

HOLMEN MIDDLE SCHOOL OCTOBER 2026 VIKING UPDATES



It has been a fantastic start to the school year! I feel so fortunate to step into the principal role here at HMS. Each morning, welcoming students as they arrive is the absolute highlight of my day. If you see me during morning arrival, please feel free to wave and say hello!

We have a lot of things happening at HMS and would welcome you to join us at HMS for co-curriculars or other events in our building. Below are some dates for you to add to your calendar:

- [Co-Curricular Events](#)
- Student/Family Conferences: October 20th 3:30 - 7:00pm & October 29th 1:30 - 7:00pm
- Picture Retake Day - October 9th - During school day
- The Viking Experience - December 4th - 6pm - 9pm at HMS
- 8th Grade Career Day - December 21st - During school day

For a more detailed list and all our events, please check out the events page on our website.

- [HMS Events](#)

I am looking forward to what's to come and continuing to build on the success we are already having this school year.

Thank you for your continued support!

Benjamin Tashner
Holmen Middle School Principal

HMS Information

Phone Number
608-526-3391

School Hours
7:35am - 2:40pm

Principal
Benjamin Tashner
tasben@holmen.k12.wi.us



OCTOBER CALENDAR



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 Homecoming Parade	3
4	5	6	7 7/8th Gallery Club	8	9 Picture Retake Day	10
11	12	13	14 6th Gallery Club	15	16	17
18	19 Boys Basketball Starts	20 Student Learning Conferences 3-7pm	21 Boys Basketball Parent Meeting	22	23	24
25	26 Wrestling Starts	27	28	29 Student Learning Conferences 1-7pm Early Release at 12:40pm	30 No School	31



NOVEMBER CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4 7/8th Gallery Club	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 6th Gallery Club	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 No School	26 No School	27 No School	28
29	30					

December CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 7/8th Gallery Club	3	4 The Viking Experience 6-9:00 PM	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16 6th Gallery Club	17	18	19
20	21 8th Grade Career Day	22	23	24 No School	25 No School	26 No School
27 No School	28 No School	29 No School	30 No School	31 No School		

JANUARY CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 No School	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13 7/8th Gallery Club	14	15	16
17	18 No School	19 No School	20 6th Gallery Club	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Daily Schedule

HOLMEN MIDDLE SCHOOL CLASS SCHEDULE

GRADE 6		GRADE 7		GRADE 8	
1	ADVISORY 7:35 - 7:48 13 minutes	1	ADVISORY 7:35 - 7:48 13 minutes	1	ADVISORY 7:35 - 7:48 13 minutes
2	CORE 1 7:51-8:51 60 minutes	2	CORE 1 7:51-8:51 60 minutes	2	CORE 1 7:51-8:51 60 minutes
3	CORE 2 8:54-9:54 60 minutes	3	CORE 2 8:54-9:54 60 minutes	3	ENCORE 1 H-DAY 8:54 - 9:36 42 minutes Band
4		4		4	ENCORE 2 H-DAY 9:39 - 10:21 42 minutes Choir
5	CORE 3 9:57-10:57 60 minutes	5	CORE 3 9:57-10:57 60 minutes	5	ENCORE 1 V-DAY 8:54 - 9:36 42 minutes
6		6		6	ENCORE 2 V-DAY 9:39 - 10:21 42 minutes Choir/Orchestra
7	LUNCH 11:00-11:27	7	ENCORE 1 H-DAY 11:00-11:42 42 minutes Band	7	CORE 2 10:24 - 11:27 63 minutes
8	CORE 4 11:30-12:33 63 minutes	8	ENCORE 2 H-DAY 11:45-12:27 42 minutes Choir/Orchestra	8	LUNCH 11:30-11:57
9		9	ENCORE 1 V-DAY 11:00-11:42 42 minutes Band	9	CORE 3 12:00-1:00 60 minutes
10		10	ENCORE 2 V-DAY 11:45-12:27 42 minutes Choir	10	
11		11	LUNCH 12:30-12:57	11	
12	ENCORE 1 H-DAY 12:36-1:18 42 minutes Holmen Band	12	CORE 4 1:00-2:03 63 minutes	12	CORE 4 1:00-2:03 60 minutes
13	ENCORE 2 H-DAY 1:21-2:03 42 minutes Choir	13		13	
14		14		14	
15	ENCORE 1 V-DAY 1:06-1:48 42 minutes Viking Band	15		15	ENCORE 2 V-DAY 1:21-2:03 42 minutes Choir/Orchestra
16	ACADEMY H-DAY 2:06-2:40 34 minutes	16	ACADEMY H-DAY 2:06-2:40 34 minutes	16	ACADEMY H-DAY 2:06-2:40 34 minutes
			ACADEMY V-DAY 2:06-2:40 34 minutes		ACADEMY V-DAY 2:06-2:40 34 minutes



Early Release

Early Release Student Schedule

Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
Advisory 7:35 - 8:00 25 minutes	Advisory 7:35 - 8:00 25 minutes	Advisory 7:35 - 8:00 25 minutes
Core 1 8:03 - 8:38 35 minutes	Core 1 8:03 - 8:38 35 minutes	Core 1 8:03 - 8:38 35 minutes
Core 2 8:41 - 9:16 35 minutes	Core 2 8:41 - 9:16 35 minutes	Encore 1 8:41 - 9:07 26 minutes
Core 3 9:19 - 9:54 35 minutes	Core 3 9:19 - 9:54 35 minutes	Encore 2 9:10 - 9:36 26 minutes
Lunch 9:57 - 10:27 30 minutes	Encore 1 9:57 - 10:23 26 minutes	Core 2 9:39 - 10:14 35 minutes
Core 4 10:30 - 11:05 35 minutes	Encore 2 10:26 - 10:52 26 minutes	Core 3 10:17 - 10:52 35 minutes
Encore 1 11:08 - 11:34 26 minutes	Lunch 10:55 - 11:25 30 minutes	Core 4 10:55 - 11:30 35 minutes
Encore 2 11:37 - 12:03 26 minutes	Core 4 11:28 - 12:03 35 minutes	Lunch 11:33 - 12:03 30 minutes
Academy 12:06 - 12:40 34 minutes	Academy 12:06 - 12:40 34 minutes	Academy 12:06 - 12:40 34 minutes

Late Start

Late Start Student Schedule

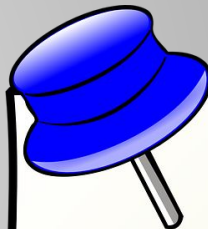
Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
Advisory 9:35-9:48 13 minutes	Advisory 9:35-9:48 13 minutes	Advisory 9:35-9:48 13 minutes
Core 1 9:51 - 10:29 38 minutes	Core 1 9:51 - 10:29 38 minutes	Core 1 9:51 - 10:29 38 minutes
Core 2 10:32 - 11:10 38 minutes	Core 2 10:32 - 11:10 38 minutes	Encore 1 10:32-10:58 26 minutes
Lunch 11:13 - 11:43 30 minutes	Core 3 11:13 - 11:51 38 minutes	Encore 2 11:01-11:27 26 minutes
Core 3 11:46 - 12:24 38 minutes	Encore 1 11:54-12:20 26 minutes	Core 2 11:30-12:08 38 minutes
Core 4 12:27 - 1:05 38 minutes	Encore 2 12:23-12:49 26 minutes	Lunch 12:11-12:41 30 minutes
Encore 1 1:08 - 1:34 26 minutes	Lunch 12:52-1:22 30 minutes	Core 3 12:44-1:22 38 minutes
Encore 2 1:37 - 2:03 26 minutes	Core 4 1:25-2:03 38 minutes	Core 4 1:25-2:03 38 minutes
Academy 2:06 - 2:40 34 minutes	Academy 2:06 - 2:40 34 minutes	Academy 2:06 - 2:40 34 minutes

ATTENDANCE REMINDERS

Attendance at school is essential to the successful completion of an education. Good communication from the school to the home and from the home to the school regarding absences is a major responsibility for the school and the home. Part of the school's mission is to teach students good work habits, which includes regular attendance.

All attendance matters (signing in or out, special leave requests, passes to leave school, reporting absences, etc.) are handled at the attendance desk. The attendance desk is located in the main office inside the Door D entrance.

- **Please report all absences by 7:30 a.m.** by calling the attendance line at 526-1369. *If we do not hear from you, we will attempt to contact you to verify the absence. If no contact occurs, the absence will be considered unexcused.*
- **If your child needs to leave school during the school day:** *To avoid interruptions to the classroom we ask that you send a note with your student in the morning. They should bring the note to the attendance desk before school starts in the morning and we will issue them a pass to leave class. When it is time for them to leave, it is the student's responsibility to report to the attendance desk and wait for you to sign them out. Upon returning to school, the student is to sign in at the attendance desk to obtain a pass to return to class.*
- **If your child arrives late for school:** *Please send a note with your child or call (526-1369) so we can excuse him/her. Upon arrival he/she should report to the attendance desk to sign in and get a pass for class.*
- **Homework requests:** *If you wish to request homework, please leave that message when you call in your child's absence. Your child can also check his/her homework from their Chromebook.*



Attendance: Jenny Eickhoff

Call: 608-526-1369

Text: 608-492-1340

Email: eicjen@holmen.k12.wi.us

Picture Retakes

October 9th

If you would like your student to have a retake please let them know to listen to the announcements over the loudspeaker for when their GRADE and HOUSE is dismissed to the LGI.

If your student missed the original picture day we will call them down individually, but remind them to listen for their name!





SCHOOL DISTRICT OF HOLMEN

VIRTUAL BACKPACK



The School District of Holmen has a Virtual Backpack where each building shares community events, programs, and other important information.



ELEMENTARY



MIDDLE SCHOOL



HIGH SCHOOL

Have you checked out the Virtual Backpack?

The School District of Holmen's Virtual Backpack is a one-stop spot for community events, programs and opportunities available to students and families.

Instead of sending paper flyers home in student backpacks, approved community information is available online and organized into Elementary, Middle School and High School Virtual Backpacks. Check back throughout the year as new flyers and opportunities are added!

Explore the Virtual Backpack:
holmen.k12.wi.us/community/virtual-backpack

Have something to share? Community organizations interested in submitting a flyer or information for the Virtual Backpack can also find details about the approval and distribution process on the page. All materials must follow the District's Distribution of Materials policy.

The Virtual Backpack is an easy way to stay connected with what's happening throughout the Holmen community!

Please watch this [video](#) from Mr. Tashner about morning safety.

BACK TO SCHOOL SAFETY



BEFORE • DURING • AFTER

Let's keep our students safe!

ATHLETIC & ACTIVITIES DEPARTMENT

Holmen Middle School Athletics and Activities are well underway. We are looking forward to a great year! As the year goes on, we will have competitions, matches, performances, & meets, and we encourage spectators to support our HMS students who are involved. Having many events at HMS, I want to remind you of the expectations.

- Arrival at events can start 15 minutes before the event beginning
 - This allows the students to get ready for their event.
- Cheering is encouraged as long as it is respectful towards HMS & visiting teams
- Attending events means staying in that location throughout the entire event
- There will be no access to the grade levels & lockers after 3:00 p.m.

I can't wait to see you all at our events here at HMS.

WINTER SEASONS ARE STARTING SOON:

Winter 1 Season Starts:

Wrestling - October 26th

Boys Basketball - October 19th

Make sure to have your physical and registration complete. If you have any questions contact Luke Sauerman, HMS Activities Director, or Jenny Eickhoff, Activities Admin Assistant.

GO VIKINGS!



FAMILY TEACHER CONFERENCES

We are excited for our Fall Family School Conferences sign up process. Once again, we will be using Pick a Time. Please use this [link](#) to access the directions to sign up for conferences. No matter which night you attend, please use the link above to sign up for a 10 minute time slot for each teacher you want to see.

- **October 20, 2026, will be a night of all in person** conferences from 3:00 - 7:00 PM.
- **October 29, 2026, will be a night of all in person** conferences from 1:00 - 7:00 PM.

Please sign up by noon on the date of the conference. We will remove the ability to sign up afterward, so staff can prepare to meet with their families. Please also make sure to respect other families' time and limit each conference to only 10 minutes. If you need additional time, please let the teacher know so they can connect with you at another time.

pick A time -

pick A time -



HOLMEN MIDDLE SCHOOL YEARBOOK



COUNTLESS AMAZING MEMORIES. ONE ICONIC YEARBOOK.

ORDER YOUR
COPY TODAY!



Scan or go to
jostens.com/ybkhp
1 (877) 767-5217



HMS

Classes have started. Sports and clubs are getting back into gear. Before you get too busy, it's the perfect time to order your student a yearbook!

CLICK HERE
to ensure they have
a copy on
distribution day!

PORK FEED for EDUCATION

FRIDAY
OCTOBER 2 | **HOLMEN
HIGH SCHOOL**

HOSTED BY

HOLMEN AREA
FOUNDATION



SCHOOL DISTRICT
OF HOLMEN



Features

SPONSORED BY

Altra Federal Credit Union | Associated Bank

Citizens First Bank | Firefighters Credit Union

Merchants Bank | State Bank Financial of La Crosse

Lowman Dental | Ruger Financial Group - Ameriprise Financial

Schloegel Family Fund for Kids | Xcel Energy

\$10

pulled pork meal



Ice Cream Truck
Sponsored by Sleepy Hollow
Kids' Games & Music

FOOD SERVED FROM 4:30-6:30 PM

Pulled pork sandwich, creamy coleslaw, chips, cookie, and water.

Proceeds support the Viking Fund, which provides grants throughout the School District of Holmen.

Marching BAND REVIEW CONCERT & FUNDRAISER

**MONDAY
OCTOBER 12
4:00 - 8:30
HOLMEN HIGH SCHOOL**

ALL ARE WELCOME! - HELP US RAISE MONEY FOR NEW UNIFORMS!



4:00PM - 7:00PM
PULLED PORK DINNER
STAY & TAILGATE OR TAKEAWAY



5:00PM - 7:30PM
RAFFLES
BASKETS - 50/50



7:30PM - 8:30PM
MARCHING CONCERT
HIGH SCHOOL & MIDDLE SCHOOL



PULLED PORK DINNER | \$15

**BUY DINNER TICKETS IN
ADVANCE FROM A BAND STUDENT**

Meal includes:
Pulled Pork Sandwich, Beans
& Coleslaw

Buns donated by:
**Linda's
BAKERY**

Can't make it but want to help us
reach our fundraising goal?

Reach out to us: jonand@holmen.k12.wi.us

OR SCAN TO DONATE!



**MARCHING FORWARD TOGETHER
HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND UNIFORM CAMPAIGN**



HMS BAND NEWS

The sixth-grade band students have been busy since the summer. One of the most exciting days of the summer band program is when the sixth graders select their instruments during the fitting day. A close rival of that day is when the students get their instruments at their first summer lesson. Since school started the beginning band students have been putting in a lot of time and effort during their every-other-day full band rehearsals, weekly band lessons, and their home practice. The progress of these young students is amazing to experience and we cannot wait to show them off at our first concert on November 17th!

6TH GRADE



continued...

HMS BAND NEWS



The seventh and eighth grade bands have also been busy. In August, the combined seventh and eighth grade marching band had their first performance in the Holmen Kornfest Parade. In just three short weeks, the band prepared, memorized, and marched to the "HMS Rouser." The band next participated in the Oktoberfest Torchlight Parade on Thursday, September 24 and won the "Best Illuminated Marching Band" Award for their marching, music, and lighting! The marching band will perform next in the Holmen Homecoming Parade on Friday, October 2.

The last marching band performance for 2026 will be the Marching Band Review concert with the HHS marching band on Monday, October 12 at 7:30pm at the HHS Stadium. The middle school band will play their marching piece and join the high school band on the field to perform several pep band tunes. Huge thanks to all the parents, family members, and HMS staff who volunteered their time to walk with the band at their fall parades!

7TH & 8TH GRADE

UPCOMING BAND EVENTS

- Fall Review Concert with HHS Band (7 & 8 grade) – Monday, October 12, 2026, 7:30pm
- Veteran's Day Program (8th grade) – Wednesday, November 11, 2026, 9:00am
- Western Wisconsin Honor Band (select students) – Friday, November 13, all day
- Beginning Band Concert (6th grade) – Tuesday, November 17, 2026, 7:00pm
- HMS/HHS Jazz Concert (jazz band students) – Thursday, January 7, 2027, 7:00pm
- Winter Concert (7 & 8 grade) – Tuesday, January 12, 2027, 7:00pm

- WCBA Honor Band (select students) – Saturday, January 16, 2027, all day
- Solo & Ensemble Festival (7 & 8 grade) – Saturday, February 27, 2027
- Large Group Band Festival (7 & 8th grade) – Wednesday, March 17, 2027, during school
- Collage Concert (7 & 8 grade) – Tuesday, March 23, 2027, 7:00pm
- State Solo & Ensemble (qualifying students) – Sat., May 1, 2026
- HMS Spring Band Concerts – Thursday, May 13, 2027

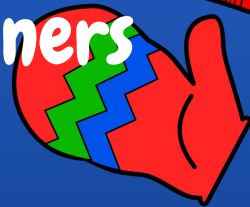
- 6th grade bands-6:00pm, 7th & 8th grade bands - 7:00pm

DECA COAT DRIVE



Please donate any of your new or used winter coats, hats, and mittens to help out the surrounding community this Holiday season!

Place your apparel in the labeled containers located near the DOOR A.



OCTOBER 5TH-23RD

BRAIN GAME LUNCH

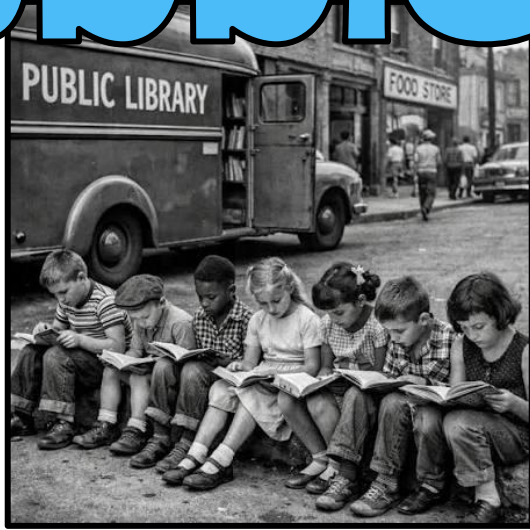


IS UP AND RUNNING!

Scheduled almost weekly during lunchtime, it is a time for students to get together with friends, play some fun games at lunch, and work out their brains at the same time. Encourage your student to give it a try. Games are a great way to work on those critical thinking skills! Mrs. Stein even teaches students how to play new games if they find something new and intriguing. How does it work? Your student gets a pass from outside the Attendance Window, shows their pass to the Lunch Monitor, goes through the lunch line first (or brings their sack lunch), and heads down to Mrs. Stein's room, Room 1126. Then they play games and eat!

What do you get when you cross lunch with a good book? You get...

Gobbledy-Book



Returning for its second year, and occurring most weeks, your bookworm can eat lunch and read that awesome book they don't want to put down. Have your reader listen to the announcements or watch the digital signage in the lunchroom to see when the next Gobbledy-Book is.

If they hit a really exciting part, Mrs. Stein promises to remind them to chew and swallow.



This fall (and again this spring), Holmen Middle School is once again participating in the Noetic Learning Math Contest. Last year, 65,000 students from across the United States participated in the contest.

A team of students from each grade will participate in the competition in November. Contestants are given 45 minutes to solve 20 challenging math problems with paper and pencil. The top 10% of all students nationwide at each grade level receive "National Honor Roll" medals. The top 50% of students at each grade level are recognized on Noetic Learning's web site. Additionally, the high scorer of each team at Holmen Middle School receives a "Team Winner" medal.

At Holmen Middle School, the entire competition takes place **during the school day**. As we approach the competition, your child's math teacher will announce the contest and have students sign up. Once we know how many students are competing, we will schedule the contest date, which will be before Thanksgiving Break. For students who are interested, there will also be practices one a week during lunch, beginning in early October. Your student does NOT have to attend lunch practices in order to compete.

Have your child listen to the announcements and watch the digital signage in the cafeteria for more information as we get closer to the competition. Please feel free to contact me or visit the website <http://www.noetic-learning.com/mathcontest> for additional information.

Susan Stein
HMS TAG Teacher



FREE-BUILD FRIDAYS



DO YOU HAVE A LEGO FANATIC AT HOME? TELL THEM TO KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR FREE-BUILD FRIDAYS. DURING LUNCH ON FREE-BUILD FRIDAYS, STUDENTS JOIN MRS. STEIN AND BUILD WITH CLASSIC LEGOS TO THEIR HEARTS' CONTENT.

**FREE-BUILD FRIDAYS WILL HAPPEN SEVERAL TIMES A MONTH!
HAVE YOUR LEGO FANATIC LISTEN TO THE MORNING ANNOUNCEMENTS OR
WATCH THE DIGITAL SIGNAGE IN THE CAFETERIA TO LEARN WHEN AND WHERE
THE NEXT FREE-BUILD FRIDAY WILL BE.**

STUDENT SERVICES

~GREETINGS~

Grade level school counselors have already been busy in the classroom with your students. Each fall we start off with an introduction lesson to review our role as school counselors and other important information to start the year strong. One of the essential things we cover with all three grade levels is creating a shared understanding of what we call a “crisis” or “emergency” in the area of student safety and how to access help depending on the timing, either during the school day or outside of school hours. We want to share this information with you as well, so we are all able to work together in partnership to support our young people and their navigation of an increasingly complex world.

Help during a crisis: A crisis situation is when an individual is experiencing harm or the threat of harm from someone else, learns about harm or potential harm to someone else, or if they are feeling at risk for self-harm. We teach students that in a crisis situation, we want them to talk with somebody right away who can help. We want young people to have an actual verbal conversation with a trusted adult who can support them or access additional support, rather than relying on electronic communication.

Students: During the School Day	Students: Outside of School Hours	Additional Community Resources for Families
• Let a staff member know right away that you need to talk to someone about a situation that is or may be an Emergency or Crisis situation • DO NOT EMAIL Our staff will then reach out to Student Services staff right away to meet with the student to gather more information. If the student's grade level counselor or other Student Services staff are unavailable, our administrative team will be contacted to support.	• Talk to a trusted adult. • With the trusted adult or if a trusted adult is not available, use community resources for assistance ◦ 911, 988, or 211 (info below) • PLEASE do not just email, post online, or wait until the next day to get help for yourself or someone else.	• La Crosse County Mobile Crisis: 608-784-HELP (4357) • National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-SAFE (7233) • NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) La Crosse/ Vernon County: Text “NAMI” to 741741 for 24/7 confidential, free crisis counseling • The Trevor Project: 24/7/365 support for LGBTQIA+

CONTINUED...

HMS Student Services Team

Ms. Jen Dienger, School Counselor (Class of 2031)
Ms. Erica Kohlmeyer, School Counselor (Class of 2032)
Mrs. Heather Retzlaff, School Counselor (Class of 2033)
Ms. Bobbi Jo Loomis, School Psychologist
Ms. Tiffani LaJeunesse, School Social Worker



SCHOOL LUNCH TAKES CENTER STAGE



THE SHOW IS ABOUT TO BEGIN!

Get ready for a delicious
week of fun, flavor and
healthy school lunches!

NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH WEEK ★ OCT 12TH - 16TH 2026

National School LUNCH WEEK

School District of Holmen

**WE ARE
HIRING**



**WE ARE
HIRING**

Now is the perfect time to join our team!

Our substitutes enjoy a flexible schedule –

only working when you're available rather than every day.

Sub Bus Driver \$22.00

Sub Van Driver \$17.30

Sub Custodian \$16.80

Sub Nutrition Cook \$15.50

Stop by the District Office for assistance with populating
the application, or apply via WECAN today!

Visit www.holmen.k12.wi.us and click the **EMPLOYMENT** tab to get started.

SDH is an EOE Employer

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Substitute Custodians



Do meaningful work and
be a key part in
something **BIG!**

JOIN THE HOLMEN TEAM

TODAY

For more information and
where to apply, visit:

www.holmen.k12.wi.us/employment

Questions?

Call (608) 526-6610

Substitute Nutrition Cooks



Substitute Bus Drivers



Holmen Middle School

Visit us at our [website](#)

Check us out on [Facebook](#)

Looking for things to do?

Checkout the [Virtual Backpack](#) where community events are listed.

[Holmen BGC](#) offers after school activities for Middle School students!

[Holmen Parks and Recreation](#) offers many thing for kids, adults and families to do.

Information

Phone Number
608-526-3391

School Hours
7:35am - 2:40pm

Early Release - dismissed at 12:40
October 29th, 2026
March 25th, 2027
May 28th, 2027

Principal:
Benjamin Tashner - tasben@holmen.k12.wi.us

Associate Principals:
Luke Sauerman - sauluk@holmen.k12.wi.us
Brady Turner - turbra@holmen.k12.wi.us