



# Chief Joseph Middle School Information Guide

## Our Mission

*We promote academic excellence and social responsibility in a safe learning community as all students are guided toward their maximum potential.*

## We Believe ...

- Individuals must be able to access, use, and apply information in order to make positive personal, community, and global decisions.
- Personal skill to maintain physical, emotional, and mental balance, as well as interpersonal relationships, will always be essential.
- Educators must use a variety of instructional methods to facilitate learning for all students in an emotionally and physically safe environment.
- A team effort of parents, community, and staff is necessary for our school to be effective.
- Learning must be meaningful, relevant, stimulating, and challenging.



## SCHOOL DISTINCTIONS

- Nationally recognized teachers
- Variety of grant awards in Technology, Science, and Service Learning
- Strong peer mediation program
- Blue Ribbon School

## ACTIVITIES

There are many activities in which students can be involved. This is a great way to explore new interests and meet new people! Some examples are: Student Council, Yearbook, Drama, Art Club, SOAR, Science Olympiad, Speech & Debate, Yarn Club, Lego Club, Spelling Bee, and Geography Bee.

Intramurals are school sports activities that take place before or after school. Everyone is encouraged to participate. Sixth grade activities include: boys and girls basketball, track, and co-ed volleyball. Seventh and Eighth grade activities include boys and girls basketball and track, girls volleyball and softball, and boys football and wrestling.

To find out more about these activities, call the Activities Office at 522-6234, or call the CJMS main office at 522-6300. There is something for everyone. Scholarships are available. Become involved!

## PEER MEDIATION

Peer Mediation is a structured, orderly, confidential process where two neutral, student peer mediators use communication skills and peer mediation techniques to help students in conflict identify the problem(s) they wish to resolve, communicate effectively, develop empathy for one another, and create their own solutions. For many, having access to a neutral place and a chance to talk and be heard is all that is needed. The mediation setting encourages using words to work things out. *Peer Mediation focuses on students helping students resolve their own disputes.* It benefits by helping them take more responsibility for their own actions and learn life-long skills to resolve conflicts using words that heal.

## PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (PAC)

The CJMS PAC's mission is to promote school spirit and enrichment at CJMS. PAC parents may assist in volunteer activities such as working in the library, selling concessions for after school activities, assisting with the Square 1 Art program, career day, and school pictures. Others volunteer on their lunch hour, bake items for special events or sales, chaperone fun night celebrations in the evenings, assist with the monthly newsletter mailings, go on field trips, and help teachers or teams with special projects. Even if you work full time there are activities for which you can volunteer.

Please email [cjmspac910@gmail.com](mailto:cjmspac910@gmail.com) or visit our website [www.cjms.bsd.org](http://www.cjms.bsd.org) for further information.

Be Prepared. .... Be Positive. .... Be Respectful. .... Be Responsible

## PARENT LIAISON

The Parent Liaison program encourages a strong link between home and school. Parent Liaisons are professionals who facilitate parenting classes, connect parents to community resources and support parent-teacher collaboration. Parent Liaisons partner with parents and schools to set children up for success.

### We've got you covered:

- Do you have a question about the school and don't know who to ask?
- Wondering about activities or resources in town?
- New to town or starting at a new school?
- Concerned about your child's academics, social skills, or other school issues?
- Need someone to talk to about parenting?
- Want to know what is normal behavior for your child's stage of development?
- Interested in taking a Parenting with Love and Logic course?

Have these questions or need help with something else? **Contact Lori Van Vleet at 406.522.6311**

## WHY WE TEAM

The students and staff are divided into two teams per grade, East and West. Teaming creates a smaller, more personal connection for students. The purpose is to build pride and camaraderie, monitor homework and academic progress, communicate regularly with parents, and coordinate integrated curricular work.

They link students to counselors and other school services, and provide interventions to ensure that no one is "falling through the cracks". Another unique characteristic is the tremendous commitment of the teaching staff to using the best instructional strategies available. Classrooms are alive with actively engaged learners, stimulating conversations, cooperative groups, and dynamic student presentations. Colorful projects and written work cover the walls. Collaboration characterizes the professional community at CJMS; teachers plan units and engage in professional development together, ensuring a consistent, rigorous instruction for all students.

## COUNSELING TEAM

Middle school students are characterized by rapid physical growth, curiosity about their world and an emerging self-identity. Through a comprehensive developmental school counseling program, counselors work as a team member with school staff, parents and the community to create a caring, supportive climate and atmosphere whereby young adolescents can achieve academic success. Middle school counselors enhance the learning process and promote academic achievement. School counseling programs are essential for students to achieve optimal personal growth, acquire positive social skills and values, set appropriate career goals and realize full academic potential to become productive, contributing members of the world community.

Brian Mitchell – 6 West and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Student Counselor  
Olivia Sullivan – 6 East and 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Student Counselor  
Kate Hestwood-Reeves – SAFE-TI Counselor

Brian.Mitchell@bsd7.org  
Olivia.Sullivan@bsd7.org  
Kate.Hestwood@bsd7.org

To speak with our counseling team or schedule an appointment please call 406.522.6304.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

|                       |                                       |                     |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Brian Ayers</b>    | <b>Principal</b>                      | <b>406.522.6318</b> |
| <b>Randy VanDyk</b>   | <b>Assistant Prinicipal</b>           | <b>406.522.6318</b> |
| <b>Lynn Seiger</b>    | <b>Secretary to Principals</b>        | <b>406.522.6318</b> |
| <b>Elaine VanDyk</b>  | <b>Attendance Secretary</b>           | <b>406.522.6301</b> |
| <b>Spree Hincks</b>   | <b>Registrar/Counseling Secretary</b> | <b>406.522.6304</b> |
| <b>Lori Van Vleet</b> | <b>Parent Liaison</b>                 | <b>406.522.6311</b> |
|                       | <b>Attendance Line</b>                | <b>406.522.6310</b> |
|                       | <b>Fax Number</b>                     | <b>406.522.6306</b> |

# COURSE OVERVIEW

## Our Program

In this rich learning community, several significant characteristics stand out. The students and staff are divided into six “teams”, which create a smaller, more personal connection for students. These teams build pride and camaraderie, monitor homework and academic progress, communicate regularly with parents, and coordinate integrated curricular work. They link students to counselors and other school services, and provide interventions to ensure that no one is “falling through the cracks”. Another unique characteristic is the tremendous commitment of the teaching staff to using the best instructional strategies available. Classrooms are alive with actively engaged learners, stimulating conversations, cooperative groups, and dynamic student presentations. Colorful projects and written work cover the walls. Collaboration characterizes the professional community at CJMS; teachers plan units and engage in professional development together, ensuring a consistent, rigorous instruction for all students.

## Courses of Study

### 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

#### **Required Interdisciplinary (Core) Classes**

Advisory, Mathematics, English Language Arts, Health Enhancement, Science, and Social Studies

#### **Required Rotation Class**

6 weeks of Information Skills

#### **Rotation Classes**

Choices of: 36 weeks of Band, Choir, Orchestra; 6-week sessions of World Music, Spanish, German, French, Math Challenge, Reading/Writing Challenge, Drama, Theatre/Drama II, Art II, World of Work, Technology Education II, Family & Consumer Science, Technology Education, and Art

### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

#### **Required Interdisciplinary (Core) Classes**

Advisory, Mathematics, English Language Arts, Health Enhancement, Science, and Social Studies

#### **Rotation & Elective Classes**

Choices of: 36 weeks of Band, Choir, Orchestra; 12-week sessions of Spanish, German, French, Technology Education, World Music, Theatre/Drama, Family & Consumer Science, Art, Art II, Information Skills, Video Production & Photography, Ceramics, Coding

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

#### **Required Interdisciplinary (Core) Classes**

Advisory, Mathematics, English Language Arts, Health Enhancement, Science, and Social Studies

#### **Rotation & Elective Classes**

Choices of: 36 weeks of Band, Choir, Orchestra, Spanish, German, French; 12-week sessions of Technology Education, Theatre/Drama, Family & Consumer Science, Family & Consumer Science II, World Music, Video Production and Photography, Art, Art II, Information Skills, Design & Modeling, Ceramics, Coding

**Accreditation Standard:** Students attending middle school should have a well-rounded experience (in addition to the core offerings) which, at a minimum, include the following program areas: visual arts, music, career and technical education, and world languages.