



Principal Good News

DR. JOE ZAMPILLO, PRINCIPAL | MR. JASON TOOTH, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

September 2021

WORTH JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL'S 2021 BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

The students and staff of Worth Junior High School are happy to invite you to our *Back to School Night* on Thursday, September 2, 2021 from 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Each grade level is planning activities that will give you the chance to visit your child's classrooms and briefly experience what their school year will be like. Teachers will also be available for you to meet at various locations in your child's grade level hallway and Encore/PE classrooms. All students and parents attending Worth Junior High School's Back to School Night are required to wear masks per Cook County and the State of Illinois indoor mask mandates. In addition, we ask that students and parents practice social distancing when moving throughout the school building and in classrooms. We look forward to seeing you on Thursday, September 2. If you have any questions regarding Worth Junior High School's *Back to School Night*, feel free to call us anytime at (708) 448-2803.

NEW WORTH JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL STAFF

We are pleased to welcome the following new staff members to Worth Junior High School: Mrs. Heather Kozik, Special Education teacher; Mrs. Louise Igoe, Special Education teacher; Mrs. Cari Soldan, Paraprofessional; and Mrs. Wendy McCarthy, Paraprofessional.

WHERE ARE OUR WORTH JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI NOW?

Hey Worth Jr High community! We want to know where our Worth Junior High School alums have continued their educational journey so we can display the impact they have had throughout the United States on a map we have displayed in our student commons. If you are or know a Worth Junior High School Alum, please either email Dr. Zampillo or Mr. Tooth so we can display where WJH alumni have gone and are now on our map.

SIDEWALKS AND DESIGNATED CROSSWALKS

In order to ensure that our students walk to and from school safely, if your child and/or children walk to and from school, please be sure to remind them to use sidewalks whenever possible. We also ask students to stay within the marked crosswalks painted on the streets near and around the school's campus whenever crossing streets.

SCHOOL HOURS

In order to ensure our students are safely supervised and not congregating on school grounds at the beginning of the school day, we ask that students arrive no earlier than 8:05 a.m. which is when we open our doors to let students into the building. In addition, we ask that you work with our students to ensure that they arrive to school on time by 8:20 a.m. for the start of the school day. Once again, students are able to enter the building starting at 8:05 a.m. daily in order to have breakfast if it has been ordered for them as well as have plenty of time to arrive at school on time prior to our 8:20 a.m. start.

HOME VOLLEYBALL MATCHES

The Worth Junior High School community was excited to host its first home girls and boys volleyball matches of the Fall 2021 season on Thursday, August 26. As a result of the shortage of bus drivers available to transport players throughout the South Suburban Junior High School Conference, most of the scheduled volleyball matches have been moved back to 4:30 p.m. start times. Worth Junior High School students who wish to attend home volleyball matches are asked not to remain on school grounds upon the 3:05 p.m. dismissal in order to wait for the start of home volleyball matches. Students interested in attending home volleyball matches will be allowed to reenter Worth Junior High School once the doors are open a few minutes prior to the start of the matches.

SECOND STEP SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING PROGRAM

We are excited to announce that Worth Junior High School will be continuing the Second Step Social-Emotional Learning Program as part of our advisory program during the 2021-2022 school year. Second Step is a program that teaches powerful skills and competencies, like handling strong emotions, setting and meeting goals, making good decisions, and forging positive relationships—while building the safe, supported learning environment middle schoolers need to succeed. The Second Step Middle School Program is a Social-Emotional curriculum that's modern, web-based, and responsive to the needs of today's students and educators. The program is guided by the latest research in adolescent brain development and social psychology. Second Step is a program that doesn't just help kids do better in school, it helps them do better in life! We will be sharing more information regarding the Second Step Social-Emotional learning program throughout the year. In order to help support our students' social-emotional growth, please be sure to ask your child about and discuss the topics they are learning about during Second Step. All of our grade levels started Second Step during the week of August 23. Unit 1 for our 6th graders is focusing on starting middle school. 7th graders are engaging in lessons that discuss how to help students who are new to the Worth Junior High School community and 8th graders are learning about discovering their identities. Feel free to contact Mr. Tooth and/or Dr. Zampillo if you have any questions about the Second Step Social-Emotional Learning Program.

PROPER MASK WEARING

We are asking Worth Junior High School parents/guardians to please help us to remind our students to wear their masks to school properly. Please remind your children that when wearing their masks to make sure that both their mouths and noses are completely covered. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Worth Junior High School's main office. Thanks in advance for your cooperation and support.