

GEARING UP FOR A GREAT YEAR

Welcome back, Wildcat families! The start of a new school year is a fresh chapter and a chance to build a foundation for success. Whether your student is in kindergarten or their senior year, the habits established this month set the rhythm for the entire year.

FOR YOUNGER KIDS:

- Designate a spot for backpacks and shoes. Prepping the night before eliminates the morning scramble.
- If a student struggles, remind them they haven't mastered it yet. Praising persistence builds resilience.
- Turn off devices 60 minutes before bed. Replace screen time with a book to help the brain prepare for sleep.
- Let your child choose their outfit or help pack lunch to foster ownership of their day.

FOR OLDER KIDS & TEENS:

- Try "Deep Work" sessions where phones are in another room during study time to increase focus.
- Spend 10 minutes every Sunday reviewing the upcoming week to identify big projects or events early.
- Encourage your teen to ask questions after class. It is a vital skill for college and career.
- Schedules fill up fast. Help them protect "downtime" to prevent burnout and stay effective.

Consistency is more important than perfection. If a routine falls apart, simply reset the next day. We are proud to be partners in your child's education. Let's make it a great year!

Tips are adapted from recommendations by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the U.S. Department of Education.

AUGUST STAFF MEMBER OF THE MONTH



BRANDI STILES - IRELAND

As our school nurse, Brandi greets every student who walks through her door with patience, care and love. She always knows what to do when they are sick, hurt, scared, or just need a little extra reassurance. She has a fun personality that helps her build strong connections with students, and they know they can always count on her.

One of Brandi's greatest strengths is her ability to remain calm even during an emergency. Her calm presence helps students feel safe, and she has a special way of comforting them when they are worried or upset. She consistently goes above and beyond to make sure our students are cared for.

AUGUST SNAPSHOTS



Above: Kicking off the first day of school at JHS with a pep session.

Below: Morning drop off on the first day of school at JES.



Right: Mr. Erny taught 2nd graders about planting turnip seeds out in the JES garden.



Below: Education Pathway students decorated the hallways at JHS.



Left: Students eating breakfast on the first day of school.



COLLEGE AND CAREER CORNER

College and Career Events

Week of September 20: College GO! week - Application Fee waived at some colleges.

September 22: College Fair at Southridge High School for Seniors.

October 7: Freshmen will be participating in the Tour of Opportunity - Seniors will do one of the following: SAT, College visit, Community Service, or Job Shadow - Sophomores will be taking the PSAT - Juniors will do one of the following: PSAT, SAT, College visit, Community Service, or Job Shadow

March 17: Grade 8 - Career Cruise at JHS

March 18: Grades 11/12 - Job Fair at JHS

May 7: Senior Decision Day at Thyen-Clark Cultural Center

Senior Checklist

Vincennes University Jasper is hosting Noche Familiar Universitaria, a free bilingual event for students and families who want to better understand the college process and their career goals. This will be an evening event on September 21st. This event is especially helpful for first-generation students, Latino families, juniors, seniors, recent graduates, and families who may have questions about admissions, FAFSA, scholarships, and local college options. Families will receive clear, step-by-step information about:

- How to apply to college
 - How financial aid and FAFSA work
 - Local programs and career pathways
 - Transfer opportunities
 - How families can support their student through the process
- Dinner will be provided, and Spanish interpretation will be available.

College and Career questions or want to get involved? Contact ejochum@gjcs.k12.in.us.