



# RAMS Review

MR. JASON TOOTH, PRINCIPAL | MRS. MELISSA WILLS, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

<p><b>Important Dates October</b></p>	<p><b>October Newsletter</b>  <i>“Be here TODAY so you can be where you want to be TOMORROW”</i></p>
<p><b>October</b></p> <p><b>3</b> – Interim of Trimester 1, grades can be viewed on PowerSchool</p> <p><b>4</b> – WJH Band Performance @ 6:30 p.m. Shepard High School Football Game</p> <p><b>5</b> – Fishing Club @Lake Katherine, 8 a.m.- 10 a.m.</p> <p><b>7</b> – 6th/7th grade Girls Basketball tryouts @ 3:15-5:00 p.m.</p> <p><b>8</b> – 8th grade Girls Basketball tryouts from 3:15-5:00 p.m.</p> <p>WJH Girls Cheer Clinic from 3:15-5:30 p.m.</p> <p>SSJHSC All Star Volleyball game @5:00 p.m., Kolmar School (Midlothian)</p> <p><b>9</b> – Board of Education Meeting @ 6:00 p.m., Administrative Center</p> <p><b>November Breakfast/Lunch menus released</b></p> <p><b>10-</b></p>	<p><b>School Attendance Matters Updates</b></p> <p>We appreciate your partnership in helping your child see the importance of daily attendance each day! Ensuring students arrive when doors open at 8:00 a.m. will set a positive tone for a great start to the school day. <b><i>Did you know that the Illinois State Board of Education defines “chronic absenteeism” as students that miss <u>ten percent of the school year, which is equivalent to 18 days?</u></i></b></p> <p>Here is a current look at the attendance rate of Worth Junior High students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 56.8% of our students have missed less than 5% of our school days</li> <li>● 16.7% of our students have missed between 5-9.9% of our school days</li> <li>● 13.9% of our students have missed between 10-19.9% of our school days</li> <li>● <b>10.8% of our students have missed more than 20% of our school days</b></li> </ul> <p>The last two above bullet points are considered moderate and severely chronic absences and can have an adverse impact on student growth/achievement in school. In the coming weeks, we will communicate with families if your child falls into the chronically absent category and discuss ways in which we can work together to support their attendance at school.</p> <p><b>Celebrating Attendance</b></p> <p>At the end of each trimester, students will be recognized during our grade-level assembly for being in the “95 Club” if they are present for 95% or more of the days in that trimester. Worth Junior High School will also be launching our “No Miss November” attendance campaign throughout the month of November. More information to come in our November Rams Review newsletter.</p> <p>We know that circumstances arise and illness occurs, so we ask for your assistance in helping your student(s) to be present for school each and every day.  <b><i>“Be here TODAY so you can be where you want to be TOMORROW”</i></b></p> <p><b>Curriculum Update</b></p> <p>As we conclude the first full month of the school year, here is some information about some new and exciting learning opportunities that our students are encountering in their classrooms. In addition to the programs listed below, our math and reading interventionists will be working toward supporting our struggling learners to fill learning gaps in both of those subject areas.</p>

Girls Cheer tryouts  
from 3:15-5:30 p.m.

**14 –**  
Columbus/Indigenous  
People’s Day  
**NO SCHOOL**

**15 – 1st Home Girls**  
Basketball game @  
4:00 p.m. vs. Prairie

**17 – Home Girls**  
Basketball game @  
4:00 p.m. vs. Kolmar

**18 – November**  
Breakfast/Lunch online  
orders are due

**22 – Away Girls**  
Basketball game @  
4:30 p.m. Finley

**24 – Home Girls**  
Basketball game @  
4:00 p.m. vs. Hamlin

**25 – Halloween Dance**  
@ 3:15-5:00 p.m.

**28 – Away Girls**  
Basketball game @  
4:30 p.m. Central Park

**29 – Away Girls**  
Basketball game @  
4:30 p.m. Arbor Park

**30 – Home Girls**  
Basketball game @  
4:00 p.m. vs.  
Independence

**November 1 – Early**  
Dismissal Day  
@1:15pm

- **MidSchool Math:** Our Grade 6-8 math department is using a new curriculum called MidSchool Math to continue to develop our math learners. The program is focused around presenting students with a real-world problem through media at the beginning of each unit and putting them on a path to explore how to solve that problem. It is student centered and meant to engage students in both collaborative learning with their peers but also making their own personal connections to the topic.
- **Xello:** Xello is a career exploration and education program that our students are engaging with during their advisory and STEM classes. The program allows students to learn about a variety of career options based on their interests and completion of lessons that are assigned to them by grade level. These lessons include learning how to advocate for themselves, decision making, time management, discovering learning paths, career exploration and interests. Students are also able to start discovering the pathway to various career options that include learning about the various types of educational institutions available for that career. We are excited about the experiences that this program will provide our students in grade 6th-8th and beyond as students prepare for high school exploration of career and college pathways.

### **Advisory Update**

Worth Junior High School students continue to engage in the Second Step Social-Emotional Learning program as part of our advisory program. This month our students continue Unit 1 for our 6th graders focused on starting middle school, 7th graders engage in discussions & ways to help new students in our Worth Junior High School community, and 8th graders learn about discovering their identities. In order to help support our students’ social-emotional growth, please be sure to ask your child about and discuss the topics they learn during Second Step. The month of October also includes our building focusing on the concept of unity and the acceptance of one another in our school community, in-person and online. The students will engage in various activities throughout the month that will connect the concept of unity with the lessons taught in advisory and our RAMS Way traits. We encourage you to continue to talk to your child about the importance of acceptance in not just their words but in the ways they interact with one another. It takes all of us in the Worth Junior High School community to make it the safe place that everyone deserves. Join us as we continue to work toward developing an environment where students choose kindness each day.

In addition to the Second Step program in Advisory, our staff also teaches students lessons on Digital Citizenship to help them be more safe and responsible digital citizens in our world. We will also be implementing a digital platform called Xello with all students that is a career exploration program. Students will learn about potential careers based on their interests and understand the different pathways that are related to that career. This exploration will continue when the students take their STEM class during their Encore rotation. Feel free to contact Mrs. Wills and/or Mr. Tooth if you have any questions about our Advisory programming.

### **WJH RAMS Athletics**

We are excited to have started our athletic season with volleyball at WJH! Our volleyball teams have finished playing their regular season conference games, and they entered SSSJHC Tournament play last week. We wish them all the best in tournament play!!!

The upcoming Girls' Basketball season begins on Tuesday, October 15th. WJH students are dismissed at our normal dismissal time and may return for home games at 4:00 p.m.; doors open at 3:55 p.m. The Worth Junior High home basketball games are for **current** Worth Junior High students. *For safety purposes, younger siblings are only allowed at games if they are accompanied by a parent for the entire game.* In addition, the Cheerleading team will be hosting a clinic for students interested in trying out for the team on October 8th from 3:15 to 5:30 p.m. at Worth Elementary (students will be brought over to Worth Elementary after their school dismissal). Tryouts for the Cheerleading team will take place also at Worth Elementary on October 10th from 3:15 to 5:30 p.m.

#### **Early Dismissal Days**

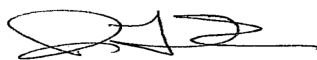
This is just a reminder that additional early dismissal dates include November 1, December 6, December 20, February 14, April 17 and May 23; WJH students dismiss at 1:15 p.m. These days provide ongoing school improvement opportunities for staff professional development.

#### **Parent-Teacher Conferences**

We value the opportunity to educate your child and know the importance of working together to provide your child the best learning opportunities possible. An important tool in this process is communication between school and home. This year's Parent-Teacher Conferences will take place on Monday, November 25th. Due to the amount of students that our teachers have, families are able to schedule **up to two conferences on the day of Parent-Teacher Conferences.** Staff members are always available to conference with families throughout the school day as needed by appointment. More information will be sent home in October with steps to request Parent-Teacher Conferences for your child using a virtual link. If you have any questions about scheduling a conference, please contact your child's teachers, Mrs. Will or Mr. Tooth.

Our goal has always been that your child has a positive experience here at Worth Junior High School. We all know that life in middle school presents its challenges and we are here to help support your family in those times. When we work together, great things can happen for our school community! Please do not hesitate to contact us with questions or concerns you may have regarding your child. We are honored to have the opportunity to serve as your child(ren)'s principals and look forward to continuing to grow Worth Junior High School!

Sincerely,



Mr. Jason Tooth  
Principal, Worth Junior High



Mrs. Melissa Wills  
Assistant Principal, Worth Junior High

#### **Daily Student Schedule**

##### **Breakfast**

8:00 a.m. - 8:10 a.m.

#### **A Note About Absences...**

If your child will not be at school for any reason, please call school to let us know by calling the absentee hotline at **708-671-3999**, 24 hours a day and leave a message. You may also contact our main office at **708-448-2803**.

**Grades 6-8 Classes**

8:15 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

We appreciate your partnership in educating our students and keeping them safe!