



# Jefferson County Middle School

*A Community of Students, Parents, and Staff*

1180 SE Kemper Way Madras, OR 97741 <https://www.jcsd.k12.or.us/schools/jcms/>

541 475-7253

*Dr. Brent Walsh, Principal*

*Karin Crouch, Assistant Principal*

*Julie Nisley and Lori Stock, Counselors*

November 10, 2021

Parents and families of JCMS,

As we come to the close of the first quarter, we want to share with you some successes and updates as we start the new quarter on November 15th. First off, having students back at JCMS has been wonderful for everyone and we have worked diligently to support them as they transition back to traditional school. As excited as we are for traditional school, JCMS acknowledges that the last 18 months have been tough on our students academically, mentally, and socially. In order to prepare, JCMS went through several changes pertaining to staffing and the overall operation of the school to support the needs of every student. As we prepare to enter the next quarter of the school year, we are continuing to make adjustments to provide students with access to rigorous instruction while addressing individual needs.

Through support from the district, JCMS has been given additional resources to focus on the needs of our students. JCMS is pleased to announce we have hired an additional counselor and math teacher. In our counseling department, Ms. Nisley will work with Ms. Stock to maintain current programs while bringing expertise around Response to Intervention (RTI), 504 and Individual Education Plans (IEP). In mathematics, the addition of Ms. Knievel has given JCMS the ability to provide additional support to address mathematical skills. Over quarter one, the math department has collected data from assessments and diagnostic tools to identify the needs of our students. At the start of quarter two, JCMS will be adding 10 sections of math support and intervention to maintain academic growth while building on the skills needed for students to be successful. Additionally, JCMS has acquired technology so that each and every student has a chromebook while at school.

With the additions mentioned above, JCMS has made adjustments to our schedule to maximize the supports in place. While school will continue to start at 7:45 am and end at 3:00 pm, student schedules and the bell schedule will change. Due to the additional class sections, your student will get a new schedule for quarter two and with this, a possibility that their teachers may change. Additionally, our REACH program, designed to provide extra time and support during the school day, will now be in the morning and have more sections available to students.

JCMS is focused on continuous improvement to prepare our students for their future and we thank you for your partnership and support. With the challenges faced in the last 18 months, the importance of students engaged in learning has never been greater. We do ask for your support with the following to make sure our staff is focused on teaching and prioritizing academic needs:

- **Attendance:** One of the most important things your child can do to reach the goal of success is also one of the most basic: attend school every day on time. Attendance is directly related to academic success.
- **Being on time for class:** Tardies reduce the amount of time engaged in learning and can disrupt lessons for the student and others in class.



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- **Behavior policies:** When these are not followed teachers become managers of behaviors, reducing the amount of time they are teaching and supporting learning.
- **Safety/mask requirements** Throughout the first quarter we have been focused on teaching the expectations, providing reminders, and supporting students with proper mask wearing lessons following recommendations from the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) and Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OHSA). Following safety and mask requirements greatly reduces the chance of quarantine for your child. To further support these expectations, JCMS will implement the following for students that are choosing to not follow the expectations during the 21-22 school year.
  - Mask discipline steps:
    - 1st- Lunch Detention
    - 2nd- After School Detention
    - 3rd- Saturday School
    - 4th- 1 day In-school suspension (ISS)
    - 5th- Meeting to discuss 509j online placement/next steps with the student and parents/guardians.

We are excited to continue working with you to support your student(s). As a staff we are confident that we can provide each student with the best education possible. JCMS firmly believes that all students can learn at high levels. Furthermore, the overwhelming passing of the 509j bond demonstrates the support we have from our community and we thank you for that. Together we can make a difference for our students.

Sincerely,

Dr. Brent Walsh