



JAFFREY-RINDGE
COOPERATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT

JAFFREY-RINDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL

1 Conant Way
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Principal: Robert Clark

Assistant Principal: Lisa Wilkinson

School Counselor: Diane Bush

School Nurse: Heather Boyd

September 13, 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We hope you all had a great summer! The school year has gotten off to a great start! The transition from summer mode to school mode seemed relatively seamless and that's thanks to you! This year we welcomed 6 new staff members to our JRMS family. We welcomed grade 6 teacher, Mr. Anderson, art teacher, Mrs. Plank, grade 7 learning center associate, Kim Aucoin, grade 7 math, Margaret Barney, and grade 8 math teacher, Michael Kulp. Health educator Amanda Parsons re-joins us after filling the position as a long term sub last year. We are excited to work with each of these new staff members as each one brings his/her unique talents and interests to JRMS.

This year you will be hearing a lot about habits of mind. Habits of mind are "a set of 16 problem-solving, life related skills, necessary to effectively operate in society and promote strategic reasoning, insightfulness, perseverance, creativity and craftsmanship." (Costa & Kallick, 2000). The 16 habits of mind are:

Persisting	Applying Past Knowledge-New Situations
Managing Impulsivity	Gathering Data Through All Senses
Listening with Understanding/Empathy	Creating, Imagining, Innovating
Thinking Flexibly	Responding with Wonderment and Awe
Striving for Accuracy	Taking Responsible Risks
Thinking about Thinking (Metacognition)	Finding Humor
Questioning and Posing Problems	Thinking Interdependently
Thinking/Communicating with Clarity & Precision	Remaining Open to Continuous Learning

These habits of mind provide our students with skills to work through real life situations and to respond using awareness, thought and intentional strategy to gain a positive outcome. (Costa & Kallick, 2000). The following website provides descriptions and examples of habits of mind.

<http://www.ascd.org/publications/books/108008/chapters/Describing-the-Habits-of-Mind.aspx>

IMPORTANT DATES, ACTIVITIES, INFORMATION:

SCHOOL PICTURES: School picture day is tomorrow, Sept. 14. Forms went home last week. The office has extra forms if you need them. Call Mrs. Mulenberg at 532-8122, x 292.

CARDINAL PARENT VOLUNTEER GROUP: This group is open to all parents/guardians of JRMS students. Our parent volunteer group is led by Mrs. Rachelle Hill. You can email Rachelle at jrmsvolunteer@gmail.com The first meeting of the year will be held Wednesday, September 20 in the JRMS conference room at 6:30 PM. Hope to see you! Don't forget to *like* our Cardinal Parents Facebook page - another avenue to disseminate information.

JRMS OPEN HOUSE: Open House at JRMS will take place on Thursday, October 5 from 6:00 - 7:30 PM. We will start in the gymnasium with a presentation by Mr. Clark then move to grade level and unified arts classes. Hope to see you! More information to come.

JRMS WEEK OF GIVING: Next week, the week of September 18-22, will be our JRMS week of giving. This initiative was spearheaded by three 7th grade students: Raven Groblewski, Darien Murphy and Kelly Williams. Our school will hold several different fundraisers, contests and events to help support the Red Cross and the Humane Society for all they are doing for the residents and pets of Houston and Florida. We shared the following quote by Danny Thomas with our students. "Success has nothing to do with what you gain in life or accomplish only for yourself. It's what you do for others." Perhaps the most important lesson we can teach our students is to be empathetic towards others. **Monday**, 9/18 will be "hat day" - students can pay \$1.00 to their homeroom teacher and can wear a hat in school. **Tuesday** will be "guess the amount" day. We will have a large jar in the cafeteria with candy in it. Pay .50 cents and guess the number of candies in the jar. **Wednesday** will be superhero day. Students can pay \$1.00 to their homeroom teacher and wear superhero garb for the day. Please, no masks or facepaint. **Thursday** will be pet donation day. We will have boxes in the cafeteria to donate anything pet related (food, treats, toys, etc. **Friday** will be our first school dance from 6:00 - 8:00. Admission is \$5.00. All grades are welcome. All proceeds from the week's activities will be donated to help those affected by Hurricanes Harvey and Irma. Thank you for supporting our efforts to help others.

JRMS SECURITY SYSTEM: For the protection of our students & staff, a security system is activated in our school. The main office is fitted with a buzzer in the foyer (blue button right by the window that looks into the office). When you enter the building through the main door on Stratton Road, press the blue button and the office staff will unlock the door so you can enter. Please remember that **all** persons entering the school at any time **must** check in to the office, sign in and receive a visitor pass. We hope you understand and appreciate the need for these security measures.

DAILY STUDENT MESSAGES: We would ask that, as often as possible, after school plans are made in the morning at home between parents & students. We realize, however, that plans sometimes change. We respectfully request that any parent messages for students or after school plan changes are communicated to the JRMS office by 1:30 PM.

TARDIES: Please refer to page 8 of the Student/Parent Handbook.

LAUNCHPOINT AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM: The Monadnock Bible Conference on Dublin Road in Jaffrey offers an after school program for K-8 SAU 47 students. Call Anna Buller, Launch Point Coordinator at 532-4898 or email abuller@monadnockbible.org for more information.

REMIND: This is a free service allowing JRMS administration to send text "blasts" with timely information, changes to schedules, meeting dates, etc. to all subscribers. This is a closed

system. No one will have access to others' cell numbers and you will not be able to text back. Please remember, standard text rates apply. To receive text messages via text, simply text @jrmsa to 1-203-687-4070. You will receive a text back. Click/tap link and you're in!

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION: JRMS has participated in this worthwhile fundraiser for several years and we have received over \$3,000.00 to date! Funds raised are used to promote positive student activities, assemblies, etc. It is easy for you to contribute. All you have to do is save your box top for education labels, cut them out, place them in a baggie and send them in to your son/daughter's homeroom teacher. The first school-wide collection date is Wednesday, October 18. Thank you for supporting this beneficial program.

LOST & FOUND: Believe it or not, the lost & found is starting to pile up! Please make sure you label your son/daughter's clothing, backpacks, lunch boxes to avoid losing important items.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT: This month, Mrs. Margaret Barney, our new grade 7 math teacher is in the spotlight. Mrs. Barney spent time in Argentina, England, Brazil and the United States while growing up! She has lived in New Jersey, New York, Massachusetts and New Hampshire and attended 7 different schools by the time she graduated from high school! After high school, Mrs. Barney went on to UMASS Amherst, earning a Bachelor of Arts in Education. She worked for 15 years in the financial services industry and most recently as an associate at Rindge Memorial School. Mrs. Barney has been married to her husband, John, for 17 years and they have 4 children: Victoria, Alex, SJ and Patrick. Their new 12 week old puppy, Bueller, keeps the family busy! Outside of school, Mrs., Barney likes to make glass lampwork beads. She also loves to read and cook (especially desserts!) While in the financial services industry, Mrs. Barney taught adults, but she wants everyone to know, "I definitely like teaching kids better!"

TIPS FOR PARENTS OF MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS: Parenting middle school students can be challenging. Charlene Giannetti, co-author of *The Roller-Coaster Years. Raising Your Child Through the Maddening Yet Magical Middle School Years*, states, "Parenting a child from ages 10 - 15 is truly challenging. Like the view from a ferris wheel, the highs are exhilarating; but looking down can be flip-flop stomach scary. It is the best of times and the worst of times." Middle school students can be difficult, curious, humorous, giving, angry, loving, energetic and exhausted, seemingly all in a 5 minute span! Please know that we are here to help! We certainly don't have all the answers, but if we put our heads together positively, our hope is that we can always do what's best for kids.

SPECIAL THANKS: Returning to school and purchasing school supplies can certainly be a challenge! At JRMS, we are grateful to the Contoocook Valley Board of Realtors, Linda Harris from Shelter From the Storm and Hope Fellowship Church deacons for their generous donations of school supplies for our students. We have plenty of supplies still available. Have your son/daughter come to the main office if he/she needs anything.

Once again, thank you for helping with our smooth opening of school. Never hesitate to contact us (532-8122) with questions, concerns or suggestions.

Sincerely,

JRMS Administration