



Tomah Middle School



October 2023 Newsletter

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The 2023-2024 school year has taken off! Our teachers spent the first week of school getting to know their new students, setting expectations, and creating a positive classroom environment. September went by quickly with the starting and finishing of our fundraiser, practicing of important safety drills, and testing iReady ELA and Math. You may notice a lower number of grades in the grade book at this time due to these activities.

The month of October brings the first mid-term grading date as well as Parent-Teacher Conferences. For those of you who are new to Tomah Middle School, we do not mail home progress reports. You can always find access to your child's progress report through Infinite Campus. If you do not have access to Infinite Campus, please contact the district office at 608-374-1700. If you would like a progress report, please contact our counseling office at 608-374-7882, and they will be happy to assist.

Fall conferences can sometimes be overlooked due to busy schedules, but it is a crucial time for parents/guardians and students to be present. The first conference creates a strong partnership between home and school for our students. This is an opportunity for you to get a better understanding of your child's social and academic progress. We strongly encourage you to bring your child with you to these conferences.

Each year, we select a collective focus for our building. Our building goal for this year centers on increasing student achievement in the areas of literacy and math. Our educators have also chosen specific goals to work on within their curriculum this year as well.

We continue to make school safety a priority at TMS. The month of October is National Bullying Prevention Month. We will spend time this month discussing what bullying is and is not, ways to report bullying at school, and how to build positive friendships. To help us communicate the importance of being kind and standing up for each other, Terrence Talley will be in our district on Monday, October 16th talking with students about being kind to others, finding hope, and being resilient when facing adversity. Mr. Talley has been in our district before and his impact on TMS culture was felt for years to come. If you would like to learn more about Mr. Talley's program, you can visit his website at www.terrencetalley.com. It is important to Mrs. Amy King, Mr. Sasada and me that we are a united front in the fight against bullying at TMS. It is very common and understandable for students to tell parents first if an incident has occurred. If you hear something from your student, please contact one of their teachers or one of the offices. Students were also introduced to a new online system website widoj.gov for reporting anonymous concerns.

We are also excited for our early celebration of Red Ribbon Week as we work with the 88th Readiness Division from Ft. McCoy on Thursday, October 19th, to learn about the dangerous effects of drugs. You can find more information about Red Ribbon Week at www.redribbon.org.

We hope your child has mentioned Schoology to you. If not, we encourage you to speak with them about it. They can log into Schoology from home allowing them (and you) to see all their assignments, learning targets for each class, as well as a wealth of other resources.

We had a wonderful first month here at TMS, and we look forward to a great year. Thank you for all the support you have provided your student this past month. We hope the beginning of the school year has been a great experience for your family. 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 help.

Sincerely,

Amy Langner - Principal 608-374-7883

Amy King – Assistant Principal 608-374-7884

Jared Sasada – Dean of Students 608-374-7927

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Tuesday, October 17th	Thursday, October 19th	
Team6-1	OPEN HOUSE Math/ELA Together Science/Social Studies Together	Scheduled meetings with families. Teachers will reach out to families they would like to meet with.
Team 6-2	OPEN HOUSE Math/ELA Together Science/Social Studies Together	Scheduled meetings with families. Teachers will reach out to families they would like to meet with.
Team 7-1	OPEN HOUSE Team Together	OPEN HOUSE Team Together
Team 7-2	OPEN HOUSE Math/Science Together ELA/Social Studies Together	OPEN HOUSE Math/Science Together ELA/Social Studies Together
8th Grade	OPEN HOUSE Individual Classrooms	OPEN HOUSE Individual Classrooms
COMPASS	Scheduled Meetings	OPEN HOUSE
PACK	OPEN HOUSE In the Counseling Office	OPEN HOUSE

Come check out our book fair in the LMC on both October 17th and 19th

TMS Reminders:

- **Door Dash items:** We have had a couple of door dash deliveries. We are not able to accommodate these deliveries in a timely manner due to different lunches periods and the availability of staff to deliver. Please do not have door dash deliver to the middle school.
- **Chromebook Information:** We are having difficulty with students coming to school without a charged Chromebook. Student Chromebooks are used for assignments and include many subjects' textbooks, so it is imperative that the Chromebooks are charged. Unfortunately, we do not have the outlets needed to charge every Chromebook. Some classrooms only have one available outlet. We no longer assign homework; however, if you child has missing work it may be due to this problem. We are asking for your help to please create a plan at home to ensure that your student can be ready for school every day. Thank you.
- **Beverage Reminder:** Students can only drink water in the hallways and classroom. If your child comes to school with anything other than water, they will be told to go to the cafeteria to finish the drink. If it is close to 7:55 am, they may need to pour it out. We have had issues with stained carpets and insects in the past and thankfully, with this practice, we have seen a major decline in both. Also, thank you for ensuring students are not bringing highly caffeinated beverages to school. We have noticed a difference!

WAKE UP CALL

LEARN TO SPOT THE SIGNS OF ALCOHOL AND DRUG USE



Teen bedrooms can hide signs of drug & alcohol use. Learn common drug trends and what to look for.

The rise in the use of vaping devices and other substances among youth is a growing concern. Are you familiar with carts? Dabs? Box mods? If you have young people in your life, you should be.

The Wake Up Call presentation, provides practical information on current drug trends, a walk-through of a teens' bedroom with red flags that could indicate substance abuse as well as proactive parenting strategies to keep your child substance free.

This presentation is a MUST SEE for parents, grandparents, teachers, community members and other adults who are influential in the lives of youth.

DATE: October 17th at Tomah Middle School from 4:15 to 8 pm and

October 19th from 3:45 to 7:30 pm at Tomah High School

Brought to you by the Monroe County Health Department, TASD, and the Monroe County Safe Community Coalition

As you drop off and/or pick up your student, **please be vigilant of our buses and school vans. Safety is our top priority, and we appreciate your patience during these busy times of the day.**

Attendance Procedures

State law limits the number of days a student can be absent from school. Please be sure to contact school staff when your child will not be attending:

Phone: 608-374-7881 (Any time of day you can leave a message.)

Vacations: Pre-excused absences need to be set up in advance

Appointments: Medical notes are requested from providers.

Counselors' Corner

We have a new face in the counseling office - Mrs. Brienna Broughton is our new school counselor. We are not splitting students up alphabetically, nor by grades. Students are welcome to visit with either of the counselors. If you would like to contact either of us, please sign up on the Counselors' Corner on Schoology, visit us at school, or have your student's teacher or guardian reach out to either of us in the counseling office.

Mrs. King and Mrs. Broughton are both teaching 6th grade Counseling Connections classes. It's a unique opportunity to get to know each of our 6th graders and to help build a strong school community where everyone feels they belong.

Students are starting Second Step lessons during their Wednesdays Tito Time.

We want your middle schooler to be successful in school, and that means supporting and encouraging their whole development. While excelling in academic classes is important, students also need skills for learning challenges, making good decisions, handling strong emotions, and getting along with others. This month, we began Second Step® Middle School, a research-based social-emotional learning program designed to improve students' social-emotional skills, such as emotion management, impulse control, problem solving, and empathy.

September was Suicide Prevention month, and we focused on promoting the importance of mental health and reaching out for help when we are struggling.

If your student is struggling with thoughts of self-harm remember to ACT:

A- **Acknowledge** the problem

C- Let the person know you **care**

T- **Tell** a responsible adult (like your counselors, teachers, or trusted adult at home)

In 2021, 17.2% of students ages 15 and younger seriously considered death by suicide. We hope to continue creating awareness, for all students and families, about the resources available to help when our struggles seem hopeless. We continue to focus on “**creating hope for our community by taking positive action**”. We handed out blue/purple suicide prevention ribbons to all students as a reminder that they are not alone, and there is help available when needed.

We were in the 7th grade classes in September with our ACP lessons and with our 8th grade classes in October working on Academic and Career Planning.

Mrs. King: lisaking@tomah.education 608-374-7887

Mrs. Broughton: briennabroughton@tomah.education 608-347-7943

OCTOBER 2023 EVENTS

Note: Please verify dates and times for sporting events on the web site as they are subject to change.

Monday, October 16

Terrance Tally Presentation in THS Auditorium 1:45-2:45 p.m.

RtI: Behavior - Room 315 - 3:30 p.m.

Golf Conference Meet @Drugan's Golf 9:00 a.m. – Leave @7:30 a.m.

7th grade Football @Holmen Middle School 4:30 p.m.

Dismissal 2:50 p.m.

Tuesday, October 17

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

Girls' Tennis Conference Meet – Green Island Tennis Courts

10:00 a.m. – Dismissal 8:25 a.m.

7th & 8th grade Band Performance – report to band room 1:30 p.m.

Performance on football field at 2:30 p.m. – return 3:00 p.m.

Parent-Teacher Conferences 4:15-8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, October 18

Unity Day – Please consider wearing **orange**

Picture Retake Day

RtI: Academic - Room 315 3:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 19

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

8th grade WEB Leaders meet w/6th grade groups during Flex time

Red Ribbon Presentation – Rebecca Janiszewski

6th grade: 8:32-9:32 a.m.; 7th grade: 9:34-10:34 a.m.; 8th grade: 10:40-11:40 a.m.

Cross Country Conference Meet @Maple Grove 4:00 p.m.

Dismissal 2:15 p.m.

8th grade Football vs. Aquinas – THS 4:30 p.m.

Parent-Teacher Conferences 4:15-8:00 p.m.

Friday, October 20

Top 6 (2 each grade level) essay winners present at Ft. McCoy

Red Ribbon Week

Awareness of substance use, help youth and adults alike live healthy drug-free lifestyles.

Monday, October 23

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

7th grade Football vs. West Salem – THS 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, October 24

Crazy Hair and Crocks & Socks Day

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

Wednesday, October 25

Wear favorite sports team apparel

Team 7-1 McMullen Park

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

Thursday, October 26

No School – Professional Development Day

Friday, October 27

No School – Professional Development Day

Saturday, October 28

Show Choir Kids Clinic 7:45 a.m. – Concert 3:00-4:00 p.m.

Sunday, October 29

Show Choir Fall Spectacular – Show Choirs

Tuesday, October 31

HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

