

PARENT NEWSLETTER

North Middle School

Dec. 2016 - Jan. 2017

PNMS ROBOTICS

The NMS Robotics Club sent four teams to compete in a tournament recently against 25 other middle school and high school teams. All the teams fought hard!

Congratulations to Abigail Placido, Myron Bell, Aiden Bartoletti, and Amar Miller who finished in 11th place overall with 3 wins and 2 losses during the preliminary rounds. While Viktors Kalnins, Avery Griffioen, Emmanuel Okolo, and Anna Tai finished in 12th place overall with 2 wins and 3 losses during the preliminary rounds. Both teams were given a chance to form a playoff alliance, which gave all 4 teams a chance to compete in the playoffs. Check out some of the pictures below.

They will be competing again at the Holiday VEX Tournament in Grandville Saturday, December 3.



Administration

Mr. Travis Thomsen, Ed.M., Principal

Mr. Craig Medd, Ed.M., Assistant Principal

Guidance Department

Mrs. Jessie Bierlein, LPC, Counselor

Mrs. Alysia Lehmann, NCC, Counselor

5808 Oregon ~ 269-323-5700 ~ nms.portageps.org

NMS News

EIGHTH GRADE PARENT INFORMATION

Eighth Grade Parents Night is scheduled for Tuesday, January 31, 2017 at 6:30 p.m., at Portage Northern High School. The program will begin in the high school Auditorium with a brief general session, followed by your choice of several group meetings with departmental representatives including a special presentation for current out-of-district 8th graders. The program will conclude at approximately 8:45 p.m. Students are invited and encouraged to accompany their parents to this meeting. If you have any questions about this meeting, please contact Brenda Marsh at bmarsh@portageps.org.

There will be an **International Baccalaureate** informational session on Tuesday, January 17 at 7:00 p.m. in the PNHS Auditorium. Any student that is considering participating in the International Baccalaureate Program during their junior and/or senior year are encouraged to attend. Rick Searing, Northern's IB Coordinator, will be presenting information and answering questions about the program during this session. If you have questions about this session, you can email him at rsearing@portageps.org.

MOOSE-A PEER TO PEER SUPPORT PROGRAM

The Moose Program at North Middle School is a program that involves pairing general education students with students that have special needs. The students interact through a variety of settings within school and in the community. Student mentors will learn valuable leadership skills while making a positive difference in the lives of students with special needs. Many students have already signed up to be mentors. There will be a meeting after school in a few weeks to get this program started.

NMS HOLIDAY GIVING TREE

NMS parents are invited to participate with our Holiday Giving Tree. NMS Families in need have been selected to receive gifts this Holiday season. The Giving Tree (with needs and wants) is located in the front office. If you are able and willing to give to some of our families in need, please select an item (s), take the tag(s) that you are willing to purchase and return the unwrapped gifts to the NMS Main Office by Monday, December 19. If you have questions, contact Jessie Bierlein (323-5775) or Alysia Lehmann (323-5738). Thank you so much for your support.

SKI CLUB/BITTERSWEET PASSES

Passes to Bittersweet (\$16) can still be purchased. Ski club will run for 6 weeks on Thursdays, starting on January 12. The cost for bus transportation is \$50. Contact Renee Smith with any questions at rsmith3@portageps.org.

NMS News Cont.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP NEWS

Student Leadership would like to congratulate the following 6th grade students for being chosen to serve as student leaders for the remainder of the year.

Ashika Gullapalli

Addison Bobbio

Mike Patton

Abby Pelak

Logan Post

Tim Peterson

James Bruce

Olivia Kakebeeke

Dustin Briggs

Thanks to all that tried out!

Starting Monday, December 5, Student Leaders and the Portage Community Outreach Center will be collecting canned or boxed food goods to be distributed throughout the community to those in need. There will be a prize for the winning grade.

Student Leadership will also be helping the Portage Community Outreach by collecting gifts. We encourage all students and staff members to donate a new, unopened gift to those throughout our community that are in need. Deadline for all collections will be December 21. All gifts collected will be displayed in the front display case.

YEARBOOK ORDERS

You might have missed the deadline to get your yearbook for \$25, but you did not miss the deadline to purchase a NMS 2016-2017 yearbook. The cost of the yearbook is now \$30. Forms are available in the front office or you can buy one at yearbookforever.com.

NHS ATHLETICS

Wrestling and Girls Basketball will begin on January 9. All participants must have a current physical on file prior to any practice or tryout. Please see the NMS Athletic home page for pay to participate information and the Physical form at www.portageps.org/schools/middle/nms/athletics

Athletic Coordinator:

Matt McCarthy (mmccarthy@portageps.org)

Makerspace at NMS

A makerspace is a physical location where people gather to share resources and knowledge, work on projects, network, and build. Our physical location is the media center and our media specialists, Amy Cote, along with the help of Julie Taylor have made this a very popular after school event at NMS. You can check out some of the pictures below from the Makerspace event that was held in October. The next Makerspace is scheduled for December 15 in the media center from 3:00-4:44 p.m. There is the option of riding a bus home at 4:30 p.m. if needed. Contact Amy Cote, acote@portageps.org, for more information.



Makerspaces allow students to take control of their own learning.

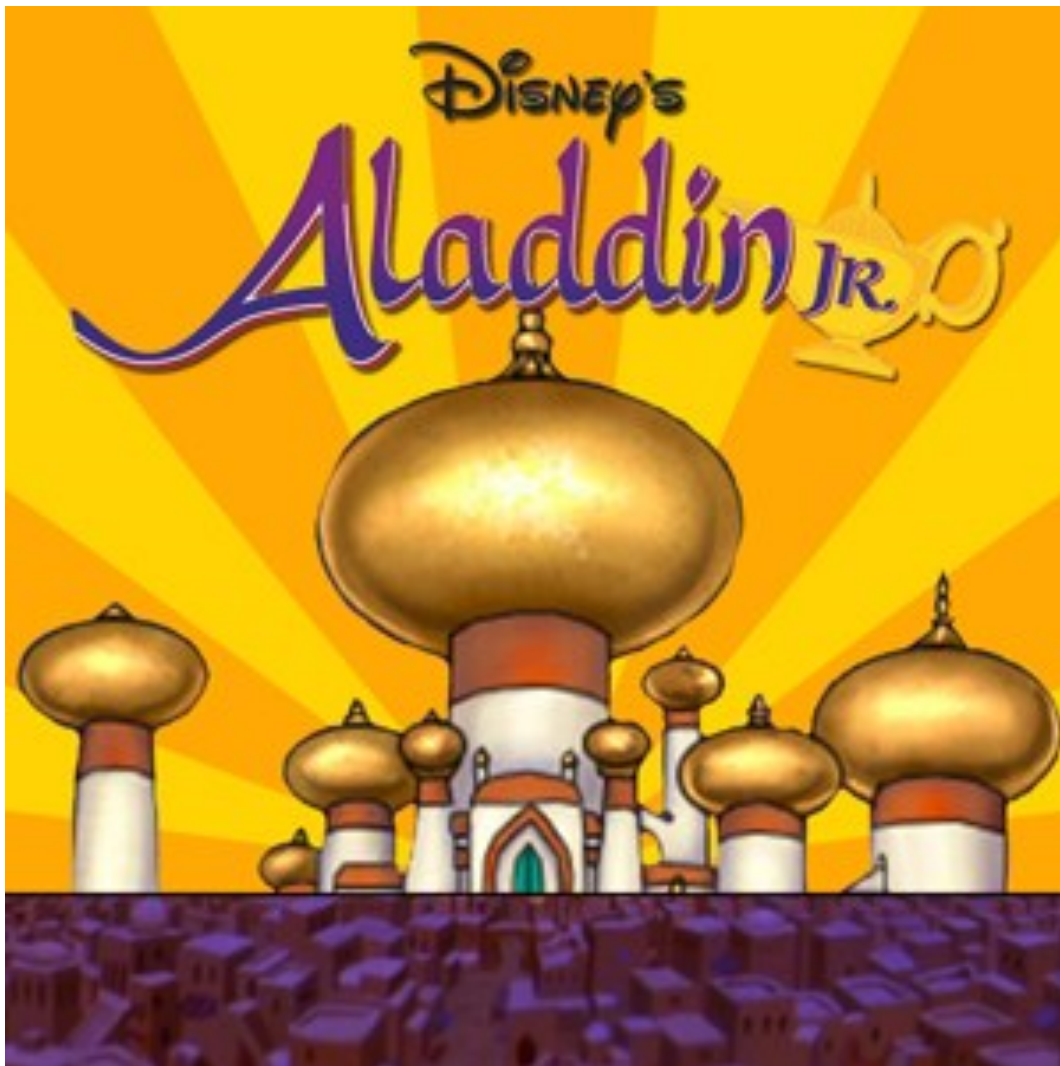


Makerspace are zones of self-directed learning.



Musical Information

Portage North Middle School Presents



**Performances:
MARCH 17-26, 2017**

Auditions will be Dec. 6, 9, and 12 from 3:15-5:15 pm. You will need to be present at all three audition dates. Please see Mr. Jordan or contact him at

rjordan@portgeps.org, if you have questions.

Remember Mr. Jordan is only at NMS in the afternoons.

Rjordan.site.portageps.org

December 2016

North Middle School
 5808 Oregon Ave.
 Portage, MI 49024
 269.323.5700 fax:269.323.5790



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

		<i>B-ball v. Hillside 7th-Home 8th-Away</i>		<i>1 B-ball v. Linden Grove 7th-Away 8th-Home</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6 B-ball v. Milwood 7th-Home 8th-Away</i>	<i>7 Band Concert, 7 pm @ NHS</i>	<i>8 B-ball v. P West 7th-Away 8th-Home Choir Concert, 7 pm @ NHS</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>13 B-ball v. BC Lakeview 7th-Home 8th-Away</i>	<i>14 Orchestra Concert, 7 pm</i>	<i>15 B-ball v. Vicks- burg 7th-Away 8th-Home</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>18</i>	<i>19 Holiday Collage Concert at NHS 7pm-10pm</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>21 Holiday Collage Concert at NHS 7pm-10pm</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>23 No School</i>	<i>24</i>
<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i>
Holiday Break - NO SCHOOL						



January 2017

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
WINTER RECESS						
8	9	10	11	12	13 PTO Mtg, 8 am	14
15	16	17 Girls B-ball vs Otsego 7th Away 8th HOME	18	19 Makerspace Girls B-ball vs Mattawan 7th HOME 8th Away	20	21 Wrestling Tourn @ NHS, 9 am Portage B-Ball Classic
22	23 Wrestling @ West	24 Girls B-ball vs Vicksburg 7th Away 8th HOME	25 Girls B-ball vs P Central 7th HOME 8th Away	26 <i>½ Day of School</i>	27 <i>End of Quarter</i> <i>No School, Records Day</i>	28 Wrestling Tourn @ NHS, 9 am
29	30 Wrestling @ North Middle	31 8th Grade Parent Night @ NHS, 7 pm Girls B-ball vs Gull Lake 7th HOME 8th Away	Feb. 1 5th Grade Parent Mtg @ NMS, 6 pm Wrestling @ West	2 Girls B-ball vs Maple St 7th Away 8th HOME	3	4