for
Tomah Area School District.

Housing Assistance

Families First of Monroe County
1500 N. Superior Ave., Suite 2
Tomah, WI 54660
608-374-4141
www.familiesfirstmc.org
*Call for an appointment

Couleecap, Inc.
217 N. Black River Street
Sparta, WI 54656
608-269-5021
www.couleecap.org
*Call for hours or to schedule appointment

Monroe County Housing Authority
1108 W. Wisconsin Street, Apt. 103
Sparta, WI 54656
608-269-5017
*Call for hours or to schedule appointment

Tomah Area Community Resources

Housing Assistance Cont.

Tomah Housing Authority
City Hall Annex
107 E. Milwaukee St.
Tomah, WI 54660
608-374-7455
www.tomahwi.gov/cdbghousing/page/other-area-resources-affordable-housing

*Call for hours or to schedule appointment

Sparta Housing Authority
307 N. Court Street
Sparta, WI 54656
608-269-2188
www.spartawisconsin.org/sparta-housing-authority

*Call for hours or to schedule appointment

The Salvation Army
223 N. 8th Street
La Crosse, WI 54601
608-782-6126
centralusa.salvationarmy.org/lacrosse/

Family Promise of Monroe County WI
117 W. Oak Street
Sparta, WI 54656
608-487-2745
www.familypromiseofmonroecounty.com

*Call for an appointment

Housing Assistance Cont.

YWCA La Crosse
212 11th St. S.
La Crosse, WI 54601
608-781-2783
www.ywcalax.org/supportive-housing
info@ywcalax.org
*Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (18-24 year old young adults)

Clothing/Household Items

Families First of Monroe County
1500 N. Superior Ave., Suite 2
Tomah, WI 54660
608-374-4141
www.familiesfirstmc.org
*Call for an appointment

Goodwill Industries
1516 N. Superior Ave.
Tomah, WI 54660
608-372-7464

The Caring Closet Inc.
903 Superior Ave.
Tomah, WI 54660
608-343-1652
*Call for an appointment



Tomah Area Community Resources

Energy/Utility Assistance

Families First of Monroe County
1500 N. Superior Ave., Suite 2
Tomah, WI 54660
608-374-4141
www.familiesfirstmc.org
*Call for an appointment



Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance
Program (WHEAP), contact
Flocks Guardians, Inc.
606 Cap Street
Sparta, WI 54656
608-487-9356
*Call for an appointment

Additional Resources

Great Rivers 2-1-1 (Wisconsin)
(Speak with a community resource
Specialist in your area)
Dial 2-1-1 from service area
Toll-Free Alternative Number:
(800) 362-8255 **or** Text your zip
code to 898-211
www.greatrivers211.org

The Parenting Place
1500 Green Bay Street
La Crosse, WI 54601
608-784-8125
www.theparentingplace.net
*Call for information regarding resources and
programs

Brighter Tomorrows
608-269-7853
24 hour crisis line: 1-888-886-2327
www.mocobrightertomorrow.com

Additional Resources Cont.

Legal Action of Wisconsin
855-947-2529
legalaction.org
*Apply for free legal help

Monroe County Department of
Human Services
112 S. Court St.
Sparta, WI 54656
608-269-8600
www.co.monroe.wi.us/departments/human-services

Next Steps for Change
608-466-6677
www.nextstepsforchange.com

Wisconsin's Western Region for
Economic Assistance (Medicaid,
BadgerCare Plus, FoodShare, and
others)
Monroe County Department of
Human Services
112 S. Court St.
Sparta, WI 54656
888-627-0430

Well Badger Resource Center
Wisconsin's Health Information &
Referral Program. Free &
Available To All
Phone: 1-800-642-7837
Text: 608-360-9328
Email: help@wellbadger.org
www.wellbadger.org/s/?language=en_US

Tomah Area Community Resources

Additional Resources Cont.

Monroe County Mental Health
Resource Guide
[www.co.monroe.wi.us/Home/Comp
onenets/News/News/182](http://www.co.monroe.wi.us/Home/Comp
onenets/News/News/182)

*Follow the steps on this website to access the
Monroe County Mental Health Resource Guide

Northwest Connections (24 hrs/day)
1-888-552-6642
24-hour Mental Health and AODA Crisis
Line for Monroe County Residents.
Provides information, support,
counseling, and emergency services
help to anyone dealing with a mental
health crisis.

Amayla Empowerment Association
(AJ Falkers Counseling and Heart
Line Counseling)
608-377-3864
www.amaylaempowerment.com

Grace Counseling & Family Services
304 Bickford St.
New Lisbon, WI 53950
608-562-3976
www.gracecounselingfs.com

Trailways Counseling
1021 N. Superior Ave., Suite 10
Tomah, WI 54660
608-886-9023
trailwayscounseling.com

Additional Resources Cont.

Peace of Mind Counseling
La Crosse Office
115 5th Ave. S. Suite 523
La Crosse, WI 54601
608-397-0192
www.pomcounselingllc.com

Peace of Mind Counseling
Sparta Office
107 East Oak Street
Sparta, WI 54656
608-397-0192
www.pomcounselingllc.com