



JAMES IRWIN CHARTER SCHOOLS

Character Development and Academic Excellence

March 9, 2023

Dear families,

I wanted to take a moment to update you on some exciting things happening in the James Irwin network. Today I will briefly update everyone on enrollment for next year and network expansions and changes, but more importantly, I wanted to talk about student attendance.

We have noticed an alarming trend of increased student absences and tardies. From 23 years of experience, we know that when students attend regularly, they are more likely to have less stress, connect with their friends and teachers, and engage in learning. Regular attendance is of the utmost importance for academic achievement, school engagement, and social acclimation. No single factor may interfere with a student's progress more quickly than frequent tardiness or absence. We are asking that all families work hard to schedule vacations, medical/dental appointments, etc. to times when school is not in session.

We are enrolling now for the 2023-2024 school year. We currently have openings in nearly every grade. Our enrollment policy is on a first-come, first-served basis. This allows enrolling families to know very quickly whether or we have a seat for them. That said, our waiting lists often move fast so being on a waiting list should not deter families who desire a James Irwin education for their children. Minimizing our marketing and advertising costs is necessary to keep as many dollars as possible in the classroom; therefore, we heavily rely on word of mouth to boost enrollment. Please let your neighbors, family, and friends know that we still have space available. You can send them to the website for enrollment information.

Power Technical (PTEC), our grades 6-14 pre-engineering/professional trade school, is expanding to the former Lockheed-Martin building located at 2460 Waynoka Place. This amazing facility will not only have more capacity for students but will allow us to add automotive and fire science as options for our students. There has been a waiting list for PTEC in the past, but at least for next year we will have capacity to enroll many more students.

The current PTEC facility, located at 2525 Canada Drive in District 49, is scheduled to open as a third James Irwin Elementary School. We are still in the process of submitting our application to D49, but we do expect to be approved for the 2024-2025 school year. This facility is in the heart of one of the fastest growing areas in El Paso County, and we are excited to serve elementary age students in this part of town.

Please keep an eye on the website for more information about the new elementary school and upcoming information events for that school. If you are interested in being a founding family at this location, drop an email to me or Linda.Carroll@jamesirwin.org.



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A few weeks ago, I sent out an email to everyone about the decision to move from a two-hour delay to a full closure very early in the evening. I was astounded by the number of families that responded to that email with words of encouragement and support of our schools. I had so many personal accounts from families about why the closure was the right decision or just words of encouragement about keeping our kids safe that I was overwhelmed with positivity! Thank you!

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to great education. As always, please reach out to me if there is anything I can do.

Very sincerely,

Rob Daugherty, CEO
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