



# James Irwin Charter Middle School

5525 Astrozon Boulevard  
Colorado Springs, CO 80916  
Phone 302-9000  
Fax 591-9993

September 25, 2009

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Happy Autumn! As we come into the last two weeks of our first quarter, I wanted to make you aware of important events and dates coming up for your attention:

- **Many thanks to those who came to McDonald's for our McTeachers' Night.** This fundraiser was a great success with a steady flow of customers during our three-hour time slot. ☺
- **October 1, Thursday, is our official student count day.** Please make every effort to have your student here that day. The student count on this day is what determines our state funding amount for the upcoming school year. Thank you in advance for your part in helping us have perfect attendance that day. ☺
- **Friday, October 2, will be a FREE jeans day** with an added option of Sports Jerseys or t-shirts. Mesh jerseys or tanks must have a solid colored t-shirt underneath. Students do not have to have their shirts tucked in but should not wear excessively oversized shirts. Shirts can be tied no lower than hip level, and knots should be tucked under.
- **Please note the teachers with orange/yellow vests before and after school.** ☺ To make sure our students are safe during car pool and that traffic is directed well, please refrain from talking to our teachers while they are on duty. Also, if you see a teacher on his/her way to carpool duty, please do not detain him/her from getting to their designated spot. Thank you so much for your help in this area.
- **Quarter Exams** – Students will be taking a Review Exam that covers material they have already been tested or quizzed over throughout this first quarter. Teachers are spending time in class reviewing this material until the designated exam is given. Classes will follow their regular schedules during exam week with two review exams assigned per day. Students are to be in regular school uniform dress on these days, unless they are getting their picture taken on Wednesday, October 7 (See below for details.). Please see the schedule below to help your student be well prepared for these tests.
  - Monday, October 5                      1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> period exams
  - Tuesday, October 6                      2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> period exams
  - Wednesday, October 7                      5<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> period exams
  - Thursday, October 8                      6<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> period exams

- **Picture Retakes** - October 7 will be picture retakes and pictures for newer students who haven't had their school picture taken yet. Students may dress up for that day (NJHS dress code – modesty must be a priority) or wear regular uniform dress.
- **Oct 9 & 12** – No school due to a Teacher Professional Development Day and Columbus Day.
- **Report Cards** will be mailed home on October 16<sup>th</sup>.
- **Parent/Teacher Conferences** will occur over two school days again this year. On **October 22 and 23** you may meet with the teachers of your choice (Conferences are optional for 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grades.) for a 10-minute conference between 7:45 a.m. and 3:45 p.m. If you feel you need more time with a particular teacher, please sign up for more than one time slot. Sign up sheets are available in the Front Office of the Middle School starting on Monday, September 28<sup>th</sup> if you would like a conference. **Parent /Teacher Conferences are required for all parents/guardians of 6<sup>th</sup> graders.**
- **Dress Code** – *Thank you* for your diligence in making sure your student is in dress code each day. We have had very few dress code violations (belts mostly) this first quarter and are very proud of our students for taking responsibility in this area.
- **Books Covered** – To make our textbooks last and to save you the cost of repairing or replacing a book at the end of the school year, please check to make sure your student has all of his/her books covered. I have plenty of book covering supplies in my office and would be happy to help students get these covered. Teachers have been instructed to assign a lunch detention to students with uncovered books so that I can make sure they have the opportunity to get the books covered at school with supervision.
- **Tardies**
  - Please make every effort to get your child to school on time and to pick them up in a timely manner. Please encourage your student to be on time to class during the school day as well. Several students have already served after school detentions for tardies. The next consequence involves in school suspension time (ISS). The goal is that these more extreme consequences will not be necessary. Every minute in class is an opportunity to learn.
- **Opportunity for NJHS!** – After first quarter grades are released, students with at least a 3.5 GPA will be considered for nomination to the National Junior Honor Society. The NJHS is a prestigious organization that requires scholarship, character, leadership, service, and citizenship of all its members. We are excited to be able to start this opportunity for our students here at JICMS.
- **NJHS Ceremony Dress Up Day Coming on November 19!** Please note the dress code for Dress Up Days as you plan ahead for our first dress up day of the school year. ☺ (This is written on page 19 of the Student Planner/Handbook as well.)

Boys:

- Collared dress shirt, long or short sleeved and tucked in;
- A tie (We have extras here at school if your son does not own a tie.);
- Dress pants or uniform pants that sit properly at the waist with a belt; and
- Dress shoes only (not work boots or athletic shoes)

Girls:

- Dress or skirt no higher than the kneecap (This means the non-shear portion of a skirt or dress must come to the top of the knee while standing or sitting.).

- Dresses/tops must have long or short sleeves and a **conservative** neckline (If in doubt about the neckline, don't wear it.)
  - Dress slacks (no jean material or corduroy) and skirts are acceptable with a dress shirt.
  - No tight fitting clothing is allowed.
  - Dress shoes only with a moderate heel
- **Uniform Turn-in for Fall Sports** – Please make sure that your athlete's uniform is turned in clean to the coach or front office within one week of the last game or meet.
  - I want to encourage you as parents to become involved in our school's **PTO**. Many great ideas for the good of the students have come from this valuable organization, and we would love to have participation from many more of you. The next meeting will take place on Thursday, October 15, at 6:00 p.m. in the Middle School carpeted board room. Please mark your calendar and come prepared to be a part of our school improvement. 😊
  - **Butter Braids Fundraiser** – Our first PTO fundraiser this year will involve selling Butter Braids cookie dough, pizza, pretzels, etc. and will run from October 21-30. These products make great gifts for the holiday season coming up.

Thank you again for the privilege to service you and your student. We are continually looking for ways to improve our procedures and practices here at JICMS as we strive to take our school to greater levels of excellence in the future.

With appreciation,

Mrs. Varnum, Principal  
James Irwin Charter Middle

School