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# Northwestern Middle School Family Newsletter

## March/April

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### Principal's Note

Hello NW Families,

It is hard to believe that Spring is almost here! Although the weather does not match up with springtime just yet, we are almost to Spring Break, and then we return to complete our last quarter of the 2018-2019 school year. We tend to see a lot of behavior issues come up around this time of year, and would love for our families to reinforce some of our school expectations at home as well. One of our major issues is with student phone use. We allow students to use their cell phones before and after school, at lunch, and in the hallways during transition time. We are struggling with student use of their phones during instructional time. It is very difficult for students to fully focus on their learning when they have constant disruptions from their phones. We are hoping to partner with our families in reinforcing these expectations at home as well so that we can work to maximize student learning time at school!

When we return from Spring Break, students will be participating in State mandated testing as well as district testing throughout the months of April and May. All students will take the

M-STEP and NWEA MAP tests, and 8th grade students will also take the PSAT. We will be sending out more specific information about these tests as we get

closer to the testing sessions for each grade level, so be on the lookout for that communication!

We are looking forward to a productive month before we go on break. Students will be learning in all subject areas, but focusing in on reading informational texts and identifying the main idea. Please encourage reading at home as much as possible! If you need books at home, please let us know!

Thank you for all that you do to support the education of our kids!

Stephenie Bruce, Principal

### Important Dates

- ★ **March 11 Track & Field/Tennis Start**
- ★ **March 15 ½ day**
- ★ **March 19 & 21 Parent Teacher Conference 3:30-7:00 (March 19 PSAT Parent Meeting)**
- ★ **April 1-5 Spring Break**
- ★ **April 9 8th grade PSAT testing**
- ★ **April 15 No School**



### Attendance Challenge

At Northwestern Middle school we focus on the importance of attendance by encouraging our students to be present and on time each day. For your information, students are considered absent when they arrive 15 minutes late to class. Each month we have an attendance challenge for our students. For the month of March, if your student has missed one day or less they will be able to attend a field trip in April. From January 28 - May 31 students who have missed 3 days or less will be entered to win a brand new bike.

## Northwestern Nursery!

Three Northwestern staff members are celebrating new additions to their families. Behavior Specialist Mrs. Hart-Walker gave birth to her daughter Nella on January 2. Assistant Principal Mr. McGee is the proud father of son Nelson, born on February 5. Spanish teacher "Profe" Kunitzer is overjoyed to receive his third daughter, Aida, born on March 7. Congratulations to all!

## Family Engagement

We would like to thank all our family and friends that came out to support our students for our Black History Program. We had a wonderful showcase and dinner. We look forward to seeing you at our Spring event!



## THE LIBRARY IS OFFICIALLY OPEN!!!!

On February 26th, with the help of Willard Library, our library was officially open. Students are able to check out books on Tuesdays with Willard Library and the National Junior Honor Society students to assist. Students are welcome to select from the hundreds of book that our library has to offer! Happy Reading!!!



## They're Growing Up!

On March 4th, the 8th graders went to Battle Creek Central to learn about their Freshman year. The students met the staff, engaged in activities, and learned about the credits that they need to graduate. The students were able to ask questions to a peer panel and see some familiar faces! The field trip ended in a guided tour of the building led by upperclassman.

## Encouragement

### Welcome Mr. Trigg!

Mr Trigg joins our Northwestern Family as a Bearcat Coach. Mr. Trigg is a Battle Creek alum and very familiar with Battle Creek. He has served as a basketball coach and mentored many in the community. Mr. Trigg is already building relationships and assisting many within the building.

Mrs. Collins and her advisory students have been busy! They have created plaques for teachers to show their appreciation for all that they do. Many teachers were honored. The plaques will be hung for all to see. Words from a few of the plaque recipients: Ms. Pierson, "It made me feel like what I do matters."

Mr. Kunitzer, " I felt appreciated and humbled that my students would put so much effort into acknowledging my work as a teacher."

Ms. Bentley, "Brought tears to my eyes being appreciated for what I do."

Thanks to Mrs. Collins and her students and all of the hard work.



