

JAMES MADISON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Monthly Cat Tracks September 2026

A Message from the Principal

Dear Families,

Welcome to a brand new school year!

We are incredibly proud of the progress and positive momentum at Madison Middle School! As we begin a new school year, we want to take a moment to celebrate several accomplishments made possible through the hard work, partnership, and commitment of our students, staff, and families.

- One of the highest Staff Satisfaction results on our district scorecard.
- One of the highest Parent Satisfaction results on our district scorecard.
- Lowest staff turnover among middle schools for both regular education and special education staff, demonstrating the strength and stability of our Madison team.
- 7th Grade Special Education students met **both** our school Reading and Math goals last year.
- 8th Grade ELA showed double-digit growth on the Forward Exam, demonstrating meaningful academic progress.
- Our schoolwide ELA results made huge strides towards what our district data refers to as “high achievement and high growth”, an affirmation of our school’s work on literacy across all classrooms.
- Lowest percentage of office behavior referrals among the middle schools, including referrals involving serious behaviors that result in suspensions under district policies.

These results are more than numbers, they represent students growing, staff working together, families partnering with us, and a school community committed to creating a safe, supportive, and academically successful environment for every student. We are proud of where Madison Middle School is today, and even more excited about where we are headed.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. If you have any questions or concerns, please don’t hesitate to reach out. Together, we can make this a wonderful school year filled with learning, growth, and success. Please keep it on your calendar that for the rest of the year, our Monthly Cat Tracks will go out every 1st Wednesday of each month with communication and updates from our school.

Warm regards,

Poyee V. Xiong
Principal, James Madison Middle School

(continued on next page)

Read all about it...

Madison Virtual Registration: If you did not complete our JMMS Virtual Registration. [Here is the link](#). This is required for each child who attends JMMS. We are missing about 40% of these. Please complete this asap.

Morning Drop Off/End of day pick up: We will continue to message the importance of safety for each student as it is our top priority. Students exiting vehicles in the middle of traffic are at risk of being struck by moving cars or causing accidents, so please ensure students exit at the correct location.

To ensure the safety of all:

- Always use the designated drop-off and pick-up areas and pull up as far as you can. You can drive past the press box by the last drop off sign.
- Pull up to the curb before allowing your child to exit the vehicle.
- **Do not** stop in the middle of the street, no standing zones, or crosswalks, which includes the driveway in the parking lot.
- Remind your child to use crosswalks and look both ways before crossing.

We ask for your cooperation in keeping every student safe. A few extra moments can make all the difference in preventing accidents and protecting our school community. We will continue to share [this document](#) as needed. Thank you for your attention to this important matter and for helping us ensure a safe start and end to each school day.

Valley Transit WISGO: Please make sure you have signed up for the WISGO app and received a code from the office or signed up for a WISGO card. **All students who used Valley Transit last school year will need to receive a new app code or physical card for 2026-27.** Students may receive **either a physical WisGo card OR an app code — not both —** to ride Valley Transit at no cost to them. Here is information on all of the different [Valley Transit routes](#).

Important Dates for Valley Transit Reminders:

- **August 31, 2026:** All 2025-26 app codes and physical cards were deactivated.
- **September 25, 2026:** The grace period for students to ride Valley Transit without an active app code or card ends, so please make sure you are signed up by this time.

Parent/Teacher Conference Dates: Our parent teacher conference dates for this fall are October 20, October 22, and October 27th. We will send more information in early October on how to sign up for conferences.

Parent Student Handbook: [Here is a link](#) to our online handbook. Please do not hesitate to call the office with any questions.

Ordering Pictures & Picture Make up Day: Picture Day was earlier this week. [Here is a link to a guide](#) on how to order prints from the order for your child received. If your child missed picture day, please mark Friday, October 2nd in your calendar as it will be staff picture day and student make up picture day. If you schedule a makeup because you do not like your original pictures, you must return the original prints on October 2nd if you purchased them to get a retake. If you no longer have this sheet, please go to <https://harmannstudios.saycheez.com/login> and follow the "Forgot your reference number/password?" directions.

Boys Basketball: 7th and 8th Grade Boys basketball will start the second week of October. Students should pay attention to announcements for sign up. Parents, please take care of paperwork. Read this [Athletic paperwork letter](#) for more on paperwork or check out our [athletics webpage](#) for directions.

September Fundraiser: **Wednesday, September 23rd** is our first Family Night Out supporting our school and our community at **Glass Nickel Pizza Co. at 2120 W. College Ave.** They will generously donate 20% of all dine in, carry out, and delivery sales for the whole day! THANK YOU for supporting our school and community.



Lunch Options: In middle school lunch is a little different and we wanted to clarify what a lunch consists of and what choices there are. **One meal** consists of:

- **One** main entree: pizza, hot or cold sandwich, wrap, parfait, or specialty for the day
- **One** choice of milk: 1%, skim, or chocolate
- And **unlimited** fruit or vegetables

*****Each item above needs to be on the tray to be considered a meal.***

If your student would like a 2nd entree from the list above, it is \$3.00 and there has to be money on their account or pay in cash. (they can still have unlimited fruit or vegetables)

If your student would like a 2nd milk option, it is \$.40 and there has to be money on their account or pay in cash.

If your student would like any of the snack options, those are a la cart items and run from \$.75-\$1.25. They also need to have money on their account or pay in cash.

No child will be denied, but they do need to choose and take all options from what consists of **one meal** that is listed above.

DoorDash/UberEats/etc: Parents, please DO NOT use UberEats/DoorDash/etc... If you must, as a last resort, please call the office and let us know what will be delivered. Students should not be ordering on their own. If students order on their own, we will hold the food and give it to them at the end of the day. If you are going to drop off food, please make sure this happens during or before the lunch hour giving them enough time to eat during their scheduled lunch time. We will not call students out of class for deliveries after their lunch hour. Thank you in advance for understanding.

Elementary & Middle School Policy Manual

- We encourage our elementary and middle school families to review our [Elementary & Middle School Family Policy Manual](#). If you would like a printed copy, please contact your student's school office. High school handbooks are located on their websites.

Can you donate paper??

- We are dedicated to increasing opportunities for students to complete work and learning on worksheets versus having them on their Chromebook all day long. This also means we need more paper! Please consider donating a ream of white copy paper to the office for us to stock up for teachers! Thank you!

Attendance Matters

Attendance Matters: Did you know that we meet every week as a team to discuss attendance? We are always looking for ways to help and assist families, so please feel free to reach out to Dave Nitka, Associate Principal, if you need support or assistance. Please take some time to review this information on student attendance in our handbook and procedures that we have at James Madison Middle School.

Absence Request Process - Now 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.

Reminders...

Fidget Reminder

To help maintain a safe and focused learning environment, **Needoh fidget cubes will not be allowed at Madison Middle School**. Needohs and similar squishy toys have and can break open, creating a mess and becoming a disruption to the learning environment. Students may use **other appropriate fidget tools** as long as they are durable, cannot easily break open or create a mess, and do not become a distraction to the student, classmates, or teacher.

Fidgets should support learning—not interfere with it. Thank you for helping us keep Madison Middle School a **safe, respectful, and productive learning environment!**

Student Water and Drinks Policy:

To support a focused and distraction-free learning environment, please ensure the following items are not brought to school or used during the school day:

- **Cell phones, earbuds, or headphones** are not allowed from bell to bell.
- **Stuffed animals and blankets** should remain at home.
- **Fidgets** that are going to cause a distraction to the student or clothes.
- **Outside drinks** (including drinks from Starbucks, Dunkin', Bubler, Izze, etc...) are not allowed in classrooms. Water is allowed and should be in a container that has a twist top.
- Any drink brought in the morning **must be finished before the bell** and may not be taken into class.
- Each team has a **designated snack time**. Try to bring in a **healthy snack that is a single serving** and not a large bag of an item.

Thank you for your support in helping us maintain a positive and productive school environment.

Drink

WATER ONLY



- All outside drinks must be finished **by 7:50**.
 - Opened outside drinks may not be stored in lockers.
 - If an opened outside drink is not finished by 7:50, instruct students to promptly finish their drink or pour it down the sink.
- **Students are allowed a water bottle with water throughout the school day.**
- Students are encouraged to bring a healthy drink with lunch. This drink (if it is not water) must be finished in the cafeteria.

What does this mean? Please don't bring your Starbucks, 7 Brews, Bubblers, Celsius to school and expect to walk into class with it. You must finish it before 7:50.

Telehealth NOT an Option for Students During the School Day:

WHY is having teletherapy/telehealth options for students during the school day a concern?

Rationale:

- Safety/Well-Being of students following these appointments
- Supervision implications of students related to the appointments
- School staffing does not provide a person on site dedicated to working with the student following the appointment to assist the student in transitioning back to class.
- Ability to ensure student confidentiality during virtual appointment
- Attendance/Reporting issues when students miss class
- Compliance with specific privacy laws and student online safety laws
- Potential implications for additional requirements as a result of the student specific services being provided on site.

Check us out....

[Follow us Facebook](#)

[Madison MS Home Page](#)

[AASD Home Page](#)

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!
- [Middle Level Family AASD Policy Manual](#)

Important Dates:

- September 25
 - No School
- October 29
 - School Dance
- October 30
 - No School
- November 25-29
 - Thanksgiving Break

BE A PART OF THE MADISON COMMUNITY GARDEN!



This Fall, staff and community members will work together to design and build a community garden here at Madison.

We are looking for community members interested in contributing their skills, expertise, or simply passion to join us!

If interested, please contact Ana McMonagle,
mcmonagleanast@aasd.k12.wi.us
or call 920-852-5425.

University of Wisconsin-Madison information on Community Gardens:
<https://winnebago.extension.wisc.edu/community-gardens/>



5K RUN

& WALK

FOR HISPANIC & LATINX HERITAGE

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

KALEIDOSCOPE ACADEMY

5:30PM - 7:00PM

318 E BREWSTER ST, APPLETON, WI

**A free, family-friendly event for all
fitness levels!**

For more information:

RZEPIEJEWSKISE@AASD.K12.WI.US

Register here

