

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2012

NORDONIA MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

A LEGACY OF ACHIEVEMENT,
A COMMITMENT TO THE FUTURE.

Dear Nordonia Middle School Parents,

Dear Parents,

It is hard to believe that the first semester of the school year has concluded. I hope your child is having a wonderful experience at Nordonia Middle School. Please remember that if you would like to meet with one of your child's teachers or the entire team, our teachers are always available during their Team planning time. Simply contact the Team leader of your child's team, and he or she will set up the appointment. Please take advantage of this opportunity to communicate with your child's teachers. We always look forward to meeting with parents to help their child be successful.

Below are some tips that I hope you find helpful in motivating your child to strive for excellence.

Offer praise Never underestimate the power of a "Good job!" Children crave approval-even sometimes aloof middle graders. A positive response, such as a hug or a smile, can be a great incentive. Whether it's for washing a sink full of dishes or passing a math quiz, a word of encouragement will show your middle grader that you notice his hard work. His self-confidence will soar, and he will want to keep trying. **Can-do tip:** Leave a thank-you note on your child's pillow when he cleans his room without being asked. Let him overhear you bragging to a friend about a good report card.

Create Excitement When your middle grader needs help getting motivated for a task, find a way to make it enjoyable. For example, if you make reviewing for a test entertaining, you're not only helping her study, you're teaching her that learning doesn't have to be boring. **Can-do tip:** Next time your youngster is studying for a test, offer to quiz her outside. Tell her that for every question she answers correctly, she gets to attempt a foul shot, throw a pass, or do a handstand.

Show interest Let your middle grader know that what he's involved in is important to you. When you express curiosity about a new computer game he's playing with his friends or you regularly attend parent-teacher conferences, your middle grader will see that you are interested. **Can-do tip:** Ask your child questions

Nordonia Middle School

73 Leonard Avenue
Northfield, OH 44067

Office: 330-467-0584

Attendance Line: 330-908-6160

Fax: 330-468-6719

Website: www.nordoniaschools.org

Athletic Department: 330-908-6614

Athletic Website:
www.nordoniainiddleschoolathletics.com

http://twitter.com/NMS_Principal

David Wessel, Principal

Shon Smith, Associate Principal

Eileen West, 8th Grade Counselor

Tonya Huml, 7th Grade Counselor

about his day. Examples: "How was the field trip?" "What was the score of the game?" Attend extracurricular and school functions, like music recitals and parent nights, whenever possible.

Give rewards Simple rewards, such as extra privileges, can be powerful motivators. But rewards should be used sparingly. Bargaining too much can limit your child's natural motivation by putting the focus on getting something. **Can-do tip:** Consider letting your middle grader select a special movie or giving her extra phone privileges when she completes her homework on time or finishes all her chores without complaining.

Use consequences Experts agree that punishing kids for not doing what they're supposed to do doesn't always produce improved results. However, linking consequences to performance can provide a reason for your child to get the job done while giving him a greater sense of control over his life. **Can-do tip:** Try to connect what your middle grader needs to do with an outcome. Example: "You can go over to your friend's house after you work in the yard for a half hour." This way, it will be an action on his part, rather than you, that lets him do something he wants.

Provide choices Children, like adults, are motivated by their own interests. Allowing your middle grader to make decisions will give him a sense of control and encourage him to tackle the job at hand. **Can-do tip:** Give your child plenty of opportunities to have a say in day-to-day decisions. For example, ask him where he wants to go for a weekend trip or which movie he'd like to rent for the family to watch. Let him choose whether to spend his allowance on a new CD or the next book in his favorite series.

Accept mistakes Some kids are afraid of trying new things because they think that making a mistake means they failed. When your middle grader messes up, tell her you believe in her, and give her a chance to try again. Treating mistakes as opportunities instead of failures show that you value effort, not just achievement. **Can-do tip:** When your child makes a mistake, help her explore what went wrong. Examples: If she gets a poor grade, you might ask questions like, "Did you understand the teacher's instructions?" and "Did you remember to bring your review worksheet home?" If she forgets about an important meeting, try, "Did you write the date on your calendar?" By figuring out why mistakes happen, your middle grader will improve her chances for success in the future.

Manage stress You may not realize it, but stress can zap your child's energy. Feeling that he can't get everything done can keep your youngster from trying to do anything. Help him simplify his schedule to regain the motivation he needs to focus on what's most important: school, family, and friends, exercise, and relaxation. **Can-do tip:** If your middle grader seems overwhelmed, suggest some schedule changes. Encourage him to cut back on after-school activities like clubs and sports, and limit potential time-stealers such as watching TV and surfing the Web.

Go Knights!

David Wessel
Principal

Follow me on Twitter@NMS_Principal http://twitter.com/NMS_Principal

Counselors' Column

Mrs. Eileen West, 8th Grade

330-908-6609

Eileen.west@nordoniaschools.org

Mrs. Tonya Huml, 7th Grade

330-908-6608

tonya.huml@nordoniaschools.org

Dates to Mark on Your Calendar:

January 27: High school counselors here to visit with 8th graders during a class

February 2: Parent Orientation Meeting at the high school for parents of next year's 9th graders

February 8: 8th graders high school scheduling packet due

February 10: HS counselors here to schedule online for next school year with the 8th graders

April 24: 7th and 8th grade reading Ohio Achievement Test

April 26: 7th and 8th grade math Ohio Achievement Test

April 27: 8th grade science Ohio Achievement Test

The last day of the second grading period will be Thursday, January 19. This also marks the end of the first semester. Students taking a semester class such as general music or art will make the class change the following week. Report cards will NOT be mailed home for the second grading period. You may access your child's report card on Progress Book. Click on the student tab and you will then see the report card option. Report cards will be available through Progress Book on approximately January 27.

High school scheduling begins soon for 8th graders. The high school counselors will visit twice with 8th graders at the middle school. The first date is scheduled for Friday, January 27. Look for 8th graders to bring home a scheduling forms packet, an information packet and a course description book. The high school counselors will return on Friday, February 10 to complete the scheduling process with the 8th graders. All parents of next year's 9th graders should plan to attend the parent and student orientation meeting at the high school on Thursday, February 2. It is critical that scheduling forms for high school be completed and returned to the middle school by February 8. Students who do not have their forms completed will not be allowed to schedule therefore will most likely not get their choice of elective classes.

The 7th grade students will participate in their career development activities beginning in February. Mrs. Michele West, the career specialist from the Cuyahoga Valley Career Center, will facilitate the unit. Activities include a day of activities at the career center in Brecksville, a pre-trip activity and a post-trip activity with Mrs. West.

During the third week of April the Ohio Achievement Tests will be given statewide to all students in public schools. These dates are set by the state and the district, which are listed above. It is extremely important that your child be here at school on those days and be on time. Testing will begin promptly and students who arrive late to school are not permitted to enter the test site once directions have begun. Students have 2 ½ hours each day to complete the test. If you have an appointment scheduled for your child on one of the test dates listed above we ask that you reschedule the appointment for another day or make it after 11:30am. Any student missing a test due to illness will make up the test after all regular testing is complete. Previous state achievement tests and practice tests are available on-line at the Ohio state department of education website if you are looking for material to help prepare your child for the test.

As always, please contact one of us if you have questions, concerns or need assistance.

DELAYED STARTS

For the 2011-12 ...delayed start dates

Four (4) delayed start days on **November 11, , February 21, March 19, and May 17**. On these late start days, school will start exactly two hours later – with teachers and staff using this time for in-house professional development. If you have any questions or concerns on these late start days - please check with your student's building principal or contact the Board of Education at 330-467- 0580.

Nordonia Hills Community Health Fair

Saturday, Feb. 4, 2012

9 AM – 1 PM

Macedonia Family Recreation Center

Sponsored by



**CROSSROADS
CHIROPRACTIC
CENTER**



Please join us in the Macedonia Family Recreation Center's rotunda, located at 1494 East Aurora Rd. in Macedonia to learn about wellness, healthcare facilities, and other health-related businesses in the Nordonia Hills area. All ages are welcome; this is a family friendly event. The event will include:

FREE HEALTH SCREENINGS:

- Spinal Wellness
- Cholesterol
- BMI
- Glucose
- Blood Pressure

BASKET RAFFLE:

All proceeds
benefit the
American Heart
Association

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

- Chair Massages
- Children's
Entertainment
- Samples

Vendors/Events subject to change.

Kids Programs



Macedonia Family Recreation Center
 1494 E. Aurora Rd., Macedonia, OH 44056
 (330) 468-8370
 www.macrec.com

SPRING SOCCER

Spring soccer season is scheduled to start the week of April 1 and end roughly June 9. Most games will be played on the weekends, but not limited to weekdays. Most practices are held on weekday evenings. Depending on your child's age, our age divisions U6 (kids 4 & 5) and U8 (kids 6 & 7) will play co-ed and in-house. Boys and girls 8 years and older play in the Suburban Recreation Soccer League for a all boys and all girl teams. For more information see league website

(www.srsonline.org)

SIGN UP AT THE REC. CENTER.

Resident \$50 / Non Resident \$60

Additional sibling: \$35 Macedonia / Non Resident \$45



Soccer Skills: Development Program

Fraturdays, April 20 – June 8

5-8 yrs.: 5:00 – 6:30 pm

9-12 yrs.: 6:30 – 7:00 pm

Eight sessions of soccer development training that will help increase speed and fitness, sharpen skills, and improve decision making. Feints & moves, individual skills, and individual and group defending & attacking will be taught. Coaches are trained through Challenger Sports.

\$85 per player

Register online at:

<https://registration.challengersports.com>



Tap Class & Ballet Class

Session 1: Tuesdays, January 24 – February 28
 (no class Feb. 14)

Session 2: Tuesdays, March 13 – April 24
 (no class April 10)

Join "All About Dance" as Jennifer teaches participants fun and exciting elements of dance. A routine will be instructed for each session and will be performed the last day of class for family and friends. No drop ins. No coupons.

TAP CLASS

3-6 yr old 6:00 - 6:30 pm

Tap class teaches beginner tap techniques including shuffles, heel drops, and more. Tap class will help children with coordination, musical timing and foot articulation.



BALLET CLASS

3-6 yr old 5:30 - 6:00 pm

Ballet class teaching beginner ballet dance techniques including first & second positions, plies, eleve, and other ballet techniques. Ballet will help children with posture, flexibility and balance.

Cost per class:

\$36 Member / \$40 Resident / \$44 Program

**Check out all of our programs
 at www.macrec.com**

Baby Signs: Sign, Say, & Play Class

Wednesdays, Feb. 1 – March 14

(no class March 7)

10:00 – 11:00 am

Instructor: Heather Perry, Certified Baby Sign Instructor
 Want to learn how to reduce frustration at home with your baby? Start communicating with your baby today! This class will highlight signs that are most important in the lives of babies, teach signing through fun games and songs, introduces play activities that reinforce important language, cognitive and social emotional skills, brings families together to share their signing experiences, covers signs from the everyday themes. Sign and learn together. Program design for parents of children 6-months to 3 years.

Deadline to register is January 25.

No drop ins. No coupons.

Member \$55 / Resident \$59 / Program \$63

Additional \$45 Kit can be purchase at class

Bricks 4 Kidz

Grades K-2

Thursdays, March 1 – March 22, 6:00 – 7:00pm

Grades 3-6

Thursdays, March 1 – March 22, 7:00 – 8:00pm

An exciting LEGO® adventure is happening and you're invited to join the adventure!

Innovative educational hands-on program for children where students will design and build machines exploring engineering, architecture and physics. Each session has a new topic. Join us for lots of high impact learning and fun!

Deadline to register is Jan 14.

No drop ins. No coupons.

Member \$40 / Resident \$42 / Program \$45

5th and 6th Grade Pool Party

Saturday, Feb. 18

6:00 - 8:00 pm

Go to the beach while there is still snow outside! The Macedonia Family Recreation will be opening it doors for students in grades 5 and 6 to enjoy a night dancing, swimming, playing games and other activities! Supervised by Macedonia Rec. Staff. Register early!

Deadline to register is Feb. 11.

No drop ins. No coupons.

Member \$10 Resident \$12 Program \$15

KIDS GARAGE SALE

Saturday, April 21

9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Join us for our annual indoor Kids Garage Sale!

Infant/children clothing, baby equipment & accessories, and toys and other kids items.

Cash only/all sales are final. Free Admission!!!

Fee for table:

Member \$5 / Resident \$10 / Program \$15

Valentine's Night Out

Friday, Feb. 10

5:00-8:00 pm

Enjoy a night without the kids! The Macedonia Family Recreation Center will open its doors for children ages 6 - 12. We will provide supervised, structured activities, video game contests and swimming. Pizza & drinks will be provided, children should bring a towel and swim suit. Supervised by Macedonia Family Recreation Center staff.

Deadline to register is Feb. 4.

No drop ins. No coupon.

Member \$11 / Resident \$14 / Program \$17

Chocolate Dipping

Monday, Feb 13

7:00 pm

Attention, kids looking for a chocolaty good time! Make a variety of different candy treats. Kids ages 8-12 can enjoy the chocolate fountain and different dipping materials. Enjoy eating your candy or give to someone special.

Register early before class fills up.

Deadline to register is Feb 1.

No drop ins. No coupons.

Member \$12 / Resident \$15 / Program \$19

Valentine's Day Celebration

Tuesday, February 14

10:00 – 11:00 am

Celebrate Valentine's Day with us! Kids ages 6 and under will make cards and other gifts for parents or loved ones. Enjoy candy making, playing valentine games, and more. Registration deadline is Feb. 5. No drop ins. No coupons.

Member \$10 / Resident \$12 / Program \$14

Little Leprechauns Party

Friday, March 16

9:30 - 10:30 am

Wear your green and get festive with the Macedonia Rec. Center! Kids ages 6 and under will create a nice St. Patty's Day atmosphere with plenty of things to enjoy. Using clues, kids will search for the pot of gold! Participate in making shamrock creations and more.

Registration deadline is March 10.

No drop ins. No coupons.

Member \$5 / Resident \$7 / Program \$9

Flashlight Easter

Egg Hunt

Thursday, April 5

8:00 p.m.

More Details: Contact MFRK (330) 468-8370



Adult & Family Programs

Macedonia Family Recreation Center
1494 E. Aurora Rd., Macedonia, OH 44056
(330) 468-8370 www.macrec.com

Boater's Safety Course

Mondays, March 5-26
6:00 - 8:30pm



Operating boats over 10 horsepower in the State of Ohio requires all person born after January 1, 1982 to complete a boating education course. This course will teach basics of Ohio boating laws, including equipment, regulations, trailering, launching, & rules of the water. Must attend all 4 classes. Deadline to register is Feb. 25. No drop ins. No coupons. Program \$20 / Resident \$15 / Member \$10

Foil Fencing

Saturdays, Feb. 4 - March 17
(no class Feb. 18)



1:30 - 3:00pm

Introduction to the fundamentals of modern foil fencing for adults and school students that includes stretching, footwork, lunges, attack, parry-riposte, strategy, tactics, techniques and bouting. Fencing improves hand eye coordination, agility, dexterity and stamina. All equipment is provided and fun and safety are emphasized. Deadline to register is January 28.

No drop ins. No coupons.

Member \$60 / Resident \$65 / Program \$70

Life Guard Training

April 9 - 13, 2012
9:00 am - 4:00 pm

If you're 15 or older and looking for a great part-time job or challenging career that's in demand, the Red Cross Lifeguard program is the place to start. Through videos, group discussion and hands-on practice, you'll learn patrol rescue and surveillance skills, first aid and CPR/AED.

Prerequisites

Candidates must be 15 years of age by the completion of the class. Candidates must swim 300 yards continuously, using these strokes in the following order: 100 yards of front crawl using rhythmic breathing and a stabilizing, propellant kick; 100 yards of breaststroke using a pull, breath, kick and glide sequence; 100 yards of either the front crawl or breaststroke. The third 100 yards may be a combination of front crawl or breaststroke. Starting in the water, swim 20 yards using the front crawl or breaststroke, surface dive 7-10 feet, retrieve a 10-pound object, return to the surface, swim 20 yards back to the starting point while maintaining two hands on the object and exit the water without using a ladder or steps, within 1 minute, 40 seconds.

Fee:

Program \$210 / Resident \$180 / Member \$150

Aquatic Fitness Classes

12 yr. olds +

Aqua Fitness Fusion & Swim Lessons

THE DETOX STRATEGY ...

Vibrant Health in 5 Easy Steps

Thursday, March 1

7:00 - 9:00 pm

Regardless of where and how you live, your body is harboring dozens if not hundreds of Toxins that are sabotaging how you look, feel and age! Low in Energy? Dealing with Chronic Illness such as Arthritis, Heart Disease, Insulin Resistance, Diabetes or Cancer? Digestive problems? Dealing with Anxiety or Depression? Having trouble Losing Weight or keeping it off? Showing signs of premature aging? Toxins could very well be to blame! The Detox Strategy teaches how to determine your individual level of toxic exposure and the steps you can take to reduce it. Learn how to detoxify the body with nutrients that are an essential part of enhancing ones appearance, energy, vitality and health. With this easy to-follow program you can 'jump-start' your body and get on a path to optimum wellness! Are you ready? Deadline to register is Feb. 23. No coupons. No drop ins.

Member \$15 / Resident \$17 / Program \$20

Spring Craft Show & Easter Fun

Saturday, March 31

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Calling all crafters! Showcase your craft at our first Spring Craft Fair. Fine handmade arts and crafts welcomed. Admission is FREE to the public. There will also be lots of fun for the kids with an appearance by the Easter Bunny 10:00 am - 12:00 pm, face painting and games! Aquatic Easter Egg Hunt to follow event, beginning 1:00pm. See event description for fees.

Vender Prices:

Member \$15/ Residents \$20/ Program \$25

March Madness Bracket Challenge

Guess the winners? The bracket challenge is open for all. Bring a copy of the completed bracket to Macedonia Recreation Center before Thursdays opening round games. Include the total Championship game score. Individuals' scores will be updated after each round. Check the www.macrec.com for your score. Prizes will be awarded to top 3 winners.

Fee: Member \$1
Resident \$2
Program \$3



Swim for Diabetes

Sunday, April 22 12:00 - 5:00 pm

Register at

www.SwimForDiabetes.com or contact
Diabetes Association of Greater Cleveland at
216-591-0800

Adult Sign Language

Thursdays, February 2 - March 8

7:00 - 8:00 pm



Want to learn a language that is beautiful and exciting? Why not learn Sign Language. Join the 6 week class as we learn basic sign structure, play games and learn over 50 signs.

Deadline to register is Jan. 26.

No drop ins. No coupons.

Member \$42 / Resident \$46 / Program \$50

Parent Workshop: *Communicate with your baby through sign*

Thursday, January 26

6:30 - 8:00 pm

Instructor: Heather Perry, Certified Baby Sign Frustrated when your baby cries or uses gibberish and you don't know what it means? Wish you knew what was making your baby smile or laugh? Now you can by gaining knowledge and skills to start teaching your baby sign language. Program designed for parents of children from birth to 2 years. Deadline to register is January 31.

No drop ins. No coupons.

Member \$16 / Resident \$19 / Program \$22

Additional \$35 Kit can be purchased at class

Nordonia Hills Community Health Fair

Saturday, February 4

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

The Macedonia Family Recreation Center & Crossroads Chiropractic Center presents a family-friendly community health fair.

Event will also include many FREE health screenings, including but not limited to: blood pressure, cholesterol, glucose, spinal wellness, and BMI. The recreation center will also have their trainers available to answer questions, and their licensed massage therapist will be providing chair massages. There will also be a gift basket raffle, with all proceeds to benefit the American Heart Association.



Family Pool Party

Friday, March 9 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Bring the Family and enjoy an evening of fun with a splash! Music, dancing, games, and concession. Deadline to register is one week prior to event date. Cost per date Adults \$7 / Children (12 & under) \$5

Land Fitness Classes

12 yr. olds +

Personal Training, Cardio Kickboxing, Bootcamp, Cardio Party, Sculpt & Tone, Low Impact Fitness, BallBlaster, Wellness & Beginner Yoga, Cycling, Rock Hard Abs, Zumba, Cardio Dance, Dance Fit for Kids

SST-8 PAC Workshops

Held at Summit County ESC
420 Washington Avenue
Cuyahoga Falls, OH

All workshops are from 9:30 – 12:30 and include lunch for those who RSVP
Please call Alice Doyle @ 330-929-6634 ext. 511232 to register

January 11, 2012 "Transition Panel Specific to Employment" with representatives from Option 4, Work Study, SST, UDS, Project Search, Summit DD, and Mental Health

February 8, 2012 "How Does Your Engine Run?" - The ALERT Program on Sensory Integration with Becky Mohler, MS, OTR/L

March 14, 2012 "Puberty and Sexuality for Persons with Developmental Disabilities" with Donna J. Bernert, PhD, LSHE Assist. Professor – Health & Education, Kent State University

April 11, 2012 "Parent Rights" with Karen Lyke, Ohio Coalition

May 2, 2012 "What's Going on in Ohio?" Learn about legislation, scholarships, waivers, housing, and more with Gary Tonks, Exec. Director, ARC of Ohio

January 25, 2012 ~ 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Transition Drives the IEP

Participants will gain an understanding of the importance of transition planning for after high school for youth with special needs. Discussion will focus on the requirements under IDEA 2004 for writing a transition plan, when the process should begin, timelines, and who is involved in writing the transition plan. How to encourage youth to express their interests and future plans is presented with the use of transition cards

February 22, 2012 ~ 9:00 - 11:00 AM

Whose Idea Is This?

Parents Rights in the Special Education Process

Have you ever read the little blue book that you receive at your child's IEP meeting and do you really understand it? This training will take you through "Whose Idea Is This" and you will gain an understanding functional knowledge of parents' rights under IDEA 2004. The six components of FAPE will be discussed and explained. Timelines under IDEA, as well as the evaluation, referral and testing process will be covered. Participants also will learn and obtain an understanding of mediation, ODE complaint procedures, resolution meetings and due process procedures.

PLEASE call the parent mentor office to register @ 330-908-6219

We Would Like to Hear From You!

We are interested in hearing your questions, concerns, suggestions and how you would like to be involved in your child's program. To schedule a home visit with Dr. Margo Costello, Director of Pupil Service and Kitty, Parent Mentor, please call the parent mentor office at 330-908-6219. We look forward to hearing from you!!!

PARENT MENTOR PROGRAM

About the Nardonias Hills Parent Mentor Program

Ohio Parent Mentor projects are funded through grants from the Ohio Department of Education (ODE). A Parent Mentor is the parent of a child with a disability employed to help school districts and families by providing training, support, and information services. Kitty Boylan is the parent mentor for the Nardonias School District. You can reach the parent

mentor office by phone at 330-908-6219 or email at parent.mentors@nordoniaschools.org or visit the parent mentor page on the district web site at:

www.nordoniaschools.org/ParentMentor.aspx

Some services provided by the parent mentor include guiding parents through the special education process including rights and responsibilities, listening and providing support to families and staff, providing information and

resources, attending IEP and other meetings when requested and conducting information sessions and workshops. Parents of typical students are welcome to contact the parent mentor office with questions or concerns.

The parent mentor project also provides a resource library for parents and staff. There is a collection of books in each building office that are waiting to be borrowed! For a complete book list contact the parent mentor office or visit the parent mentor page on the district web site



FOOD SERVICES AT THE MIDDLE SCHOOL

LUNCH \$3.00

A la carte is available at lunch

BREAKFAST \$2.00

Checks brought in to pay student lunch fees will not longer be accepted. Cash and online payments are acceptable. The website to make online payments is www.myschoolaccount.com. There is a small fee to use this system.

No lunch charges will be permitted.

Participate in Target's **Take Charge of Education** program by using the Redcard. Target will donate up to 1% of their purchases to designated schools. Last year NMS was awarded **\$311.53**. To see program rules go to Target.com/tcoe or call 1800-316-6142 for details.

Clip box tops and earn cash for your school!

It's easy to find Box Tops. In fact you may have some in your home right now. Clip Box Tops from hundreds of your favorite products. Each coupon is worth 10 cents for your school and that adds up fast! A collection box is located in the main office.

Our newsletter can be found on the Middle School page at the District's website. If you do not have access to the web, paper copies are available in the main office.

NMS Recycles

Please recycle paper and cardboard in receptacles near baseball field. Send in empty ink cartridges to be recycled. Drop-off receptacle is located in the office.



WHAT IS JTI?

Junior Teen Institute (JTI) is a drug, alcohol, tobacco, and violence prevention youth group at the middle school level. Middle school students who are interested in drug prevention and community service projects are welcome at anytime. There is open enrollment all year round. Meetings are held in Room All0 at the Middle School from 2:50-3:50pm every 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month. If you have questions regarding this group, you can contact the group's facilitator, Dr. Deb Wallace, at 330-908-6020 or email at deb.wallace@nordoniaschools.org. If your student has a question, Dr. Deb is in the Guidance Department at the Middle School every Tuesday.

JTI Schedule 2011-12

- January 10, 24
- February 4 Retreat Day
14, 28
- March 13, 16 Talent Show, 27
- April 24
- May 8 Game Night at HS, 22



A WORD FROM OUR BOOKKEEPER

TRIP GIFT CARD PROGRAM

DON'T FORGET TO ORDER YOUR GIFT CARDS. Orders are taken each week throughout the school year .

A family purchases gift cards through the TRIP program and redeems these gift cards when doing their daily purchases of groceries, gas, clothing, etc.

Build up TRIP credits to be applied once a year by the school towards the student's class trip fees. Any excess credits earned will be applied to the TRIP Assistance Fund to help other students.

If you have questions, contact the bookkeeper at 330-908-6604 or email at adrea.rupp@nordoniaschools.org.

ORDERS DUE EACH WEEK BY TUESDAY AT 12:00 PM.
PICKUP THE FOLLOWING THURSDAY 7:30-9 AM & 1-3 PM

DATES TO REMEMBER

Games 2 U
 prizes for Magazine
 Sale
 February 3rd



An **Academic Consumable Fee** will be charged for each student. If you are financially unable to pay student fees for this current school year, you must show in writing, proof of one of the following: qualification of free or reduced lunch program; welfare case load number; AFDC number or income verification which meets government guidelines. Waiver forms are available in the Main Office. Regular academic fees should be paid in full at the time of notification. Partial payments and a payment plan can be arranged with the bookkeeper. Payments will be applied against any previous outstanding balance. If no payment is made, records will not be released. Any accumulative balances will remain open each year until graduation time. **Middle School – Academic Fee - \$18.35, Athletic Fee - \$100, Bands & Choir Fee \$50 and Club Fee TBA.** For your convenience, an online payment service is available to pay all school fees at www.spsezpaynordonia.com. Please make checks payable to: NHCS. If you have any questions, please contact the bookkeeper @ 330-908-6604 .

SCHOOL DRESS CODE

Nordonia Middle School students are expected to dress in a neat, clean and modest manner that enhances a positive school image. Any apparel that violates health and safety codes is prohibited. Clothing should not be worn with messages or graphics that promote or suggest profanity, gang affiliation, violence, substance abuse, or is considered to be

suggestive, lewd or obscene. If a student is unsure about the appropriateness of the outfit, it **should not** be worn to school. Parental cooperation regarding appropriate dress and grooming is greatly appreciated.

The Following Restrictions Apply To Student Dress:

- **Hats/head coverings-** Upon entering the building, students are expected to remove all head coverings.
 - Acceptable- barrettes, clips, scrunchies, headbands
 - Unacceptable- hats, bandannas, sweat bands, scarves, hoods
- **Shoes-** Students must wear shoes at all times.
 - Acceptable- tennis shoes, hard-soled shoes, sandals
 - Unacceptable- slippers
- **Tops-** All tops must be long enough to tuck in. Tops must not be revealing cleavage or midriff). Sleeves must cover the shoulder, and armholes may not expose one's side or underwear. Outerwear (jackets and coats) must be stored in the locker upon arrival to school.
 - Acceptable- T-shirts, sweatshirts, sweaters, blouses, polo/dress shirts
 - Unacceptable- tank tops, spaghetti straps, mesh or sheer shirts, undershirts, muscle shirts
- **Bottoms-** Pants, shorts or skirts must be secure above or at waist level. Shorts and skirts must be at least fingertip length, including slits.
 - Acceptable- jeans, (**with no holes or tears**) casual or dress slacks, shorts, sweatpants, skirts
 - Unacceptable- pajamas, boxers, spandex, thin knit or sheer bottoms, pants with words or graphics on the backside, jeans with holes or tears.
- **Other/Misc.-** Jewelry is not to be worn during physical education classes or when participating in after-school athletics. Any dress or grooming that has a distracting influence or is a possible safety hazard is not permitted.
 - Unacceptable- chains, spiked jewelry, face or body piercings, exposed tattoos, jewelry that is unsafe (large or sharp), sunglasses.

Book bags, backpacks and carryalls may not be carried during the regular school day and must be stored in student lockers. No water bottles or drink containers may be carried into the school building.

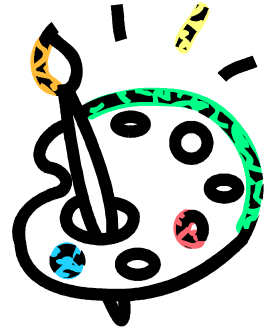
When purchasing school clothes please remember the dress code.

Administration reserves the right to determine the appropriateness of appearance. Students who are in violation of the school dress code will be issued clothes to wear for that day. Clothing must be returned to school the next day properly laundered. Habitual violations of the dress code may result in disciplinary action.



Encore

Mrs. Allen's seventh and eighth grade art students have had a busy semester drawing, painting, sculpting, and creating wonderful pieces of art! All seventh grade students constructed a candle luminary out of clay, eighth grade students created clay animals. Seventh grade students also worked on their painting skills focusing on a food product and complimentary colors. Eighth grade students created masks using plaster strips and then added creative touches with paint, feathers, glitter, pipe cleaners, etc. All art projects that have not been sent home already will come home at the end of January, when the semester ends. Please take a moment to look at what your child accomplished in art this year. It has been a pleasure working with all of the creative first semester art students. I am looking forward to seeing the creative talents of second semester art students as well.



First semester has flown by for **Mrs. Hopkins'** eighth grade art students. Parents will enjoy seeing their student's beautiful artwork, which will come home in a portfolio on the last day of the semester.

Welcome to second semester **Art** students, who will begin the semester with a graphic design unit. The first assignment will be an illustration using symbolic imagery, creative lettering, and a color scheme, with the theme "All About Me!" - - - most teenager's favorite topic! The next assignment will be a "kaleidoscope-style" repeat pattern design, incorporating radial symmetry, balance, and contrasting colors. During March, students will further develop their drawing skills, as they complete several assignments involving portraiture.

All artwork for the semester will remain in the art room until June. Please feel free to contact me with questions or concerns via email at jill.hopkins@nordoniaschools.org. I look forward to a fun and creative semester!

Physical Education – Mrs. Covin

Physical Education students are wrapping up their Basketball unit. During their next rotation, the Badminton birdies will be flying and the hockey sticks will be swinging! Please remember to have tennis shoes for class. Students wearing boots, heels, sandals, etc., will not be allowed to participate.

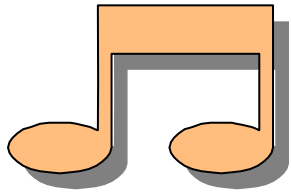
Mr. Spellman 's physical education classes finished a basketball unit in December that ended with a round-robin tournament. They will be starting their next units of hockey and badminton in late January.



What's happening in Health Class...

In Mrs. Canitano's health class the students have been focusing on nutrition. The students learned that the Food Guide Pyramid has been changed to Choose My Plate. They went to www.choosemyplate.gov to analyze their diet. The students also practiced reading food labels and creating a healthy meal plan. The next unit is alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. The focus will be on the dangers of alcohol and tobacco and refusal skills. The students will practice refusal skills through skits.

Mr. Spellman's health class have been keeping very busy this winter. Seventh grade health students are finishing up a unit on financial literacy. During this time they: found a job, rented an apartment, paid utilities, leased a car and much, much more. They have learned a lot about how to budget and spend money. Eighth grade health classes have been researching a "charity organization" in order to give an oral presentation to the class. Each class will learn about more than 35 different organizations such as the Ronald McDonald House, the United Way, Guiding Eyes for the Blind and many more.



Notes of Interest from the Band

Happy New Year! The bands are going to bring 2012 in with hard work and many goals! On February 18th, all the middle school band students are invited to perform at the Lake Erie Monsters Game! This will be our second trip to this venue. We had a magnificent time last year and expect this year to be no different!

On February 26th, James Swearingen will be guest conducting on our winter concert. Mr. Swearingen is known all over the world as a composer, clinician and conductor. We are so fortunate to have him come to our school, work with the kids, then perform his own compositions on a concert! This will be held at the HS Auditorium at 5:30 PM. The bands have really kicked it in to overdrive to take on these responsibilities. I am so proud of them!

On December 20th, 10 of our 8th grade students traveled to Northfield Retirement Center to perform holiday selections for the guests there. The seniors loved the music and the students displayed amazing musicianship!

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to email or phone me anytime! (330-908-6657)
mary.schrembeck@nordoniaschools.org
 Mary Schrembeck, Middle School Director



Team Wildfire

Students may need their 3-D glasses during January math class, as Mr. Yeager's charges explore another dimension. What will they find there? Geometric concepts. Surface area and volume. Rectangular prisms and cylinders. What will happen when these dimensions are doubled and tripled? Only math can unlock the mystery!

With biomes, energy problems / solutions, and symbiotic relationships in our rearview mirror, science class, with Mrs. Tylicki, begins the classification of organisms, including their physical characteristics.

And that study of characteristics comes in handy in Ms. Muerth's language arts class as students tackle characterization. How does an author make a reader feel as if he/she knows a character? By using carefully drawn descriptive, sensory details.

Mrs. Zehner's social studies class completed Roman achievements, and heads toward a unit on Islam. They'll then make their way to the cold castles of the Middle Ages. Brrr!



TEAM CYCLONE



In math classes, students have been using symmetry to perform transformation and to understand what makes two triangles congruent. They just finished this unit in the book Kaleidoscopes, Hubcaps, and Mirrors, and will move into the book called Samples and Populations, where they will analyze sets of data by making histograms and box and whisker plots.

In Language Arts, students completed their study of the novel, *Miracle's Boys*. In addition to *Word Wisdom* to build vocabulary, they have been doing some work with grammar and learning how to diagram sentences. A new study skill, SQ3R (survey, question, read, recite, review) has been introduced to use along with two-column, or Cornell, notes. They are practicing these skills with *Read for Real*. Students have also begun their research projects, choosing a musical artist or contributor and finding reasons why that person belongs in a Music Hall of Fame. Topics are due January 13, a narrowed plan is due Jan. 18, source cards Jan. 19, note cards Jan. 27, outline Jan. 31, thesis and introduction Feb. 1, rough draft Feb. 8, citations Feb. 9, peer editing and revision Feb. 10, and final paper Feb. 14.

We have just finished the unit on *Waves Sound and Light*. We will soon be starting the unit on *Astronomy*. We will begin with astronomers and astronomical tools. Other things included in the astronomy unit include understanding the enormous size of the universe, asteroids and meteors, astronomical forces and astronomical cycles.

In Mr. Shank's Social Studies class, we are studying the beginnings of America, the Jefferson Era, and the accomplishments of various United States Presidents. Students will be learning "real life" skills as they create a résumé for George Washington. Rumor has it that Mr. Washington is applying for Principal at Nordonia Middle School! Other topics/activities include dissecting sectional differences within the country, a study on the Louisiana Purchase (including a coin that may have changed history!), and Ohio's connection to the War of 1812.



News Flash from Team Lightning



Team Lightning students finished 2011 with a team day focusing on the holiday. They were treated to hot chocolate while they watched the movie, A Christmas Carol since they had just finished reading the play version of this Dickens' classic. They also made holiday greeting cards for soldiers in history class, looked at some of the scientific data surrounding Santa Claus, worked on some holiday math and completed a compare/contrast Venn diagram about the movie and the play. The team also made a kindness chain out of the acts of kindness that we (students and teachers) completed during the month of December. The colorful paper chain is hanging in our hallway as a reminder to be kind and caring throughout the year, not just at holiday time.

Second semester begins January 23rd. This is a great time to clean out folders, and assess school supplies to see what needs replaced. Many students are in need of notebook paper, pens, pencils and new folders and binders.

It is hard to believe that the school year is almost half over. Time does fly when you're having fun! The team students continue to stay busy in their classes. For instance, Mr. Pet-sche's 7th grade world history classes will be exploring Ancient Rome's achievements and the Romans' impact on the modern world. From there, they will dive into the history of the nations of Islam and the impact of Judaism. At the end of the 3rd quarter, they will be leaning about medieval times.

Language Arts classes are currently working on grammar and the parts of speech. At the end of January, students will be reading the historical fiction novel, *The Watsons Go to Birmingham – 1963* by the award winning author Christopher Paul Curtis. Students will be able to purchase this book in the student store at the middle school, so they can highlight it for notes and discussion points. Also, students will continue building their vocabularies through Word Wisdom and practicing reading and writing strategies to prepare them for the Ohio Achievement Tests later this year.

In Science, students will be exploring one of the biggest questions in science, "What is life?" Students will be taking a look at four characteristics that distinguish living things from nonliving things: organization, growth, reproduction, and response. Understanding the characteristics of living things is a good way to start the exploration of life.

Students will be working in the Filling and Wrapping math book exploring surface area and volume of three dimensional objects. They will memorize the formulas and are able to use a calculator to compute their answers.

As you can see, 2012 will be bringing many "bright" new projects and learning activities to the Team Lightning students.

Team Typhoon Newsletter

In Mrs. Berardinelli's 7th grade science classes, students are beginning to understand how living things are classified. We've spent some time using a tool called a dichotomous key, which helps scientists correctly identify organisms based on a series of questions. We'll spend some time learning about the various domains and kingdoms, and what makes them unique. We are also gearing up for our unit on microscopes – a popular lab with the students! In the 8th grade classes, we are getting ready to wrap up our study of physical science. We've studied the electromagnetic spectrum and its properties, and how those properties make each type unique. We are getting ready to begin our largest unit of the year – astronomy. Please make sure your student is keeping up on the vocabulary, as it can add up as we go along.

The 7th grade is starting a new book called Filling and Wrapping, which includes finding volume and surface area of rectangular prisms. The 8th grade is finishing a book which involves geometry and moving images on a graph using equations that they have been using.

In 7th grade Language Arts, we are continuing Word Wisdom Unit 4 beginning with Week 2 words. Students are using vocabulary in context of their own writing and noticing their application in other subject areas. A focus will be on reading persuasive text and identifying persuasive techniques authors use. Students will also be responsible for writing a persuasive piece. We begin to look at parts of speech using computer-based applications and practice. The month will end with jumping into the much-loved novel, **The Watsons Go to Birmingham**. We will incorporate topics from the Civil Rights Movement and continue our study of the plot model, as well as, figurative language. Students will need to obtain a copy of this book for class. The school bookstore will be selling them this month for \$4.25.



THUNDER



Social Studies with Miss Kruse

In Social Studies for Team Cheetah, we will be studying “Pre-Civil War” time period, Unit 5. Students will be focusing on analyzing the territorial expansion of the U.S. including the Northwest Ordinance, the Louisiana Purchase and the Lewis & Clark expedition, westward movement including Manifest Destiny, and the Texas War for Independence and the Mexican-American War. Students will take the Unit 5 Test, covering Chapter 7, 8 & 9 at the end of January.

In February, we will continue learning

about the “Causes of the Civil War” time period, Unit 6. Students will use Chapters 10 & 11 in their text to focus on the explanations of causes for the Civil War with an emphasis on slavery, states’ rights, extension of slavery, the abolitionist movement, the addition of new states, and the emergence of Lincoln as a national figure. Students will take the Unit 6 Test, around the end of February.

Students will also be assessed throughout the next couple months using class discussions, in class activities, homework, projects, quizzes and tests.

Science with Mrs. Urban

We are nearing the end of our Physics Unit on Team Thunder. Thus far, we have learned about mechanical waves (transverse and longitudinal) and electromagnetic waves (radiowaves, microwaves, infrared light, visible light, ultraviolet light, x-rays, and gamma rays) while placing much emphasis on sound waves and visible light. In the coming weeks, we will be beginning our Astronomy Unit. In Astronomy, which is our largest unit, we will focus on concepts such as the life cycle of a star, moon cycles, tides, seasons, galaxies, meteors, asteroids, and much more. We will have a guest speaker, an actual astronomer, come in to discuss many of these topics with us and answer many questions we have. We will also have a number of projects and labs that we will be taking part in during this unit in order to support the concepts we are learning.

Math with Mr. DeMell

Students on team Thunder in the connected math class during the third grading period will apply statistics concepts which were introduced in grade 6 and reinforced in grade 7. Students will begin with an introduction to histograms and box-and-whisker plots as tools for grouping data and comparing distributions. They will explore what samples are, how they are related to populations, and ways to select samples, including random samples. The emphasis in connected math will shift during the second half of the grading period to using the properties of numbers to look at equivalent numeric and algebraic expressions and the information each expression represents in a given context, and to interpret underlying patterns that a symbolic equation or statement represents.

Students taking algebra on team Thunder during the third grading period will work on applying arithmetic operations to polynomials. They will also develop several techniques to factor polynomial expressions. Students will apply those techniques to solve quadratic functions and equations.

Students in Mrs. Healy’s Language Arts

As the new year begins, students in Mrs. Healy's language arts classes are working on the Research Project. As eighth grade students, they will work individually and choose, research and write a research paper based on a social issue that is of particular interest to them. This strategy always produces an interesting variety of research papers and engages students to explore a topic that is of their choosing. Students have been shown a detailed presentation on citation, thesis statements and outlining and are working in the library for the next few weeks. The Research Project is due Jan. 31. In addition to this unit, students will begin the high school scheduling process January 27, 2012, through their language arts classes. All the best to you in the new year. Mrs. Healy and Mrs. Shotwell