



Tomah Middle School



January 2025 Newsletter

Dear Parents/Guardians:

It's hard to believe that we are almost halfway through the 2024-2025 school year! As we look ahead, we are excited to see the many gains our students make in their learning. I encourage you to review the achievements and strides your child has made from the first semester and set goals with them to finish the school year out strong.

Our TMS Staff continues to work on our yearly goal of increasing proficiency in the areas of math and reading. Teachers have been sharing strategies and activities they are using to encourage growth and achievement in these two areas. Many teams are taking time to ensure that students understand the basics of grammar, number sense, and test taking skills as we have seen this is an area of need. Reading and math are being integrated into every subject as well, so do not be surprised when your child comes home with a writing assignment from Social Studies, Science, or Art. The beauty of incorporating these strategies is that we have already witnessed growth in our students, and we are excited to see how they do in our mid-year iReady assessment.

The mid-year assessment is important and will give us an accurate snapshot of your child's strengths and areas of growth within our curriculum. This snapshot allows us to put your child on a pathway that will stretch their abilities and grow them toward even greater academic success. Our mid-year assessment window is January 6-January 21st. We ask that you encourage your student to do their very best.

Just a reminder that we do have After School Homework Help (ASHH) Monday through Thursday from 3:30-5:00 pm in room 201. Students can leave early if their work is completed or stay until 5 pm. This program allows for teachers to determine what students need more time to work on assignments with the assistance of a TMS staff member. Students will be chosen by a teacher who will then contact you for permission and to set up a pick-up plan. Parents/Guardians cannot choose for their child to come to ASHH. If you feel your student would benefit from ASHH, please reach out to one of your child's teachers to discuss.

Throughout this first semester, our staff has spent time learning how to work as a collaborative team. The district mission is "High Quality Student Learning: Every Child, Every Day!" and we know that the best way to reach our mission is to have our teachers working together to utilize all our strengths. Your child's teachers have been working harder than ever to reach our mission and vision. A vision is something that we are working to become. We are not there yet, but everything we do flows from our mission and vision. I have included our vision in this newsletter so that you can also see what we are striving to create at TMS. We use some "teacher language" so you will also see what certain phrases mean included.

Thank you for all the support you have provided your child thus far in the school year. If you every have any questions regarding your child's success at TMS, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher or our offices so we can assist.

From all of us at TMS, we hope your 2025 is full of peace, laughter, and joy.

Sincerely,

Amy Langner -Principal 608-374-7883

Amy King – Assistant Principal 608-374-7884

Jared Sasada – Dean of Students 608-374-7927

TMS VISION

We at Tomah Middle School, with community stakeholders, aim to motivate and empower all students to succeed both academically and socially, by providing a **guaranteed and viable curriculum** through a **strong multi-leveled system of supports**. TMS will provide a nurturing and safe environment that fosters and encourages all students to become responsible and productive learners.

Essential Standards, Unit Plans,
Yearly Curriculum Plans, Strong
classroom instruction.

Behavior Skills, Academic Skills,
Social/Emotional Skills,
Supports for students who need
extra help.

Counselors' Corner January 2025

We know when you come back after our winter break, it can be a tough transition, and we are all here to help you get back into the swing of school. Don't hesitate to reach out to any staff member if you need support. Remember if you want to see Ms. Whitwam or Ms. McGathy, please sign up using the link on our Counselors' Corner on Schoology. If students' needs are immediate, please let the teacher know, and they will write you a pass to the counseling office.

8th grade families – Please start thinking and talking about what high school classes your child may want your high school experience to look like. The high school counselors will be visiting with 8th grade students in late January or early February to start the high school introductions and answer questions. In late February, the counselors will help students register for their classes.

A reminder that the first semester ends on January 17th. Keep up all your hard work and finish the first semester strong.

If you have schoolwork to catch up, you can talk to your teachers and make up work during your **WIN** time or **After School Homework Help (ASHH)**. We will do all we can to help you succeed.

If you need anything, please don't hesitate to ask.

Ms. Amy Whitwam – amywhitwam@tomah.education 608-374-7943

Ms. Belle McGathy – bellemcgathy@tomah.education 608-374-7887

JANUARY 2025 EVENTS

Wednesday, January 1

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Thursday, January 2

School Resumes

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

Chess and Gaming Club 3:30-4:30 p.m.

8th grade Girls' Basketball Practice Begins TMS 3:30 p.m.

7th grade Girls' Basketball Practice Begins La Grange 3:30 p.m.

Girls' Dance Practice Begins - TMS 3:30 p.m.

Friday, January 3

Saturday, January 4

Cranberry Jamboree – Show Choir

Monday, January 6

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

Tuesday, January 7

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

Science Olympiad 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Wednesday, January 8

8th grade WEB Leaders meet during Flex time

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

Student Council Meeting 3:30-4:30 p.m.

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

Thursday, January 9

Bridging Brighter Smiles at TMS

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

Chess and Gaming Club 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Friday, January 10

Monday, January 13

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

7th grade Girls' Basketball vs. Melrose Mindoro - TMS 4:30 p.m.

8th grade Girls' Basketball vs. Melrose Mindoro - TMS 5:30 p.m.

Gymnastics Dual vs. Marshfield – Rec. Bldg. 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, January 14

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

Wednesday, January 15

8th grade WEB Leaders meet with 6th grade groups during Flex

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

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

Thursday, January 16

Bridging Brighter Smiles at TMS

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

Chess and Gaming Club 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Science Olympiad 3:30-4:30 p.m.

8th grade Girls' Basketball @Sparta Meadowview 4:00 p.m.

7th grade Girls; Basketball @Sparta Meadowview 4:00 p.m.

Friday, January 17

End of 4 ½ week classes

End of 2nd quarter/End of 1st semester

Monday, January 20

NO SCHOOL

Tuesday, January 21

Begin 4 ½ week classes
Advanced Full Jazz Band Rehearsal 7:00-7:35 a.m.
6th grade to Viterbo and High Roller Skating 8:00-2:30 p.m.
Science Olympiad 3:30-4:30 p.m.
8th grade Girls' Basketball vs. Onalaska - TMS 4:30 p.m.
7th grade Girls' Basketball vs. Onalaska – La Grange 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday, January 22

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

Thursday, January 23

Bridging Brighter Smiles at TMS
Advanced Trumpet Sectional Jazz Band Rehearsal 7:00-7:35 a.m.
Chess and Gaming Club 3:30-4:30 p.m.
8th grade Girls' Basketball @Longfellow 4:30 p.m.
7th grade Girls' Basketball @Longfellow 4:30 p.m.

Friday, January 24

Monday, January 27

8th grade Girls' Basketball @Mauston – Olson Middle School 5:30 p.m.
7th grade Girls' Basketball @Mauston – Olson Middle School 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, January 28

Advanced Full Jazz Band Rehearsal 7:00-7:35 a.m.
8th grade Girls' Basketball vs. G-E-T - TMS 4:30 p.m.
7th grade Girls' Basketball vs/ G-E-T - La Grange 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday, January 29

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

Thursday, January 30

Bridging Brighter Smiles at TMS
Advanced Low Brass Sectional Rehearsal 7:00-7:35 a.m.
Chess and Gaming Club 3:30-4:30 p.m.
Science Olympiad 3:30-4:30 p.m.
8th grade Girls' Basketball @West Salem Middle School 4:15 p.m.
7th grade Girls' Basketball @West Salem Elementary 4:15 p.m.

Friday, January 31

