

JAMES MADISON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Monthly Cat Tracks December 2025

Dear Families,

As we approach the end of the calendar year, I want to take a moment to reflect on the past few months and express my gratitude for your continued support. Together, we've made this first part of the school year one of growth, connection, and learning.

December is always a special time in our school community. Along with wrapping up the semester, students and staff have been busy with projects, performances, and activities that showcase their hard work and creativity. Thank you for cheering on our learners, whether it's at concerts, athletic events, or classroom celebrations.

Over the coming weeks, we encourage all students to finish the semester strong by staying organized, asking for help when needed, and taking pride in their accomplishments. This is also a great time to set goals for the new year ahead.

As we head into winter break, I hope you and your family find time to relax, recharge, and enjoy special moments together. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in January, ready for more learning and success.

Wishing you a joyful holiday season and a happy New Year!

Warm regards,
Poyee V. Xiong
Principal, James Madison Middle School

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Coming Up!

iReady Diagnostic Testing: iReady is a universal testing students complete three times a year (Fall, Winter, Spring). The data is used to help teachers create interventions and design classroom instruction. Students will take the winter diagnostic the week after winter break, **beginning on January 6th**. This will be a progress check to see how students are doing with their skills and learning goals in Math and Reading.

December Fundraiser: We don't have an official fundraiser this month, but if you would like to donate to our Holiday Gift Shop that we host in December we would love more gifts to offer. See details below!

School Nurse Newsletter: See what's new in the health office below.

- ☰ Health Office Visit Notification - English
- ☰ Health Office Visit Notifications - Spanish
- ☰ Health Office Visit Notifications - Hmong

One more reminder for our upcoming Wildcat Way: We're gearing up for a fun PBIS Wildcat Way day for our middle school students and need your help to make it extra special! We're looking for **gift cards** (think Target, Dunkin, Starbucks, 7 Brews, BWW's, Game Stop, etc. any local eateries) or **prizes** that middle schoolers would be excited to win—like sports gear, tech accessories, snacks, or fun school supplies.

Your donations help make this event exciting and rewarding for our students! Please send items or gift cards to the school office by **Monday, December 1st**. Thank you for supporting our kids and helping make this day a success.

Harmann's Picture Perfect Holiday Deal: If you are interested in ordering pictures for the holidays, please see the flyer below on the final page. **Order by Nov. 30th** to have them in time for Christmas.

Athletics & After-School Clubs

GIRLS BASKETBALL SIGNUP: A [google sign up form](#) can be found in our JMMS Announcements. Any girl interested in playing basketball must sign up by (December 5th) using that link or the sign up link on our webpage under winter sports. All athletic paperwork, which includes a current hard copy of WIAA physical AND the electronic forms need to be submitted by first practice on Monday, December 15th, in order to participate.

- Please click on our [website for detailed info](#). Complete Step 1 & 2.
- Here is a [link to the online paperwork](#) that needs to be completed.

*Online/electronic paperwork only needs to be completed 1x per year. Physicals are good for two years. If a physical expires in the middle of a season, the player will become ineligible. If you have any questions after reading the letter, please call Madison at 920-852-5425.**

WRESTLING: Wrestling starts on January 5th at 3:30 in the small gym after school. All athletic paperwork needs to be turned in before the first practice, which includes a hard copy of WIAA physical AND the electronic forms need to be completed by first practice in order to participate. [Sign ups](#) will take place in December or by clicking on the sign up page online under winter sports.

- Please click out our [website for detailed info](#). Complete Step 1 & 2.
- Here is a [link to the online paperwork](#) that needs to be completed.

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Attendance Information:

Is Your Child Well Enough to Go to School?

It is not always easy to decide if your child is sick enough to stay home or well enough to be in school. Children who come to school are expected, with few exceptions, to participate fully in school activities. Knowing this and considering the symptoms your child has will help you make a decision about going to school or staying home. [Here are some guidelines that might help a parent/guardian decide if a student should stay home from school or not.](#)

We monitor illness rates within our schools and community with the collaboration of the City of Appleton Health Department. If rates increase, our site teams, Student Services team, and Facilities team increase preventive measures such as increased cleaning efforts and family communication. Families can help us with these preventive measures by following the guidelines linked above.

If your child has a medical concern in school, we will need to be able to reach you. Please make sure to notify the school office of any phone number changes as they occur.

Questions about Attendance?

We continue to see improvement in our attendance numbers! Our percentage of students who are designated to have *Chronic Absenteeism* (missing 10% of school days for Quarter 1) is **down over 3%** from this time last year! Thank you for your commitment to sending students to school and working with our team! As always, connect with our team about any support you may need or barriers you have.

Contact Dave Nitka, Associate Principal, and/or take a look at the JMMS Attendance Procedures [here](#)

School Climate News

PBIS & JMMS: Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is a program designed to promote and maximize academic achievement and behavioral competence. It is a systematic approach to enhancing the capacity of schools to educate all children by developing research-based behavior support systems both school-wide and in the classroom. This process focuses on improving a school's ability to teach and support positive behavior for all students. It is a school-wide strategy for helping all students achieve important social and learning goals. We know that when good behavior and good teaching come together, our students will excel in their learning. PBIS is not a program or a curriculum, but rather a team-based process for systemic problem solving, planning, and evaluation. It is an approach to creating a safe and productive learning environment.

As a part of this system, each quarter we hold a celebration to recognize students who are following the "Wildcat Way". School-wide, a set of guidelines are set to qualify for participation in the celebration with eligibility resetting each quarter. Typically, the guidelines in place revolve around egregious behavior and accountability in academics.

Our next celebration is fast approaching. December 23rd we will hold a Wildcat Way Recognition for students who have all summative assessments turned in and no Major ODR's between November 17th and December 23rd.

Our first quarter celebrations were at the beginning of November. Grade levels went skating, bowling, and participated in fun activities at school.



Holiday Gift Shop: JMMS is hosting a holiday gift shop after school December 19, 22 & 23 to allow students to purchase gifts for friends and family. Students will be able to use cash (items ranging from \$1-\$5) or Wileys to purchase items, have them wrapped or bagged and leave ready to give. Interested in donating to the cause? [Visit our Amazon Wish List here](#) and send directly to JMMS (recipient: Holiday Gift Shop). Thank you in advance for helping to bring the gift of giving to our community.

Sources of Strength: Sources trains groups of Peer Leaders supported by Adult Advisors to run ongoing public health messaging campaigns to increase wellness and decrease risk in their schools, ultimately preventing suicide, bullying, and substance abuse. The mission of Sources of Strength is to increase help seeking behaviors and promoting connections between peers and caring adults. Sources of Strength focuses on developing protective factors: Mental Health, Family Support, Positive Friends, Mentors, Healthy Activities, Generosity, Spirituality, and Physical Health. At JMMS, we have 7 Adult Advisors and 57 peer leaders trained! We will share the different campaigns we will be working on in school.

Family Engagement Opportunities:

Madison Middle School Staff Shout Outs:

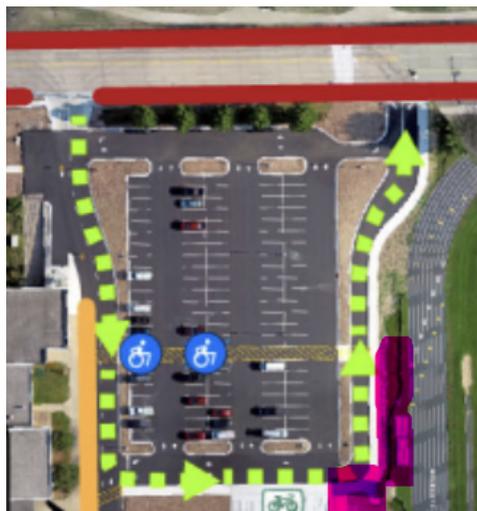
Is there a staff member who has been essentially helpful, supportive, positive etc. to you, your family, your child? Give them a shout out via this [Link](#)! Thank you for helping us recognize our staff!

JMMS Wisconsin Herd Night: Are you interested in attending Madison Middle School night at the Wisconsin Herd game on Friday, February 20th at 7pm. [Click on this flier for more details](#). You can also order tickets by scanning the QR code to the right.



Reminders:

Drop Off/Pick Up: Our drop off and pick up continues to improve each day. 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. **In the back, as it gets colder, please continue to pull up as Calumet Street can get backed up around 7:30. The pink drop off zones below near the Press Box work best and please do not drop off students in the parking lot.**



Useful Tools and Information:	Important Dates:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Setting Canvas Notifications ● Classlink Sign-in Page ● Box Tops for Education ● Madison MS Home Page <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Grading Guideline ○ Athletics & Co-curriculars ● Follow us Facebook ● Madison MS Parent Organization Page ● Madison Parent Handbook -- can't find the information you are looking for? More than likely, it can be found in this! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● December 2-5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ACCESS Testing for EL Students ● December 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Choir Concert (6th&7th) 7:30 ● December 9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Band Concert 6:15/7:30 ● December 16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Orchestra Concert 7:30 ● December 24-January 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Winter Break ● January 6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ iReady Winter Testing begins ● January 16-19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No School

JMMS HOLIDAY THRIFT & GIFT SHOP

DECEMBER 19, 22 & 23

ALL GIFTS RANGE FROM \$1-\$5 OR CAN BE PURCHASED WITH WILEYS.

- **WHEN: AFTER SCHOOL 3:20-3:45**
- **WHERE: AUDITORIUM**
- **WHY: TO PURCHASE GIFTS FOR FRIENDS AND FAMILY YOU CAN TAKE HOME.**

Want to help with the holiday shop? Consider purchasing something off the [Amazon Wish List](#) for students to buy as gifts. We would also appreciate any large holiday mugs you'd like to donate.

APPLETON LACROSSE CLUB

TRY
LACROSSE

FREE

BOYS & GIRLS

AGES 6 - 14

OCT. 18
Player's Choice
1 PM - 2 PM

NOV. 15
Player's Choice
1 PM - 2 PM

DEC. 13
Player's Choice
1 PM - 2 PM

Jan. 10
Player's Choice
2 PM - 3 PM

Try the **FASTEST** growing youth sport
in the US!

- No experience needed
- All equipment provided

REGISTER HERE:

APPLETONLACROSSE.COM



FOLLOW US AT
APPLETON LACROSSE

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS?
COMMUNICATIONS@APPLETONLACROSSE.COM



Have Your School Pictures for the Holidays!

Order by Sunday, 11/30 to receive them before the holiday break!

*Scan the QR code to
receive your child's
ordering information.*

*If you have any other
requests or questions,
please reach out to our
Customer Care team!*

customercare@harmann.com

1-800-236-8910



Scan Me!

Harmann
STUDIOS