



James Irwin Charter Middle School

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March 5, 2010

Dear Parents/Guardians,

It is hard to believe that March is already here. We appreciate so much the diligence and hard work of our teachers and students during the month of February, which is typically a very tiring, trying month. It was encouraging to see so many putting our motto of the year, "He who tries, wins!" into practice.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPCOMING EVENTS FOR MARCH:

Please be sure to post this letter where it is easily accessible as it includes many important announcements for the next few weeks.

- **Tardies, talking, and dress code issues** make up the bulk of our violations for students having to attend lunch detention and ISS (in school suspension). Your help is greatly appreciated in checking that your student comes to school in dress code. (Please see dress code guidelines on our website at www.jamesirwin.org.) Thank you so much for your assistance. Parents, it is also very important that you check Infinite Campus regularly to stay apprised of your student's attendance once he/she is at school. Several students have multiple tardies and are repeat offenders. Your assistance with reinforcing the importance of punctuality is greatly appreciated.
- **Pre-registration for next year** – Packets were mailed out on Friday, February 5th. If getting fees in is a challenge at this time we can bill you. Please plan to get the forms in to reserve your student's place for next year. If you already know your student will be attending another school, please make us aware of that as well so we can move students in from the waiting list.
- JICS will be hosting a college financial planning seminar on March 15th. We want to encourage all middle school parents to attend so that you can see all the available options and begin setting goals for your middle school student to prepare for college. Please check the school website for more information.
- During CSAPS, students may dress up (NJHS dress up guidelines) or wear their normal school uniform.
- Civil Air Patrol: Please be looking on our school website for information about this great opportunity for your 12-18 year old students. Currently, five of our middle schoolers have joined CAP and are reaping the benefits of leadership, character, discipline, and rescue training. ☺

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

It takes a lot of work to help all the aspects of a school to run smoothly. Volunteers often make that difference, so we want to make you aware of our current needs for volunteer help.

- Donating supplies: We are always in need of extra Kleenex/tissues, Expo markers, and copy paper. *If you did not donate copy paper at the beginning of the year, we need your donations now to make it through to the end of the year in meeting our copying needs for student worksheets.*
- Regular carpool duty – 7:20-7:40 a.m. or 3:30-3:50 p.m. Please email or call Mrs. Batteiger if you can help with these two hectic times of day (dawn.batteiger@jamesirwin.org or 302-9000 x3234).
- Lunchroom duty – 6th Grade 10:55-11:20 a.m.; 7th/8th Grades 11:21-11:51 a.m. or 12:15-12:45 p.m. or both, Monday-Thursday; Friday, 6th Grade 10:30-11:00 a.m.; 7th/8th Grades 11:05-11:35 a.m. or 11:42 a.m. -12:12 p.m.
- Parent volunteers for fundraiser lunches – pretzels, hot dogs, nachos, pizza
- Come in once or twice a week to make copies for teachers (We would need to know at least two days in advance to give teachers plenty of notice.).

CSAPs

March 9-11, early dismissal 7:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

March 12, regular Friday schedule 7:45 a.m. – 2:05 p.m.

Please make sure your student is on time to school on these days and avoid making appointments for your student during these time frames.

CALENDAR CHANGE:

Eighth graders will be dismissed at 12:30 p.m. on Monday, March 8th, once their Science CSAPs are completed. Sixth and seventh graders will be dismissed at 3:27 p.m.

Students may dress up (NJHS dress code) or wear regular school uniforms for CSAP testing days.

Will you donate a box of snacks for the students to have during CSAP breaks?

If you are able to donate, here is a list of suggestions.

- Granola Bars – students seem to prefer chewy to crunchy
- Cereal Bars
- Cheese & Crackers
- Pretzels
- Trail Mix (without peanuts)
- Raisins

Because of peanut allergies, please do not include anything that contains peanuts, peanut butter or peanut oil. All items must be individually wrapped and purchased from a store. We will not be able to accept any homemade items. Please bring all donations to the Middle School front offices.

Thank you for your help and support!

March 22-26, Spring Break

Third Quarter report cards will be mailed home during the week of March 15th though you have open access to your student's grades on Infinite Campus at any time. Please notify the office if you didn't receive your 2nd Quarter report card or got it much later than others so that we can verify that we have the correct address for you in our records.

Coming Up – Please be sure to check that your student has dress up clothes and shoes for our NJHS Induction Ceremony on April 15th. Many students have grown since the fall dress-up day and may need to have things lengthened or adjusted.

Parents of 8th Graders – Prior to Spring Break, you will be receiving a letter in the mail with additional information regarding the end of year activities for the 8th graders.

- Please be putting together 5-10 pictures of your student that can be used for our Promotion Ceremony Slide Show. You may start sending those in anytime either on a CD or actual pictures. Please have them in an envelope marked with your student's name. Once I have scanned them or uploaded them (CDs), I will return them to your student. We had great participation from last year's 8th grade class and would love to see special pictures shown of all our 8th graders this year.
- Remember to check the handbook (in your student's planner as well as on the website) regarding required dress for our 8th grade promotion ceremony this year. I will have a meeting with the 8th graders during the week before spring break to review the guidelines. We are planning to have a dress check for the girls at the beginning of May to make sure that all can enjoy the Promotion Ceremony with no uncomfortable mishaps.

Please be sure to check our school website (www.jamesirwin.org) frequently for updates, changes, and new announcements. We look forward to continuing successfully through the third quarter and into the fourth quarter.

With appreciation,

Mrs. Holly Varnum, Principal