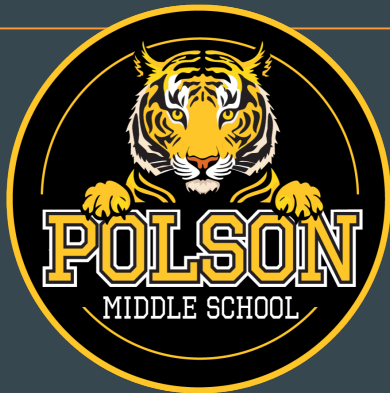


Welcome to  
Walter C. Polson Middle School  
2026-2027



Kathryn Hart - Principal  
Martha Curran - Assistant Principal

# Introductions

## Administration

- Kathryn Hart – Principal
- Martha Curran – Assistant Principal
- Chris Farrell - MPS Athletic Director

## Grade Level Counselor

- Charlene Doane

# Introductions

## Joining us tonight

Erin Bickelhaupt  
Deb Thomas  
Leslie Sperling  
Kristin Skelly

## Student Tour Guides

Introduce yourselves!

# Polson Pride: Our Core Values

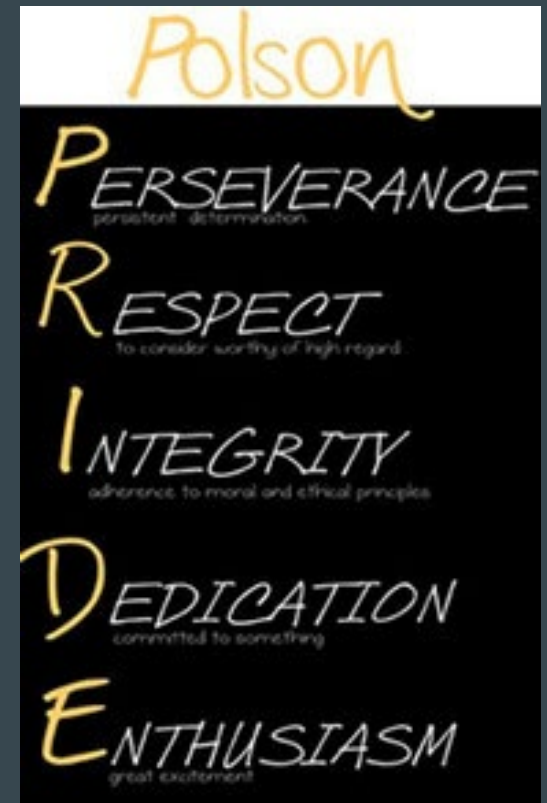
Perseverance

Respect

Integrity

Dedication

Enthusiasm



# Polson 2026~~2027~~

**Projected Enrollment: 545**

- Grade 6: **180**
- Grade 7: **183**
- Grade 8: **182**

## **Bell Times**

- 8:00 AM – 2:30 PM (Bells start and end the day)

## **Teaming Model**

- 4 teams in grade 6
- 2 teams in grade 7
- 2 teams in grade 8

# The Teaming Model

There are 4 teams in sixth grade.

Two core teachers on each team.



**One teaches  
Math and  
Science**

**One teaches  
LA and Social  
Studies**

Special Education teacher assigned to each team

# Transition Plan

- Elective course selections
- Team meetings with grade 5 teachers
- Visit Polson - meet staff and tour
- Team placement - August 2026
  - Know Login information to IC
  - Keep Google Email active
- Back to School Orientation -  
August 25, 2026 @ 12:30 p.m.

# Facility Updates

Polson Renewal Plan on [website](#)

- Main gym closed May 11-Nov. 28, 2026
- Auditorium closed June 19-Dec. 31, 2026
- **HVAC**
  - Cool all instructional spaces
  - Replace existing HVAC systems
- **Electrical System**
  - Update main system
  - Install generator

# Facility Updates

Polson Renewal Plan on [website](#)

- **Auditorium**

- Replace seating and flooring
- New lighting and sound system
- Stage renovations

- **Main Gym**

- Restore floor
- New bleachers
- New lighting, paint and finishes

# Policies and Procedures

- **Arrival and Dismissal**
  - **Late arrival, early dismissal...enter in IC**
- **Lockers**
- **Student Planners**

# Attendance and Tardies

- Required to enter in Infinite Campus
- 9 absences are excused for all students
- 4 tardies per trimester are excused for all students
- Counselors meet with students after 3 tardies
- Required to send a letter regardless of reason

## Suggestions:

- Get a note from doctors when possible
- Plan vacations during school holidays
- Email principal for special events

# Cell Phone Policy

- Phones are not allowed during the school day in any space:
  - Classrooms, including LMC
  - Hallways or cafeteria
  - Bathrooms
  - Lunch
- Phones should be stored in the locker for the entire day. “Bell to Bell”

***NEW in 26-27: No Smartwatches allowed***

***Please don't text or call your child. The office staff are happy to get a message to students.***

# Cell Phone Policy

If a student forgets the rule, we keep their cell phone safe in the office until 2:30.

We'll email you if this happens 3 times.

At the 4th time, we ask you to come pick up the phone.

If students continue to have trouble meeting expectations, their phone will be kept in the office for an extended time.

**Help us help your child!**

# Safety and Supervision

## In School, Out of School, and Online

- Safety Drills  
(Fire Drills, Crisis Drills, Security Personnel)
- Social and Emotional Needs  
(Grade level counselors, social worker, school psych, MYFS)
- Technology - *what can parents do?*
  - Social media, texting, cell phones
  - Securly
  - Monitor use, time limits, certain areas only

***Supervision is Critical!***

# Bullying Prevention and Intervention

- Educational programs - character education, lessons by school counselors, health class
- Report in a variety of ways
  - Staff member
  - Email
  - Visit the office
  - Parent contact us
- Safe School Climate Specialist investigates
  - *Follow steps outlined in Policy #5131.911*
- Social Emotional Student Study Team meets every 6 weeks to review student needs

***Empower students to speak up!***

Any questions related to our  
Policies and Procedures?



# ACADEMIC PROGRAM



# Academic Program Goals

Provide **equal access** to programs for all students,  
across all teams

Appropriately place students

Balance class sizes

Variety of offerings to foster the diverse set of talents



# Profile of a Graduate

**Skills, knowledge, attributes and competencies necessary for a successful transition to life after high school**

***critical thinking, creative thinking, collaboration, self-direction, global awareness***

- Woven into curriculum instruction and assessments
- Measured in various content areas
- Developed over time (K-12)

# 6th Grade CORE Classes

70-minute periods  
daily Math and LA

70-minute periods  
every other day  
Science and SS

Language Arts

Math

Science / Social  
Studies



# Related Arts Periods

## World Language

**Grade 6**

**Spanish every  
other day**



## Phys Ed

**Grades 6-8**

**PE every other  
day**



***Grade 7 & 8 - Language every day;  
Spanish or French***

# Related Arts Periods

## C.H.A. Wheel



**Art**  
**Health**  
**Computers**



**1 Trimester of each**

## Performing Arts



**Band**  
**Orchestra**  
**Chorus**  
**Theater**



**Students**  
**take one of**  
**these all**  
**year**

# Homeroom

1. **Math or LA**
2. **Related Arts** (PE, computers/art/ health)
3. **LA or Math**
4. **Lunch**
5. **Related Arts**  
(theater, music, or Spanish)
6. **Social studies or Science**
7. **Pride**

Homeroom 8:00-8:05
<u>Period 1</u> CORE 8:07-9:17
<u>Period 2</u> RA 9:20-10:13
<u>Period 3</u> CORE 10:16-11:26
<u>Period 4</u> LUNCH 11:29-11:54

<u>Period 5</u> RA 11:58-12:48
<u>Period 6</u> CORE 12:51-2:01
<u>Period 7</u> PRIDE 2:04-2:30

# PRIDE Period

**~25 minutes  
every day**

## What is it?

- **See other teachers**
- **Start homework**
- **Go to LMC**
- **Visit with counselors**
- **School/Grade Events**
- **Down time, socialize**

# Lunch!

- All students in grade 6 eat together
- Students choose their own seats
- Outside seating in nice weather
- Wider variety of menu options
- Some lunch groups run by counselor
- Cafe opened in AM for breakfast items

# Special Education

## Direct/Indirect Services

- Inclusion classes with SE teacher and/or para
- Study center
  - Academic Skills
  - Life Skills
  - Executive Functioning
- Self Contained classes
- Adaptive Physical Education

## Related Services

- Counseling
- Speech and Language
- Occupational therapy
- Physical therapy

# Special Education

Special education teachers are assigned to teams.

## Academic Intervention

Reading specialists and a math specialist that provide academic interventions.

Interventions include:

- Reading
- Math
- Counseling



# Mathematics

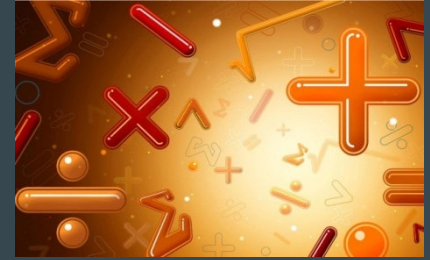


**Prepare students to:**

- **Be mathematically literate**
- **Understand concepts**
- **Be adept at computation**

**In short: Be comfortable with math. Understand how numbers work, how to solve problems with them, and apply that understanding to situations in daily life.**

# Mathematics



## 6th Grade

- Grade level curriculum
- Pre-test analysis for extension
- Continuation from grade 5

## 7th Grade

- Math 7 or Pre-algebra

## 8th Grade

- Pre-algebra or Algebra

# Science

- **Support claims with evidence and scientific reasoning.**
- **Create and analyze graphs as a way to share and understand data.**
- **Develop students' ability to think critically while learning about current events in science.**
- **Explore a variety of topics to help better understand the science behind our everyday lives.**

# Language Arts

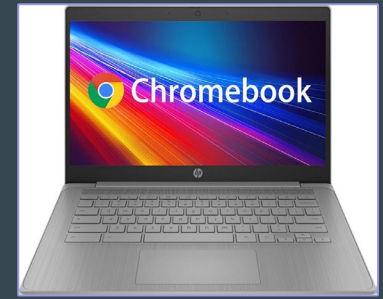


- To improve quality of writing skills
- To increase volume of and independence in reading
- To help transfer reading skills across content areas and genres
- To handle increasing text complexity
- To increase vocabulary through morphology

# Social Studies

- **Explore and celebrate cultures from across four continents**
- **Conduct investigations about world history**
- **Challenge historians points of view**
- **Interact with sources direct from people in the past**
- **Master reading nonfiction sources**

# Technology



**We want students to use technology with purpose, balance, and integrity.**

- **Tool to support learning, not replace thinking**
- **Balanced with discussion, hands-on learning, and collaboration**
- **Online safety systems help support appropriate student use**
- **Our goal is to prepare students to be responsible and thoughtful digital citizens**

# AI Literacy



## MPS Website

- **Engaging with AI**
  - Tool to access new content or information
- **Creating with AI**
  - Collaborating with AI in a creative or problem-solving process
- **Managing AI**
  - Intentionally choosing how AI can support or enhance human work
- **Designing with AI**
  - Shape AI through direct exploration

# How can I keep updated on my child's work?

- **Look for team updates**
- **Individual communication from teachers and/or counselor**
- **Infinite Campus for grades**
- **Google Classroom for work and resources**

# Special Events

## Grade 6

- Camp Hazen
- CT Science Center
- Movie Theater
- Bauer Park

## School-wide Events

- Cultural Arts assemblies
- Family Feud
- PEP rally

Any questions related to our  
Academics?



# BEYOND THE CLASSROOM



# Get Involved!

- **Academic Intramural Program**  
(French Club, Debate, Cooking, Clay Club, Robotics, Unified clubs, and more...)
- **Student Council, Excel Club, Peer Helpers, Impact Club**
- **Community Service Initiatives and Fundraising**
- **Intramural/Interscholastic Athletics & Unified Sports**





**POLSON**  
A T H L E T I C S

## INTRAMURALS

Variety of physical activities/games that promote a healthy lifestyle without focusing strictly on competition

- Focus on skill development
- Provide an opportunity to be physically active or try something new
- Have fun in a low pressure environment



# POLSON

A T H L E T I C S

## INTERSCHOLASTIC

- Offerings, forms, dates, and costs are posted on the Polson and athletic department websites
- Emails will also be sent as reminders both from the school and FinalForms
- Must have had a physical within the last 13 months.



# POLSON

A T H L E T I C S

INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC OFFERINGS (6th, 7th)  
All grades have the ability to tryout.

## FALL

Girls Soccer

Girls Volleyball (New in 26-27)

Boys Soccer

Cross Country

Field Hockey

## WINTER

Girls Basketball

Boys Basketball

Wrestling

## SPRING

Softball

Baseball

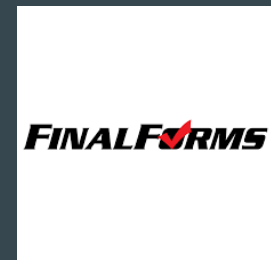


# POLSON

A T H L E T I C S

- **Email from FinalForms**
  - **First contact in Infinite Campus then add people**
  - **Receive in the next few weeks**
- **Login and set up your account**
  - **Back to school forms**
  - **After school clubs**
  - **Field trips**
- **Coaches communicate via SportsYou, FinalForms and MPS email address**

*[Athletics Website](#)*





# POLSON

A T H L E T I C S

## ~ Steps to Participate ~

- Register on FinalForms
- Pay Participation Fee in Infinite Campus \$90 per sport
- Send current physical within 13 months to school nurse (Option to upload digital copy)
- Look out for important information/ dates from the athletic department and coaches.
- Updates via email from FinalForms and Website



# Welcome to Polson PTO!



**Donations have helped support..**

**8th Grade Dance**

**Veterans Day**

**District Art Show**

**8th Grade Celebration**

**Career Day**

**Bus Driver Luncheon**

**Teacher Appreciation Week**

**Field Trips**

**Custodian Appreciation**

**Back-to-School Teacher Luncheon**

**Law Day**

**Cultural Arts Presentations**





## Suggested PTO Donation Levels



Polson Patron	\$100
Polson Friend	\$75
Polson Family	\$60
Polson Student	\$40



**venmo**

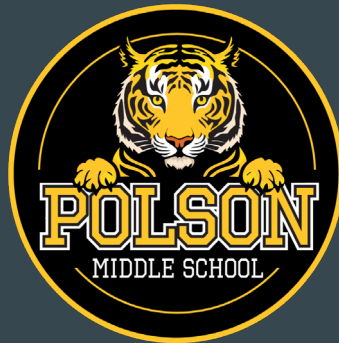


# Keeping You Informed

- The website: [www.polsonmiddleschool.org](http://www.polsonmiddleschool.org)
- The Polson and MPS E-Notify
- Individual teacher info on [Google Classroom](#)
- Follow us on Instagram [@PolsonPride](#), and Facebook at [Polson Middle School](#):



Questions?  
Comments?  
Concerns?



*Looking forward to a great year! Please do not hesitate to contact us should you need anything.*

**Let's Show You Around**

**Building tours from our  
grade 6 students**

...

**We're happy to meet you back  
here for questions after the tour.**