
JAMES IRWIN CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



HOLIDAY SPEED-- A NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

A motivational speaker finished a conference in Germany and his translator was taking him back to the airport. As the ride began, the two interacted about the most significant parts of the conference and the axioms that were most pertinent to their individual lives. As the translator turned on to the autobahn, the speaker noticed that their conversation was inversely proportional to the speed of the vehicle. As the driver approached 250 kilometers per hour, he was so focused on traffic flow and avoiding crash scenarios, that they could not continue their meaningful sharing of thoughts.

As the holidays approach, we are often tempted to treat them like the autobahn, speeding through event after event like mile markers flashing by. In deftly maneuvering overly filled schedules, we miss the opportunity to speak with our children about our traditions, family history, current realities and future opportunities. Part of the reason to have a special day is to take us off the autobahn of life and give us a detour through the residential streets and back roads, enjoying the scenes of tranquility and the chance to be grateful for what we have been given. Don't let the speed of life rob you of the chance to be thankful. Tell your children why they are important to you, how you've seen them mature, what you are proud of in the choices they make. Take the time to appreciate their strengths and value they bring to your family dynamic.

"The degree of slowness is directionally proportional to the intensity of memory. The degree of speed is directionally proportional to the intensity of forgetting" (Milan Kundera). I encourage you to slow down and make good memories this holiday season.

REFLECTING ON THE FUTURE: A NOTE FOR YOUR STUDENT

"Shoot for the stars, "grab the bull by the horns", "don't stop believing", "if life gives you lemons, make lemonade." You may have heard some of these cliché terms when thinking about your future. But wait, **HAVE** you thought about your future? Are you the driving force in your own life, or do parents still have to step in and drive it for you? Constant reminders to do your homework? Read the book or study for that test? Do your chores? Have you thought about what your own internal motivation might be? Do you have a goals for yourself after high school?

Reality is, you will not live with your parents forever. How will you support yourself and even deeper, how will you positively add to society? Have you thought about where you want to be at 22 years old? 28....? 35...? No one says that when they grow up they want to be homeless, work a meaningless job, be in debt. I find, working with high schoolers, some have not yet thought long term, other than what they might be doing after school, that day, that week, or if we are lucky, that semester. What is **YOUR** motivation? Are you excited to have your first apartment? Are you looking forward to learning about your chosen career field, at college, trade school? See the world, by joining the military? Maybe it is obtaining really cool car or house. Maybe you are motivated to one day support your family, as they have supported you. Whatever your motivation is, I encourage you to begin thinking further than you have. With short term focus, have you allowed bad habits to form? Bad habits such as self-labels, lack of effort or a negative mindset?

High School is a good time to take-out the trash. Take-out what is **NOT** moving you towards your future goals. Your GPA is set your freshman year. Is the more mature, future senior, **YOU**, going to be disappointed in the lost opportunities because of the choices you are making? What small improvements do you need to make to start moving forward?

More cliché's for you. "Rome wasn't built in a day" "how do you climb a mountain or eat an elephant?" One step or one bite at a time. Start small. Make goals that are obtainable. Set aside a space and time to do your homework. Stay engaged in class and ask questions. Stay after school for teacher support. Do you need to separate yourself from classmates that don't encourage or support your long term goals? Do you know that your teachers, your academic and college advisors are your own personal cheerleaders? We are so excited to see your improvements, your goals being met and mostly just watching you walk across that stage senior year and moving on to your biggest dreams.

-- Sincerely, Mrs. Burnett



IMPORTANT DATE REMINDERS



November

Testing

- Winter MAPS testing will take place November 6th through the 8th.
- 9th, 10th, and 11th grade students will test during the regular school day.
- Students will return to class when not testing.
- Please help us encourage your students to do their best!

Food Drive

November is a season of giving, and we'd like to give to our families who need support.

- We will collect food and monetary donations from the 6th through the 14th.
- Students may drop off food donations in the student bins.
- Parents may drop off donations in the front office.

Thanksgiving Break

Remember that we will not have school November 20th through the 24th in order to give time to our families and staff to celebrate Thanksgiving.

We are so thankful for our JICHS community. We wish you a safe and happy holiday!



Veteran's Day

- Friday November 10th we will host our annual Veteran's Day assembly to honor our veterans.
- Parents and members of the community are welcome to attend.
- The assembly will begin at noon in the high school field house.

