We show that you have registered for the MSCR class:

**KNITTING – SWEATER**

Please bring yarn, needles and tools to class on the 1st day. We recommend you wait until 1 week prior to the start of class to purchase supplies in the event the class is cancelled. Please read this whole page BEFORE you go shopping. Take this sheet to the store with you, with a pencil and calculator.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact us at mlhutchinson@madison.k12.wi.us.

**NOTE:** YOU DON'T NEED TO FIND A KNITTING PATTERN TO MAKE. Watch for an email before the 1st class with more details.

**WHO ARE YOU KNITTING FOR:** First, for whom is your sweater? If for a teen or adult, will it be: regular fit OR extralong/oversized? Will it be a cardigan OR pullover? Check the table below for the yardage needed. Circle the total.

**WHERE TO SHOP:** There are several chain craft stores, plus local and online yarn stores. These should have everything you need. Yarn store staff should be able to help you find the right yarn, but craft store staff may not — use the info below and on reverse to guide you if staff cannot. Wisconsin Craft Market has helpful staff, a big selection in a variety of price points, & is locally owned. (Coupon [here](#). Note: no discounts on red-tagged yarns).

**WHAT KIND OF YARN:** I recommend a smooth plied yarn that is labelled “Bulky” or “Chunky” (thicker yarn that will knit up more quickly so you can complete the project.) More on back. Often these yarns are grouped together at stores. Get yarn you really love. Does it feel great in your hands? Getting the least expensive yarn may not give you the best knitting experience. Since yarn can easily be reused, you can’t “waste” good yarn. And the wearer will appreciate softer, better quality yarn. If cost is an issue, email me ASAP for sources of discounted quality yarns. If you want acrylic for washability, I recommend super-soft Berroco Comfort Chunky (available at WI Craft Market.)

*Look for yarn with a symbol like this, with a 5. I don’t recommend 6 or 7 (Super Bulky or Jumbo) yarn unless you plan to move to Alaska. [Only get size 4 or 5 if you have a 2-3 hours per day to knit over the 4 week class session. Thinner yarn means more stitches—AND more yarn. Buy 6 additional balls minimum.]*

If you don’t see this symbol, look for a yarn that give a “tension” or “gauge” of **12-15 STITCHES PER 4 INCHES.** If label lists stitches per inch, look for 3–3.75 stitches/inch. (See sample label with key on flip side of this page if you are not sure how to tell. Yarn labels are a bit cryptic to newer knitters, but all the info you need is there.)

**HOW MANY BALLS or SKEINS TO BUY:** Choose the recommended yardage given below based on the right age/size/fit. Divide the number of total yards from the chart by the number of yards per ball of your chosen yarn. This will give you the number of balls to buy. (If I need 1300 yards, and my yarn is 100 yards/ ball, I’ll need 13 balls. 1300 ÷ 100 = 13.)

\[
\text{Total yds from chart ÷ yds per ball} = \text{(} \# \text{ of balls to buy) }
\]

Ask store clerk about return policies, and KEEP YOUR RECEIPT. You may be buying more yarn than you’ll need, but most stores will allow you to return unused balls, so please get it all in one trip. This is the **best** way to be sure you have enough yarn in the right dye lot to finish your sweater.

**HOW MUCH YARN TO BUY** (From The Knitter’s Companion by Vicki Square)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TO MAKE A SWEATER FOR THIS AGE/SIZE/FIT:</th>
<th>BUY: Bulky yarn yardage:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Toddler 2-6 Years (pullover OR cardigan)</td>
<td>650 yards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child 6-12 Years (for a pullover or cardigan)</td>
<td>1000 yards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misses (Bust measurement 32-40 inch or XS-XL): Regular-fitting sweater</td>
<td>1300 yards (1400 for a cardigan)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misses: Oversized, longer, or loosely fitting</td>
<td>1400 yards (1500 for a cardigan)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men’s Big/Tall or Women's Sizes (36-48” Chest): Regular fit</td>
<td>1500 yards (1600 for a cardigan)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men’s Big/Tall or Women's Sizes Oversized, longer, loosely fitting or ++ sized</td>
<td>1600 yards (1700 for a cardigan)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If your yarn is in hanks or skeins, have the staff wind ONLY HALF of them into balls, because you may not be allowed to return unused ones that have been wound. (You can go back to the store to have them wound if need be, or I can do it in class.)

**TOOLS TO BUY:** (See example photos on page 3 for reference.)

1) Knitting needles in size listed on your yarn label. Get circular (min. 24” long) OR single-point (min. 10”)
2) Set of large or jumbo stitch markers
3) A tension (or “gauge”) measuring tool (sometimes called a knitting gauge)
4) A yarn needle made for chunky yarn (a very fat sewing needle with a blunt tip)
5) A seamstress’s flexible measuring tape

**SAMPLE YARN LABEL**

YARDAGE: 185 yards / ball

GAUGE: Expected knitted gauge is 14 stitches and 20 rows in a 4 x 4 inch square using size US 10 (6 mm= metric size) knitting needles. (4 in = 10 cm). If it just gives a number w/o “US” or “mm,” THAT # is the US size.

Yarn size #

Crochet gauge: Ignore.

**WHAT KIND OF YARN SHOULD YOU GET?**

**Newer knitters should AVOID:**
- Fuzzy (mohair or angora) or eyelash yarns
- Bouclé (bumpy/loopy) yarns like Lion Brand Homespun
- Chenille or blanket yarns (can be hard to work with and may not wear well)
- 100% cotton yarn will make a very heavy sweater. Look for cotton blended with acrylic, wool, etc.

**BEST: Smooth, plied yarns** like Lion Brand Thick & Quick or Wool-Ease Chunky are easiest to work with.

NEEDLES: Get either circular or straight. They come in different lengths; just don’t get the shortest ones. CAREFUL not to mix up the numbers for the US size and the metric (mm) size.

Wool is a favorite fiber. It’s very forgiving. The instructor can tell you how to care for it without handwashing or dry-cleaning. Merino wool is the softest, and many people who otherwise cannot wear wool like merino.
WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE? Different knitters prefer different kinds of needles. I like circular metal or bamboo needles. Circular needles are made for knitting tubes (like seamless sweaters) but can be used for flat knitting (like we’ll do in this class.) If you want to try both, get some that you can repackage and return.

NOTE: Cheap plastic needles can be hard to use.

OTHER TOOLS (Pictures not to scale. No need to get same style or brand)

Jumbo Stitch Markers (ring style is fine)
Tension/Gauge tool
Jumbo Yarn Needle
Measuring Tape