

Hopkins Public Schools

# Hopkins Middle School Newsletter

215 Clark Street  
Hopkins, MI 49328  
Ph: 269-793-7407  
Fax: 888-557-7919

*"Committed to Quality Education for our Children's Future"*

## WHAT'S GOING ON?

8th Grade Graduation

June 6th @ 1:00 pm 

.....  
• April 27 is a HALF DAY OF SCHOOL!  
.....

Yearbook order forms are here! There's a form to print attached to this newsletter if your student didn't bring one home.

HOPKINS PUBLIC SCHOOLS PRESENTS-



# The Addams Family

A NEW MUSICAL COMEDY

-APRIL 26 6:30PM

-APRIL 27 7PM

-APRIL 28 2 & 7PM

TICKETS \$10/\$8

ON SALE 3/19 IN MS

OFFICE

For the entire month of April we will be collecting cereal (kid-friendly please) to help fight childhood hunger. Collection boxes are located throughout the Middle School. The goal is to collect 30,000 boxes by the end of the drive hosted by the Allegan County Community Foundation.

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| The Middle School and High School Spring Band Concert |  
will be held on May 10 at 6:30 pm in the High School Gym

MSTEP Testing for 8th Graders will take place April 23, 24 & 26

# “Grillin’ in the Grass”

## Fundraiser Dinner

Presented by the Hopkins Vocal Music Boosters



**THURSDAY, May 17<sup>th</sup>**

**From: 4:30-7:00pm**

(Prior to the Choir & Art Collage Concerts  
in the M.S. Cafetorium)



**LOCATION: Hopkins High School's Front Patio/Lawn**

(If poor weather, the dinner will be held inside the H.S. Cafeteria)

333 Clark Street

Hopkins, MI 49328

(269) 793-7407 (x 3109)

**PRICE: \$7 per person at the Patio Entrance Table**

\*Family Special –4 Dinners for \$24

**MORE DETAILS:**

Bring the Whole Family!

\*If you can't stay for the Dinner, Take Out will be available!



**TWO Menu CHOICES:**

**Hamburger Meal**

or

**2 Hot Dogs Meal**

Baked Beans

Baked Beans

Chips

Chips

Pop

Pop

Brownie

Brownie



**Proceeds from this event go toward Hopkins  
Vocal Music Student Scholarships and Trips.**



# Middle Years

Working Together for School Success



## Short Stops

### Finish strong

As your child thinks ahead to summer, he may be tempted to relax his efforts in school. Explain that staying focused in every class will help him learn and prepare him for end-of-year tests. And by keeping on top of final projects, he'll prevent a last-minute scramble.

### Spring clothes

Now is a good time to review the school dress code with your tween so you're on the same page about what to wear. For instance, maybe bike shorts, tank tops, or flip-flops aren't allowed. Suggest that your child keep school clothes and shoes separate from those for working out or wearing around the house. This will make choosing outfits easier.

### Publish a book review

Have your middle schooler think more deeply about her reading with this idea. After she finishes a novel, she might enjoy writing a review that will give others a good idea of what the book is about. Let her publish her review at an online bookstore for others to read. *Note:* Be sure she doesn't use her real name.

### Worth quoting

"A good laugh is sunshine in the house." *William Makepeace Thackeray*

### Just for fun

**Q:** I'm as light as a feather, but the world's strongest person can't hold me for long. What am I?

**A:** A breath.



## Electronics: Creating a balance

Technology lets middle graders do research with the touch of a button or video-chat with relatives who live far away. Too much technology, however, might cause your tween to feel isolated and to sit still much longer than is good for her. Consider these ways to keep her usage in check.

### Set the stage

Encourage face-to-face interaction by putting away devices (including yours) at established times, such as during meals, family outings, or a sibling's lacrosse game. When you're using a device and your child interrupts, switch your attention to her. She'll see that the person in front of you is more important than what's on the screen.

### Wait for social media

Most social media sites require users to be 13 or older, yet some children are using fake birth dates to create accounts. Let your middle schooler know she must be old enough *and* get your okay to join. Consider setting up a family account, but

keep the password to yourself. She can send you photos or links to post.

### Harness the good

Suggest that your tween take advantage of technology to connect with family members or to do research. She might play an electronic version of a board game with a cousin in another town. Or if she's stumped on a craft project, she could look up instructions online. Also, let her use the internet to research extracurricular activities or summer programs. 🙌



## Tinker with engineering

STEM activities are popular with tweens these days. Encourage your child to explore the "E" in STEM with these engineering ideas.

■ **Take apart.** Have him disassemble—and then reassemble—simple mechanical objects like a pen or flashlight. In the process, he can figure out what each part is used for and how it works.

■ **Design.** Let your middle grader draw an invention to solve an engineering problem. He might sketch a more efficient system for delivering clean water to areas that lack it, for instance.

■ **Build.** Suggest that your tween use household materials to engineer projects related to what he's studying in class. If he's learning about thermal energy, he could make a pizza-box solar oven. 🙌



## Funny—or not?

Joking around is a good way for tweens to let off steam and bring people together. But humor may also hurt people's feelings—or even be considered bullying if it's done repeatedly to make someone feel bad. Here's how to help your child draw the line.

**Demonstrate differences.** Show your middle grader that a joke that's funny to one person might not be funny to someone else. Let him and friends or family members list types of jokes they think are humorous (such as knock-knock jokes) on one piece of paper and those



they don't (like practical jokes) on another. Then, share lists. Your tween may be surprised if what appears in his "funny" category falls into another person's "not funny" one.

**Think it through.** Before your child tells a joke, suggest that he consider how it will affect those around him. Is the topic one that somebody might be sensitive about, such as weight? Could the joke come across as a put-down? If so, he should avoid it. *Tip:* If he'll feel the need to say "Just kidding" or "No offense" afterward, that's a sign the joke may be hurtful. 🍌



## Parent to Parent Still in touch with school

Recently, I started feeling bogged down with the school-year routine. I wasn't keeping up with papers my daughter Molly brought home. When another parent mentioned a meeting I didn't know about, I realized I had to get back to being more involved.

Thanks to the other parent, Molly and I attended a meeting for next fall's cross country team. We

learned about summer conditioning and signed up for coaches' updates. Had we skipped the meeting, Molly might have missed out on participating altogether.

Now I've started opening school emails right away. I also have Molly put papers on my nightstand so I'm reminded to read them before bed. Staying in touch has made me more enthusiastic about her school and activities. And I think it makes Molly feel good in knowing I care. 🍌



## Facts about opioids

The opioid epidemic is making headlines everywhere. Take steps now to protect your tween from these highly addictive, and potentially deadly, drugs.

### Be informed

Opioids include prescription pain relievers such as Vicodin, oxycodone, and fentanyl. Heroin is also an opioid.

### Be cautious

Middle graders may be prescribed painkillers after a sports injury or a wisdom tooth extraction, for example. Ask the doctor or dentist about alternatives to opioids. If your child is given medicine, dispense each dose to her. Keep it locked up between doses, and discard any leftovers.

### Be observant

If you notice that your tween has mood swings, withdraws from family and friends, or loses interest in favorite activities, talk to her pediatrician. 🍌



## Q & A A successful IEP meeting

**Q** My son was just diagnosed with a learning disability. What can I expect at our first IEP meeting?

**A** An IEP (Individualized Education Program) meeting lets you talk with an entire team about how everyone can help your son learn.

Before the meeting, write down questions and concerns. Get your son's input, too. What does he feel he's doing well? What is hard for him? What goals would he like to set?

This meeting can be emotional for you as a parent, since you'll hear about what your child struggles with. There will also be a lot of information to absorb. Consider taking along a spouse, friend, or relative to provide support and to help you remember what was said.

Also, remember that you're a key part of the IEP team. If there's an accommodation you think could boost your son's success, such as keeping one set of textbooks in his locker and another at home, it's important to speak up. 🍌



**OUR PURPOSE**

To provide busy parents with practical ideas that promote school success, parent involvement, and more effective parenting.

Resources for Educators,  
a division of CCEI Incorporated  
128 N. Royal Avenue • Front Royal, VA 22630  
800-394-5072 • rfc@resourcesforeducators.com  
www.rfeonline.com  
ISSN 1540-5560



# TNT West Soccer



**TNT West Soccer is coming to Hopkins!**

**We are excited to announce Boys and Girls SELECT Soccer in Hopkins**  
**Local fields, local players, local coaches...**

**Fall 2018 SELECT Tryouts**  
**u8 - u19 Boys and Girls**

**3rd Week in June @ Hopkins, MI**

**All players should bring the following:**

- Properly inflated soccer ball
- Soccer cleats or turf shoes
- Water or Sports drink

**Contact:**

**Wade Schuemann**

- TNT West Director of Coaching,
- Hopkins High School Soccer Coach,  
wschuemann4tnt@gmail.com  
616.403.0974

**Aaron Daane**

- TNT West Executive Director  
azdsoccer@sbcglobal.net  
616.780.1723

PLEASE PRE-REGISTER ONLINE @ [www.gvsoccer.org](http://www.gvsoccer.org) EARLY JUNE



TNT West is a local soccer club committed to player development. Our training curriculum is designed to improve the fundamental skills of each player.

We offer a highly competitive & structured training environment for all West Michigan soccer players.

All of our coaches hold a **USFF E License** or higher, and nearly half of our coaches hold a **National License**. TNT West coaches are limited to three club teams to ensure consistent training and development for each team.

We welcome ALL players at ALL skill levels! We want players that are looking to take their game to the next level! We take pride in teaching the game the right way! Developing character and playing with integrity and sportsmanship.

The TNT West **C3** core philosophy:

**CONFIDENCE, CONTROL & CREATIVITY!**



Tryout information available in May  
[WWW.TNTWESTSOCCER.COM](http://WWW.TNTWESTSOCCER.COM)



Girls- dress up your dads  
and come dance the night  
away!

Seventh Annual Elementary  
Daddy-Daughter Dance

Friday, May 11, 2018

Hopkins Middle School  
Cafeteria  
6:00-8:00

\$10.00 Admission/  
Couple



Concessions available:

CD's Pizza, soda, juice,  
water, popcorn, candy

Proceeds go to help fund 6th  
Grade Camp.

Photo booth available for  
photo ops!

April 20, 2018

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Hopkins Middle School will begin M-STEP testing during the week of April 23<sup>rd</sup>. All students will be taking a series of tests designed to measure academic progress on state standards in the core subjects of English, mathematics, science, and social studies. The tests will happen over the course of a few days in first hour classrooms. Below, you will find a list of the tests taken at each grade level and the dates they will happen at HMS:

<b>8<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>
English 4/23	English 5/22	English TBD (May)
Math 4/24	Math 5/23	Math TBD (May)
Science 4/26		
Social Studies pt 1 4/26		
Social Studies pt 2 4/26		

The M-STEP is one indicator of a student's progress, but it does not necessarily show the whole picture. While there are differing opinions on the significance of standardized testing, it is important to encourage all students to try their best. Included on the back of this letter is the Michigan Department of Education's parent guide for helping students prepare for the MSTEP. Please take a minute to read and go over the key points with your student before their designated testing dates.

Feel free to give me a call if you or your student has any questions about the upcoming M-STEP testing.

Sincerely,

Scott Stockwell  
Principal Hopkins Middle School  
[scotstoc@hpsvikings.org](mailto:scotstoc@hpsvikings.org)  
269.793.7407



# Student Testing

## What Parents Can Do to Help Students Prepare

As a parent and your child's first teacher, you can help your child understand and prepare for the assessments they will take in school. Here are some points that will help your child perform their best:

**Find out the facts:** To start, review the Michigan Department of Education's Parent/Student Information at: [www.michigan.gov/mstep](http://www.michigan.gov/mstep), which includes valuable information on state assessments and the Spring testing calendar.

**Talk to your child about testing:** Let them know that assessment is a regular part of learning. Make sure they understand why they are being tested and how it is important to their future.

**Keep state tests in perspective:** Reduce your child's anxiety about the test by reminding them that it is just one measure of learning, and another way to find out where their academic strengths and weaknesses are. Remind them of what they do well, and how they have improved with effort.

**Take a look at the state practice opportunities and encourage your child to practice at home:** Not only will this help you better understand the types of questions your child will be answering, it will help familiarize your child with the test format and features. If your child is struggling, let the teacher know so when your child takes the test, the focus can be more on test content and less on test navigation. Links to the below information can be found at [www.michigan.gov/mstep](http://www.michigan.gov/mstep) in the parent/student section.

- Elementary and middle school M-STEP sample test items can be found at: [www.michigan.gov/mstep/](http://www.michigan.gov/mstep/)
- High School PSAT and SAT sample test items can be found at: <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat> or the MDE assessment high school page: <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/practice>

**Make sure that your child is well rested and eats a high protein, low sugar/carb breakfast:** Children who are tired, hungry or have too much sugar and carbs are less able to pay attention in class or to handle the demands of a test.

**Remember—Attending school matters:** Tests reflect children's overall knowledge and achievement. Missing school means missing instruction.

**Meet with your child's teacher as often as possible to discuss progress:** Ask the teacher to suggest activities for you and your child to do at home to increase and reinforce student learning.

**Learn what your child should be learning in English language arts, math, social studies, and science:**

Michigan learning standards can be found at: <http://tinyurl.com/mistatestandards>. In addition, the PTA has developed the PTA Parents' Guide to Success, which gives descriptions of the skills and knowledge your child is expected to gain every year.



### Testing Facts to Share with Your Child

- Tests are just one way teachers, schools, districts, and states use to measure what students know and how well they are learning what is taught.
- The purpose of a state assessment is to ensure our state's schools do the best job possible in preparing students to become successful, based on a set of agreed-upon standards.
- Because the state test is exactly aligned with Michigan's standards, test questions should be a natural extension of what students are learning every day in their classrooms.



# What PARENTS SHOULD Know About Assessments

Have you ever wondered why students are given so many types of tests in school? You're not alone. Just like each subject provides students with different content and information, each type of assessment measures student learning in different ways for different purposes.

#### **For example:**

**Formative Assessment** is a process used by classroom teachers and students on a regular basis to confirm, adjust, and support teaching and learning.

**Interim or Benchmark Assessments** are given to students multiple times throughout the school year to monitor student learning toward meeting learning goals over time.

**Summative Assessments** are given at the end of a learning cycle to certify that learning has occurred. End-of-chapter tests are one example of summative tests given at a local level. State and federal law require all students be tested in specific grades and subjects once a year to measure student progress in learning state content standards or other career- or college-ready goals. Our elementary and middle school assessment is called the Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress or M-STEP. The Michigan Merit Exam, or MME, is the state high school exam. Some students with disabilities take an alternative state assessment called MI-Access; English language learners are given an assessment called WIDA. Schools also have the option to use Michigan's Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessment in grades K-2.



#### **Reporting Assessment Results**

A Parent Report of your child's assessment results is available from his or her school each fall. Statewide assessment results are reported at [www.mischooldata.org](http://www.mischooldata.org) through the state's new Parent Dashboard for School Transparency. In addition to test scores, the this [Dashboard](#) is filled with important school-level information that parents and others say they want to know about Michigan public schools, including charter schools ([www.mischooldata.org/parentdashboard](http://www.mischooldata.org/parentdashboard)).

Families and others can use the dashboard to get a more complete picture of how their child's school is serving students. They also can use the Dashboard to compare a school's performance with the average performance of other similar Michigan schools. Your ideas can make the Parent Dashboard even better! Send feedback to [MDE-ParentDashboard@michigan.gov](mailto:MDE-ParentDashboard@michigan.gov).

#### **Where to Find Assessment Resources**

To provide parents with important information on student testing, state assessments, and how you can help your child prepare, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) has developed several print and video communication tools (see back page for descriptions).

You can find parent resources on the following pages:

[M-STEP web page](http://www.michigan.gov/mstep) ([www.michigan.gov/mstep](http://www.michigan.gov/mstep))

[MME web page](http://www.michigan.gov/mme) ([www.michigan.gov/mme](http://www.michigan.gov/mme))

[MI-Access web page](http://www.michigan.gov/MI-Access) ([www.michigan.gov/MI-Access](http://www.michigan.gov/MI-Access))

[Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark web page](http://www.michigan.gov/earlylitandmath) ([www.michigan.gov/earlylitandmath](http://www.michigan.gov/earlylitandmath))

# YEARBOOK

TODAY.

ENCARGA HOY TU ANUARIO.

Order online at  
**ybpay.lifetouch.com**

For a complete list of schools visit [www.lifetouch.com](http://www.lifetouch.com)

#10730118

## Announcing... The Hopkins Middle School 2017-2018 YEARBOOK

Our yearbook is planned to include:

- All-color pages that vibrantly capture school memories
- Sturdy soft cover

Add on any of the following yearbook extras:

- Durable, high-quality hard cover protects treasured memories for a lifetime

Schools may adjust yearbook features and the final yearbook features may vary.



### YEARBOOK PRICING

Soft Cover Yearbook:	\$20.00
Upgrade to a Hard Cover:	+\$5.00



### MAKE PAYMENTS TO

Hopkins Middle School

## Yearbook order

Deadline is  
June 1, 2018

Order Online at [YBPay.lifetouch.com](http://YBPay.lifetouch.com) with Yearbook ID Code: 10730118

**Instructions:** 1. Complete all sections of this envelope. 2. Insert your payment inside. 3. Seal and return to your school.  
Instrucciones: 1. Completa todas las secciones de este sobre. 2. Incluye tu pago. 3. Pega el sobre y envíalo a tu escuela.

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Nombre del estudiante

Grado

Fecha

Teacher Name/Homeroom \_\_\_\_\_

Nombre del maestro/a / Clase

Choose Your Yearbook and options:

- Standard Yearbook
- Add Hard Cover Upgrade

Price

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank You  
for Your  
Yearbook  
Order!**  
¡Gracias por su orden  
del anuario!

When you pay by check, you authorize us to process the payment as a check transaction, or to use the information from your check to make a one-time electronic fund transfer from your checking account. Funds may be withdrawn from your account on the next day we receive your payment, and your financial institution will not return your check. A printer fee may be charged on returned checks. Cuando pagas con cheque, nos autorizas a procesar el pago como una transacción mediante cheque o a usar la información de tu cheque para realizar una transferencia electrónica de fondos desde la cuenta de cheque por depósito. Con fondos pueden ser transferidos de la cuenta de cheque de un que sustituye la paga, y tu orden/ transacción se deducirá el cheque. Por cheque, el depósito se podrá aplicar un pago.

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# IMPORTANT INFORMATION

April 23	8th Grade MSTEP	May 10	MS/HS Spring Band Concert
April 24	8th Grade MSTEP	May 11	All A's Ceremony
April 25	8th Grade Career Quest Trip	May 17	MS/HS Choir Concert & Art Show
April 26	8th Grade MSTEP	May 18	MS Dance
April 27	1/2 Day of School	May 25	Field Day
April 30	8th Grade AIMSWEB Testing	June 6	8th Graders Tour the HS
May 1	7th Grade AIMSWEB Testing	June 6	8th Grade Graduation
May 2	6th Grade AIMSWEB Testing	June 8	1/2 Day for students/LAST DAY



## HMS Contact Information

### ADMINISTRATION:

Scott Stockwell, *Principal*  
 Pat O'Dell, *Dean of Students*  
 Todd Crook, *Counselor*  
 Molly Khang, *Counselor*  
 Jennifer Hitchcock, *Secretary*

### EXT:

3509  
 3507  
 3508  
 3512  
 3500

### STAFF:

Aleman, Kathleen  
 Barry, Joseph  
 Byville, Suzanne  
 Caulder, Stephanie  
 Dana, Katie  
 Dykstra, Krystal  
 Fisher, Mark  
 Francis, Cody  
 Haverdink, Melissa  
 Hazen, Rick  
 Irwin, Julie  
 Johnson, Chris  
 Johnston, Jennifer  
 Kerber, Brian  
 Klumpp, Molly  
 Marckini, Katelyn  
 Oaster, Jacob  
 Postma, Carrie  
 Quist, Carrie  
 Reszka, Richard  
 Rynsburger, T.J.  
 Schoonveld, Missy  
 Scudder, Mack  
 Smith, Julie  
 Smith, Lesa  
 Stein, Karen  
 VerMerris, Steve  
 Weible, Alexis  
 Weick, Pat  
 Williams, Jessica

### EXT:

3002  
 3001  
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 3562  
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 3009  
 3592  
 3006  
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 3004  
 3129

### ATTENDANCE

Please call the Middle School office at (269) 793-7407 within 24 hours of your students absence. You may leave a message on our voicemail system day or night. When reporting illness, please inform the secretary of the type of symptoms your child is experiencing (*fever, sore throat, ect.*). If your child is absent 2 days or more, you may request homework. If your student is absent only 1 day, homework may be picked up from their teachers the following day. You may also email absences to [jennhite@hpsvikings.org](mailto:jennhite@hpsvikings.org).

### PHONE CALLS

Telephones in the office are to be used for **illness and emergencies only**. Thank you for your cooperation.

### IMMUNIZATIONS

Please report all immunizations that your child has had so we are able to keep our school records up to date. All new students and all 6th graders must be completely up to date on all immunizations. Contact the HMS office if you have any questions.

### MEDICATION

ALL medications needing to be dispensed to students must be supplied from home. The school does not provide any type of medication. All prescription medication must be provided in a pharmacy labeled bottle. Tylenol/Aspirin must be brought to the office in an unopened bottle. All students requiring any type of medication must have a medication form completed by their parents and on file in the office.

### CHANGES in Phone Numbers, Home Address & E-Mail

**Please inform the office any time there are changes in your address or phone numbers.** We need to have this information so we can update our records and successfully contact you if needed.