

# JAMES MADISON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Monthly Cat Tracks . October 2025

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## **A Message from the Principal**

Hello JMMS Families,

We hope this newsletter finds you well. We also hope that your child/children have found the beginning of the school year as rewarding and reinvigorating as we have.

One of the many items covered in the first couple of months of the school year are safety protocols. These are important aspects of maintaining a safe learning environment. Madison Middle School has conducted Intruder Drills by reviewing ALICE information (in all classes) and by walking to our rally point. We have also conducted our first fire drill of the year and will work with the Appleton Fire Department on how to safely do these drills with all of the construction that is occurring.

Staff has been trained in ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) protocol. Through the district's ALICE training, we emphasize that while schools are very safe places, the district values proactive preparation. The district's training and practices allow our staff and students to think carefully about their surroundings at school, and consider what they will do ahead of time in the case of an emergency.

Tornado, fire, and intruder drills provide our students and staff with the opportunity to practice what to do in case of an emergency and to familiarize themselves with routes and procedures. We ask every class to review these procedures for their room on two occasions, once in the first 30 days of school and again in the second semester.

While September was focused on physical safety in our school, in October, our social-emotional learning lessons will be centered around Bullying Awareness. Social and emotional safety at school is also a top priority for us. Weekly lessons will remind students how to report bullying situations (Speak Up Speak Out anonymous app), how to be an "upstander" rather than a by-stander, and the importance of being kind and considerate to everyone.

If you ever have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to someone in our office at 920-852-5425. Let's make it a great school year.

Mrs. Poyee Xiong  
Principal

(continued on next page)

## Coming Up!

**Picture Makeup:** Picture makeup day for students is on Friday, October 3rd! This is for those that missed them in September. If you would like your student to retake their picture you must request your retake through this link:

<https://harmannstudios.wufoo.com/forms/reference-number-request-form/>

Your student will bring home an information card on picture day for ordering. If you have any questions, you can reach them at (920) 983-6600 or visit their website <https://www.harmann.com/>. **You will have your ID and yearbook picture taken even if you don't purchase a picture package.**

My mom mixed up pajama day and picture day



**Parent Teacher Conferences:** We are looking forward to meeting all of you at Parent/Teacher Conferences. Conferences are set up so that we can together support your student's growth in their learning and the focus of these conferences will be on student growth and performance since the beginning of the school year. Here are our dates/times for P/T Conferences...

- Thursday, October 16 (4:15-7:45pm)
- Monday, October 20 (4:15-7:45pm)
- Wednesday, October 22 (4:15-7:45pm)

For JMMS P/T Conferences, we will be utilizing "My Conference Time" (MCT) as a system for parents to sign up for parent teacher conferences. In order to make our conferences more efficient and easier for our families in attendance, parents will be required to register for conferences with teachers. When scheduling your child's P/T Conferences, please keep the following in mind...

- All conferences are 7-14 minutes in length. If you feel like you will need longer than this amount of time, please communicate with the teacher.
- While we encourage you to schedule time with each of your child's teachers, it is not necessary to schedule a conference with every teacher.
- There will be individual grade level letters coming to your email Friday morning, explaining each team's unique set up and directions for you to make things as seamless as possible.
- Please use Infinite Campus to find a current class schedule or contact the office, if needed.

***On Friday, October 3rd, you will receive a letter electronically inviting you to sign up for a conference time.***

Here is the process to sign up for a conference time:

- Go to <https://www.myconferencetime.com/jmms>
- Click the yellow box on the homepage to schedule multiple conferences. Or you can click on the name of your student's teacher if you are trying to schedule a conference with one teacher or trying to add a teacher after you've scheduled your conferences.
- Select the desired time for your conference by clicking on Sign Up
- Submit the requested information. Once you register a message will be sent to your email address

If you need an interpreter for your conference and have not received a call, please call the school office at 920.854.5425 to request a conference time. You may also call the office for assistance with scheduling a conference.

**No time to make dinner before conferences? We've got you covered.**

Kelsey's Country Kitchen and The Bubbler Bar will be here during conference times. Swing by the food trucks before or after your conference – grab a delicious meal *and* support **Sources of Strength** at the same time!



**Free or Reduced Carry-Over Status Ends October 15, 2025:** AASD families approved automatically or through an application for Free or Reduced Meals for the 2024-25 school year, we want to remind you that carry-over status, which allows families time at the start of the school year to submit a new annual application, will expire on Wednesday, October 15, 2025.

Although all students at Madison receive free lunch, if you wish to have other fees waived or reduced, please submit your completed Free or Reduced application to determine eligibility for the remainder of this school year.

[Learn more here.](#)

**Mrs. King is going to Washington!:** Please click on this [link](#) if you are interested in learning more about the Washington, D.C. trip with Mrs. King. Our Trip # is: 221440.

**Dance, Dance, Dance!:** Dances are an exciting opportunity for students to hang out with friends, meet new people, and engage in dancing, basketball, and games within a safe environment with adult supervision! JMMS dances are in two shifts.

2025-2026 Dance Times

6th Grade: 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm (Pick-up in the BACK of the building)

7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade: 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm (Pick-up in the FRONT of the building)

Arrival: The cost to enter is \$5.00. **Students must enter (on time)** through the main doors (front of the building) to pay and have their ID checked. Students are then free to go to the large gym to dance, the cafeteria to purchase snacks and/or play games, or they can go to the small gym to play volleyball and/or basketball. If the weather permits and enough parents are chaperoning, we will open the inner courtyard for students to hang out.

Departure: **PARENTS**, please plan to pick up your child PROMPTLY at the assigned location (front or back of building).

Without our parent chaperones, dances would not be possible. **PARENTS, please consider chaperoning!!!** [Click here](#) if you are interested in chaperoning a dance.

Stay tuned for more information on our first dance of the year on 10/30!

## Athletics & Co-Curriculars & After-School Clubs

**Boys Basketball:** Boys basketball for 7th and 8th graders will start on Monday, October 14th. [Please read this letter](#) if your son will be signing up for basketball. It shares details and the practice schedule for the first few weeks.

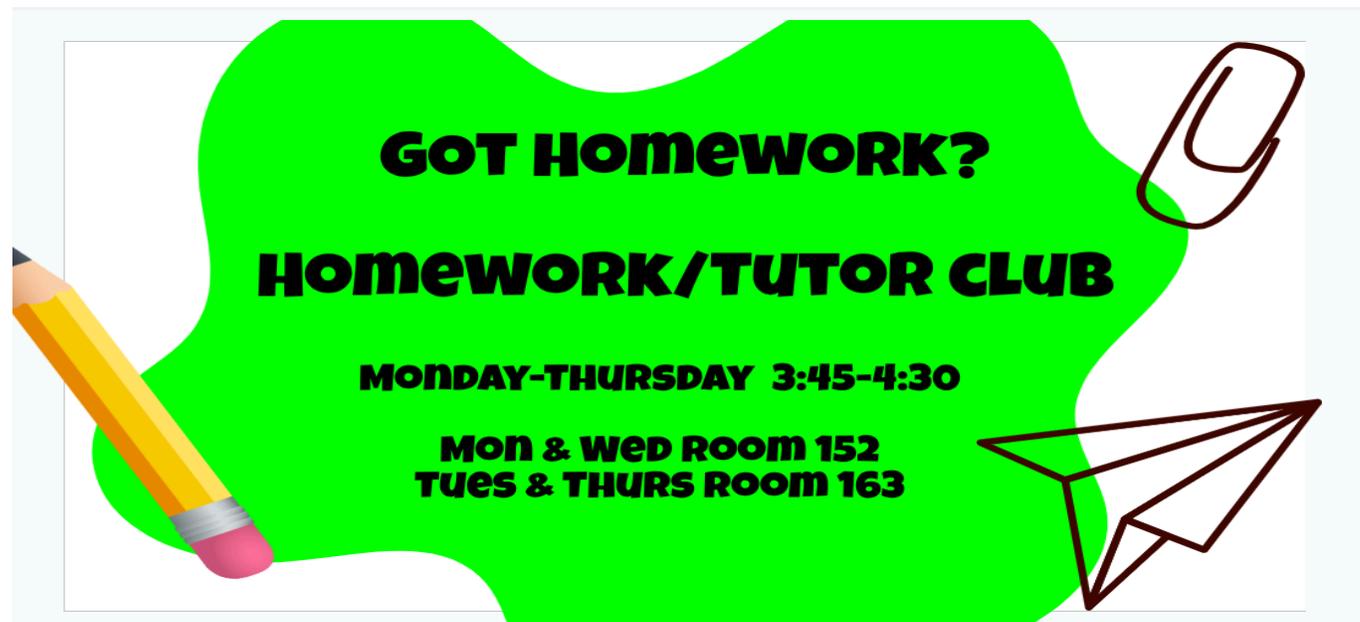
**After School Clubs at JMMS :** Please read if your son/daughter is signed up or plans to sign up for an after-school club at Madison Middle School. Our after-school clubs will be run through our 21st Century Grant (CCLC) that is run by the Boys & Girls Club. Students must register for the after-school program to participate in any after school clubs.

You can also click on this link (<https://mch-foxvalley.my.site.com/portal/s/login-home>) to take you directly to the sign up page.

Once your student has signed up through the Boys & Girls website for the CCLC after school program, they can start attending the club that they have signed up for. The Boys & Girls Club will provide your student with a snack and an opportunity for them to stay and do their homework or receive homework help after their club has ended. The 21st Century after school program run by the Boys and Girls Club is open to all students regardless of if they are in a co-curricular club at JMMS. The hours of operations are 3:20-6pm. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Jessica Johnson. [jjohnson@bgclubfoxvalley.org](mailto:jjohnson@bgclubfoxvalley.org)

You can view all the clubs currently running on the announcement tile on your student's Canvas page. Click this [link](#) for the current announcements.

**NEW CLUB this year!!!** Teachers often organize trips and celebrations for students who are staying on top of their homework. We encourage students to take advantage of getting support in the Homework Club after school!



**GOT HOMEWORK?**  
**HOMEWORK/TUTOR CLUB**  
**MONDAY-THURSDAY 3:45-4:30**  
**MON & WED ROOM 152**  
**TUES & THURS ROOM 163**

**Ski Club:** See copy of announcement slide below.

## Attendance Information:

**Absence Request Process - available ONLINE:** Parents/guardians can use the Absence Request tool found on [Campus Parent/Parent Portal](#) to submit a request that informs the office in advance when their student is not going to be in school. This feature can be used as an alternative to the traditional phone calls to the school office. Please see the instructions, found [here](#), on how to submit an Absence Request via the Campus Portal.

### **Middle School Attendance Education Lessons**

In collaboration with the Appleton Police Department and Outagamie County Youth and Family Services, AASD middle schools will be providing Attendance Education Lessons for students and their families beginning in November. Families may receive a letter as determined by the school site's attendance team once their student reaches five unexcused absences. A student is considered habitually truant if they are absent from school without an excuse for part or all of five or more days on which school is held during a semester. With the letter, the family will be asked to attend a meeting with the school to develop a plan for attendance. Part of that plan will include a requirement for the student and family to participate in an Attendance Education Lesson, which will be held at each middle school monthly. Information will be shared and discussed regarding attendance requirements, state law, school obligations, the importance of attending school, and available resources to improve attendance.

## Concert Dates at Madison Middle School (Please add to your calendars)

Please click on this document to view all of our concert dates for the school year. [JMMS Concerts 2025-2026](#)

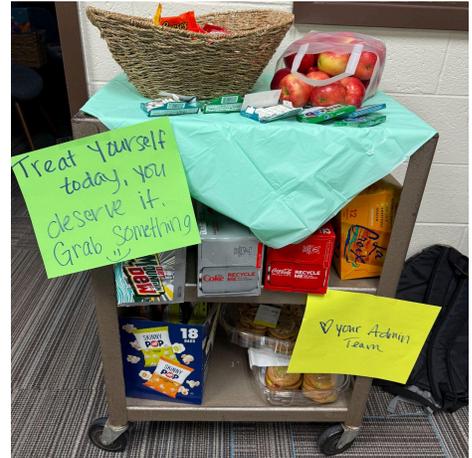
## School Climate News

**Wileys:** Has your child come home with purple Wiley tickets? That means they were caught being responsible, respectful, and/or safe. Yay! Students can save these to enter them into our monthly mega drawings, or they can spend them on Fridays when we bring out our Wiley Cart full of goodies and prizes. We are always looking for new, fun things we can add to our Wiley Cart or MEGA drawing. Let us know if you have ideas or would like to help contribute!

## Family Engagement Opportunities:

**October Fundraiser:** **Tuesday, October 28th** is our Family Night Out supporting our school and our community at **Tom's Drive In** on Calumet Street. Tom's will generously donate 20% of sales from **4:00-8:00** to our school. Be sure to **mention "James Madison Middle School"** when you place your order. THANK YOU for supporting our school and our community.

**Would you or your business like to sponsor a "Treat Yourself" cart for our staff?** We would like to be able to surprise our staff once a month with a treat cart, especially on those tougher, longer weeks. If you are interested in sponsoring a cart one of the days, please email your principal Mrs.Xiong at [xiongpoyee@aasd.k12.wi.us](mailto:xiongpoyee@aasd.k12.wi.us).



### **Crossing Guard Volunteers Needed!!**

Help our students get to school safely. We would love to have crossing guards around to help students cross the streets onto our campus before school and after school. Email [schankeandrew@aasd.k12.wi.us](mailto:schankeandrew@aasd.k12.wi.us).

## Reminders:

**Drop Off/Pick Up:** Our drop off and pick up seems to be flowing much better. Please [review this information about Drop off/Pick up](#) and Pg 34-36 in our [Parent/Student Handbook](#). When dropping off in the zone in front of school, Pull Forward When Room. Please remember to drop off near a curb in a drop off zone.

**Speak Up, Speak Out (SUSO):** Safety and security are a top priority at Madison Middle School. We have established policies and protocols to keep the students and staff safe. We will always investigate any reports of threats and take appropriate actions to keep our students, staff, and community safe. We would like to continue to encourage our students and school community to report anything that could constitute a threat to school safety. The District utilizes [SPEAK UP, SPEAK OUT](#) (SUSO), a 24/7 comprehensive bullying and incident reporting system. Students, families, school staff, and community members can submit a school safety concern by downloading the SUSO app ([Android](#) and [iOS](#)), [submitting a tip online](#), or calling 1-800-MY-SUSO-1. We recommend typing in "AASD" into the search field.



Useful Tools and Information:	Important Dates:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <a href="#">Setting Canvas Notifications</a></li><li>● <a href="#">Classlink Sign-in Page</a></li><li>● <a href="#">Box Tops for Education</a></li><li>● <a href="#">Madison MS Home Page</a><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ <a href="#">Grading Guideline</a></li><li>○ <a href="#">Athletics &amp; Co-curriculars</a></li></ul></li><li>● <a href="#">Follow us Facebook</a></li><li>● <a href="#">Madison MS Parent Organization Page</a></li><li>● <a href="#">Madison Parent Handbook</a> -- can't find the information you are looking for? More than likely, it can be found in this!</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● September 30<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ No School</li></ul></li><li>● October 30<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ School Dance</li></ul></li><li>● October 31<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ No School</li></ul></li><li>● November 26-28<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Thanksgiving Break</li></ul></li></ul>

# 2025-26 Ski/Snowboard Club

Are you interested joining  
Ski/Snowboard Club at JMMS?  
6th-8th grades are invited to join.  
Spots will be limited.

Questions? Please contact Mr.  
Wierschke at  
[wierschkejason@asd.k12.wi.us](mailto:wierschkejason@asd.k12.wi.us)

Sign ups will happen end of October  
or early November.

## Important information to know :

- 4 trips (Dec 19, Jan 9, 15(Th) and 30)
  - Feb 6- make up
- Cost \$117.50-\$350 (varies based on rentals needed)
  - Coach Bus cost- Approximately \$117.50
  - Lift Ticket- Approximately \$110
  - Ski/Snowboard Rentals- approximately \$100-110
  - **These prices are all estimated and could change.**
- Do not need to have previous experience- there are free of charge lessons provided from the hill.
- We will have a more informational meeting at the end of October or early November to finalize other items/questions. Sign up will open after this informational meeting. Date TBD.





# STUDENT ATTENDANCE



## EMBRACE THE EVERY DAY!



### DID YOU KNOW?



By 9th grade, attendance is a better predictor of graduation rates than 8th-grade test scores.



Frequent absences can be a sign that a student is:

- Losing interest in school
- Struggling with school-work
- Dealing with a bully
- Facing some other difficulty



Attendance is an important life skill that will help your teen keep a job and graduate from college.

### WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- ▶ Make school attendance a priority. Help your child to be on time to school.
- ▶ Help your teen maintain daily routines, such as finishing homework and getting a good night's sleep.
- ▶ Encourage your teen to join meaningful after-school activities
- ▶ Monitor your teen's academic progress and seek help from teachers when necessary.

### HOW DOES LATE ARRIVAL AFFECT STUDENTS?



Minutes late per day	Equal days work of teaching lost in a year
5 mins	3.4 days
10 Mins	6.9 days
15 Mins	10.3 days
20 Mins	13.8 days
30 Mins	20.7 days



Absenteeism in the first month of school can predict poor attendance throughout the school year. Half of students who miss 2-4 days in September go on to miss nearly a month of school.

### HOW TO CREATE A GOOD ROUTINE:



Set a daily schedule with the same wake-up times and bedtimes for each school day complete with study time -- and stick to them.



Include your teen's deadlines for school assignments and exams on your calendar or planner so they can see what is coming up.

[www.aasd.k12.wi.us/families/attendance](http://www.aasd.k12.wi.us/families/attendance)

# THE FAMILY CONSUMER SCIENCE CLASSROOM NEEDS YOUR HELP!

WE ARE SEEKING DONATIONS OF  
PAPER PLATES, BOWLS, PLASTIC  
SPOONS, AND PLASTIC FORKS. ANY  
HELP YOU CAN GIVE IS GREATLY  
APPRECIATED!

QUESTIONS? EMAIL LAWREN OLIVANTI -  
OLIVANTILAWREN@AASD.K12.WI.US

