



The Lion's Pride



September 6, 2019



1st Day of Kindergarten at James John!!

Dear James John Families,

I am so thrilled to be sending you the first issue of the "Lion's Pride" for the 2019-20 school year! For those of you who are new to James John, the "Lion's Pride" is sent on the 1st and 3rd Friday of each month (with a few exceptions) sharing important school information and news of exciting events at James John. We generally send this newsletter electronically to your e-mail, but we do have some parents who prefer to receive a paper copy and we will collect these preferences from you during Back-to-School Night next week.

We have had a great start to the school year so far. Students in grades 1-5 arrived last Wednesday and our new Kindergarten students began school this past Tuesday. We are excited to welcome a group of fantastic new teachers this year as well as a group of wonderful support staff. We had a great staff kick-off to the year with three days of training from August 21-23. We offer our appreciation to our neighbors at

the Wayfinding Academy who allowed us to meet in their beautiful hall for two days (as well as to Two Stroke Coffee and Bernstein's Bagels who also provided donations to make our meetings successful). Our new teachers this year are:

Karina Morales-Vasquez- Kindergarten Dual Immersion Teacher

Brigette Ramos – 4th grade Spanish Dual Immersion Teacher

Megan O'Doherty – 5th grade Spanish Dual Immersion Teacher

Katie Smith - Social Emotional Skills Classroom Teacher

We are also pleased to welcome the following new support staff to the school:

Sara Cifuentes- 1st Grade Bilingual Educational Assistant

Karen Valdez – Para Educator- (and former James John student!)

In addition, we are very happy to have Temerza Mehretab back with us this year in the role of Site Support Instructor (SSI). Temerza served as teacher of a Grade 2/3 Blend last year, but we lost this position due to funding cuts.

Fortunately, we were able to keep Temerza in this new position that is designed to support classrooms that need a substitute teacher and provide additional support to classrooms and students throughout the school.

For this school year we are continuing as a school staff to put a focus on providing our students an engaging and rigorous curriculum. Parents are welcome to visit the “Guaranteed and Viable Curriculum” (GVC) webpage on the PPS website (<https://www.pps.net/domain/4886>) to learn more about specific grade level subject areas and unit plans. It has been a long process for schools across the District to develop a coherent curriculum, we are taking steps in the

right direction. Stay tuned for more information on this.

Regarding our school climate, we have been emphasizing our four school wide expectations:

- Be Safe
- Be Respectful
- Be Responsible
- Be Kind

To kick off our school year, we held an all school assembly last Thursday where we reviewed these expectations and also spoke about positive behavior acknowledgement system (Pride of the Pride Slips and Student of the Week and Month).

Again, it has been great to see all of you after a long summer and welcome all students back to James John. I’m looking forward to a great year ahead!

Sincerely,

Dr. John Melvin

Back to School Night – Wednesday, September 11 – 5:30-7:15pm

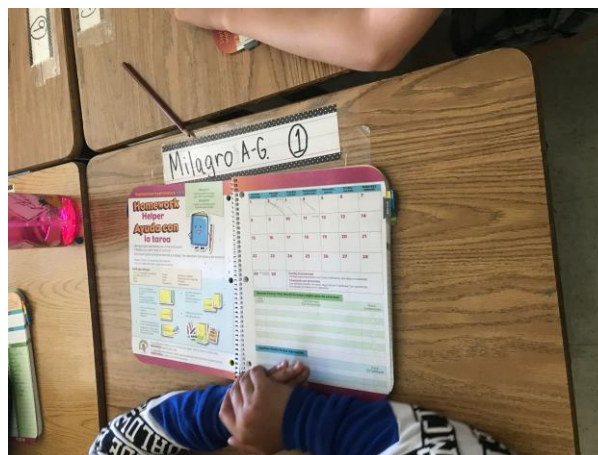
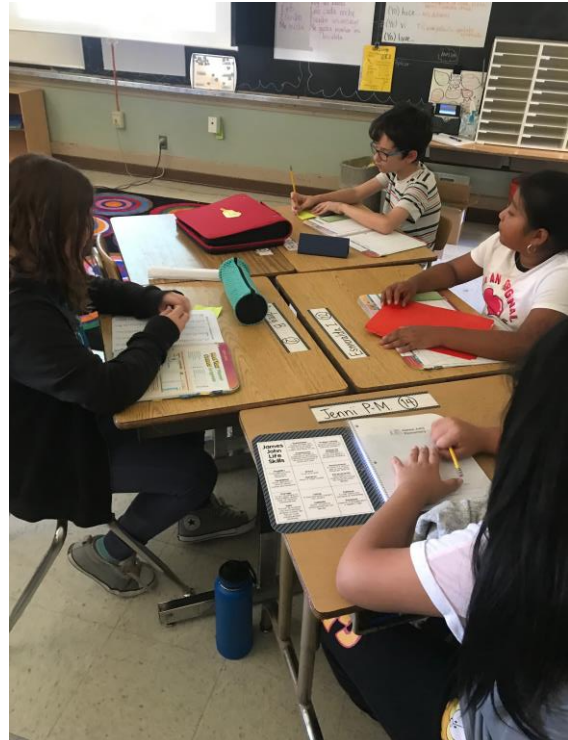
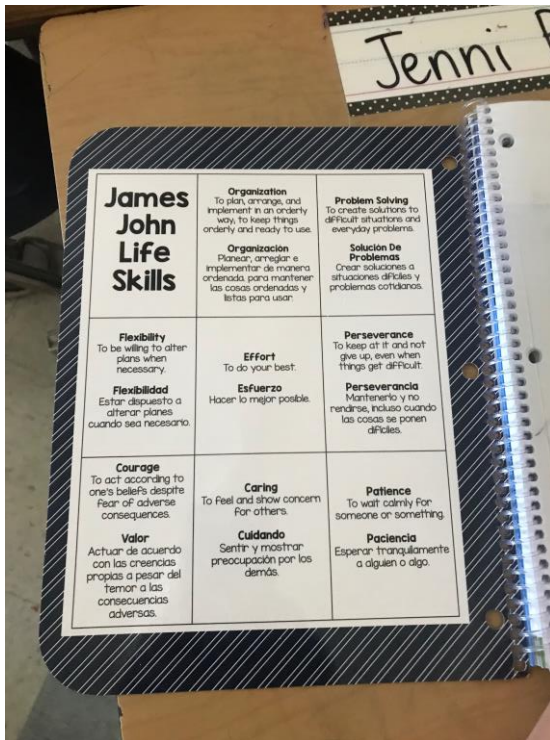


As most of you should know, we will be holding our Back-to-School Night next Wednesday, September 11 from 5:30-7:15pm. Back-to-School Night is a great opportunity to meet your child’s teacher and to gather as a school community. The schedule for Back-to-School Night this year is as follows:

- 5:30-6:00pm – Pizza and Salad Dinner in the Cafeteria (sponsored by the PTA)
- 6:00-6:15pm – Whole School Gathering in the Auditorium
- 6:20-6:40pm – Classroom Session #1
- 6:45-7:05pm – Classroom Session #2

The purpose of the two classroom sessions is for parents with multiple children at James John to visit two classrooms and hear from both of their teachers. There will also be a resource fair in the gym during the evening with local community organizations present to share information. Unfortunately child care is not provided, but parents are able to bring their children to Back-to-School Night. Some translation services are also available and please contact the James John school office regarding translation needs.

AVID at James John – Theme of September- Organization



Students in Ms. O'Doherty's 5th grade class demonstrating organization

We are fortunate at James John to be able to participate in the national AVID program at James John (<https://www.avid.org/>). AVID stands for "Advancement Via Individual Determination" and is a program to support students to develop the study skills and habits and academic mindset to succeed in high school, college and career. AVID also has an explicit mission to lower the

achievement gap and insure that all students can access whatever life and career goals they desire. AVID has eight life skills (pictured above) that James John has adopted as our "Life Skills" this year. The first life skill that we are emphasizing in September is the skill of "organization." Through AVID, students in grades 3-5 receive a James John planner where they can write down their daily assignments, homework or other reminders. Students in grades K-2 have received a clear plastic folder to facilitate home school communication. We will be sharing more information about AVID throughout the school year and please work with your child this month on the skill of organization!

Friendly Reminders

Parking and Driving Around James John School

As our school year gets underway, we would like to remind parents who drop off and pick up their students to please be kind and considerate of our neighbors.

Please avoid the common, yet dangerous, traffic violations and do your part to keep all students safe. Kids are especially vulnerable on the street during the beginning and end of school due to the amount of traffic and people around campus. Please do not block driveways (Portland Bureau of Transportation States: You cannot block a paved or unpaved driveway including the curb returns or wings, even if the driveway has gates, chains, posts, or other barriers. Parking in these areas may be subject to citation), fire hydrants (Portland Bureau of Transportation States: You cannot park within 10 feet of a fire hydrant in any location. The fire hydrant does not have to be posted by signs or a yellow curb), or double park while waiting for your child. To address this issue, school pick-up and drop-off areas have been designed to increase the visibility and safety of our students. Also, please remember to practice safe, conscientious driving habits around school for everyone's safety: follow speed limits, avoid U-turns on streets near school, stop for crossing guards, and turn your key and be idle free.

PTA News

Your PTA is ready for another great year! We have several events on tap for the first several weeks of school, so let's dive in...

First up is Back to School Night on Wednesday, September 11th. The PTA is providing dinner in the cafeteria from 5:30 to 6pm. Just down the hall in the gym, also beginning at 5:30, the Resource Fair will feature information tables from several groups that provide important services to St. Johns families. The Resource Fair will run until 7:30, so stop by and check it out. We will have a table at the fair where you can join the PTA, purchase some Spirit Wear, and learn more about what we do.

On Tuesday, September 17th we will hold our first PTA Meeting of the year in the school auditorium. Dinner and child care will be provided. We will be providing a lot of useful information during the meeting, which will feature a new format this year that will allow you to participate in and learn about the PTA and our goals for the year. The meeting starts at 6pm and will wrap up at 7:30.

Our Green Team will host their monthly work party on Saturday, September 28th from 9 to 11am. If you would like to help clean up and beautify our school grounds, bring some gloves and garden tools and meet at the greenhouse adjacent to the Kindergarten Annex.

If you haven't turned in your membership form, please remember to do that. PTA Membership is free this year to encourage everyone to join. One of our goals this year is to build a more diverse and inclusive PTA. We would be honored to have you join us! Membership forms were sent home on the first day of school as part of the packet of information you received. If you need another form, you can find them in the boxes on the wall across from the office in the main hallway.

Thank you for being part of the James John family!

Calendar of Events

11th – Back To School Night

5:30 – 7:15

17th – PTA Meeting

6:00 – 7:30

Portland Public Schools recognizes the diversity and worth of all individuals and groups and their roles in society. It is the policy of the Portland Public School Board that there will be no discrimination or harassment of individuals or groups on the grounds of age, color, creed, disability, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex or sexual orientation in any educational programs, activities or employment.

District Title VI & Title IX Contact: (503-916-3963)

District 504 Contact: (503-916-5460)

American Disabilities Act Contact: (503-916-3544)



Dana Riemer
Student Conduct Coordinator

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Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Discipline Handbooks

Hello PPS Families!

We have undergone some exciting changes in PPS over the summer. We have worked to improve our discipline and substance use policies and administrative directives to make them more supportive, restorative, and equitable. We have also hired a new Title IX (the federal law that makes it illegal to discriminate against someone on the basis of their gender) director, and have included her revisions as well. In order to incorporate all of these changes in to the Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Discipline Handbook, the handbook will be coming to you later than usual.

As of now, the English version of the handbook can be found online at <https://www.pps.net/Page/13621>. We will be adding translated versions as they become available. Once the handbooks are printed, we will send them out to schools, who will send them home to you.

We apologize for the delay and hope that the new and improved handbook will be worth the wait.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Dana Riemer', is written in black ink.

Dana Riemer
Student Conduct Coordinator.

Portland Public Schools is an affirmative action and equal opportunity employer.