

The Jordan-Small Middle School Mission and Goals

In the process of reviewing the Raymond School District mission statement and the philosophy from 1997 on which our middle school was created, the staff, administration and parent advisory group created goals for our school. As input was collected and discussed, it became clear that there were two major areas that served as focal points.

The goals listed below are grouped in the broad categories of school climate and academic expectations. It is my intent that these goals be realistic, achievable, and clearly stated. Each goal must be measurable so that we may assess the degree to which we are successful in reaching our vision. The following will serve as a template during the 2008-2009 school year to increase the effectiveness of the J.S.M.S. instructional program.

Randy Crockett,
Principal

School Climate and Culture

J.S.M.S. will foster an educational environment that is emotionally and physically safe for all students congruent with the values defined in the school district's Code of Conduct.

- The core values of respect, honesty, responsibility, tolerance, compassion, and courage will be taught and integrated daily into staff and student interactions.
- Peer mediators and/or student leaders will be trained to assist other students.
- Bullying and harassment will not be tolerated in our school. Every incident of bullying and harassment will be referred for disciplinary action.

J.S.M.S. will provide an educational environment that fosters and promotes cooperation and communication among parents, students and staff.

- A variety of means, such as PowerSchool, progress reports, agendas, emails, phone calls, newsletters and personal letters, will be used to communicate a child's progress and concerns that may arise.
- Teachers and administrators will be available to meet with parents throughout the school year if concerns need to be addressed.

J.S.M.S. will provide educational experiences and a school culture that address the social and emotional needs of adolescent and teenage students as they transition out of elementary school and prepare for high school.

- Teams of teachers will work with teams of students in a two-year loop to develop strong working relationships.
- Transition activities will occur at the end of the fourth, sixth, and eighth grade years to help all students adapt to their new team or school.
- Increasing levels of independence and responsibility will be expected of all students as they move from fifth to eighth grade.
- A systemic plan of intervention will be developed by the Student Assistance Team to address the needs of students who are not able to meet standards and/or who struggle with social or behavioral challenges.

Academic Expectations

J.S.M.S. will provide an educational experience that prepares students with the academic skills needed to be successful as they advance to high school and lay the foundation for lifelong learning.

- Study skills, such as test preparation, memorizing, outlining, note taking, organization, and time management, will be taught in every subject area.
- Students will be assisted in understanding their own learning styles and thinking about how they learn best. Instruction will incorporate a variety of learning styles.
- A school-wide literacy framework will be developed and implemented.

J.S.M.S. will provide an age-appropriate sequential curriculum that has clearly defined learning outcomes in each subject area and grade level.

- Essential questions, knowledge and/or skills will be developed and implemented for each subject at each grade level. These standards will be used to organize instruction and assessment throughout the school year to determine to what degree each student is meeting each standard.
- The staff will work with parents to understand the adolescent's developmental needs.

J.S.M.S. will provide an educational experience based on instructional practices that are differentiated, experiential, interdisciplinary, challenging and connected with the community.