

JAMES MADISON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Monthly Cat Tracks . October 2026

A Message from the JMMS Administration Staff

Hello JMMS Families,

We hope this newsletter finds you well. We also hope that your child/children have found the beginning of the school year as rewarding and reinvigorating as we have.

One of the many items covered in the first couple of months of the school year are safety protocols. These are important aspects of maintaining a safe learning environment. Madison Middle School has conducted Intruder Drills by reviewing ALICE information (in all classes) and by walking to our rally point. We have also conducted our first fire drill of the year and will work with the Appleton Fire Department on our October drill.

Staff has been trained in ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) protocol. Through the district's ALICE training, we emphasize that while schools are very safe places, the district values proactive preparation. The district's training and practices allow our staff and students to think carefully about their surroundings at school, and consider what they will do ahead of time in the case of an emergency. We will also be reviewing and completing October Tornado routines/drills in every classroom so that students will know what to do in each of their classrooms throughout the day.

Tornado, fire, and intruder drills provide our students and staff with the opportunity to practice what to do in case of an emergency and to familiarize themselves with routes and procedures. We ask every class to review these procedures for their room on two occasions, once in the first 30 days of school and again in the second semester. Fire drills are run monthly.

While September was focused on physical safety in our school, building routines and expectations, our focus in October is the start of our social-emotional learning lessons. The first few sessions will be centered around welcoming, community and connections. Social and emotional safety at school is also a top priority for all of our students.

If you ever have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to someone in our office at 920-852-5425. Let's make it a great school year.

Poyee V. Xiong
Principal

(continued on next page)

Coming Up and Important News!

School Pictures: Last Chance for School Pictures. Picture orders will have increased, archive pricing, and will add a shipping fee soon. **Order by Friday, 10/9** to get yours before this happens!

Please use the proof paper they were given on picture day to find their Web Password. You can enter this into our ordering site linked here: <https://harmannstudios.saycheez.com/login>. If you no longer have this sheet, please click the link above and follow the "Forgot your reference number/password?" directions. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out! Harmann Studios, customercare@harmann.com, 1-800-236-8910

The Book Vending Machine is here and open (picture on the last page):

We are thrilled to share that our new Book Vending Machine is officially open!

This program is designed to celebrate literacy, help students build their own home libraries, and reinforce positive school expectations. Throughout the school year, teachers and staff will be awarding special tokens to students who consistently show up, do their best work, practice kindness, and model our school values.

When a student earns a token, they get to visit the machine and choose a brand-new book to keep forever!

How You Can Help Us Keep the Machine Stocked: We are aiming to gift hundreds of books this year, and we need your support to keep the machine full! Proceeds from our upcoming **Fall Conference Book Fair** will go directly toward purchasing new books for the vending machine. **The more we raise, the more books and tokens we can gift to our students!** Every purchase at the book fair helps us put more books directly into our students' hands.

Thank you for supporting a love of reading at home and at school!

Parent Teacher Conferences: We are looking forward to meeting all of you at Parent/Teacher Conferences. Conferences are set up so that we can together support your student's growth in their learning and the focus of these conferences will be on student growth and performance since the beginning of the school year. Here are our dates/times for conferences:

- Tuesday, October 20 (4:15-7:45pm)
- Thursday, October 22 (4:15-7:45pm)
- Tuesday, October 27 (4:15-7:45pm)

[Grade 6 Families Informational Letter](#)
[Grade 7 Families Informational Letter](#)
[Grade 8 Families Informational Letter](#)

For JMMS P/T Conferences, we will be utilizing "My Conference Time" (MCT) as a system for parents to sign up for parent teacher conferences. In order to make our conferences more efficient and easier for our families in attendance, parents will be required to register for conferences with teachers. When scheduling your child's P/T Conferences, please keep the following in mind...

- Families are asked to sign up for a 7-14 min. conference with each of the students' other

teachers, including encore classes, if you wish. (Please click the yellow box on the homepage to schedule multiple conferences.)

- While we encourage you to schedule time with each of your child's teachers, it is not necessary to schedule a conference with every teacher.
- Please use Infinite Campus to find a current class schedule or contact the office, if needed.

You should have received a letter electronically inviting you to sign up for a conference time through Talking Points.

Here is the process to sign up for a conference time:

- Go to <https://www.myconferencetime.com/jmms>
- Click the yellow box on the homepage to schedule multiple conferences. Or you can click on the name of your student's teacher if you are trying to schedule a conference with one teacher or trying to add a teacher after you've scheduled your conferences.
- Select the desired time for your conference by clicking on Sign Up
- Submit the requested information. Once you register a message will be sent to your email address

If you need an interpreter for your conference and have not received a call, please call the school office at 920.854.5425 to request a conference time. You may also call the office for assistance with scheduling a conference.

Free or Reduced Carry-Over Status Ends October 14, 2026: AASD families approved automatically or through an application for Free or Reduced Meals for the 2025-26 school year, we want to remind you that carry-over status, which allows families time at the start of the school year to submit a new annual application, will expire on Wednesday, October 14, 2026.

All families without a current and completed Free or Reduced application will revert to full pay for meals on October 15, 2026. Please submit your completed Free or Reduced application to determine eligibility for meals for the remainder of this school year.

If you think your family may qualify for Free or Reduced meals, or you aren't sure, we encourage you to annually complete the Free and Reduced meal application online through the [Parent Portal](#). When logging into the Portal, the Free and Reduced Meal Benefits Application is available on the center panel under "Meal Benefits." Only one application is needed per household.

Please note that families with students who attend a [CEP School \(Community Eligibility Program\)](#) will continue to receive meals at no cost. Families are still encouraged to submit free or reduced meal applications each year. While CEP meals do not require an application, other waivers and benefits do.

Please remember to add money to your meal account if you have not applied for the current year. If you have questions, please email the Food Service staff at foodservice@aasd.k12.wi.us or by phone at (920) 852-5314.

REMINDER: Meal benefits apply only to the reimbursable meal. The reimbursable meal includes milk as one of the required components and must be priced as a unit. If the student decides to

take only milk, this is not a reimbursable meal, and the meal account will be charged for the milk as an à la carte item.

October Fundraiser: **Tuesday, October 13th** is our Family Night Out supporting our school and our community at **Tom's Drive In** on Calumet Street. Tom's will generously donate 20% of sales from **4:00-8:00** to our school. Be sure to **mention "James Madison Middle School"** when you place your order. THANK YOU for supporting our school and our community.

Dance, Dance, Dance! Dances are an exciting opportunity for students to hang out with friends, meet new people, and engage in dancing, basketball, and games within a safe environment with adult supervision! JMMS dances are in two shifts.

2026-2027 Dance Times

6th Grade: 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm (Pick-up in the **BACK** of the building)

7th & 8th Grade: 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm (Pick-up in the **FRONT** of the building)

Arrival

The cost to enter is \$5.00. **Students must enter (on time)** through the main doors (front of the building) to pay and have their ID checked. At the dance, students can go to the large gym to dance/listen to the DJ music, the cafeteria to play games, or visit the small gym to play volleyball and/or basketball. If the weather permits and enough parents are chaperoning, we will open the inner courtyard for students to hang out. Snacks will be available for purchase.

Departure

PARENTS, please plan to pick up your child PROMPTLY at the assigned location (front or back of building).

Without our parent chaperones, dances would not be possible. **PARENTS, please consider chaperoning!** [Click here](#) if you are interested in chaperoning a dance.

Stay tuned for more information on our first dance of the year on 10/29!

School Nurse Newsletter:

[Oct Nurse Newsletter- English](#) [Oct Nurse Newsletter- Spanish](#) [Oct Nurse Newsletter- Hmong](#)

Athletics & Co-Curriculars & After-School Clubs

Boys Basketball: Boys basketball for 7th and 8th graders will start on Monday, October 12th. [Please read this letter](#) if your son will be signing up for basketball. It shares details and the practice schedule for the first few weeks. There is a parent meeting on Wednesday, October 28th.

Ski Club: See copy of announcement slide below.

Attendance Information:

Absence Request Process - 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.

Middle School Attendance Education Lessons

In collaboration with the Appleton Police Department and Outagamie County Youth and Family Services, AASD middle schools will be providing Attendance Education Lessons for students and their families beginning in late October. Families may receive a letter as determined by the school site's attendance team once their student reaches five unexcused absences. A student is considered habitually truant if they are absent from school without an excuse for part or all of five or more days on which school is held during a semester. With the letter, the family will be asked to attend a meeting with the school to develop a plan for attendance. Part of that plan will include a requirement for the student and an invitation for the family to participate in an Attendance Education Lesson, which will be held at each middle school monthly. Information will be shared and discussed regarding attendance requirements, state law, school obligations, the importance of attending school, and available resources to improve attendance.

Concert Dates at Madison Middle School (Please add to your calendars)

Please click on this document below to view all of our concert dates for the school year
[JMMS Concerts 2026-2027](#)

School Climate News

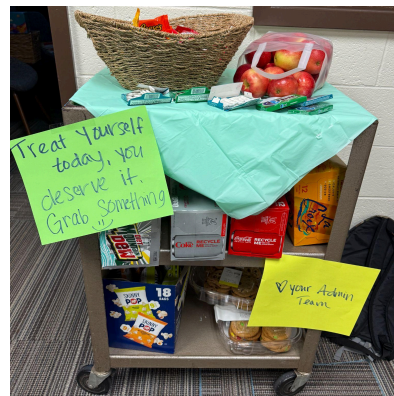
Wileys: Has your child come home with blue Wiley tickets? That means they were caught being responsible, respectful, and/or safe. Yay! Students can save these to enter them into our monthly mega drawings, or they can spend them on Fridays when we bring out our Wiley Cart full of goodies and prizes. We are always looking for new, fun things we can add to our Wiley Cart or MEGA drawing. Let us know if you have ideas or would like to help contribute!

Family Engagement Opportunities:

Baile Familial-Hispanic Heritage Dance: It's a school dance where we will play Spanish music and families are encouraged to join. Here is the registration link to help gauge how many will attend:
<https://forms.gle/isZrS3PUW3o4VxZ26>. Please see the flyer below.

Would you or your business like to sponsor a "Treat Yourself" cart for our staff? We would like to be able to surprise our staff once a month with a treat cart, especially on those tougher, longer weeks. If you are interested in sponsoring a cart one of the days, please email your principal Mrs.Xiong at:

xiongpovee@aasd.k12.wi.us



Reminders:

Drop Off/Pick Up: Our drop off and pick up seems to be flowing much better. 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.

Speak Up, Speak Out (SUSO): Safety and security are a top priority at Madison Middle School. We have established policies and protocols to keep the students and staff safe. We will always investigate any reports of threats and take appropriate actions to keep our students, staff, and community safe. We would like to continue to encourage our students and school community to report anything that could constitute a threat to school safety. The District utilizes [SPEAK UP, SPEAK OUT](#) (SUSO), a 24/7 comprehensive bullying and incident reporting system. Students, families, school staff, and community members can submit a school safety concern by downloading the SUSO app ([Android](#) and [iOS](#)), [submitting a tip online](#), or calling 1-800-MY-SUSO-1. We recommend typing in "AASD" into the search field.



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:

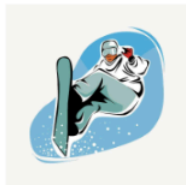
- **October 29**
 - School Dance
- **October 30**
 - No School
- **November 6**
 - Family Game Night
- **November 25-27**
 - Thanksgiving Break

2026-27 Ski/Snowboard Club

Are you interested joining
Ski/Snowboard Club at JMMS?
6th-8th grades are invited to join.
Spots will be limited.

Questions? Please contact Mr.
Wierschke at
wierschkejason@asas.k12.wi.us

Sign ups will happen end of
October or early November.



Important information to know :

- 4 trips (Dec 17(Th), Jan 8, 14(Th) and 29)
 - Feb 5- make up
- Cost \$123.50-\$350 (varies based on rentals needed)
 - Coach Bus cost- Approximately \$123.50
 - Lift Ticket- Approximately \$119
 - Ski/Snowboard Rentals- approximately \$110-118
- These prices are all estimated and could change.
- Do not need to have previous experience- there are free of charge lessons provided from the hill.
- We will have a more informational meeting at the end of October or early November to finalize other items/questions. Sign up will open after this informational meeting. Date TBD.



NO HACE FALTA SABER BAILAR
NO DANCE SKILLS REQUIRED

ENTRADA GRATUITA
FREE TO ATTEND

LOTERIA
MEXICAN BINGO

Baile Familiarial

FAMILY DANCE

OCT 16
2026
6:00 PM



ABIERTO A TODAS LAS FAMILIAS DE AASD
OPEN TO ALL AASD FAMILIES

REGISTER NOW



JAMES MADISON MIDDLE SCHOOL
2020 S CARPENTER ST, APPLETON, WI

MORE INFORMATION: RZEPIEJEWSKISE@AASD.K12.WI.US



JMMS

FAMILY GAME NIGHT

FREE FOOD AND GAMES!

PRESENTED BY:

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6
5:30 - 7:30

AT JAMES MADISON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Gnome Games
GREEN BAY • APPLETON • STURGEON BAY

PIZZA DINNER
SPONSORED BY:



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF JAMES MADISON
MIDDLE SCHOOL

THE FAMILY CONSUMER SCIENCE CLASSROOM NEEDS YOUR HELP!

WE ARE SEEKING DONATIONS OF
PAPER PLATES, BOWLS, PLASTIC
SPOONS, AND PLASTIC FORKS. ANY
HELP YOU CAN GIVE IS GREATLY
APPRECIATED!

QUESTIONS? EMAIL LAWREN OLIVANTI -
OLIVANTILAWREN@AASD.K12.WI.US



BookVending.com 



Watch and Wait for
Announcement on
Monday
Takes **TOKENS** ONLY!

WILDCAT PRIDE

JAMES
MADISON
MIDDLE SCHOOL



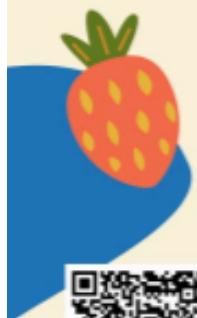
JOIN OUR TEAM



NOW HIRING
KITCHEN STAFF



GREAT TEAM MEMBERS/GREAT CUSTOMERS/GREAT HOURS



chartwells 

serving up happy & healthy



SCAN TO
SEE OPEN
POSITIONS
& APPLY
TODAY!

