

Plainwell Middle School

September 2019 Newsletter



Welcome!

Welcome to the 2019-2020 school year. We are so excited your student will be with us. You will receive monthly newsletters which will give you information about the happenings here at school. As always, if you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. Teachers can best be reached via email, which is FirstName.LastName@PlainwellSchools.org.



Student Hours

Full Day: 7:34-2:26
Half Day: 7:34-11:04
2 hour delay: 9:34-2:26

The Office is open 7:00-3:30 every day.

Transportation

If your student would like to ride a bus they do not normally ride—to go to a friend's house, for example—they will need a bus pass. In order for a student to get a bus pass, the Office must receive a note, phone call, or email from a parent or guardian with the student's name, the date of the bus pass, and the name of the bus or the name of the friend with whom they will ride. Please feel free to call (269) 685-5813 or email Kelly.Carlyle@PlainwellSchools.org or Lynne.Seibert@PlainwellSchools.org with this information. We are unable to provide passes to students without one of these communications. Bus passes are handed out to students at 2:10, so please contact us in advance to ensure time for the pass to get to your student.





Sports

We are very proud of our Trojan athletic teams. The most up to date information on our teams is on the Plainwell Community Schools website, www.plainwellschools.org, go to the Middle School page, then scroll to the bottom to find the 'for parents' box, then click on athletics link. Information for current sports tryouts and sign ups are in the Office.

Safety

Student and staff safety is a priority. We appreciate your understanding and consideration of this. We are unable to release students to or give information about students to those not listed as parents or guardians in our system. Your student will bring home a form, called a census sheet, on which you may designate people to whom your student may be released from school, as well as **update your contact information**. We need a phone call, note, or email from a parent or guardian in order to release your student to a non-parent or non-guardian. We are unable to release a student on their own. If your student needs to leave early, a person who is on their approved pick up list should come in the Office to sign the student out. When a student returns, or is arriving after school begins, the student is allowed to sign themselves into school via the Office. If you are coming in to the school for any reason, first stop in the Office to either sign in or have your student called. If you have any questions, or need to check your student's information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Attendance

Attendance matters in school success. Learning builds day by day - consistent attendance can help a student succeed. Notes can be copied, and assignments made up, but class discussions can't.



Students who miss 10% or more of the school year (only 18 days!) are considered chronically absent and may be considered truant. This includes both excused and unexcused absences. For questions or concerns regarding chronic absences or truancy, please contact Collin Devos at 685-5813, ext. 1408, or email him at Collin.DeVos@PlainwellSchools.org.

If your student will not be in school, we ask that you call the attendance line at 269.685.6283 in order to excuse the absence. If your student will be gone for an extended period of time, please contact the Office via phone at 269.685.5813, or send a note in with your student. Automated phone calls are made each afternoon for any unexcused absences.

New and Returning Teachers

We are excited to have three new teachers and two returning teachers on staff! Please help us welcome Mrs. Dena Cooley, Mrs. Lacey Ramsey, and Mr. Bobby Tillman. Returning to the Middle School are Mr. Jason Herbert and Mrs. Kelly Williams.



Welcome, Mrs. Cooley!

Dena Cooley graduated from WMU and lives, and grew up in, the Plainwell area. She is married and has 2 children. Her step daughter graduated from Plainwell in 2016 and is currently a senior at WMU. She also has a little one at Starr Elementary. Mrs. Cooley says, "I am very excited to be here at Plainwell and have the privilege of working with the students in my community. I spend most of my free time with my family (which of course includes my dog)."



Welcome back, Mr. Herbert!

Happily married father of four Mr. Herbert enjoys being outside as much as possible. Mr. Herbert has taught 3rd through 12th grade students in Plainwell for the past 17 years and is excited to return "home" to the Middle School. In his free time, which is rare, Mr. Herbert enjoys running, gardening, cutting wood and hunting. If he's not at school or one of his kids sporting events, Mr. Herbert can usually be found working around his 60 acre farm in Delton.



We're Glad You're Here, Mrs. Ramsey!

In her 8th year teaching and 16th year working in education, Mrs. Ramsey comes to us from Comstock Schools, where she was a high school Science teacher. She has four children who attend school in Plainwell. She enjoys reading, watching football, and playing euchre. Mrs. Ramsey says, "If I had a goldfish, I would walk it twice a day."



Welcome to Plainwell, Mr. Tillman!

Originally from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Mr. Tillman is super excited to be working in the Plainwell community. In his 14th year of teaching, he comes to us from Kalamazoo Public Schools, where he taught for the last 5 years. Mr. Tillman will teach social studies for sixth and seventh grades. We are happy you are here, Mr. Tillman!



We're Glad You're Back, Mrs. Williams!

Having grown up in Plainwell, and having sat in the very classrooms she has taught in, Mrs. Kelly Williams, (nee' Koehn), has rejoined the Middle School staff after teaching 3rd grade at Gilkey Elementary for three years. This is her 20th year of teaching in Plainwell, most of which were right here at the Middle School. Although she enjoyed her time at Gilkey getting to know the younger students, Mrs. Williams missed working with older students and teaching in the ELA department. She will miss her Gilkey friends but looks forward to seeing them when they eventually move over to the Middle School! Married to husband Michael, the Williams Family enjoys trips to the beach, kayaking, swimming, biking, watching sports, reading, big family dinners, and neighborhood gatherings at their home in Portage. She is very excited for the 2019-2020 school year!



Technology Update

Middle School students are issued Chromebooks that they carry and use throughout the school day. As indicated in the Technology Agreement, parents/guardians are responsible for any damages to their student's Chromebooks. These can get expensive - a screen alone is a \$45 repair charge. This year, we have Chromebook insurance available for purchase through RevTrack. For \$18, you can have piece of mind that if your student's Chromebook is accidentally damaged, or stolen, you will not be charged. Please note that the insurance does not cover the Chromebook charger or carrying case.

Medications

We understand medicine may need to be taken during the school day. Any medication must be stored in the Office - students are not allowed to possess medication during the school day, with a few exceptions, such as Epi-Pens or inhalers. In order for us to be able to dispense over the counter medicine, a parent/guardian needs to fill out a 'Non Prescribed Medication' form while prescription medicine requires an 'Authorization for Prescribed medication' form which has both a parent/guardian portion and a physician portion. Please stop by the Office to drop off the medicine and pick up the paperwork - we are unable to give medication without the proper paperwork. As always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

7th Hour

Starting Tuesday, October 1, 7th hour runs on Tuesdays and Thursdays and is a great way for students to get extra help in classes or complete missing assignments. In order to stay for 7th Hour, students must sign up in the cafeteria during lunch. Once signed up, your student should go to the ESC after school. If your student is riding a bus, they head back to the ESC after 7th Hour to get their bus pass. 7th hour is over at 3:00. We are unable to sign students up for 7th Hour after 1:30pm. It is the responsibility of the student to let their parent/guardian know if they are staying for 7th hour. The Office does not notify if students are or are not signed up. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation.

Breakfast and Lunch Accounts

We offer tasty breakfast and lunch options in our cafeteria. A student may charge to their account or pay cash. If you'd like your student to have an account and be able to charge food, please go to

www.SendMoneytoSchool.com where you can sign up for an account and as well as make deposits. If you feel you qualify for the free or reduced program, please contact the Office.

Do You Receive Our Emailed Announcements?

Announcements are a great way to keep updated on what's going on in the school. Are you receiving our daily emailed announcements? If not, please go to www.plainwellschools.org, then scroll to the bottom, to the 'for parents' box. Click on that, then choose 'School Messenger: Notifications'. You can then fill out the information to receive our emails. You can also view the announcements on www.plainwellschools.org, then choose the middle school, then 'information for parents' then 'daily announcements' on the left.

Parent Group

Our Parent Group meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:00 in the ESC. Help support our school and your student by joining us!



Friday, September 6 - 7th/8th Grade Picture Day
Tuesday, September 10 - 6:00pm Parent Group Meeting
Wednesday, October 2 - Half Day for Students
Tuesday, October 8 - 4:00-7:00 pm Parent/Teacher Conferences
Tuesday, October 8 - 6:00pm Parent Group Meeting
Thursday, October 10 - 4:00-7:00pm Parent/Teacher Conferences
Friday, October 11 - Half Day for Students
Friday, October 11 - 12:00-3:00pm Parent/Teacher Conferences
Thursday, October 24 - Fall Choir Concert, PAC
Wednesday, November 6 - Half Day for Students
Tuesday, November 12 - 6:00pm Parent Group Meeting
Thursday, November 21 - Half Day for Students
Friday, November 22 - Half Day for Students
Wednesday, November 27 through Friday, November 29- No School
Thursday, December 5 - Band Concert, PAC
Monday, December 23 through Friday, January 3 - No school, Winter Break

Need to Contact Us?

Plainwell Middle School
720 Brigham Street | Plainwell, MI 49080
Telephone: 269.685.5813 | Fax: 269.685.2099
Attendance Line: 269.685.6283

