# WSD Johnson Middle School

## 2026-2027 COMMUNITY SCHOOLS IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Johnson Middle School is home to a vibrant learning community that serves and supports 500 students and families in Orange County, California. The vision of Johnson Middle School is to empower life-long learners by providing the best possible learning environment for all students, driven by the Common Core standards and our District's goals in rigorous standards, student engagement, and integrated technology. It is our collective responsibility to educate and empower all students to persevere towards excellence through a distinctive, rigorous, and engaging academic experience. We want students to learn 21st Century skills and critical thinking to reach their highest potential as effective citizens that can meet the demands of a rapidly changing world and global economy by providing exceptional and innovative learning experiences where all learners thrive.

## INTEGRATED STUDENT SUPPORTS

### Integrated Support Time

This year, we have added a Flex/tutorial component to our daily bell schedule. During this half hour block of time, we are able to address many of our students' academic, behavioral, and social/emotional needs. Some of the offerings include: ukulele, advanced/enriched curriculum, Best Buddies (pairing our special-needs and typical students together), targeted intervention, language development, and counseling/small groups. All staff members are responsible for the success of this program, whether through direct contact with students or through supporting teachers.

### Social Emotional/Mental Health Supports

At Johnson Middle School, our mantra is REP: Respect, Effort, Pride. We foster many campus-culture initiatives to support a nurturing and safe campus environment for both students and staff. All behavioral supports are rooted in a strong PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) system. One example of this is our school-wide use of REP/ red warrior cards. Students are recognized when they make a positive choice: being on time, being prepared for class, helping a classmate, etc. As the students earn the reward, they are learning what the expected behaviors are for our school culture. Students may use their REP cards for a front of the lunch line pass, student store items and weekly raffles. In addition, there are also "student of the month" awards given to students who exemplify REP and personal improvement as nominated by the staff.

To address our Tier 2/Tier 3 needs, Johnson Middle School has both a full-time counselor and school psychologist on staff. The counselor holds lunch time groups to support social emotional learning and peer mediation and conducts classroom lessons to support academics, social-emotional health, and conflict resolution. The counselor also provides individual counseling to several students during our Flex time; this allows him to work with the students without pulling them from their academic classes. As a Tier 3 support, we have another counselor once a week who offers alcohol, tobacco and drug cessation courses to students who have been referred to her. Both counselors work closely with the school psychologist to determine what supports are needed for students.

## Academic Intervention and Support

For best first instruction (Tier 1) and intervention support (Tier 2), all teachers have been AVID trained and are supported with ongoing professional development. Our staff regularly implements AVID methodologies such as organizational strategies, focused note-taking, and Socratic Seminars. Integrated ELD is embedded within content areas. Blended learning is embedded into all content areas. Teachers utilize Google classroom and Nearpod for many lessons. In addition, conferencing, small group instruction, and targeted learning groups allow teachers to meet their students' individual needs during class time as well as our Flex/tutorial time.

Students who require Tier 2 interventions are supported through our grade-level teams. During their PLT meetings, teachers analyze standards-based data in order to determine what the students still need to learn; they then pull students into small groups during our Flex time in order to target specific gaps.

For the small number of students needing Tier 3 intervention, our upper-grade support teacher (UST) provides an additional layer of support for our students by utilizing both a push-in and pull-out model depending on the students' needs. As a push-in teacher, he works with small groups as needed to address targeted gaps and "in the moment" interventions. In the pull-out model, the UST addresses our newcomer students' needs by providing intensive language support and school-readiness skills in a small-class setting.

For students who have already shown to be proficient in the curriculum, we also provide Tier 3 enrichment support in several ways. We offer advanced/honors classes in all academic subjects for 6th and 7th grade. In 8th grade, we offer honors for ELA, history, and science, and Algebra for math. In addition, there are multiple opportunities for students to explore "beyond the curriculum" through targeted Flex classes, such as ukulele, history explorers, and book clubs that target advanced readers; math competition teams; and county science competitions.

## Physical Supports

Our goal is to provide a school environment where students can have their needs met, both scholastically and personally. Johnson Middle School families have access to a myriad of resources to support their physical needs. Our current Community Liaisons are biliterate and provide vital translation services in the two prominent family languages other than English: Vietnamese and Spanish. They have established strong relationships with our families and our community knows that they can come to school and get help whenever they need it. The School Community Liaison is integral for promoting school events, parent workshops and engagement opportunities through ELAC and PTA. They also support our student population through connecting families with community resources for essential needs, such as clothing, blankets, school supplies, hygiene products, food, and much more through the WSD Boutique located at Fryberger Elementary. The strength of these partnerships are based on building relationships where confidentiality, trust and safety are paramount.

Due to the importance of Community Liaisons' work and the rapport they already have with parents, it has been extremely beneficial having increased hours, allowing them to interact with families for a larger portion of the day. Having even more Community Liaison hours to support our community will encourage families and

students to seek their assistance throughout the school day. We would like to use the added hours to develop a weekly newsletter in order to highlight the community events and resources that families can access during the week which include our WSD Food Distribution, WSD Free Clothing Boutique, Second Harvest food distribution, Hurtt Mobile Family Clinic, Hoag Well-Being classes, Healthy Smiles Dental services, free vision screening, Assistance League's Operation School Bell New Clothing Pick Up, and parenting classes.

In a spirit of collaboration and cooperation, we partner with many local organizations to serve our students, especially those most vulnerable. Some of the services we provide come from the generosity of the Assistance League of Huntington Beach (ALHB), who not only provides opportunities for our students to shop for new clothes at Target and JCPenney through Operation School Bell, but also works with our school for Operation New Beginnings. This program is used in emergency situations when the student is in need of clothing. In addition, The ALHB also provides grants through "Links to Learning." The grant monies are used to help teachers implement projects to enhance students' learning experience. Another partnership we have fostered is through CalOptima. This organization assists our families by signing them up for Cal-Fresh, Cal-Works and more.

Westminster School District has also partnered with FOCUS O.C., an organization which provides food boxes to our students and families once per month. The goal is to provide nutritious meals and improve the health of our students. In our broader community, the city of Westminster partners with our school through the "Shop with a cop" program in order to provide a backpack and school supplies for children. Our School Resource Officer (SRO) makes home visits to ensure the well-being of the whole-child and to provide us with much-needed information so that we can offer more targeted assistance to our families.

Through the benefit of the Community Schools grant, the Westminster School district has opened a WSD Pantry at our site which supports families in need with both fresh and shelf-stable food. In order to better support our families, the Pantry has sponsored cooking classes which feature meal planning using only ingredients found in the Pantry; families are then able to take home the ingredients as well as recipes. The Pantry is also a hub for referrals to needed outside resources. In order to preserve the dignity of our families, all referrals are kept confidential; the Pantry is accessed at the south end of the school site, and families can enter and exit discreetly when they make an appointment.

**Attendance**

Improving attendance is a top priority at Johnson Middle School. The Assistant Principal, Community Liaison, and Attendance Intervention Clerk work at the site hand in hand to track attendance data and ensure that our students come to school every day. In conjunction with these efforts, the Assistant Principal, staff and the WSD School Resource Officer make home visits and offer resources to parents to break down barriers, so the student can feel safe and supported to attend school. As a team, we try to understand the barriers that our students and families face that prevent them from coming to school. Personal phone calls and meetings with the impacted families help us to problem-solve together as we tackle their student's chronic absenteeism or tardiness. Through parent education workshops on attendance, School Attendance Review

Teams, District Attorney Information meetings, and District level School Attendance Review Boards, parents begin to understand the impact of attendance on their student's academic success and learn ways to create routines and schedules at home. Our staff uses restorative practices and a wrap-around system of support for the whole family as they make positive changes to improve attendance and in turn academic achievement. Students can recover academic loss at Saturday School, a fun and supportive environment where students feel welcomed.

**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Family engagement is a collaborative and strengths-based process through which teachers, school staff, families, and community members build positive relationships and set goals in order to ensure the success of our students. This shared responsibility and respect for the roles and strengths each has to offer is the cornerstone of our family and community engagement program at Johnson Middle School. Committees such as the English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC), District English Learner Advisory Committee (DELAC), and School Site Council (SSC) are vehicles for two-way communication that allow us to reflect, evaluate and co-plan the next steps for our school. Other parent involvement opportunities include OC GRIP greeters, field trip volunteers, PTA, fundraisers, Band Boosters, and school events. Families also participate in events that foster rich experiences that help them to feel connected to each other and our school community, including:

- Back to School Night
- Open House
- Winter and Spring Music Concerts
- Incoming Parent Information Night
- Promotion
- Foundation Awards Night
- Reclassification Celebration
- Awards ceremony (each trimester)
- End of the year Awards Night
- National Junior Honor Society Induction Ceremony
- Choir Night
- Sports Events
- eSports events
- Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Lunch on the Lawn
- School Smarts parent classes
- Registration

Regular and ongoing communication between parents and the school about our family engagement opportunities is shared in a variety of ways. These include our electronic marquee, updates on Parent Square, and regular social media posts on Instagram and Facebook. In addition, we send home hard copies in order to accommodate families and to ensure that important information will be received and understood as intended. All communication is regularly translated into Spanish and Vietnamese by our Community Liaisons, who also personally contact specific parents who would benefit from becoming more involved on campus.

## EXTENDED LEARNING TIME AND OPPORTUNITIES

Johnson Middle School students receive a wide range of academic support and unique expanded learning opportunities, which include after-school care programs. These programs were developed in collaboration with school staff and community partners who want to make a difference and enrich the lives of our learners. These opportunities include:

- ASB leadership
- Theatre Program (beginning 2026-27)
- Unified Art
- Unified Cheer
- Choir
- Esports
- Variety of interest-based clubs (craft, gardening, chess, science)
- Tutorial time
- Interdistrict sports competitions (track, basketball, flag football, badminton, volleyball, baseball and soccer)
- Academic competitions (MathCounts, OC science fair)

The time students spend before and after school each day is valuable and has been proven to have a lasting impact on a child's educational foundation. Our school is home to an extended-day program (ASES Pride) which is facilitated by the Boys and Girls Club. This program provides daily care, nutrition, and homework support, as well as community-building activities and opportunities for students to be creative and make new friends.

## COLLABORATIVE LEADERSHIP PRACTICES FOR EDUCATORS & ADMINISTRATORS

At Johnson Middle School, collaborative leadership practices are in place. Our School Leadership Team, English Language Advisory Committee, Parent Teacher Association, Professional Learning Community Leads, and School Site Council are teachers, staff, and administrators who meet regularly to share valuable insights and perspectives that contribute to the decision-making process. This shared leadership approach fosters a culture of collective responsibility and effectively engages teachers, families, and the community at large in improving student outcomes.

A thriving culture of professional learning and leadership is evident throughout Johnson Middle School. The school's Positive Behavioral Intervention Support Lead has been working closely with the teachers and staff to support the school's implementation of a Social Emotional Learning framework that includes a common language, strategies for academics and behaviors, and how to create a culture of respect and responsibility while bridging the gap between school and home. This work includes a schoolwide system of support and schedule for ensuring students understand expectations. District behavioral specialists are available for additional support.

All classified and certificated staff have the opportunity to participate in a district Leadership course that is led by our Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources. Both certificated and classified Leadership courses focus on how to support visions of

learning that are supported by the school community, ensuring a safe inclusive environment for learning, and modeling a code of ethics and developing professional leadership capacity.

A monthly districtwide Leadership Institute allows for the school principal to work closely with district leadership to ensure systems are in place for high student achievement. Monthly principal professional learning communities allow for collaboration with like-minded schools to share best practices.

**MOVING FORWARD**

Our vision is to continue developing a network of community schools within the Westminster School District that serves as hubs for holistic student development and family engagement. Our community schools not only focus on academic achievement but also address the social, emotional, and health needs of students. By fostering a collaborative and inclusive environment, we aim to create resilient, empowered, and well-rounded individuals who contribute positively to their communities. Through the continued support of the Community Schools grant, our programs and services cover a spectrum of needs, including integrated student support, family and community engagement, collaborative leadership and practices for educators and administrators, and extended learning time and opportunities.

1. Integrated Student Supports:
    - Implementing a multi-tiered system of support (MTSS) framework to address academic, behavioral, and social-emotional needs of students.
    - Offering counseling services, academic tutoring, and mentoring programs to provide personalized support for students.
    - Creating a positive school climate through initiatives such as restorative justice practices, anti-bullying campaigns, and mindfulness programs.
    - Partnering with community organizations to provide access to health services, food assistance, and other basic needs for students and families.

2. Family and Community Engagement:
    - Hosting regular parent-teacher conferences and workshops on topics such as literacy strategies, homework help, and college readiness.
    - Supporting a parent advisory council (SSC/ELAC) to involve families in decision-making processes.
    - Organizing family nights, cultural celebrations, and community events to foster connections between school staff, students, and families.
    - Collaborating with local businesses, non-profits, and faith-based organizations to provide resources and support for families in the school community.

3. Collaborative Leadership and Practices for Educators and Administrators:
    - Facilitating professional learning communities (PLCs) where teachers collaborate to analyze student data, share best practices, and develop instructional strategies.
    - Providing opportunities for job-embedded professional development through coaching, mentoring, and peer observation.

- Establishing shared leadership structures to distribute decision-making and promote collective responsibility.

4. Extended Learning Time and Opportunities:
    - Offering before and after-school programs focused on enrichment activities, homework help, and skill-building workshops (ELOP, ESP).
    - Implementing summer learning programs to prevent learning loss and provide additional academic support for students (SLRP, ESY, ESP-summer camp).
    - Providing access to online learning platforms for students who need extra help outside of regular school hours.