



## **ABINGTON MIDDLE SCHOOL FRIDAY NEWS**

### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

MARCH 22 Trimester 2 Report Cards will be available on Aspen

MARCH 25 - April 5th Project 351 Clothing Drive (New or gently used children's clothing in sizes newborn to adult medium)

MARCH 26 AMS Spring Portraits/Order ***Online Only***

Only students who have ordered package online will have photo taken

MARCH 27 AMS Yearbook Meeting 2:30pm - 3:30pm

MARCH 29 Reminder: Full Day of School - Good Friday

APRIL 1 Deadline to submit Yearbook photos (See Below)

APRIL 1 - 4 AMS Book Fair (Details to follow)

### **Message from the Principal**

Good Afternoon,

I am happy to announce that grade 8 student McKinley Houghton is Abington's 2024 Project 351 Ambassador. Each November, Project 351 invites each of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' 351 cities and towns to conduct a selection process to identify a new Ambassador. McKinley has begun her year of service through Project 351, and has joined a robust team of current and former Ambassadors. Congratulations McKinley!

Today, AMS Grs. 5-8 Trimester 2 Report Cards will be available on the Aspen Parent Portal. Step by step directions for accessing Report Cards online have been sent out earlier today.

Trimester 2 Report Cards represent an important update of your child's academic achievement. It is important to review this report together with your child. If you have questions or concerns, I encourage you to reach out to your child's teacher or teachers for more information.

Have a safe and relaxing weekend.

Matthew MacCurtain  
Principal

**Project 351 CRADLES TO CRAYONS CLOTHING DRIVE**

AMS 8th grader and Project 351 Student Ambassador McKinley Houghton is coordinating a Cradles to Crayons clothing drive from Monday, March 25<sup>th</sup> to Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup>. Cradles to Crayons collects new, like new and gently used children's clothing from size zero (newborn) to adult small and medium! (Packaged underwear and socks and pajamas must be brand new). The clothes collected will be donated to Cradles to Crayons, a non-profit organization that fights children's clothing insecurity, and will help many kids in need! Drop-off locations include Abington High School, Abington Middle School, Woodsdale Elementary School, Beaver Brook Elementary School, Abington Early Education Program, the Senior Center, and the Police Station. All donations are greatly appreciated and will go to this worthy cause!

**AMS Spring Portrait Date: Tuesday, March 26, 2024**

Lifetouch will ***only*** be photographing your child if you pre-order your portraits online at [mylifetouch.com](http://mylifetouch.com).

***Click Here to Pre-Order Spring Portraits if Interested***

**Look for Picture Day ID box to the right and enter  
AMS Picture ID: EVT826X9**

**Grade 7 & 8 Math Course Placement 2024-2025**

Abington Middle School has two grade level mathematics courses in grades 7 & 8. Those are Math 7, Accelerated Math 7, Math 8 and Accelerated Math 8. The majority of students will be placed into the grade level Math course, either Math 7 or Math 8.

In alignment with the Massachusetts Curriculum Standards, a group of students will be placed into Accelerated Math courses. Grade 7 placement into Accelerated Math is based on statewide assessments, a math common assessment in grade 6 and teacher recommendation. The grade 6 common assessment that will be used to assist in placement has been taken by students during the week of March 11<sup>th</sup>. Grade 6 parents/guardians will be notified of placement decisions via mail in mid-April.

Grade 8 placement into Accelerated Math is based on statewide assessments, mathematics classroom achievement in grade 7 and teacher recommendation or can be initiated through parents/guardians request. Grade 7 families will only be notified if there is a recommendation for change of placement. This notification will take place closer to the end of the school year.

**GRADE 8 OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN AHS SPRING SPORTS**

We are excited to share that current grade 8 students will have the opportunity to participate in track & field (boys and girls) and softball this spring at Abington High School. These are high school teams with other students in grades 9 - 12 that will compete interscholastically and students will be expected to practice daily. If your son / daughter is interested, please register online (Click below)

**<https://students.arbitersports.com/abington-high-school-athletics/2024-spring-sports-6>**

Students must be in good academic standing to participate in high school athletics. Students can send updated physicals to Ms. Reid (**[aliciareid@abingtonps.org](mailto:aliciareid@abingtonps.org)**). We must have a physical from the last 13 months on file to be able to participate. Please email Mr. Serino (**[peterserino@abingtonps.org](mailto:peterserino@abingtonps.org)**) if you have any questions.

### **AMS Yearbook News**

The Yearbook Club invites students, parent/guardians, staff and community members to submit photos for the 23-24 AMS yearbook. Submit your *school appropriate* photos of AMS students including student names and what the photos are from (ex. sporting events, school events, play, dance, etc.) Email photos to **[ams2024yearbook@gmail.com](mailto:ams2024yearbook@gmail.com)** by **April 1st**. *Not all photos will be selected.*

\*To order a 23-24 yearbook, please click the link below\* **ORDER DEADLINE is Friday, May 3rd**

### **Click Here to Order AMS 23-24 Yearbook**

Enter Abington Middle School's Yearbook ID Code **14383024**

### **AMS Yearbook Club**

If you love art, photography, writing, or using your computer skills, then this is the club for you! This club is free and all students in grades 5 - 8 are welcome. Yearbook Club meets every other Wednesday. If you have any questions, please email Ms. Roach at **[samantharoach@abingtonps.org](mailto:samantharoach@abingtonps.org)**. Meetings are 2:30pm to 3:30pm. *Prompt pick-up please.*

- March 27th
- April 10th
- April 24th
- May 8th
- May 15th
- May 29th
- June 5th

### **Information Regarding Student Identification Cards**

Student ID cards have been distributed. Please make sure to have your students keep these cards in a safe place (backpacks, wallets, purse etc.) AMS students will be using these ID cards when arriving late to school or when being dismissed. This barcode technology enables quick and accurate recordings of arrival and dismissal times, eliminating the need for manual sign-in sheets. If a student has not yet received their identification card due to absence or retake, Lifetouch is working to provide AMS with them as soon as possible.

### **AMS Current Grades 7 - 10 PCC APPLICATION INFORMATION**

PCC (Project Contemporary Competitiveness) is an Advanced Studies Program that will be held at Stonehill College during the summer of 2024. Applications will be accepted for CURRENT 7th, 8th, 9th or 10th grade students who are residents of Abington. This includes those students that attend private school. More information and an online application for PCC can be completed here at <https://pccasp.org>.

### **Tentative MCAS 2024 Testing Dates**

#### **APRIL 8 - 26 ELA MCAS**

Grades 5 & 6 ELA MCAS - April 8th and April 9th

Grades 7 & 8 ELA MCAS - April 10th and April 11th

#### **APRIL 30 - MAY 10 MATH & SCIENCE MCAS**

Grades 5 & 6 MATH MCAS - April 30th and May 1st

Grades 7 & 8 MATH MCAS - May 2nd and May 3rd

Grades 5 & 8 SCIENCE MCAS - May 7th and May 8th

#### **MAY 13 - 14 CIVICS MCAS**

Grade 8 CIVICS MCAS - May 13th and May 14th

### **Please Return Your Overdue Library Books**

Fall in love with a new book and return your old ones! Please return your overdue library books promptly to the AMS library.

### **Anonymous Reporting and Safety Link**

Abington Middle School has an anonymous tip line to report any concerns about the school, typically used for reporting bullying, harassment, and/or discrimination. The link below allows people to submit reports and concerns that go directly to our administration. While this tip line is anonymous and available as needed, we also encourage you to contact us directly, as we seek to create and maintain a positive school culture and climate in partnerships with families and the community. **[Click Link](#)**

### **Grades 5 & 6 Student Council Meeting Schedule**

April 11<sup>th</sup>-2:30-3:00

May 9<sup>th</sup>-2:30-3:00

June 5<sup>th</sup>-2:30-3:15 (end of year party)

Attendance is expected. Students are reminded to email Ms. Regan if they are not able to attend a monthly meeting at [lauraregan@abingtonps.org](mailto:lauraregan@abingtonps.org).

### **AMS AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS**

Gr. 5 & 6 BAND CLUB - Mr. Leonelli – Mondays

Grs. 5–8 MINECRAFT CLUB – Mrs. Graham - Mondays

Grs. 5–8 DANCE CLUB – Ms. Gomes - Mondays

Gr. 5 & 6 CHESS CLUB - Mr. Perkins – Tuesdays

Gr. 7 & 8 CHESS CLUB – Mr. Perkins – Wednesdays

Grs. 5-8 DRAMA CLUB - Mr. Leonelli - Wednesdays

Grs. 5–8 HMWK & CRAFT CLUB–Mrs. Duquette - Thursdays

Grs. 5-8 DUNGEONS & DRAGONS – Mr. Elledge –Thursdays

Grs. 5-8 DRAMA CLUB - Mr. Leonelli - Fridays

School rules apply. Dates are subject to change (due to advisor illness, etc.) If a club is cancelled, it will be announced in school that day and club advisors will contact families directly using the email that was provided to AMS. Parents will need to provide transportation from the school. All clubs will run into the Spring.

### **IMPORTANT BUS INFORMATION REQUEST**

If you received a bus tag for your child, but *do not* plan for them to take the bus this year, please email [transportation@abingtonps.org](mailto:transportation@abingtonps.org) and let them know so that they can be removed from the bus roster. Please include your child's name and school (AMS) in your email. You can also contact 781-982-2170 and let the office know. Thank you.

### **Nurse News**

Please provide the school nurse with an updated physical and immunization form. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the nurse, Joan Smith at (781) 616-2951 or email [joansmith@abingtonps.org](mailto:joansmith@abingtonps.org). State mandated screenings will be ongoing throughout the rest of the school year. Please remember to contact the school if your child is going to be absent and also provide an absent note which is required when they return to school.

*\*Please ensure your child wears appropriate clothing for the changes in temperature/weather. We strive to have PE and recess outside unless it is raining or the*

*"Real Feel" temperature is 20 degrees or below.*

### **ARRIVAL & DISMISSAL**

Abington Middle School hours are 7:50 a.m. to 2:22 p.m. Students should be seated in their homerooms at that time, ready to start the day. Parents who are dropping off their students will use the entrance to the left of the school building

at Door 10 and follow the designated drop-off procedures. If a student arrives late, they must sign in at the main office. *Students who arrive after 8:30 a.m. must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.* Students will be dismissed at 2:22 p.m. Parents who are picking up students should wait in the designated drop-off/pick-up area located to the left side of the building at Door 10 and follow the appropriate drop-off/pick-up procedures. Door 10 will be open between 7:20 a.m. and 7:50 a.m. for student drop-off. Students arriving after 7:50 a.m. should enter through the front door of the building and will be marked tardy.

### **NOTES FROM HOME**

Parents must notify the school if your child is to be absent, tardy or dismissed. A *written* note must be submitted for each absence stating the date and reason for the absence. A note is also needed to *dismiss* your child from school or if your child will not be taking the bus home. Phone calls changing student dismissal plans can impact child safety. Thank you for cooperating with this important child safety issue.

### **LAPTOP REMINDER**

Please have your student bring their charged laptop to school every day.

Also, please have them bring a water bottle to school every day. (Plastic water bottles please - no glass bottles).