

# James Madison Charter Academy

August 7, 2017  
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## Madison Manifesto



Dr. Anne Shearer-Shineman  
Principal



## Upcoming Events

- ◆ Aug. 10 - First day for kindergarteners
- ◆ Aug. 16 - Theme Day
- ◆ Aug. 17 - Potluck and PTO at 6:00
- ◆ Aug. 24 - 6:00-7:00 Meet the Teacher Night
- ◆ **Aug. 18 - NO SCHOOL**
- ◆ Aug. 28 - 4:00 BAAC Meeting
- ◆ August 28 - 6:00 Board of Directors Meeting
- ◆ Wednesday is Early Release at 1:00
- ◆ Wednesday is Formal dress

**NOTE:** Please use west gym door for daycare.



## Principal's News

Welcome to our new families, welcome back to our returning families! I encourage everyone to be involved in the school and our activities. We are focused on uninterrupted teaching and learning so we ask that when you visit a classroom, you sit in the back and just observe. Teachers are available via phone or email. It is difficult for them to conference with parents during carpool times while they are supervising children.

Dr. S

## PTO & POTLUCK THURSDAY, AUGUST 17 6:00 P.M.

\*\*2 volunteer hours for attending\*\*

All families will want to attend our first family event of the year. This is the time to meet other families, learn more about what PTO is doing and enjoy great food.

Parents are responsible for supervision of their children.

We still have a few "gently used" items for sale at ridiculously low prices. If you are interested, see Ms. K or Donna.

## Spirit Wear

Order forms for our Spirit Wear drive were sent home with students today. Orders are due by August 25. Color pictures of the items are on the website. All the shirts may be worn to school on Fridays. We will also allow students to wear "spirit" hoodies on Fridays which we call "Spirit Day."

## NOTES:

- ↪ Please sign in at the office each time you visit the school or volunteer. All visitors and volunteers must have a pass.
- ↪ If you are dropping off or picking up your child at a time other than carpool, you will need to come in and sign your child in or out.

**Thank you** to everyone who has already paid for their child's school supplies. We do it to save our families time and money. We know it helped to ensure all students had the correct supplies from day one and made the first days of school much more efficient. If you have not yet paid, you may pay the \$35 per student to Ms. K. Checks should be made out to JMCA.

## THEME DAY

Our first theme day will be Wednesday, August 16. Usually, students pay \$1 to participate but our first one will be FREE. Students may wear their teacher's favorite color and shorts (no jeans). Students who choose not to participate will wear the regular formal uniform.

**PLEASE DO NOT COME IN TO THE SCHOOL TO PICK UP YOUR CHILD AT THE END OF THE SCHOOL DAY.**

## Uniforms

We have posted pictures of uniforms on the website so you can see exactly what the pieces look like. Teachers will send home notes on uniform violations during the first two weeks of school to help you. After that, uniform violations will be sent home any time a student is not in the appropriate uniform.

## Other News



WE WANT YOU...

### Absences

*When your child is going to be absent, please call 391-3977 before 9:00 a.m. This allows us to verify absences efficiently. If you know your child will be absent in advance, please fill out an Excused Absence Request Form at the front office. We appreciate your cooperation in this matter.*

James Madison  
Charter Academy  
660 Syracuse  
Colorado Springs, CO  
80911

Phone:  
(719) 391-3977

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We're on the Web!  
[www.jmccolorado.net](http://www.jmccolorado.net)

***"JMCA inspires children to explore a diverse world through hands-on learning."***

## PTO NEWS

The PTO meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. The group is active in fundraising activities as well as sponsoring community events, such as parades, and family activities during the year. They are a wonderful group of involved parents who want to make JMCA better by providing dollars, activities and hard work.

Our first meeting will be held in conjunction with a family potluck and chili cook-off.

### PTO Pot Luck and Chili Cook-off Thursday, August 17 6:00 p.m. in the Gym \*\*2 volunteer hours for attending\*\*

Plan to join us for our first family event of the year!

\*\* Earn volunteer hours for attending meetings and events!

## SCRIP

Our Scrip program begins August 21. This is a fundraiser in which parents purchase gift cards. You don't have to pay tax and JMCA earns a percentage back from the vendor. We hope to build the program up so that we can eliminate other fundraisers. We take orders every Wednesday and it takes about a week to receive the cards back after we order them.

If you wish to place an order, just complete the order form and make checks payable to "JMCA".

## Carpool

We ask for your assistance with the following:

- ☆ Do not pull around other cars parked to pick up or drop off children.
- ☆ DO NOT park or let students out on Syracuse. This is UNSAFE.
- ☆ At the end of the day, students will be released to cars BEFORE "walkers" are released to their parents. PLEASE pick your child up via carpool to alleviate confusion in the front office.

## Manifesto

### Safety Reminder

Your children's safety is a priority at JMCA. We continue to improve our procedures to ensure children are safe at school. Don't forget that **students are not allowed to carry any type of medicine with them at school.** This includes over-the-counter items such as aspirin, Pepto-Bismol or ointments.

### Board of Directors

The Board of Directors meets on the last Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the science/art room. Meetings are public and parents are encouraged to attend. Parents earn **volunteer time** for attending meetings.

The next BOD meeting is Monday, August 29 at 6:00 p.m.

### Core Virtues Program

As a school, we "teach" 6 Core Virtues that students are expected to follow. Students who demonstrate a virtue will receive a Mountain Lion paw print with their name on it. The program is designed to encourage positive, or "paws"itive, behavior and illustrate what the virtues look like. The core virtues are posted throughout the building for students to see. The virtues are Respect, Honesty, Responsibility, Self-Discipline, Compassion and Perseverance.

### JMCA Educational Activity Center

The EAC is open before and after school each day, 1:00 on Wednesdays. Services are provided from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. You have flexibility in how often you utilize the EAC for your child(ren). We offer educational activities, snacks and FUN!

### Fundraising at JMCA

One of the ways charter schools differ from other public schools is that they have to pay for their buildings. This requires us to find ways to annually raise funds beyond our general fund budget. We have tried to find ways to do this that do not put a strain on the budgets of our families.

Our Scrip program is becoming more profitable as families make more regular use of it. This is a perfect way to support the school and get gift cards for things you would already spend money on such as gas, groceries, building supplies, clothing and much more. We have many businesses to choose from. The more you purchase, the less fundraising the school has to do!

We do a Spirit Wear fundraiser at the start of school and another "catalog" sale later in the fall. We know this is a lot, but we like getting it all out of the way. We hope you will benefit from the Scrip program. All of these fundraisers include ways to sell to relatives and friends out of town and online.

The Building Advisory and Accountability Committee (BAAC) holds fundraisers to fund grounds and playground improvements. We have family nights at restaurants, and other activities.

Our PTO also holds a major fundraiser during the second semester that is different from those run by the school.

They also have some family activities that raise funds while providing fun for the whole family!

### Important Documents

Several notices and policies are attached to this newsletter. Our school handbook is located on our website.

### Homework

We have developed a homework procedure that is based on research about what helps students be successful and increases chances for high school graduation. We give little homework on a daily basis, choosing to do most work at school. We assign work that involves parents and family because parent involvement in a child's education is a critical component. Students also receive physical activity homework because activity is a lifelong need.

### Volunteer Opportunities

As you know, each JMCA family is required to complete 30 hours of volunteer time per year. We have a myriad of activities that contribute to this tally. Some ways to gain time are to attend PTO or Board meetings, send in items needed for a classroom (\$10 = 1 hr.), help at the school, take work home. If you need ideas or help, just talk to us and we can give you even more ideas. If you have a special talent or skill, we would LOVE to hear about it. We have parents run our technology system, install lights and other tasks.

- We need volunteers to regularly mow, weed and care for our grounds.
- If you have time during the school day, we would love to have adults to read to and listen to children read.

### UNIFORMS

Please be sure you have your child dressed according to the school uniform policy. We are sending home notices of uniform violations the first two weeks of school to help you. We have also posted pictures on our website.

Violations we see most are "no show" socks (socks must be crew or knee socks), incorrect skorts, and cargo pants. Boys may not wear Dickies.

- ☆ If you need a copy of the uniform requirements, you may pick one up at the front desk.
- ☆ Every Friday is Spirit Day. Students who have spirit t-shirts or hoodies may wear them on Fridays.
- ☆ The uniform policy is very specific and violations will be issued starting Monday, August 21.

