



MACDONALD MIDDLE SCHOOL

Open House / Curriculum Night

2026–2027

Be Kind • Work Hard • Value Positive Relationships



Welcome & Support Team

Building Administration

Amy Martin, Principal
John Atkinson, Associate Principal

Counselors

Collin Eidelson, 6th Grade
Emma Robbins, 7th Grade
Hannah VanDyne, 8th Grade

Student Support

Melvin White, Dean of Student Success
Andy Wells, Student Advocate
Addie Alderink, Restorative Justice Facilitator

Tonight is about connection: meeting the people who support your student, understanding classroom expectations, and knowing how we can partner together.



What We Want for Every Student

Safe, Known, Connected

Students feel seen, valued, and comfortable seeking help.

Challenged Academically

Students engage in meaningful learning and grow as thinkers.

Independent & Responsible

Students build habits that prepare them for high school and beyond.

Supported Early

Students and families know who to contact before concerns become barriers.

Our work is strongest when students, families, and school staff are pulling in the same direction.



Our School Expectations

Be Kind

Choose words and actions that make MMS a place where everyone belongs.

Work Hard

Bring effort, ask questions, and keep growing—even when learning is challenging.

Value Positive Relationships

Build trust with peers and adults; repair harm when mistakes happen.

These expectations guide how we learn, interact, solve problems, and care for our school community.



How Families Can Help Their Middle Schooler

- Check PowerSchool regularly, while helping students take ownership.
- Ask your student to show you Google Classroom and upcoming due dates.
- Encourage students to communicate directly with teachers when they need help.
- Build routines for homework, sleep, and healthy device use.
- Reach out early—we would rather problem-solve with you sooner than later.

Middle school is the time to gradually transfer responsibility from parent to student—with adults still providing the guardrails.

Partnership = home routines + student ownership + school support



Attendance Matters: Every Period Counts

Regular attendance supports academics, relationships, engagement, and long-term success.

Our goal is not simply compliance. Our goal is to identify barriers early, partner with families, and help students stay present and connected.

What families should know

- Attendance is reviewed by period, not just by day.
- Excused and unexcused absences count toward the process.
- Please communicate with MMS as early as possible when concerns arise.
- We will work with families to problem-solve barriers and connect supports.



MACDONALD MIDDLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE MATTERS: EVERY PERIOD COUNTS!



PARTNERING WITH FAMILIES TO SUPPORT STUDENT SUCCESS



WHY ATTENDANCE MATTERS

At MacDonald Middle School, we believe regular attendance is key to student success in academics and social/emotional development.

Over the last few years, there has been a rise in chronic absenteeism, not only at MMS but across the country. Chronic absenteeism is defined as missing **10% or more** of school during any period of the school year.

We desire students to attend regularly so that they build stronger connections with staff and peers, stay engaged in learning, and increase chances for long-term achievement.

This new procedure provides multi-layered interventions that we hope will help us identify and remove barriers, increase accountability, and better meet the individual needs of families.

WHAT COUNTS?

Attendance codes that **COUNT** toward this policy:

- EA** – Excused Absence
- UNV** – Unexcused Absence

EXEMPT FROM THIS POLICY

The following absences **DO NOT** count toward this policy when appropriate documentation and communication are provided to MMS administration:

-  Religious Holidays
-  Approved Prearranged Absences
-  Long-Term Medical Absences (such as hospitalization or extended medical treatment)

Please communicate with MMS administration in advance whenever possible so we can best support your student.

OUR ATTENDANCE SUPPORT PROCESS

35 PERIODS ABSENT ≈ 5 SCHOOL DAYS	 SCHOOL OUTREACH & SUPPORT A MacDonald Middle School representative will contact the student and caregiver to discuss attendance concerns and explore ways we can work together to improve attendance. Together, we will identify barriers and connect families with available supports and resources.
56 PERIODS ABSENT ≈ 8 SCHOOL DAYS	 TEMPORARY LOSS OF PRIVILEGES Students will temporarily lose the privilege of participating in extracurricular activities for at least one week, including: • Athletics • Dances • Attending athletic events • Other extracurricular activities • Clubs Privileges may be restored through improved attendance.
70+ PERIODS ABSENT ≈ 10 SCHOOL DAYS	 ATTENDANCE SUPPORT PLAN Students will continue to lose extracurricular participation privileges. Families will be required to meet with MacDonald Middle School administration to develop an Attendance Support Plan that identifies barriers, establishes goals, and outlines strategies for improving attendance.
77 PERIODS ABSENT	 TRUANCY REFERRAL PROCESS Students will lose eligibility to participate in extracurricular activities for the remainder of the semester. MacDonald Middle School administration will initiate the Truancy Referral Process through the Ingham Intermediate School District in accordance with Michigan law.

WE'RE HERE TO HELP

We understand that attendance challenges can happen for many reasons. If your family is experiencing circumstances that make regular attendance difficult, please contact us as early as possible. Our staff is committed to partnering with families to identify solutions and remove barriers so every student can be present, connected, and successful.

PRESENT. CONNECTED. SUCCESSFUL.

EVERY PERIOD COUNTS.

EVERY STUDENT MATTERS.

★ Thank you for partnering with MacDonald Middle School to make attendance a priority! ★



Who Do I Contact?

Start with the person closest to the concern. We will help route questions when you are not sure.

Classroom or assignment question

Teacher

Academic or social-emotional concern

Counselor

Behavior, restorative support, or student success concern

Dean / Student Support Team

Ongoing or unresolved concern

Administration

Thank you for reaching out early and partnering with us.



Communication Tools

MMS Family Update

Emailed on the 1st and 15th

PowerSchool

Grades and attendance

Google Classroom

Assignments and classroom resources

Facebook

MacDonald Middle School Community Council



Student Opportunities

Current Opportunities

Creative Writing Club
7th/8th Grade Student Council
World Language
Robotics Club
Archery Club
Art Club
Social Justice Club
Mathcounts
Science Olympiad
Intramural Sports Club
Dungeons & Dragons
Theater Club
CSU

More Opportunities We'd Love to Offer

Chess Club
Roblox/Minecraft Club
Esports Club

**Interested students—and potential staff
sponsors—can help bring these ideas to
life.**



Community Council Impact

- Plans student events, including Activity Nights and the 8th Grade Dance
- Manages the online spiritwear store to build school pride
- Celebrates teachers and staff throughout the year
- Funds grants that support classroom learning

**Family volunteers help
make the MacDonald
Middle School experience
stronger for every student.**

Community • Connection • Support



OPEN HOUSE / CURRICULUM NIGHT

Get Involved — It's Easy!

Support Our Mission

Donate through Venmo or PayPal to fund teacher grants and student activities.

Volunteer Your Time

Help with Activity Nights and other special events throughout the year.

Join Our Meetings

Attend monthly meetings on the fourth Tuesday of each month.

Every contribution—time, ideas, or financial support—makes a meaningful difference for MMS students and staff.



OPEN HOUSE / CURRICULUM NIGHT

Join the Community Council Team

4 Hours Per Month

Make a meaningful difference with a manageable time commitment.

Monthly Meetings

Just 30 minutes on the fourth Tuesday of each month.

Event Planning

Help brainstorm and organize student activities and teacher appreciation events.

Flexible Volunteering

Choose opportunities that fit your schedule and interests.



Look What We've Accomplished!

17 Teacher Grants

Nearly \$4,000 invested directly in classroom resources and student learning.

2 Activity Nights

Plus the unforgettable 8th Grade Dance—experiences students will remember.

100% Staff Appreciation

Every teacher and staff member celebrated during appreciation week.





MMS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Thank You!

Follow MacDonald Middle School
Community Council on Facebook

Venmo @MMSCC





Tonight's Team Locations

6A – West Gym

Mr. Baars
Mr. Kimon
Ms. Schafer
Ms. Leon

6B – Cafeteria

Mr. Haskell
Mr. Wismer
Ms. Carlson
Ms. Dalton

7A – Media Center

Ms. Alcazar
Ms. Konett
Ms. Pline
Mr. Modzelewski

7B – Room 260

Ms. Gower
Ms. Petrino
Mr. Christians
Ms. Cheritt

8A – Room 122

Ms. Busby
Ms. Henry
Ms. Dorcy
Ms. Jackson

8B – Room 120

Ms. Jones
Ms. Donley
Mr. Golovich
Ms. Newcombe



Thank you for coming tonight!

We value and appreciate your partnership.

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