



TOMAH MIDDLE SCHOOL

March 2025 Newsletter



Dear Parents/Guardians:

As we near the end of the 3rd quarter, we are eager to use the time we have left to help your child make a difference in their learning. The second quarter brought great success for our students with major gains in both ELA and Math. This has a lot to do with good attendance. Being in school all day, every day, helps your child get the most out of middle school. Please help your child by encouraging good attendance with these ideas:

- Point out there is no substitute for being in class. Your child needs to be present to get direct core instruction from their teacher to explain concepts, participate in group projects, class discussions, and to ask questions.
- Please try to avoid absences by checking our school calendar before scheduling appointments during school days.

In the coming weeks, your child will be participating in the Forward Exam, which is our state assessment. Our testing window is from March 17th through April 25th. This assessment ensures that we are providing the instruction needed to make our students successful. An accurate score from each of our students is vital. Sleep is very important during this time. Please set reasonable bedtimes to allow your child to get eight to nine hours of sleep. For the best sleep, please have your child unplug electronically 30 minutes prior while keeping those devices in another room.

The state assessment for 8th grade students will focus in the areas of Math, Literacy, Science and Social Studies. For 6th and 7th grade students it will focus on Literacy and Math. Just like any other day, it is very important for your child to be present during testing days. As mentioned above, we ask you to please refrain from making appointments to avoid your child from being absent during this window of opportunity so we may learn what your child has retained. Your child will not be testing in every class during this block of dates. Tests will be spread out during the day and weeks within this window allowing students the ability to have breaks between testing to get a true picture of what they have learned.

The month of March is officially designated as the month of the middle school students. This is the month when we take time to place extra focus on all that comes with being middle school students. As I'm sure many of you can attest to as parents, these tend to be some of the most challenging years for you and your children. These are the years they begin to explore their own way, find out where they fit in with their social group, voices change, physical changes, friends tend to be of the greatest importance to them, and so much more. "I don't know how you do it" is a common phrase I often hear from parents as they comment on how we work with middle school students every day. I have worked in a middle school for 20 years, and there is nowhere else I would rather be. Our students bring excitement, silliness, and joy to our lives every day.

This is the time of the year our staff tackles twice the amount of planning. We look to make the rest of this year fantastic while starting to plan for next year. If you have not done so already, please make sure to mark your calendar for next year. **Our Fall Rally date is set for August 14th. Please stay tuned for more important information.**

Thank you for all the support you have provided your child through the first half of the year, and we look forward to your ongoing support as we move forward. 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

TMS PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

March 10 & 17th 4:15 - 8:00 PM

6-1	March 10 = open March 17 = closed for individual conferences
6-2	March 10 = open March 17 = closed for individual conferences
7-1	March 10 = open March 17 = open
7-2	March 10 = open March 17 = open
8th Grade	March 10 = open March 17 = 4:15-6:00 pm open / 6:00-8:00 pm closed
Related Arts	March 10 = open March 17 = open



Tomah Middle School Art Show at the Pump House!

Celebrate our talented young artists at the **Tomah Middle School Art Show**, on display at the **Pump House Regional Arts Center** from **February 26 – March 15!** The exhibition showcases incredible student artwork, and we invite you to stop by and see their creativity in action.

Join us for a **closing reception on Saturday, March 15, from 12:00 – 4:00 p.m.** where you can view the artwork, chat with the teacher, and celebrate our students' artistic achievements.

Pump House Regional Arts Center | 119 King Street, La Crosse

Hours: M-F 9 AM-5 PM | Tues 9 AM-7 PM | Sat 12-4 PM | Closed Sunday

We hope to see you there!

Counselors' Corner

March 2025

Hello TMS Students and Families,

We're almost through winter and spring break is just around the corner. With extra time away from school, this likely means extra time with phones. This is the perfect time for families to have conversations about staying safe online. Below is a list of some of the most common apps your child(ren) may be using. Take a look and talk with your child(ren) about those apps.

#StartTheConversation

SNAPCHAT allows users to send photos and videos that disappear after they're received, but pictures don't completely disappear from a device and users can take a screenshot before an image vanishes.

SKOUT is a location-based dating app and website. While users under 17 are unable to share private photos, kids can easily create an account using a different age.

X is a networking site for "public" conversations or direct messages. It also has been used for bullying or harassment.

OMEGLE lets users chat with strangers through text or video in real-time, with no registration required. While it can be used for casual conversations, users have reported encountering inappropriate content, cyberbullying, explicit material, and even predatory behavior.

INSTAGRAM is a photo/video sharing app. Profiles can be public allowing anyone to see or comment. Teens can create fake accounts to hide content and use the messaging feature.

GRINDER is a dating app geared toward gay, bi and transgender people. The app gives users options to chat, share photos and meet up based on a smart phone's GPS location.

WHATSAPP is a messaging app that allows users to send texts, photos, voicemails, make calls and video chats worldwide. The app uses an internet connection on smart phones and computers.

ROBLOX is an online gaming platform where users can play games designed by others or create and share their own. Be aware of in-app purchases chat features, "condo" games and using "signs" to communicate if chat is blocked.

BADOO is a dating and social networking app where users can chat, share photos & videos and connect based on location. While the app is for adults, teens are known to create profiles.

KIK allows anyone to contact and direct message your child. Kids can bypass traditional text messaging features. KIK gives users unlimited access to anyone, anywhere, anytime.

HILY is a dating app where users can browse photos, engage in chats, send private videos and more. Based on GPS location of phone, strangers can arrange to meet up locally.

DISCORD allows users to talk to friends or strangers in real-time via voice/text or video chat while playing games. Users have seen racial slurs, explicit content, cyberbullying and more.

MEETME is a dating social media app that allows users to connect with people based on geographic proximity. As the app's name suggests, users are encouraged to meet each other in person.

WHISPER is an anonymous social network that promotes sharing secrets with strangers. It also reveals a user's location so people can meet up.

MONKEY is a live video chat app that connects users to random strangers worldwide, offering group chat and private message options. Rated for 12+ but contains content not appropriate for youth.

AMONG US is a space-themed online multiplayer social game where players can message and chat with each other.

ASKFM is known for cyber bullying. The app encourages users to allow people to ask and chat anonymously with them in 40 different languages.

HOLLA is a video chat app that allows users to meet people all over the world in seconds.

BEST SECRET FOLDER is specifically meant to hide photos and videos. It features password protection, video decoy and alarm settings.

LIVE ME is a live-streaming video app that uses geolocation to share videos so users can find out a broadcaster's exact location. Users can earn 'coins' to pay minors for photos.

YIK YAK app to connect with people around your location. It is an anonymous virtual bulletin board known for bullying.

CALCULATOR% is only one of several secret apps used to hide photos, videos, files and browser history.

REDDIT is a chat/discussion board app. Users can post whatever they want without identity verification. Reviewers have been confronted with racial slurs, explicit content & more.

Internet safety helps parents see and hear what their child is doing online, who they meet, and what they share about themselves. Talk with your kids, use tools to protect them, and keep an eye on their activities. Have a SAFE and fun spring break!

MARCH 2025 EVENTS

Middle School Month

Monday, March 3	Lego Club 3:30-4:30 p.m.
Tuesday, March 4	Full Advanced Jazz Band Rehearsal 7:00-7:35 a.m.
Wednesday, March 5	Art Club 3:30-4:30 p.m.
Thursday, March 6	Student Council 3:30-4:30 pm. Band-O-Rama Concert @THS 6:30-8:30p.m.
Friday, March 7	No School – Professional Development Day
Sunday, March 9	Daylight Savings Time Begins  Set your clocks ahead one hour
Monday, March 10	Parent-Teacher Conferences 4:15-8:00 p.m.
Tuesday, March 11	Full Advanced Jazz Band Rehearsal 7:00-7:30 a.m.
Wednesday, March 12	Art Club 3:30-4:30 p.m.
Thursday, March 13	Trumpet Sectional Advanced Jazz Band Rehearsal 7:00-7:35 a.m.
Friday, March 14	Beginning Jazz Band Rehearsal 7:00-7:35 a.m. Spassabend (German Concert) @THS 7:00 p.m.
Monday, March 17	Happy St. Patrick's Day  Parent Teacher Conferences 4:15-8:00 p.m. 7 th & 8 th grade Softball Player/Parent Meeting – TMS Library 5:30 p.m. Boys' Tennis Player/Parent Meeting – THS Math Lab 5:30 p.m. Boys' and Girls' Track & Field Player/Parent Meeting – THS Café 5:30 p.m.
Tuesday, March 18	Full Advanced Jazz Band Rehearsal 7:00-7:30 a.m.
Wednesday, March 19	Art Club 3:30-4:30 p.m.
Thursday, March 20	HAPPY FIRST DAY OF SPRING  Low Brass Sectional Advanced Jazz Band Rehearsal 7:00-7:35 a.m. 8 th grade Softball Practice Begins – Schroeder Field 3:30 p.m. 7 th grade Softball Practice Begins – Winnebago Field 3:30 p.m. Boys' Tennis Practice Begins - THS Courts 3:30 p.m. Track & Field Practice Begins – Mc Kean Field 3:30 p.m.
Friday, March 21	End of 3 rd quarter – End of 4 ½ week classes Team 7-1 to Viterbo University for presentation
Monday, March 24 – Friday, March 28	No School – Spring Break
Monday, March 31	Begin 4 ½ week classes