



Principal: Mr. Mike McCollum

Assistant Principal: Mrs. Lori Bell

## Character vs. Reputation

*Mr. McCollum*

Coach Wooden once said, "Be more concerned with your character than your reputation. Character is what you really are. Reputation is what people say you are. Reputation is often based on character-but not always. Character is how you react to things-sensibly, without getting carried away by yourself or your circumstances. A person of character is trustworthy and honest."

I would like to think that students that attend Negaunee Middle School, however they come to us, leave understanding the importance of a good character. Often times we see students that become so fixated on how others view them, (be it at school, in the community, or ever increasingly online) that they lose sight of the things that make them good young adults. They become more concerned with fitting in, being funny, and their social media streaks than they are being a nice person. They look around a classroom afraid to ask questions, afraid to be recognized for achievement, because of what might be said about them. They let their perceived reputation outshine their character. Middle Schoolers have a tough time learning how to navigate these challenges in the pursuit of a quality character. Character directly correlates to student success. A person's character affects every aspect of their day. Two of the most important traits of students with good character include positive attitude and enthusiasm.

**Positive Attitude and Perseverance** - Extraordinary people have realistic optimism. Realistic because they take action and optimistic because no matter what the result may be, they believe their success is inevitable. They believe that like a child learning to walk, they need to take action first and then modify the action according to the feedback that they get. This positive attitude allows them to persevere and be resilient when things don't go their way.

**Enthusiastic** - A sure sign of someone extraordinary is the enthusiasm they have about their passion and their life. They wake up in the morning excited about their day because they know it is going to bring them one step closer to achieving their dream. Successful people tend to be leaders because others are attracted to their enthusiasm and become followers hoping to experience the same excitement and energy.

Students with a positive attitude and enthusiasm are a teachers (coaches, parents, employers) dream. These character traits make the process of education easier and enjoyable. Teachers often share that they would rather have an energetic and hardworking student that struggles, as opposed to a negative student that does not.

Through encouragement, modeling, and persistence parents can help foster the key components in building solid character traits. Continual support of being a good person and offering kids strategies to help them avoid getting bogged down by the dramas of Middle School are key to this success. Parent involvement, out of school, is important as well. We must model for our kids in our actions and deeds the importance of positivity, energy, and drive. We are the best competition to the influence of peers. Finally, sticking with it. Raising kids is not a part time job. We have to remain fully invested in our children's lives and provide them with the opportunities to develop healthy and positive character traits. Though this may feel like a slow process the time to develop positive character in our young adults is time well spent.

**Attention 8th graders:** You will soon begin scheduling for your Freshman year at the high school. The HS counselor will be here on February 5th and 6th to discuss your scheduling options. Forms will be due back to your teacher by the 12th of February so you can begin entering your schedule choices on the 13th. There will be a High School Orientation on February 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in the high school auditorium where you can learn about required and elective courses, meet teachers and staff, and look around the school.

### **Sharing is caring... but NOT the cold and flu**

**From the Desk of the School Nurse...**Influenza is reaching high activity levels and is expected to increase in the coming weeks. Students diagnosed with influenza or have flu-like symptoms are recommended to stay home for at least a week, or until symptoms resolve, which can take up to 2 weeks. After the fever resolves, students often need a couple days to recover. A student with diagnosed influenza, who returns with a **doctor's note**, will only have an absence count of 1 day (put towards the 10 day/semester allowance) for the grouping of days absent for the illness.

As usual, if your child has a fever over 100 degrees or symptoms of vomiting, diarrhea, please keep him/her home.

In addition, it is school policy for him/her to be fever free (without the use of meds to keep fever down) as well as without diarrhea or vomiting **for 24 hours prior to returning to school.**

*When calling a student in sick, please let us know if your child has had a doctor confirmed case of influenza or strep throat and bring a doctors note confirming illness upon return to school.*

## CITIZENSHIP MARKING SCALE

1 Exemplary	2 Above Average	3 Average	4 Below Average	5 Unsatisfactory
Extra effort	Good effort	Shows effort	Seldom puts forth effort	No effort
Superior behavior	Very few behavior problems	Easily redirected if misbehaving	Lacks self-control	Intentionally disruptive
Meaningful participation	Almost always willing to participate	Participates	Seldom participates	No positive participation
Always shows respect for other people & their property	Almost always shows respect for others	Generally respectful	Disrespectful	Consistently disrespectful
0 or 1 unexcused tardies	2 unexcused tardies	3 unexcused tardies	4 unexcused tardies	More than 4 unexcused tardies
Consistently shows a positive attitude	Almost always shows a positive attitude	Generally shows a positive attitude	Generally shows a negative attitude	Consistently shows a negative attitude

## The Power of YET

By Mrs. Bell, Assistant Principal

Making changes is sometimes hard! With new learning, effort, and persistence, changes are possible! While change and getting out of our comfort zone could bring stress and uncertainty, the word YET allows students the opportunity to be human and grow in their learning. If students are asked to try something new, they can reply, "I don't know that, YET," or "I can't do that, YET."

Some students ask why we changed the citizenship rubric. NMS actually did not change the citizenship rubric, but staff have changed how we look at it. In today's times of trying to help students grow to be college and/or career ready, nudging students out of their comfort zone is a goal for all of us. Students need the challenge to have more effort, independent learning, and persistence. Our citizenship rubric reminds students to show up, show effort and be in charge of their own growth, even if it differs from those in their friendship circle. In the classroom, some skills aren't consistent...YET. We challenge students to be involved in their personal learning and not worry about what the group is doing or is thinking. We want them to be okay with saying, "I don't do that...YET," knowing that they will commit to trying.

Our own self esteem comes from trying to be independent, following our own path and being able to bounce back when we try something out of our comfort zone. As we are in the midst of Winter Olympics, it is a good time to apply the Olympic Creed to our own personal lives:

*"The most important thing in the Olympic Games is not to win but to take part, just as the most important thing in life is not the triumph but the struggle. The essential thing is not to have conquered but to have fought well."*

*~a quote by Baron de Coubertin*

### 10 WAYS TO BE A GOOD CITIZEN...

- ★ Listen, really listen
- ★ Learn people's names
- ★ Look up when walking
- ★ Don't lie
- ★ Always be respectful
- ★ Smile
- ★ Go out of your way
- ★ Say thank you
- ★ Stand tall
- ★ Say hello
- ★ Bonus: Be yourself

### Citizenship Rewards...

Students who have earned their 2nd Marking Period reward for Above Average and Exemplary citizenship have chosen a wide variety of rewards. Students could choose passes for NHS games, concessions, dances or homework. Some students like to leave the building and go skating, snowshoeing, xc skiing, or do community service with our senior citizens. Other students like to stay close to school and picked a movie and treat in the classroom or basketball in the gym with the NHS Varsity Basketball teams. Special thanks to the NMSPT3, NHS Booster Club, Negaunee Ice Arena, Honor Yoga, Ishpeming Ski Club, Negaunee Senior Center, Coach Waterman, Coach O'Donnell and their respective teams, and our NMS staff for making personal rewards possible to our students!

## Athletics at NMS

**Winter sports:** Our basketball teams and cheerleaders finished up our winter season with both the 7th grade and 8th grade boys teams playing in the Tournament Finals! We'd like to congratulate them on getting to the top level and both earning the title of Runner UP in the Conference Tournament! Great job this year!

NMS would also like to thank the parents, school staff, the NHS Honor Society students, Tino's Pizza, Pam Dost of Active Physical Therapy and the numerous referees for making each game run smoothly for both the games and concession area.



The fall 2019 Environmental Adventures class had a busy semester! From bouldering and belaying on the EA bouldering wall (provided through grants from The Marquette Community Foundation, mBank, and Cleveland Cliffs), to completing Rock Climbing Day and the 24 Hour Wilderness Experience, students have learned and utilized many skills such as tying proper climbing knots, building fire with primitive materials, and the importance of teamwork. This new semester brings on a new class of students, who are ready to take on the challenge of Environmental Adventures!

(Pictured: Students building skills on the NMS Bouldering Wall & taking a break from hiking for a group photo during the 24 Hour Wilderness Experience)

*A special thanks to Krista Squiers, Mr. McCollum and all the parents who helped make this happen...especially those who slept out in sub-zero weather! ❄️*

**Coming Soon!**

N.M.S. is excited to introduce middle school tennis as a club sport this spring! Tennis will be offered to boys and girls in 6th through 8th grade. The offering of tennis allows students to have another activity choice in the spring. The program will be primarily run by former N.H.S. tennis players, alongside Coach Saari and Coach Scanlon. This is a no-cut sport and all who wish to participate in this age group are able. This program will provide a fun introduction to tennis and help prepare students for high school tennis down the road. Stay tuned for more details!

**NMS Parent Group News**

The NMS Parent Group will be reviewing its bylaws and possible name change at their next meeting on March 2 at 6 p.m. in the teacher's lounge. If you wish to look at the current bylaws, please visit the Negaunee Middle School Parent Group Facebook page. We will also be discussing the upcoming NMS Spirit Dance and other items at the meeting. Hope to see you there!

**Art Room Supplies Needed**

The art room is in need of newspapers, thread, yarn, and hand lotion for an upcoming project.

Also, always accepting donations of the following items:

- \* Crayons
- \* Rolling Pins
- \* Acrylic Paint – esp. white and yellow
- \* Towels (to be cut into cleaning cloths)
- \* Colored Pencils
- \* Crafting Supplies

**Let's Fill the Library...  
With NEW BOOKS!**

Thank you to everyone who donated to the project posted on Donors Choose for new library books. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. The students are so excited to get new books, that I decided to post another project for more. I hope you will consider making a donation. The website is [donorschoose.org](http://donorschoose.org). The name of the project is: **The Gift of Reading is Priceless**. It's under Mrs. Allen's name.

**♣️ Chess Club ♣️**

Chess Club meets on Wednesdays during both lunch periods....students may bring their lunch (during their assigned lunch period) to the Chess Room. Passes are offered in the office in the morning.

**HOMEWORK CLUB**

Homework club is offered everyday from 2:30 – 3:30 pm in the Computer Lab.

Students are to bring work and will be required to remain for the full hour.



**NMS Geo Bee Winners**

- 1<sup>st</sup> - Zeeke DeForge
- 2<sup>nd</sup> -Rilen Lehto

**YEARBOOKS ON SALE!**

*Don't forget to order your Middle School Yearbook!*

*Order Before: March 27<sup>th</sup>*

*Price: \$25*

**ORDER ONLINE** at [www.schoolannual.com](http://www.schoolannual.com)

**CLICK** on "Buy student's yearbook"

**ENTER** the school name, city and state

**PLACE** your order!

*If you prefer to pay with cash or check, you may purchase a yearbook during our in-school sale in March. Keep an eye out for an envelope coming home with your child in March.*

**Forensics Club...**The Negaunee Middle School Forensics Team started out the season small but mighty with 7 members. Signed up to compete in various categories including dramatic interpretation, news broadcasting, informative, and duo, these amazing speakers have been working hard to memorize and perfect their selected pieces. There are three competitions this year, all being held at Bothwell Middle School in Marquette, on the first three Wednesdays in February. Our team is strong, and these kids are gaining valuable life-skills in writing and public speaking (while having a little bit of fun along the way!). If your child missed out on the awesome opportunity to be a part of the forensics team this year, make sure to keep it in mind when December rolls around next year! All 7th and 8th grade students are welcome to join regardless of experience.

**Meet Our Student Teacher!**



Hello, my name is Mackenzie Leisner! I am a student at Northern Michigan University and I am completing my bachelor's degree in Elementary Education with a major in Mathematics. I am student teaching with Mrs. Palomaki in hopes of being a math teacher someday myself. I am from Escanaba, Michigan and enjoy participating in all "Yoopers" activities. In my free time, I enjoy going to the gym, running and spending time with my friends and family cheering on the Green Bay Packers. I look forward to being a part of the Negaunee Middle School community this semester! The students here are eager to learn and I am excited to be a part of their journey as they grow.

❄️ Winter Olympics ❄️

Throughout the 3<sup>rd</sup> Marking Period, the Negaunee Middle School will be participating in the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Winter Olympics. Students will be competing in various events from Blooper Ball to Brain Buster. The winning homeroom in each grade will be awarded with a trip to the PEIF in April.

**Miners Socks**

Miners socks (yellow or navy) are available for purchase in the office for \$15/pair. Available in medium and large sizes.

**Medium** – fits Women's shoe sizes through size 8 OR Youth shoe size 4-9.

**Large** – fits Women's shoe size 9-12 OR Men's shoe size 10-13.



## NMS Spirit Wear Order Form

Fill out the form below and return along with your payment to your Homeroom Teacher. **\*\*Deadline is February 28\*\***

**\*\*Make checks payable to NMSPT.\*\***

All items are 50/50 blend and unisex sizing.

*Clothing color description is listed below the pictures.*



**"N" Design**  
Gray shirt or Hoodie



**"Negaunee Middle School" Design**  
Blue Shirt or Hoodie

Qty	Size	Description	Price	Subtotal
		Youth Short Sleeve T-shirt (Sizes XS-XL) <b>"N" Design.</b>	\$ 12.00	
		Youth Short Sleeve T-shirt (Sizes XS-XL) <b>"Negaunee Middle School" Design</b>	\$ 10.00	
		Adult Short Sleeve T-shirt (Sizes S-3XL) <b>"N" Design.</b>	\$ 12.00 (S-XL) \$ 14.00 (2XL-3XL)	
		Adult Short Sleeve T-shirt (Sizes S-3XL) <b>"Negaunee Middle School" Design</b>	\$ 10.00(S-XL) \$ 12.00 (2XL-3XL)	
		Youth Hoodie (Sizes XS-XL) <b>"N" Design</b>	\$ 35.00	
		Youth Hoodie (Sizes XS-XL) <b>"Negaunee Middle School" Design</b>	\$ 30.00	
		Adult Hoodie (Sizes S-5XL) <b>"N" Design.</b>	\$ 35.00 (S-XL) \$ 37.00 (2XL-5XL)	
		Adult Hoodie (Sizes S-5XL) <b>"Negaunee Middle School" Design</b>	\$ 30.00 (S-XL) \$ 32.00 (2XL-5XL)	
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>				

The UP is dark gray, and the "N" is blue with maize outline

Maize lettering

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Homeroom Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

Spirit Necklaces for sale in  
the office for  
\$5 each!

**Go MAIZE AND BLUE**

**ATTENDANCE**

To report your child's absence, please  
call the middle school office at 475-7866  
and press 0 and leave a message after  
the beep before 9:30am.

### ♥♥♥ Valentines Day Grams ♥♥♥

The student council will be selling Hershey Kiss Valentines Day Grams a few days before Valentines Day. A sweet way to spread kindness! To be delivered on Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>! ♥♥ 50¢ each

**Attention Parents!!** School Policy states that students **MUST** ride their assigned bus and get off at their regular stop unless other arrangements are made in **ADVANCE**. A written request is to include the child's name, date change is to occur, and person's name and address they are going to. Changes in scheduled "pick-ups" must also be made prior to the start of the school day.

**Calls to the school office cannot be accepted.**  
Thank you for your cooperation!

### Important Dates

- ♥ Feb 5<sup>th</sup>- 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Grade Citizenship Reward Day
- ♥ Feb 10<sup>th</sup> – Freshman Orientation (current 8<sup>th</sup> graders)  
@ 6:30 High School Auditorium
- ♥ Feb 14<sup>th</sup> – Valentine's Day
- ♥ Feb 20<sup>th</sup> – Winter Awards Program 6:30pm at MS Gym
- ♥ Feb 21<sup>st</sup> – NO SCHOOL
- ♥ Feb 28 – Color Day (extra spirit points/class)
- ♥ March 8<sup>th</sup> – Daylight Savings Time Change

- ♥ March 27<sup>th</sup> – Tropical Day (extra spirit points/class)
- ♥ March 27<sup>th</sup> – Last Day of 3<sup>rd</sup> Marking Period
- ♥ March 28<sup>th</sup> – April 5<sup>th</sup> – SPRING BREAK
- ♥ April 6<sup>th</sup> – School Resumes
- ♥ April 10<sup>th</sup> – NO SCHOOL – Good Friday
- ♥ April 17<sup>th</sup> – NMS Spirit Dance @ NMS gym  
5<sup>th</sup> grade 3-5pm....6-8<sup>th</sup> grade 6-8pm
- ♥ May 15<sup>th</sup> – NMS Spring Dinner Dance
- ♥ May 25<sup>th</sup> – NO SCHOOL – Memorial Day
- ♥ June 5<sup>th</sup> – Last Day of School