



RAMS Review

MR. JASON TOOTH, PRINCIPAL | MRS. BRITTAN RUSSELL, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Important Dates October

October Newsletter

“Your ATTENDANCE shapes your academic JOURNEY.”

October

- 1 – Trimester 1 Interim
- 6 – 6th and 7th grade Girls Basketball Tryouts @ 3:15-5:00pm
- 7 – Girls Cheerleading Clinic @ 3:30-5:30pm at Worth Elementary
- 8 – 8th grade Girls Basketball Tryouts @ 3:15-5:00pm
- Board of Education Meeting @ 6pm, Administrative Center

November Breakfast/
Lunch menus released

- 9 – Girls Cheerleading Tryouts @ 3:30-6:00pm at Worth Elementary

10 – Teacher Institute Day - **NO STUDENT ATTENDANCE**

- 11 – Fishing Club, Lake Katherine @8am-10am

13 – Columbus/Indigenous People’s Day
NO SCHOOL

School Attendance Matters Updates

We appreciate your partnership in helping your child see the importance of 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. Here is a current look at the attendance rate of Worth Junior High students after the 15th day of school:

Description of Absences	Percentage of WJH Students
Satisfactory Attendance - missed less than 5% of our current school days	64.3%
At-Risk Attendance - missed between 5-9.9% of our current school days (1 day)	15.3%
Chronically Absent Attendance - missed between 10-19.9% of our current school days (2 days)	20.4%

***Chronic Absenteeism is defined as missing ten percent of the school year, which is equivalent to 18 total days.**

Students that are considered chronically absent miss a considerable amount of instructional time at school that requires them to work harder at making up that valuable time lost from not being in school. It takes all of us to help support student attendance, so please contact Mr. Tooth or Mrs. Russell if there is any support that we can help provide your child or family. We will also be reaching out to families throughout the school year of students with attendance concerns. We are asking our families to work with us on limiting the amount of time their child(ren) are taken out of school (dental appointments, extended vacations, early dismissals, etc.).

Reporting Absences

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 day. If your child(ren) is sick, please **contact the SafeArrival hotline at 855-660-0124** prior to the start of school or the School Messenger Home application that can be found at home.schoolmessenger.com. Using these methods above allow for a quicker and efficient process for reporting student absences for all stakeholders. Families should be calling the hotline above and **should not be calling the main school phone number** because it delays accounting for student attendance. Please do not hesitate to contact either Mr. Tooth or Mrs. Russell with any questions.

14 – Away Girls
Basketball game @
4:30pm against Kolmar

16 – Home Girls
Basketball game @
4:00pm against Finley

17 – November
Breakfast/Lunch online
orders are due

21 – Away Girls
Basketball game @
4:30pm against Hamlin

23 – Home Girls
Basketball game @
4:00pm against Central
Park

24 – Halloween Dance
@ 3:15-5pm

27 – Home Girls
Basketball game @
4:00pm against Arbor
Park

28 – Away Girls
Basketball game @
4:30pm against Hille

31 – Early Dismissal @
11:15am (Worth Junior
High)

Early Dismissal Times

Just a reminder that our next early release day will be on October 31st and we ask that students **not dress up** in their costumes for Halloween at school (we will have an after school dance for students). Worth Junior High students will be dismissed at 11:15 a.m. on our early dismissal dates. Students will still attend all of their classes for a shorter time period excluding their lunch period.

*Additional early dismissal dates include December 19, January 30, March 27, and May 22.

WJH RAMS Athletics

Worth Junior High School is a member of the South Suburban Junior High School Conference (SSJHSC) that comprises ten local junior high schools in our surrounding area. The conference participates in academic, athletic, and extracurricular events throughout the school year to engage our students in collaboration with other schools.

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 have entered SSJHC Tournament play in late September. Our boys team took second place in conference play and our girls team advanced to the second round of the playoffs, great job Rams! The boys are competing in the semi-final championship on October 1st against Wilkins Junior High School, let's go Rams!!!

The upcoming Girls' Basketball season begins with an away game to Kolmar on Tuesday, October 14th. Tryouts for the 6th/7th grade team will take place on October 6th and on October 8th for the 8th grade team after school until 5:00 p.m. WJH students attending home games are able to return to school for the start of the game at 4:00 p.m.; doors open at 3:55 p.m. for students. *For safety purposes, younger siblings are only allowed at games if they are accompanied by a parent for the entire game.* The Student Council will be selling concessions during halftime of the first game and between games in the Student Commons.

In addition, the Cheerleading team will be hosting a clinic for students interested in trying out for the team on October 7th from 3:30 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 9th from 3:30 to 6:00 p.m.

The RAMS Way Logo

The Worth Junior High community continues to look for opportunities to recognize our students that are exhibiting our **RAMS Way** traits. These traits focused around respect, academic effort, being safe and showing ownership of actions and continue to help make a positive impact on our school community. Students have been invited to submit designs to create a logo for the **RAMS Way** that will be used throughout the school year. Designs were due by Wednesday, October 1st and voted on by the WJH staff. We are looking forward to using this logo in the upcoming months and having it featured in this year's yearbook.

Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

As we continue into the October months, we ask that families continue to be good neighbors to those homes that surround Worth Junior High School. This is a reminder that families should ***not be parking*** in the apartment parking spaces located to the north of the school and not blocking the driveways of our surrounding residents. We appreciate everyone's assistance in being courteous to our local neighbors. The image below is a reminder of the traffic flow for picking up and dropping off your child at the north end of Worth Junior High School



Advisory Update

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. Unit 1 for our 6th graders focuses 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. These are all valuable concepts for all of our students and we appreciate your support in helping your child understand the importance of each of the above messages.

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. The advisory time also includes reinforcing our RAMS Way values through various activities students engage in throughout the school year. This also includes celebrating members of our school community with words of gratitude, for example Custodian Appreciation Day on October 2nd! We are so thankful for our custodial staff and the work they do each day to keep our learning environment in the best conditions for all of us.

We will continue implementing the 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. Russell and/or Mr. Tooth if you have any questions about our Advisory programming.

Halloween Dance

The Worth Junior High School's Student Council is sponsoring our Halloween Dance on Friday, October 24th. The cost of the dance is \$1 for students who wear a costume (students can change into a costume after school or come back changed) or \$3 for students without a costume. The dance is after school from 3:15 to 5:00 p.m. If your child needs to go home to change into their costume or take a sibling home, they are able to return back to school before 4:00 p.m. The Student Council will be selling concessions for students that range between \$1 and \$2. Students will be asked to leave all of their belongings in their lockers until the conclusion of the dance (this includes their cell phones). Any students that return back to school for the dance, will need to leave their cell phones in the main office with our secretary. For safety purposes, students are expected to stay for the entirety of the dance. If you need your child to leave early from the dance, you will need to contact the main office and we will be sure to locate them for an early dismissal. We look forward to this fun event and thank our Student Council for all of their preparation in putting together the dance!

We hope that your child has had a positive start to middle school this year. If that is not the case, please be sure that you reach out to your child's teachers and principals because this is a partnership between school and home. Please let us know if you have any questions and we are so blessed to have the opportunity to work with your child at Worth Junior High School!

Sincerely,



Mr. Jason Tooth
Principal, Worth Junior High



Mrs. Brittan Russell
Assistant Principal, Worth Junior High

**Daily Student
Schedule**

Breakfast

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

Grades 6-8 Classes

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

A Note About Absences...

If your child will not be at school for any reason, please use the SafeArrival information to let us know. You can call the **absentee hotline at 855-660-0124**, 24 hours a day with a reason. You can also use the School Messenger Home App to report absences that can be found at www.home.schoolmessenger.com

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