

JAMES MADISON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Monthly Cat Tracks . January 2026

Happy New Year! As we begin this next chapter of the school year, we recognize that this time of year can feel like a long stretch for students, staff, and families alike. The days are busy, routines are full, and consistency matters more than ever.

At school, we will continue to provide high support paired with high expectations, meeting students where they are while holding them to the standards that help them grow. This balance is what keeps our community strong and our students moving forward.

We encourage families to partner with us by reinforcing these same expectations at home. When students experience consistency between school and home, it makes a powerful difference. [Here is a presentation](#) staff will be reviewing with students the first week of January.

Thank you for your continued support, commitment, and care. We're excited to see what the rest of the year brings!

Warm regards,

Poyee Xiong

Coming Up!

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.

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.



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Parent Teacher Conferences: Please note that Parent Teacher Conferences are by invite only in the Spring. Families will receive an invite from a student's team if a conference is requested. Please note that you can request to meet with a teacher at any time throughout the school year if needed by reaching out to the staff member directly.

School Supplies: We are almost halfway through the year. Please take some time to have a conversation with your child about what school supplies need to be replenished. Note that the 3rd quarter (January 20th) will bring new classes and the need for new supplies that students may or may not have.

Semester 1 Grades: Semester 1 ends on Friday, January 16th. Final Semester 1 grades can be viewed on the Infinite Campus Parent Portal on Friday, January 23rd at 4pm.

7th and 8th Grade Scheduling: You will be receiving an email this week Wednesday (January 7th) regarding scheduling for the 25-26 school year as an incoming Grade 7 student. On Monday, January 12th, families will receive an email regarding scheduling options. Please make sure you're checking your email for this information. All communication from the office is sent through Infinite Campus Parent Portal and via Talking Points as a text. Please make sure your email notifications are turned on to receive these.

Fundraiser: Our fundraiser this month is **Donate for Dough with Dominos Pizza**. The fundraiser will run through the 19th. See flyer below, but here are the highlights:

- Create an account online to sell cards
- Purchase a card for \$20 for buy a large pizza get one free
- Unlimited use until the card expires on December 31, 2026
- Multiple BOGO can be used in the same order (order 10 pizzas, get 10 free!)
- Valid at 149 Donimo's locations across 10 states.



Yearbooks: Information will be shared next month to order yearbooks. Be on the lookout mid-late February.

Athletics & After-School Clubs

Athletics: Girls basketball and Wrestling have kicked off their seasons.

After School Clubs: After School clubs are run at different times throughout the year and any student is welcome to join our clubs. Information can be found on our school announcements slideshow which can be found on our [website](#).

Spring Sports: 7th grade girls volleyball and track and field will start in March. You will see detailed information about sign up and paperwork in our February and March newsletter. Please make sure your child has all of the appropriate paperwork completed if they plan to participate in a sport. For more information check out our [athletics page](#), you can also [read this letter](#).

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.

Resources:

Did you know we have a TRAC Case Manager from the Boys and Girls Club of the Fox Valley as part of our attendance intervention options in assisting with developing and fostering positive and authentic relationships?

Each week, our attendance team meets and TRAC is one of the interventions or supports that is recommended to assist with a student's attendance improvement. If this is the case, an AASD staff member from the attendance team will reach out to inform the family that a referral is being made to TRAC due to attendance concerns. TRAC would then send a parent letter home explaining the program details after a referral is made and Tashi would introduce herself.

Tashi is here every Friday and meets with students to discuss attendance, grades, hobbies and more! Please see her brief bio below and reach out with questions at any time.

Tatianna Spittel - Tashi

I meet with students at Appleton East High School, James Madison Middle School, and Appleton Central High School. I enjoy connecting with students 1 on 1 and providing a safe space for them. Throughout meeting with students, we talk about attendance, grades, relationships, hobbies, and more. To use my creativity, I also implement activities like Vision Boards and mindfulness games with students. My favorite part about this job is building a trusting relationship with students and being someone they can turn to during good, and not so good times.



I am from a small town and came to the Fox Valley area for college at UWO where I majored in Social Work, and also acquired a minor in Social Justice and Communication Studies certificate.

Outside of work I enjoy reading books, journaling, spending time with friends, working out, taking care of children, and most of all - snuggling my cat, Leo.

Questions about Attendance?

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 March 20th. We will hold a Wildcat Way Recognition for students who have all summative assessments turned in during the third quarter and have not had a Major ODR referral between February 18 -March 20th.

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.

Reminders:

Drop Off/Pick Up: Please [review this winter reminder about pick up/drop off](#) and see 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 and have students use crosswalks, when available.

Useful Tools and Information:

- [Setting Canvas Notifications](#)
- [Classlink Sign-in Page](#)
- [Box Tops for Education](#)
- [Madison MS Home Page](#)
 - [Grading Guideline](#)
 - [Athletics & Co-curriculars](#)
- [Follow us Facebook](#)
- [Madison Parent Handbook](#) -- can't find the information you are looking for? More than likely, it can be found in this!

Important Dates:

- January 16-19
 - No School
- January 20th
 - Sem 2/ 3rd Quarter Starts
- February 16
 - No School
- March 27th-April 6
 - Spring Break

James Madison Middle School
Needs You

LET'S RAISE SOME DOUGH



PURCHASE CARDS



REGISTER NOW

HELP US REACH
OUR GOAL

Every Bit Counts!

SCAN THE QR CODE TO HELP OUR TEAM



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FOR DOUGH

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www.DonateForDough.com



Explore Night

Appleton East High School

Home of the Patriots

Why Attend?

This is an open house event for all families and students attending Appleton East High School in the 2026-2027 school year. Come learn more about East's course offerings and extra-curricular opportunities to kick off the 2026-27 scheduling process.

**Monday,
January 12th
6-7:30 PM**

Course Offerings

East has a wide variety of courses and academic opportunities. Meet teachers and discover the exciting offerings we have here. Learn more about our charter schools: Tesla and eSchool.

Extracurricular Offerings

Check out the wide variety of clubs, athletics, and activities at East. Meet Club Advisors and Athletic Coaches. Get information about our athletic seasons and more!

Agenda

- 6:00 PM**
- Incoming 9th Graders report to the auditorium for a presentation, building tour to follow.
 - 10th-12th Graders report to the Library for a presentation.
- 6:30 PM**
- All Students report to the commons and explore co-curricular offerings.

Questions? Please contact Kevin McElrath, Associate Principal, at (920) 852- 5400 x52022