

509-J Schools in Action!

www.jcsd.k12.or.us



"I used to work at a mill and the way people treat you here is 100% different. Here you get a smile from everyone."

— Francisco Gomez, custodian, JCMS



Francisco Gomez, custodian, JCMS (left) with JCMS Principal Simon White.

JCMS makes positive changes

Walking through the halls of Jefferson County Middle School is different today than it was a few years ago. The walls are filled with positive messages alongside student photography and artwork that shows a sense of pride in school and community. But the most obvious changes are the smiles on the faces of students, teachers and staff.

"You can't walk down the hall without a 'hello' and the interactions between students and adults are pleasant and friendly," said Simon White, JCMS principal. "Three years ago, there were three principals, a dean of students and a paid hallway monitor to keep kids in classrooms. Now, it feels like a different place."

"It's become a more pleasant place to work. Students are treating us and each other better."

— Andrew Smiley, 7th grade reading teacher

According to White, referrals for student behavior problems are down by about 45% from 2011 thanks to a number of efforts underway. With new positive behavior programs, clearer expectations, and more collaboration between teachers, students are thriving.

"We are teaching social and emotional skills along with the core subjects," said White who explained that students now attend "Guide Room" class for 30 minutes each day. "We use that time to talk about empathy, team building and have small group time so students and teachers can check in on missing assignments or explore extra challenges."

On the academic side, White says that OAKS test scores are improving, but there is still along way to go to meet state standards.

"We have some students who are jumping up two and three grade levels in a short amount of time, but we're still below the state average," said White. "Our teachers and staff are working hard to change that and we're making great progress. They have done an amazing job."



Andrew Smiley, 7th grade reading teacher.

Parents make a difference at JCMS

JCMS parents are raising the bar for parent involvement with record attendance at parent/teacher conferences and family night events.

"When parents come to conferences and participate in family nights, it sends a message to students that education is important to their families," said Assistant Principal Trevor Flaherty. "In past years, only 5-7% of our parents attended conferences, but this year, more than 70% were here to show their support."

Flaherty says that a new conference format has made all the difference.

"We started asking students to lead the parent conferences," said Flaherty. "They set goals with their teachers and put together presentations to share with their parents and the parents loved it."

In Spring, the parents will be invited to return for "portfolio conferences" so students can present the progress they've made on their goals.

"The students knocked it out of the park," said Flaherty. "They were awesome and it's really changed the way they're learning because they know where they are and what they need to do to meet their goals."

New mascot for Warm Springs K-8!

JCMS student Taylor Arthur, grade 8, is the artist behind the new mascot for the Warm Springs K-8 School. As the winner of the recent student contest to draw the mascot, his eagle drawings will be used to develop a logo for school signs and athletic gear.

"I picked the eagle because it's one of our spiritual things in Warm Springs and I also didn't want to change the mascot from what it already was," said Arthur who also created an "eaglet" drawing for the younger students. "They usually like little things with big eyes and big heads," he added with a grin.

Arthur wanted the main eagle to look strong and "not whimpy" he explained.



Student Taylor Arthur, grade 8, shows his winning mascot designs for the new Warm Springs K-8 School. (From left) JCMS Principal Simon White, Assistant Principal Diane Dominiak, student Taylor Arthur, Assistant Principal Trevor Flaherty and Superintendent Rick Molitor.

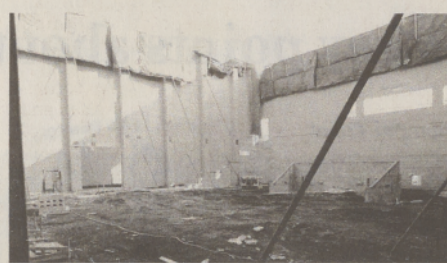
CONSTRUCTION ZONE



MHS community Performing Arts Center

New MHS buildings take shape

The JCMS construction and design teams are busy finalizing plans for the new MHS athletic facility and community Performing Arts Center. Among the many details under review are colors for seating, the new track and the press box.



Inside the Performing Arts Center

Former MHS student part of Skanska construction team

Since graduating from MHS in 2005, Jacob Struck successfully completed a carpenter apprenticeship program in Portland and has returned to share his skills with the Madras community as a superintendent for Skanska USA Building. Struck says he is enjoying working on the District construction projects.

"It's great being back and seeing the football field change and the new auditorium," said Struck. "I wish we had these things when I was in school, but I'm glad the students will have access to these new facilities in the future."



Skanska team member and former MHS student Jacob Struck looks over plans for MHS athletic facility.



The Skanska construction team enjoys a break from the harsh weather.

Construction team keeps things moving

The last two months have brought on some challenging working conditions for the Skanska construction team. Even with sub-zero temperatures, snow and rain, the crew kept moving to stay on schedule with the new District buildings.

"I just want to say a special thanks to crew members who have been out here working hard under really tough conditions," said Dave Fishel, construction project manager for JCSD.



Calendar

January

1/27 School Board Meeting
5:30 p.m.
Buff Intermediate School

1/31 End of Quarter -- No School

February

2/5 Two-hour Early Release

2/10 School Board Meeting
7 p.m.
Madras Primary

