



JAMES IRWIN CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL



SPRING MAPS TESTING

➤➤➤ READ MORE

We will begin our third round of MAPS testing on March 18th. The data from this round of testing is especially important as we can track individual student growth from August until now. Please help us encourage your student to do their best and show what they know.

READ MORE <<<

Remember that the yearly registration deadline is March 22nd. Not completing this important process by the deadline will result in the forfeiture of your student's spot for the 24/25 school year and that spot will be given to the next student on the waitlist. Yearly registration ensures a spot for students in their appropriate grade level for the coming school year. School administration depends heavily on the information provided to prepare reliable projections about student enrollment, possible openings in particular grades and many other contingent decisions.

REGISTRATION FOR THE 24/25 SCHOOL YEAR

➤➤➤ HONOR BAND

Pictured at the right are the nine JICHHS students who participated in the CSU Pueblo Festival of Winds Honor Band in February. Our band director, Mr. Davis, is happy to report they had a fun and educational weekend. We are proud of their hard work!





IT'S [NOT] OKAY

By Dawn Batteiger

My daughter took my grandchildren to the library for their weekly book run. While there, she found a storybook being promoted with a title similar to this: "It's Okay." Every page was a different illustrated scenario of a child facing a problem. There was a short explanation of the difficulty being faced and a summary sentence that basically said, "And if this [situation] is too scary or hard and you want to go sit in your room, it's okay." How disappointing that someone would promote solitude rather than solution, distance rather than decisiveness, retreat rather than resilience. It's not okay to quit before you've tried.

Teaching your children to have the right perspective is a foundational principle for building resiliency. Will the problem I am facing give me a chance to learn new skills, overcome an obstacle and thus gain confidence in my ability to persevere? When we give our children a chance to solve mini dilemmas, we are giving them a chance to build muscle in the critical thinking department. When a situation is scary or difficult, it's not okay to just go sit in your room and wait for someone else to solve the problem. We want to teach our kids to be solution oriented.

As kids grow and encounter more complex problems, it's good to give them a template approach for solving a problem. Vicki Caruana, author of *Giving Your Child the Excellence Edge*, recommends this four-step process for breaking down problems and honing in on the best solution: 1) Define the problem; 2) Evaluate all possible solutions; 3) Develop a plan of action; 4) Adjust plans when necessary. She recommends that kids face each problem by asking themselves, "In what ways might I solve this?"

Are you solving problems for your kids that they could solve themselves? When they face a problem whether it is hunger or punctuality or a misplaced cell phone or a missing homework assignment, make it a point of conversation to have them brainstorm solutions: "What should we do first?" "How would you find it?" "What should you do different next time?" Lecture or frustration on your part do not help solve the problem on their part. Refrain from rolling your eyes, sighing, or getting angry. Instead, ask leading questions.

When our children encounter situations that are stressful or hard or unknown, it is okay to feel uncertain. It is not okay to go back and hide in your room as the unfortunate library book falsely assures. "When they're young, the stakes may not be as high and the consequences for mistakes may not be so severe," Caruana says. "Now is the time to help them learn to think for themselves and embrace the problems of life as opportunities to learn."



MARCH EVENTS AND INFO

➤➤➤ VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are seeking parent volunteers to help proctor spring MAPS testing. We need proctors from 7:30 to 11:00 and again from 11:15 to 2:45. Our testing dates are **March 18th, 19th, and 20th**. If you are interested in helping, please call Anne Fish at 719-302-9000 ext 4243. Thank you in advance for your consideration!

➤➤➤ A NIGHT OF IMPROV

Bring the whole crew to a night of family friendly improv comedy, and watch two teams of JICHS students compete for the comedy crown. This event is held in the middle school, so please park on the middle school side and enter through the front office. Doors open at 6:00 and tickets are \$5 at the door (cash only). Light concessions will be sold during the preshow and intermission. **This month's improv night will be held at 6:30pm on Friday, March 22nd.** We hope to see you there!

➤➤➤ PARENT SURVEY

On March 1st, a parent survey will come to your Infinite Campus inbox. We value parent feedback and would appreciate you taking the time to complete the survey. In order to add a little fun in the mix, the class with the most surveys submitted by March 15th will earn a dress down day. The survey will be live **March 1st through the 15th**. Thank you for your time and feedback!

➤➤➤ EARLY RELEASE DATA DAY

JICHS students will be released at **11:05 on Thursday, March 7th.**

➤➤➤ MARCH BOARD MEETING

Are you curious about what happens during a school board meeting? Do you wonder what important things might be happening across the JI network? Join us on **Tuesday, March 19th** for the board meeting. We will meet upstairs in the board room at 6pm.



LOOKING AHEAD

➤➤➤ IMPORTANT TESTING DATES

- **Friday, April 12th** -- 11th grade students take the Science CMAS test. Students will report to the gym for testing at 7:45. 11th grade students will be dismissed from school at the conclusion of the test. They will be done around noon.
- **Monday, April 15th** -- 10th and 11th grade students will take the PSAT and SAT tests. Look for a letter to be emailed with more information in March.
- **Monday, April 15th** -- 9th and 12th grade students do not attend school. Because this is a testing day for the other grades, 9th and 12th graders will stay home. This does not count as an absence.

➤➤➤ IMPORTANT APRIL DATES

- **Friday, April 19th** -- Staff Day; no students
- **Friday, April 19th** -- Prom 7pm to 11pm
- **Monday, April 22nd** -- no school for all JICS schools
- **Friday, April 26th** -- Academic Awards Ceremony @ noon

James Irwin Charter High School
5525 Astrozon Blvd.
Colorado Springs, CO 80916
Phone: (719) 302-9000
Fax: (719) 301-5628

