

Volume 7. Issue 2.

September 2023



James Irwin Charter Middle School

# Jag Pause Newsletter

## Our Story Begins

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The beginning of the school year always arrives with excitement mixed with butterflies and, perhaps, a little anxiety...especially for new students. We held two schoolwide assemblies where a student led the pledge and Mr. Skinner and Mr. Nabeta led the National Anthem. What a thrill it is to see our student body proudly stand and to hear them sing out.

We are already seeing some good habits being displayed amongst the student body. Kids are keeping the halls and backpack areas picked up and several students have been noticed picking up trash without being asked.

Teachers are working diligently to provide excellent direct instruction! This will support students as they get started academically. Teachers and students are starting Leadership by learning (or reviewing) the 8 Habits of Highly Effective Teens—both in words and actions.

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|--------------------------------|---|
| 1. Be Proactive.               | 5. Seek First to Understand, then to be Understood. |
| 2. Begin with the End in Mind. | 6. Synergize.                                       |
| 3. Put First Things First.     | 7. Sharpen the Saw.                                 |
| 4. Think Win-Win.              | 8. Find your Voice and Help Others to Find Theirs.  |

As this school year moves along, it is up to you and me to decide how our story unfolds. We are the keeper of the pen and the eraser. Will we make mistakes? It is likely! Will we learn from them and move forward?

Definitely! Will we be alone? Absolutely not! We have each other, and we are a team like none other. At no other point in history has this particular group of staff, faculty, students, and parents been together. We are just as we should be. We were created for this time. We can be glad and rejoice in it.



My door is open for you and your child. I am only a phone call away. Please let me know how I can support you and your child(ren).

## On-Time is Essential to Success Lunch Detention & Saturday School

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*Please review tardy policy—page 23—in the handbook.*

**BEING ON TIME IS VITAL TO STUDENT SUCCESS!** In order for students to earn credit for their classes, the state mandates that they must be in class for a specific amount of time. Being late to school or class decreases a student's time in class. After 6 *unexcused* tardies, a 90-minute weekday after-school detention will be assigned (3:30-5:00). Any subsequent tardy detention(s) will be served on an assigned Saturday from 7:00-10:00 a.m. (180 minutes).

Skipping any weekday detention will result in Saturday School. Skipping Saturday School will result in 2 ISS days, and the student will be rescheduled for the original detention.

Additionally, students who do not serve their assigned detention will not be allowed to participate or spectate in after-school activities until the detention is served.

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# Tutoring

Tutoring is FREE for all students.  
 Students who are required to attend must be present on assigned day(s).  
 All other students may attend tutoring in all content areas as needed for support.

Subject	Day	Teacher	Room
Math Course 6+	Monday & Wednesday	Mrs. Hamilton	A101
Math Course 1	Monday & Wednesday	Mrs. Prewitt	A108
Math Course 6/5	Tuesday & Thursday	Mrs. Aquino	F101
Math Course 2	Tuesday & Thursday	Ms. Klein	F102
Math Course 3 / Alg I	Tuesday & Thursday	Ms. Long	F103
History 6-8	Monday	Mr. Surin	B108
Grammar/Comp 6-8	Tuesday	Mrs. Prusinowski	B102
Literature 6-8	Wednesday	Mrs. Washington	B107
Science 6-8	Thursday	Mrs. Sacco	C103

## Late/Missing Work

Please review page 31 in the student handbook (online or in the student planner) to be sure you understand the middle school late and missing work policy. All work that is missing when a teacher enters grades into IC—excused and/or unexcused absences—will be recorded as a missing assignment with an *M* in the IC gradebook which is automatically calculated as a zero. Once the work is turned in, the teacher will correct the grade for full credit (excused absences) or partial credit (late or unexcused absences).

## Spread the word!

The JICMS Parent Community Facebook page is a closed group for parents and guardians of students attending James Irwin Charter Middle School. It will provide the most current information on upcoming events and announcements, as well as facilitate an active, positive, and supportive community of parents to further ensure student success.

Search for us on Facebook and be sure to answer the questions!



### Water bottles



Students may only have clear water bottles in the building.

## Infinite Campus & Student Emails

All students have been able to successfully login to both their IC and Student Email accounts. For resets, students need to contact their character or art teacher.

Parents, please login to your IC parent portal to monitor your child's grades. If you have questions about your IC account, please see Mrs. Guerrero in the front office.

# You're Invited!!

**Who:** James Irwin Middle School

**Featuring:** JI Soccer Players & NJHS

**Where:** James Irwin Charter  
Middle School

**When:** September 2, 2023  
September 16, 2023

11am – 3pm

All Donations will go directly to help  
fund the 2024 Washington, D.C Trip.



The annual **JICMS CARNIVAL**  
will take place on  
**Friday, October 27,**  
**2:00-4:30!**

We will be looking for parent volunteers  
and donations as the day gets closer.

## September Reminders

September 4	Labor Day - No School
September 6	Picture Day
September 7	11:00 dismissal (No afternoon Bus) / Staff Training
September 8, 22	Kona Ice
September 28	11:00 dismissal (No afternoon Bus) / PTC 12:00-6:00
September 29	11:00 dismissal (No afternoon Bus) / PTC 11:45-2:00

## OCTOBER COUNT

**COLORADO COUNT DAY IS  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 2.**

On this day, all students attending public schools in the State of Colorado are counted to determine funding for each school; consequently, this is a crucial day for JICMS as it allows us to continue delivering the excellent education provided to your student each day. *All students who are in class by the 7:45 bell will receive a Casual Pass for Wednesday, October 4.*



# James Irwin Charter Middle School

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James Irwin Charter Schools (JICS) is a network with a proven track record of creating successful schools with superior academic achievement for students, regardless of race, ethnicity, or socio-economic status. Presently, there are five schools on three campuses.

*US News and World Report* rated 17-year old **James Irwin Charter High School** as the 23rd best high school in Colorado.

**James Irwin Charter Middle School** serves as a national role model for successful implementation of single-gender classrooms and is known for helping students develop personal responsibility and leadership skills.

**James Irwin Elementary School-Astrozon Campus** has established a legacy of academic excellence by consistently having over 90% of the students score proficient or above in math, reading, and especially writing on the CSAP/TCAP tests.

**James Irwin Elementary School-Howard Campus**, had the highest 4<sup>th</sup> grade TCAP scores in math, reading, and writing of all southern Colorado schools.

**Power Technical School**, our grades 6-14 trade school, opened its doors in the fall of 2016.

Our elementary schools, middle school, high school, and trade school have been named the Gazette's Best of the Springs many times.

Even more important than academic excellence is our commitment to character development. All schools share a similar culture that focuses on 5 pillars of character: Honesty, Integrity, Respect, Responsibility, Excellence.

## Communication—School to Home

Please note the forms of communication that are currently in place. If you believe there is something else we can do to support your needs, please email your thoughts to the principal at [michele.prusinowski@jamesirwin.org](mailto:michele.prusinowski@jamesirwin.org)



**Weekly Grade Slips** (every Wednesday)

**Missing Assignment Reports** (Thursday)

**JICMS Parent Community Facebook Page**

**Newsletter** —includes announcements, special events, sports, updates, info, etc.

**Infinite Campus** (available 24/7)

**Automated Phone Calls, Emails, and Texts** (by office)

**Personal Phone Calls** (by teachers)

**Emails** (through IC)

**Electronic Sign** (near entry door)

**JICMS Website**

**Mail** (to address on IC)

### FUN FRIDAYS - \$1.00

Students may wear anything relating to the day's fun theme—pajamas, jerseys, sweatshirts, hoodies, costumes, etc., as long as their outfit is JI appropriate (knee-length and loose).

September 1 – Disney	October 6 – Class Color Day 6 <sup>th</sup> =Red; 7 <sup>th</sup> =Blue; 8 <sup>th</sup> =Green; Staff/Admin=Tie Dye	November 3 – Hoodies/Crazy Socks
December 1 – Christmas	January – no Fun Friday	February 2 – GO RED!
March 1 – Decades	April 5 – Western	May 3 – Cartoon