



**Kenny Loosvelt**  
**PRINCIPAL**

**Volume 11**  
**Number 1**

**Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be Responsible**

**August - September 2016**

Hello, York Middle School Parents and Students. I am extremely excited to begin my second year as principal of York Middle School. The first year was truly a learning experience for me. I learned that we have an outstanding staff that is dedicated to the growth of young men and women not only academically but physically, emotionally and socially. I learned that we have students at YMS who work hard and thirst to learn. I learned that I work in a school district that is focused on students and strives to constantly improve. I even learned that where you sit in the lunchroom is a HUGE deal.

I am excited to start this second year armed with the knowledge from the previous year. I am determined to make my second year better than my first year. I am excited to work with your child(ren) and make this year one of their best. We are going to have a great year! If you have any questions, or concerns, please don't hesitate to stop by my office or give me a call at 362-6655. Go Dukes!

This is a monthly publication designed to keep parents informed of the news and activities relating to York Middle School. This issue is packed with information regarding the necessary preparations to get your student ready for the first day of school.

The York Middle School newsletter is also on-line. You will be able to access it by using the district's web-site. If you do not have access to a computer, you may sign up to continue to receive a hard copy. Details are inside this edition.

The middle school experience is both an exciting and anxious time for students, especially new students to the building. Rest assured your child has a committed administration, faculty, and staff at YMS in supporting each and every child to ensure all individual potential is reached.

Middle Years—Each month I provide a publication called, 'The Middle Years.' This publication is jammed packed with tips and information that will aid parents and students in their trek through middle school. The publication will be found inside every newsletter and we hope you enjoy the information.

What can I control? These three short years at YMS are full of changes for students both physically, emotionally, socially as well as academically. Two constants that everyone can control is your Attitude & Effort. I want all students to come to school each day knowing that if they choose a positive attitude and give a great effort, they will have had a successful day. Parents thank you for encouraging your middle school child to chose a great Attitude & Effort each day!

Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be Responsible— YMS behavior expectations are based upon the 3 B's. Doing this will allow all students to grow academically, physically, emotionally and socially. Throughout the year students will be taught what it looks like to be safe, respectful, and responsible at school and also throughout their daily lives.

Safety— In this newsletter, you will find information concerning the arrival, departure, parental pickup and drop-off of students. Please have a conversation with your child about safety during this time. Students walking or riding bicycles to and from school are encouraged to be aware of their surroundings, cross streets at appropriate areas and respect all traffic around them. The first several days of school will be spent educating students on the importance of safety during this time.

Open House - There is important information concerning this event in this issue. This event is vital to a successful beginning of the school year. Please plan to attend and get a positive start to the school term.

The first day of school - Our first day of school will be Thursday, August 11, beginning at 8:00 AM. Students will first report to their Student Family. School will dismiss at noon with no lunch being served. Buses will run immediately after school is dismissed. Friday will be a normal school day.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the middle school at 362-6655. We are going to have a GREAT school year at YMS. Go Dukes!!

Sincerely,

Kenny Loosvelt, Principal  
[@YMSDukes](http://www.yorkpublic.org)

# YMS Open House

**Tuesday, August 9**

**5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**

Welcome, students, to York Middle School! It can be difficult to start school in a different building: learning where rooms are located and meeting new teachers and friends. To aid in this transition, we are holding an Open House to invite **all** incoming students, along with their parents, to an evening of orientation.

Orientation will be from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

**6th grade students can pick up their schedules from 5:30 - 6:00 p.m.** Starting at 6:00 p.m.

there will be a short presentation in the gym for all 6th graders, **new** students and their parents. Following the presentation, students along with their parents, are welcome to tour the building, find their lockers, and visit with the teachers.

**7th grade students can pick their schedules up, tour the building, locate their locker and visit with the teachers from 6:00 - 6:30 p.m.**

**8th grade students can pick up their schedules from 6:30 - 7:00 p.m. They may then tour the building, meet the teachers, and find their lockers.**

The office will be open to purchase activity tickets, and you may put money into your child's lunch account. If you are able to take the time to complete the forms in your child's packet, the office will gladly accept those as well.

We look forward to seeing you on Tuesday, August 9!



## New YMS Staff

YMS welcomes the new additions to our staff for the 2016 - 2017 school year!

Veronica Waldron	6th Grade Reading Teacher
Dave Ciccone	Guidance Counselor

## Parent-Student Folder



Your son/daughter will be receiving their Parent-Student Folder at the YMS Open House. This packet will contain your son/daughter's schedule, as well as several forms for you to fill out.

In order for us to communicate effectively, as well as file reports to the state, we need to make sure we have accurate, up-to-date information.

**For us to do our job well, it is critical that you fill out and return all forms to the middle school.**

We will then go through and update the information.

**We would like all parental forms returned to the YMS office by September 2nd.**

We appreciate your help in this process!

## Loading and Unloading of Students Before and After School

Parent drop off and pick up is on the west (Delaware Avenue) side of the building. Stay to the right and follow the signs. Please pull forward to the blue parking line. Pulling forward will keep the traffic flowing and will reduce the waiting for other parents dropping off their son/daughter.

The Delaware Avenue entrance is the primary entrance into the building!  
Visitor parking is located here as well.



Before and after school the streets surrounding York Middle School will become very congested, and at times, can be dangerous. We need assistance from parents to please be patient during this time and help to ensure the safety of our students!

## School Hours

Supervision at York Middle School begins at 7:40 a.m. We ask that students not arrive on campus prior to that time. One staff member supervises the cafeteria. Students are welcome to congregate in that area. Once students get to YMS, they are expected to come on campus and remain there. Students enter the halls at 7:50 a.m. with classes beginning at 8:00 a.m. Dismissal is at 3:13 p.m. Students are expected to clear campus and return home as soon as school is dismissed unless they are participating in a supervised extra-curricular activity, staying after school with a teacher, or participating in the YMS After-School Clubs.

On early dismissal days, students must leave campus and return for sports practice no earlier than 3:15 p.m., **unless** the student is involved in an After-School Club.



## 7th Grade Physicals

State law requires that **all** seventh grade students have a physical examination by a qualified physician. Seventh grade physical forms must be turned into the YMS office by October 5, 2016. If you have any questions, please contact Donelle Ellison, the school nurse, at 362-6655.

## Fall YMS Athletics

The fall middle school athletic season is just around the corner. Football practice will begin on Thursday, August 18.



Seventh & eighth grade students going out for volleyball or football: Be sure to have your physical **before** the first day of practice. You will need to turn in **both** the physical form, and the parent consent form in order to get your blue card **before the sport begins**. The blue card will then be turned into your coach the first day of practice.



**YMS  
ACCESS**



All YMS doors will be locked during school hours, 8:00 a.m. – 3:13 p.m. Anyone wishing to enter the building will need to access the buzzer system located at the main, west entrance of YMS. This system will alert office staff. Once visitors have been identified and viewed through the video monitoring system, they will be allowed to enter.

# ATTACK ON ASTHMA



Throughout Nebraska schools a protocol is followed for emergency treatment of a student or staff member with **life threatening** asthma or allergic reaction.

The protocol steps are designed to provide quick, effective care to prevent death. Certain staff members have been trained to call 911, give an injection of epinephrine and deliver a nebulizer treatment of albuterol to improve breathing. The protocol is a standing medical order that has been signed by the physicians and physician assistants of the York Medical Clinic.

If your student has asthma or a potentially life threatening allergy, it is critically important you communicate this information to our school staff and to Donelle Ellison, RN or Patti Vincent, LPN. The plan and medications you and your physician provide to school will be followed for your student.

Please complete and return an action plan available from York Public Schools or submit the plan your physician provides. Direct any questions to Donelle Ellison or Patti Vincent at 362-6655.



## **When your child is going to be absent....**

When your child is ill and unable to attend school we want to hear from you. Give us a call at 362-6655, option 1, between 7:30 a.m. and 8:30 a.m.

Please let the office know in advance when your child is going to be absent for an appointment or will be going out of town. **For the safety of your child, we make sure all absent children are accounted for!**



## **STUDENT INSURANCE**

If you desire to purchase school insurance, below is the link to find out more information on the Student Accident Insurance offered through Cornerstone Insurance. <http://markel.sevencorners.com/>

You may also call Ben Royal at (402) 362-7477 with Cornerstone Insurance Group with any questions you may have.

### **IMPORTANT DATES AND TIMES**

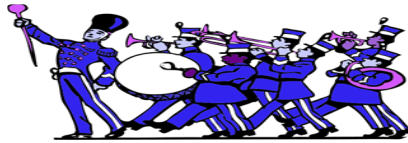
August 1 - 5	YMS New Student Registration
August 9	YMS Open House for all students and parents
August 11	First Day of School ~ 12:00 Dismissal
August 16	Back-to-School Celebration @ East Hill Park 7:00pm
August 15	7th & 8th grade volleyball starts
August 15	8th grade FB equipment check-out
August 16	7th grade FB equipment check-out
August 18	YMS football practice begins
September 5	Labor Day ~ NO SCHOOL
September 7	YMS Band marching in Homecoming Parade
September 10	YMS Band at Yorkfest Parade ~ 10:00 a.m.
September 23	6th grade class at Plum Creek Literary Festival
September 29	School pictures



### **School Pictures**

YMS will have school pictures taken on Thursday, September 29, by Jack Martin Studios. We will remind students in the daily announcements of the pictures and what would be appropriate apparel for the best photo.

## 7TH AND 8TH GRADE MARCHING BAND



The York Middle School 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade band students will perform for the Yorkfest Parade in downtown York at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 10, 2016.

Band members will be wearing navy blue band polo shirts and blue jeans or blue jean shorts as their parade and concert band uniform. We will be placing orders for our Middle School Band polo shirts the first full week of school. The shirts are the same style as last year, in navy blue with the Middle School Band logo. Cost for the shirt is \$12.00 each. (Checks payable to York Middle School.) A chart of available shirt sizes is included below.

### Youth Sizes:

Small	(6-8)
Medium	(10-12)
Large	(14-16)
X-Large	(18-20)

### Adult Sizes:

Small	(34-36)
Medium	(38-40)
Large	(42-44)
X-Large	(46-48)



## Admission Prices for Activities

The admission price for varsity activities for the 2016-2017, school year will be \$5.00 for adults and \$4.00 for students. The admission price for 7th, and 8th grades will be \$3.00 for adults and \$2.00 for students. Admission prices to track meets will be \$3.00 for adults and \$2.00 for students. The purchase of an activity ticket will get you into all of these events.

Activity tickets are available for purchase in the YMS office for a price of:

**K-12 \$40.00      ADULT \$60.00      FAMILY \$135.00      GOLDEN PASS \$35.00**  
(age 60 and over)

## Back-to-School Celebration and Community Pep Rally, August 16

York Public Schools will host the "Back to School Celebration" and Community Pep Rally on Tuesday, August 16th at East Hill Park.

The "Celebration" will begin at 5:30 p.m. We will again have bouncy houses, music, vendors, etc. The "Pep Rally" will begin at 7:30 p.m. inside the football stadium.

## REQUEST TO RECEIVE AN ELECTRONIC COPY OF THE MONTHLY YORK MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

The York Middle School's monthly newsletter is accessible on the school website, at [www.yorkpublic.org](http://www.yorkpublic.org). Click on the school tab and follow the YMS link.

Please complete the following information as to how you wish to receive the monthly newsletter, either by e-mail or by accessing the newsletter on the school website. If you **don't** have access to a computer a hard copy can be mailed to you.

Please **CHECK** one of the following:

I would like to receive the newsletter by e-mail at the following e-mail address:

\_\_\_\_\_

I am willing to access the monthly newsletter on the school website at [www.yorkpublic.org](http://www.yorkpublic.org).

I will need a copy of the newsletter mailed to my address.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip Code

*Please return to the York Middle School office.*

## YMS Student Handbook

In an attempt to streamline the process of our handbook, we are offering the handbook online on the school website. We will be able to save a considerable amount of money in printing costs by going this route. Printed hard copies will be available in the middle school office **as needed**. In the Parent-Student Folder you will find a signature sheet for students and parents to sign. Those signatures mean you have been made aware of the availability of the handbook both online and in print form, and that you acknowledge that you, and your child are responsible for the content of the handbook. The signature sheet needs to be returned the first week of school.

Thank you in advance in helping us out with this process!



## BUS TRANSPORTATION

If you think that your son/daughter will be riding the school bus to and/or from school, you must complete a transportation registration form and return it to the Transportation Department.

The transportation registration form is located on the York Public Schools website.

The Transportation Department will be present at YMS Open House on Tuesday, August 9th to answer any questions you may have.





## **FREE AND REDUCED LUNCH**

Free and reduced price lunch applications are available in your student packet or online. If you wish to apply, please complete the form and either send it to school with your son/daughter or mail the application to the Superintendent's Office. An application must be completed for ***each new school year***. If your child/children qualified for free or reduced price meals at the end of last school year, you must submit a new application by **September 22, 2016** in order to avoid an interruption in meal benefits.

**ALL APPLICATIONS WILL BE KEPT IN STRICT CONFIDENCE!**

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### **MAKING AN ONLINE LUNCH PAYMENT THROUGH INFINITE CAMPUS**

- Visit our website at [www.yorkpublic.org](http://www.yorkpublic.org)
- Under "Parents" click on "Parent Portal" and log into your Infinite Campus Parent Portal
- If you don't have a parent portal account, contact your student's school office and they will set up an account for you. If you have students in multiple schools, you do not need multiple portal accounts as all students should show up on your login screen. If not, let the office know and they will make a simple adjustment.
- Click on "Payments" in the left column
- Add the amount of money you'd like to deposit into your student's account in the 'payment' box beside their name - minimum amount is \$5.00. Click "Continue" \*\*Notice there is a convenience fee of \$1.50 per transaction for online payments. If you have multiple students in your family, you may add money to all of their accounts at the same time with one transaction.
- Choose the method of payment that you would like to use. Select "Add" if this is your first time using the online payment process. Add your payment method; click "Save" and then click "Back to Payments"
- Confirm that everything looks correct on the screen
- Click "Make Payment"
- Print a receipt if you would like.

If you have any questions, please contact Gayla at [gayla.knight@yorkdukes.org](mailto:gayla.knight@yorkdukes.org) or 402-362-6655 x 4

Students will not be able to charge a lunch when their account balance is below negative \$15.00. A sack lunch may be brought from home. It is the student's responsibility to inform parents when the account is getting low. Both verbal and written reminders will be provided to students when their account balance is low. We welcome calls to check on the balance of your child's lunch account or you may check on the YPS Parent Portal website.

- The lunch menus will be posted on the YPS website

# YMS After-School Clubs



## After-School Clubs...

Our after school program is taking on a new look. We have listened to the interest of the students and tried to gear our activities toward their interests. This year we will be offering quarterly clubs. Each club will meet one day a week. Our clubs will run from 3:25 to 4:45 p.m., with homework time from 4:45-5:25 p.m., on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday. On Wednesday we will have two clubs followed by homework time from 4:45-5:25 p.m.

- Monday—Pinterest Club, This club will do crafts or activities from the Pinterest Website. The students will be able to share things they have found and would like to make or do. We will be voting on ideas to complete during the first quarter. Craft fee is \$10 for the first quarter.
- Tuesday—Gamers Club, Come to relax and deflate by playing internet based games, board games, and other electronic games. Compete and dominate against other students.
- Wednesday—Fantasy Football Club will be from 2:00-3:15 p.m. Dr. Mike Lucas will be acting as our club commissioner and will oversee all trades, scores, and the fun involved in Fantasy Football. From 3:15-4:45 p.m., will be the Giving Back Club, This club will focus on helping others. Activities will include organizing lost and found, making tray decorations for Meal on Wheels, assembling seasonal decorations for retirement and nursing facilities, and so much more.
- Thursday—Sweet Treat Club, Do you like to try new recipes? Do you like to make cookies, brownies, pies, and cakes? If so, you will love this club. Cooking fee is \$10 for the first quarter.

## YMS CLUB HIGHLIGHTS

- Starts August 22, 2016
- Monday – Thursday
- Pick up by 5:25 p.m.
- 15 TO 1 student/teacher ratio
- Students MUST preregister at York Middle School. Space is limited in some clubs. (Registration forms can be found at [www.yorkpublic.org](http://www.yorkpublic.org) under the Links tab at the top of the page.
- Open to Students that Attend York Public Schools or Live in the York Public School Attendance Zone
- Free




Program Director:  
Amy Vernon  
[amy.vernon@yorkdukes.org](mailto:amy.vernon@yorkdukes.org)  
York Middle School





# August 2016



Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat

	1	2	3	4	5	6
	YMS New Student Registration 8:00 am - 12:00 pm & 1:00 - 3:00 pm					
7	8 Board of Education Mtg.	9 YMS Open House 6th-5:30 pm 7th-6:00 pm 8th-6:30 pm	10	11  First Day of School Noon Dismissal	12 7 & 8 VB mtg. after school	13
14	15 8th grade FB check-out 7th & 8th VB practice starts 	16 7th grade FB check-out Back-to-School Celebration 5:30-7:15 pm & Community Pep Rally 7:30 pm East Hill Park	17 2:00 Dismissal	18 Student Senate Campaign Mtg. 7:40 am Football practice starts 	19 Student Senate applications due	20
21	22 Student Senate Campaign starts YMS After School Clubs Start Board of Education Mtg.	23	24 2:00 Dismissal Student Senate Campaign ends	25	26	27
28	29	30 Student Senate Mtg. 7:30 am	31 2:00 Dismissal			

Welcome Back! The Staff and Administration are looking forward to a great 2016- 2017 school year!

# September 2016



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 <i>YMS Believe Fundraiser starts</i>  G	2  B	3
4	5 NO SCHOOL <b>Labor Day</b>	6  G	7 2:00 Dismissal <b>Homecoming Parade</b>  B	8 7 VB @ Adams Central 4:30 pm 8 VB-Home vs Adams Central @ YMS 4:30 pm 7 & 8 FB-Home vs Columbus Scotus 7th @ 5:00 pm /8th @ 6:30 pm G	9 <b>Homecoming</b>  B	10 <b>BAND AT YORKFEST PARADE</b> 
11	12 7 FB-Home vs Crete 4:30 pm 8 FB @ Crete MS (Doane) 4:30 pm Board of Education Mtg. G	13 Student Senate Mtg. 7:30 am 7 VB @ Crete MS 4:30 pm 8 VB-Home vs Crete 4:30 pm B	14 2:00 Dismissal  G	15 <i>YMS Believe Fundraiser ends</i> 8 VB @ Schuyler (@ SHS ) 4:30 pm 7 VB-Home vs Schuyler @ YMS 4:30 pm B	16  G	17
18	19 7 & 8 VB-Home vs Beatrice 4:00 pm 7 @ YES/8 @ YMS 7 & 8 FB @ Beatrice @ BHS-7 @ 4:00 pm 8 @ 6:00 pm B	20 Student Senate Mtg. 7:30 am 7 VB @ Seward MS 4:30 pm 8 VB-Home vs Seward 4:30 pm G	21 2:00 Dismissal  B	22 7 FB-Home vs Aurora 4:30 pm  G	23 6th grade Plum Creek Literary Festival in Seward  B	24
25	26 Board of Education Mtg.  G	27 Student Senate Mtg. 7:30 am 7 VB-Home vs Seward @ YMS 4:30 pm 8 VB @ Seward MS 4:30 pm 8 FB-Home vs Seward 4:30 pm B	28 2:00 Dismissal  G	29 <b>YMS</b>  <b>School Pictures</b> 7 VB-Home vs Aurora @ YMS 4:30 pm 8 VB @ Aurora HS 4:30 pm 7 FB @ Seward HS 4:30 pm B	30  G	