



# Tomah Middle School



## March 2023 Newsletter

Dear Parents/Guardians:

As we near the middle of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, we are eager to use the time we have left to help your child make a difference in their learning. 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 20<sup>th</sup> through April 28<sup>th</sup>. 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 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will focus in the areas of Math, Literacy, Science and Social Studies. For 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> 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 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 student. 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 hear often from parents as they comment on how we work with middle school students every day. I have worked in the 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.

The month of March also brings multiple competitions. Our Quiz Bowl team will be competing against area schools and our TASD Spelling Bee will be held with the district competition later in the month. We have some incredible students achieving amazing accomplishments. Thank you to our students and staff who have made the commitment to the many opportunities here at TMS. Great work everyone!

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. **We are in the process of planning our Fall Rally. Please stay tuned for that important date.**

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

# NEWS FROM THE TEAMS

## **Northstars (Team 6-1) Mrs. Harkner**

Our Eagle Bluff trip scheduled for April 3<sup>rd</sup> thru April 5<sup>th</sup> is right around the corner. Look for a parent letter coming home soon with phone numbers and camp information. Some of the information coming home will need to be returned to school ASAP. This is a great trip for our students.

March 24<sup>th</sup> is the end of the third quarter. Students are becoming proficient at checking their grades at school and addressing any zeros. If your child has a zero for an assignment, we can help. They just need to reach out to us. Students have been doing very well with coming to class prepared, having their Chromebook charged, having a pencil, assignment notebook, and materials for class.

## **Sky-High Learners (Team 6-2) Mrs. Rabe**

As we continue through the third quarter, we hope that spring also arrives soon. You can expect that your child will be studying these topics in classes:

- Math—Finishing up with decimals/ratios and their connection to fractions
- Social Studies— World War 1, 1920's and the Great Depression
- Language Arts—Non-fiction reading and writing
- Science—Earth's history and Plate Tectonics

### **Just a few reminders about our Eagle Bluff trip:**

- Trip dates: April 3-5, 2023
- Behavior contracts due March 15
- Medical release forms due online March 15
- Payment of \$130.00 due by March 24

## **Leading the Pack! (Team 7-1) Mr. Rushlow**

**Social Studies:** We are beginning our civics and economics unit. We will be learning about what it means to be an American

**Math:** Students are starting unit 4 which is all about expressions, equations, and inequalities. This unit is the start of Algebra topics.

**Science:** We will be exploring our science and engineering practices by introducing Lego Mindstorms.

Students will be creating their own Lego Mindstorms and testing them out in a various number of obstacles.

**ELA:** We have been reading about different topics in preparation for our argumentative unit and will begin collecting evidence and will learn how to write an argument essay.

## **The 72'ers (Team 7-2) Mr. Ewers**

**Social Studies:** Students will be exploring citizenship and the qualities that make a good US citizen. After the short citizenship unit, we will be comparing our culture in the United States and Wisconsin to that of the Asian country they researched. We will compare and contrast the cultures and find areas where cultural blending would be easy and difficult. After completing our culture activity, we will lead into the different types of economies in the world today and begin analyzing the GDP of different nations.

**Math 7:** Students have been developing and mastering adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing rational numbers (fractions and decimals). They apply these skills to solve problems that are leading to linear equations. Students will learn how to algebraically manipulate expressions, equations, and inequalities. On March 14<sup>th</sup>, math students will celebrate “Pi Day,” and refresh their skills involving the circumference and area of circles. They will also participate in Pi Bee, a competition to memorize the most digits of pi. The overall winner will earn the privilege of “pie-ing” Mrs. Hove ☺

**Math 8:** Students have been applying their skills of working with multi-step equations to solve systems of equations. Students can determine if a system of equations has one solution, infinitely many solutions, or no solution. This work is leading students to dive into functions. On March 14<sup>th</sup>, math students will celebrate

“Pi Day,” and refresh their skills involving the circumference and area of circles. They will also participate in Pi Bee, a competition to memorize the most digits of pi. The overall winner will earn the privilege of “pie-ing” Mrs. Hove 😊

**Science:** Students will be learning about programming Lego mind storm robots and flying drones around the room. Additionally, we will be incorporating 3-D printing along with the robots to solve problems while applying the scientific method.

**ELA:** Students will continue and complete writing an argumentative essay providing a claim with quality evidence and reasoning. The students will share and celebrate their writing with their peers and continue to expand their abilities to also provide quality feedback with one another.

**As always, if you have any questions/concerns regarding your child’s progress, please schedule an appointment to talk or meet with us. We meet daily from 10:10 – 10:42am. For appointments, please contact Mr. Ewers at 374-7938.**

### **The Rockin’Roosters (Team 8-1) Mrs. Hruska & The Survivors (Team 8-2) Mr. Rick**

As we approach the end of 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, please check your child's grades to be sure they have turned in all assignments and retaken any quizzes that can be taken. In April we will begin Forward testing, our yearly state tests, which will last four weeks. 8th grade students are tested in all four core academic areas: math, language arts, social studies, and science. Students need to bring their headphones to class for the tests. Please be sure your students get at least 8 hours of sleep, eat a healthy breakfast, and get their homework done. We have noticed many students coming to school tired and unable to focus. Quite a few of our students have said they are staying up past midnight playing video games. Students need at least 8-9 hours of sleep every night, and research shows that looking at screens right before bed makes it harder for them to sleep.

**ELA:** Dystopian book clubs and moving into poetry and test prep

**Math:** Analyzing and comparing writing equations for functions

**Social Studies:** World Wars I and II and Russian geography

**Science:** Finishing up solutions and mixtures

# **Counselors’ Corner**

## **March 2023**

### **Social Emotional Learning (SEL)**

SEL continues to be taught to students through Second Step lessons. The lessons on thoughts, emotions, and decisions have been wrapping up. During this time, students have been taught the following:

- to recognize when they are feeling strong emotions and unhelpful thoughts
- recognize that all emotions are okay and valuable
- learn and apply strategies for emotion management and better decision making.

Parents: Continue to ask your students what they are learning and share strategies that you use for emotion management and better decision making.

Moving forward, the upcoming Second Steps lessons will be focusing on managing relationships and social conflict.

# MARCH 2023 EVENTS

## Middle School Month

Wednesday, March 1

Beginning Jazz Band Rehearsal 7:00-7:35 a.m.  
Show Choir Rehearsal – THS 3:30-5:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 2

Advanced Jazz Band Trumpet Sectional Rehearsal 7:00-7:35 a.m.  
Quiz Bowl Competition @Mauston High School 8:45 a.m.  
Science Club 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Friday, March 3

Show Choir Concerts – THS 7:00 p.m.

Monday, March 6

Chess & Gaming – Non-Chess 3:30-4:30 p.m.  
Chess Club 3:30-5:30 p.m.  
FFA Meeting – THS 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 7

Advanced Full Jazz Band Rehearsal 7:00-7:35 a.m.  
**Parent-Teacher Conferences 4:15-8:15 p.m.**

Wednesday, March 8

Beginning Jazz Band Rehearsal 7:00-7:35 a.m.  
District Spelling Bee – THS Auditorium 9:00 a.m.

Thursday, March 9

Science Club 3:30-4:30 p.m.  
Band-O-Rama Concert – THS Large Gym 6:30 p.m.

Friday, March 10

8<sup>th</sup> grade WEB Leaders meet in LMC during TWT

Sunday, March 12

**Daylight Savings Time Begins**



Monday, March 13

Art Club 3:30-4:30 p.m.  
Chess & Gaming Club 3:30-5:30 p.m.  
7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade Softball Player/Parent Meeting – THS 5:30 p.m.  
6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade Boys' Tennis Player/Parent Meeting – THS 5:30 p.m.  
6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade Girls' & Boys' Track & field Player/Parent Meeting 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 14

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

Wednesday, March 15

Beginning Jazz Band Rehearsal 7:00-7:35 a.m.  
8<sup>th</sup> grade WEB Leaders meet with 6<sup>th</sup> grade groups during TWT  
Art Club 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 16

Advanced Jazz Low Brass Sectional Rehearsal 7:00-7:35 a.m.  
Science Club 3:30-4:30 p.m.  
Student Council Meeting 3:30-4:30 p.m.



Friday, March 17

Spassabend (German Concert) @THS 7:00 p.m.



Monday, March 20

Chess & Gaming Club - Non-Chess 3:30-4:30 p.m.  
Chess Club 3:30-5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 21

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

Wednesday, March 22

Beginning Jazz Band Rehearsal 7:00-7:35 a.m.

Thursday, March 23

Advanced Jazz Saxophone Sectional Rehearsal 7:00-7:35 a.m.  
Science Club 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Friday, March 24

**End of 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter** - End of 4 ½ week classes  
Team 7-1 – Viterbo University

Monday, March 27

## No School – Grading/Collaboration Day

Tuesday, March 28

Advanced Jazz Full Band Rehearsal 7:00-7:35 a.m.  
Begin 4 ½ week classes  
8<sup>th</sup> grade Softball Practice Begins – Schroeder Field 3:30 p.m.  
7<sup>th</sup> grade Softball Practice Begins – Winnebago Park 3:30 p.m.  
Boys' Track & Field Practice Begins – Mc Kean Field 3:30 p.m.  
Girls' Track & Field Practice Begins – Mc Kean Field 3:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 29

Beginning Jazz Band Rehearsal 7:00-7:35 a.m.  
Art Club 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 30

Advanced Jazz Band Trumpet Sectional Rehearsal 7:00-7:35 a.m.  
Science Club 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Friday, March 31

The Tomah Middle School Art Exhibition will be on display, Wednesday, March 1st, through Saturday, March 18th. ***There will be an opening reception on Friday, March 3rd from 4-7pm.*** Everyone is welcome to attend.

The Pump House is located at 119 King Street in La Crosse. The Pump House hours of operation are *Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday 9-5pm, Tuesday 9-7pm, Saturday 12-4pm and closed on Sundays.*

Our Band-O-Rama Concert will be held on Thursday, March 9<sup>th</sup> in the Tomah High School large gym at 6:30 p.m. This will feature 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade bands as well as the high school concert band, high school wind ensemble and a band comprised of all the band students from both the middle school and the high school.