



James Irwin Charter Middle School

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January 14, 2010

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Happy January! As we move forward into the second semester, I am very excited to share our progress and future plans with you. ☺ This newsletter is FULL of important information to help keep you updated as to the events over the next weeks. Please read it *carefully*, post it where you can refer to it frequently, and enjoy participating in the events of your choice. ☺

ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Our Christmas Food Drive was as great a success as our Thanksgiving Food Drive. Thank you so much to those who sent in food or gift cards for those who are facing financial challenges at this time. Once again, we were able to bless several families with a week's worth or more of food. Mrs. Masters' 8th grade girls advanced science class won the "canned goods food sculpture" contest and will have their FREE NON-FRIDAY JEANS DAY on Wednesday, January 20th.
- Recently, we have noticed a few students not being picked up in a timely manner. We want to make sure our students are supervised while on campus, and many times there are no staff members on campus after 4:30 p.m.
 - On Homework Help Club days, please be sure to pick up your student no later than 4:40 p.m. if he/she is staying for that.
 - Athletes should be picked up within 15 minutes of the end of practice or a game.
 - Students who are finished at the regular close of school (3:27 p.m.) should be picked up no later than 4:00 p.m.

***If you are having difficulty getting your student on time, please make other arrangements for him/her to be picked up.** The front office may be able to help you with carpooling options.

- **CARPOOL REMINDER:** By order of the Colorado Springs Police Department, our staff is not allowed to be out on Astrozon Blvd. to direct traffic; therefore, we need you, as parents/guardians to be extra conscious of the potential hazards and to act responsibly. Several parents have reported to us that they have almost had an accident on Astrozon due to drivers ahead of them stopping on Astrozon to pick up students. I cannot stress how dangerous this is. Please do NOT stop on Astrozon to pick up your student(s). We do not want students to walk across the carpool area during carpool (A teacher reported a few near misses between cars and students because students were trying to get across the parking lot area last week.), and if you would plan to come between 3:35 and 3:40 p.m., you would find the car pool line to go quite quickly and smoothly.

- **New automated phone system:** If you are still being contacted in more ways than you prefer, please log onto Infinite Campus and change your contact information to only the preferred modes of contact. Each parent must use his/her own IC access to change their own contact information.
- In compliance with federal and state regulation, please be informed that there are no known sources of asbestos containing materials in James Irwin Charter School buildings. Potential sources are properly sealed/covered to prevent the escape of asbestos fiber into the air. The asbestos management plan and the latest inspection results may be viewed at the JICS business office during normal business hours.
- **Missing Assignment Emails:** In an effort to provide yet another form of communication, we now have the capability to send a *daily* email to you whenever your student has a missing assignment. If we do not have your email address, please call or drop that information to our front office so that we can keep you in our “communication loop” more effectively.
- **Girls Basketball** – We want to encourage you to come out to support the girls for their home games which are as follows:
 - Tuesday, 1/19, with CSCS
 - Monday, 2/1, with Manitou
 - Monday, 2/8, with Ellicott

The 7th Grade games begin at 4:00 p.m. followed by the 8th Grade game. Admission is \$2.00 per adult, while students and children are free of charge.

- Please note that if your student stays to watch a game, he/she must be in compliance with JICMS standards/rules. If a student poses a problem as a spectator of a game, he/she may be asked not to attend future games.
- **Chick-Fil-A Fundraisers** will be held the last Wednesday of each month from January-March. A percentage of the proceeds from the receipts returned from that day (eat in or drive through) at the Chick-Fil-A on N. Carefree and Powers will be given to help fund the NJHS Washington D.C. trip. Please help support our students on these days. When returning your receipt, please be sure to state that you would like it to go towards the JICMS fundraiser.
- **Immunization Update** – If you receive an automated phone call tonight, January 14th, that means that you have not communicated with Mrs. Masters regarding your student’s missing immunizations. It is imperative that you notify her of your plans (302-9000 x3610 or gillian.masters@jamesirwin.org) by Friday, January 22nd, or your student may not be allowed to attend classes until notification has been made.
- Congratulations to all the students who made the Honor Roll for 2nd Quarter! We are proud to say that **81% of our students have a B average or higher!** ☺ Each of them received a free Friday Jeans Pass for the 3rd Quarter. Many thanks to our excellent teachers and hard-working students and parents for helping our school raise the bar. ☺
- **Please note the following in regards to Academic Probation.** If, at the end of any quarter, a student’s academic average is below a C-, or if an F is received in any core subject, the student is placed on academic probation. The student’s activity period may be modified to maximize academic success. A letter will be sent home to parents. The letters for 3rd quarter will be sent out next week to officially notify those families. To be removed from academic probation,

students must earn at least a C- average (with no failures) during the following quarter. If a student remains on academic probation through the end of the 4th quarter, he/she will lose his/her good standing as a student of JICMS. Parents, it is important that you stay apprised of your student's grades throughout each quarter and have communication with your student's teachers on a regular basis. Thank you for your support for your student and partnering with us to help his/her educational experience be successful. ☺

- Parents, please be sure to review the **school tardy/absence policies** (pages 14 & 15 in the student handbook – also available for viewing on our website). We cannot stress enough how crucial it is for your student's progress that he/she arrive at school early enough to get to 1st period on time and to be on time for each class during the day.
- **Cell phones**, if brought to school, are to be kept locked in the student's locker during school hours and are not to be used. If a student is not feeling well, he/she is to go to the clinic where he/she may call a parent. Parents, please remind your students not to try to call or text you from their cell phone during school hours. Thank you for your support with this issue.
- **Spirit Week, January 25-29, 2010!** Please note the following theme days to help as your student plans ahead to participate. ☺ We are running a Friday schedule for classes each day and will have afternoon activities until the 3:30 p.m. pick-up time (M-TH), and a dance Friday from 2:30-4:30 p.m. (Pick up by 4:45 p.m.)
 - Monday, January 25th - Sports Fanatic Day
 - Tuesday, January 26th – Pajama Day
 - Wednesday, January 27th – Super Hero Day
 - Thursday, January 28th – School Color Day (Blue and/or silver hair dye may be used.)
 - Friday, January 29th – Retro Day. Students may dress in the attire of their favorite decade (50's, 60's, 70's, etc.)

Please be sure to check the specific dress guidelines on our website (www.jamesirwin.org) or on the gold paper sent home last week. Undergarments are only to be worn **under** clothing and are not to be visible. (As always, modesty is the rule.) ☺ We're looking forward to a great week with the students! ☺

- **Uniforms**
 - Please be sure to note if your student's clothes are getting too short or tight and plan/purchase accordingly. (Many middle schoolers experience a growth spurt at this time of year.) While many stores do not carry uniform lines at this time of year, they do carry items that fit within our uniform guidelines.
 - Also, if your student has outgrown his/her uniform clothing, please consider donating those items to our "uniform closet" here at school. We use these items to help out some of our less fortunate families as well as to get students in compliance who are out of dress code.

We hope to see more of you in the upcoming weeks and months and look forward to a great 3rd quarter!

With appreciation,

Mrs. Varnum, Principal
James Irwin Charter Middle School