2019-2020
Welcome
Middle School
Students &
Parents!!
## Middle School Academic Teams

### 5th & 6th Grade
- Mrs. Croitoru (Science)
- Mr. Danahar (Social Studies)
- Mrs. Dilley (Literacy)
- Ms. Ng (Math)
- Ms. Ferro (Diverse Learners)
- Ms. Griffin (Support Staff)
- Ms. Perry (Support Staff)

### 7th & 8th Grade
- Mr. Kania (Math)
- Mr. Reed (Social Studies)
- Mrs. Rewers (Literacy)
- Ms. Richmond (Science)
- Mrs. Healy (Diverse Learners)
- Mrs. Jian (Bilingual Support)
- Ms. Tam (Support Staff)
- Ms. Jackson (Support Staff)
Middle School Literacy Team

Mrs. Dilley
- Loves biking, baking, and running with my dog Clara
- Bachelor’s Degree from University of Wisconsin Madison
- Master’s Degree from University of Chicago
- 5th year at James Ward
- Teach 5th and 6th grade

Mrs. Rewers
- 9th year at James Ward
- Bachelor’s Degree from Truman State University & master’s Degree from National Louis University
- Loves to crochet while watching guilty pleasure TV, and spending time with her kids cheering her son Will at baseball and exploring the city with her daughter
- Teach 7th and 8th grade
Literacy Key Items

- Reading and writing using Balanced Literacy framework
  - Exploring a variety of texts and using various comprehension skills
- Reading logs plus written reflection/reading log due each week.
  - 30 mins/night, five nights a week
  - Paragraph of written reflection
- We use a combination of full class novels, book club books/literature circles, and independent reading books throughout the year.
Middle School Math Team

Ms. Ng

- 17th year at James Ward
- Animal & Plant lover
- Bachelor's Degree from UIC & Masters from Grand Canyon University
- Has high expectations of her students and believes they all are capable of amazing work!

Mr. Kania

- 12th year at Ward
- Loves to travel (see photo with a foot on the Northern and Southern hemispheres)
- Likes cats.
- University of Illinois alum
Math Key Items

5th & 6th Grade:
Students should bring a Math Journal and a pencil every day to class
Homework over the weekend will be IXL

7th Grade Major Topics:
Properties of Polygons, Operations with Rational Numbers, Ratios & Proportions

8th Grade Major Topics:
Linear and Exponential Functions, Pythagorean Theorem, Geometric Transformations

Algebra Major Topics:
Polynomials, Linear and Quadratic Functions, Creating/Solving Equations
Middle School Science Team

Mrs. Croitoru
- Loves to cook, travel, and spend time with her family
- Bachelor’s Degree from UIC and a Masters from Olivet University
- Teaching at James Ward since 2001 and an alumni!

Ms. Richmond
- 3rd Year at James Ward
- Loves traveling, cooking, and hosting friends & family
- Bachelor’s Degree from UIC and Masters from National Louis University
- 2012: National Board Certification in Science
Science Key Items

- Middle school science will continue to use the Amplify curriculum to learn Earth, Life and Physical Science topics through exploration of engaging phenomena rather than finding the “right” answers.
- Students will use evidence to discuss and record ideas they are learning as outlined within the Next Generation Science Standards.
- You can expect students to need regular computer access to complete homework assignments.
- There will be health class once a week.
Middle School Social Studies Team

Mr. Danaher
- 24th Year at James Ward
- Loves coffee, sports, traveling, and hanging out with his kids
- Bachelor’s Degree from IL Benedictine University & Master’s Degree from Concordia University

Mr. Reed
- 4th Year at James Ward
- Loves traveling, Starbucks, superheroes and videogames
- Bachelor’s Degree and Master’s from DePaul University and a Master’s Degree from Arizona State University
Social Studies Key Items

- 5th Grade: American History
- 6th Grade: Ancient Cultures and Civilizations
- 7th Grade: US History: Colonization through the Civil War
- 8th Grade: US History: Reconstruction to 9/11
- All grades will include geography and current events while exploring citizenship and human rights
Diverse Learners

Mrs. Ferro
- 8th year at James Ward
- Bachelor's Degree from Marquette University & a Master’s Degree from Argosy University and National Louis University
- Loves spending time with her son and her dog

Mrs. Healy
- Loves spending time with family and friends
- Huge fan of both College and NFL Football (GO BEARS!!!)
- Attended Northern IL University
- Looking forward to an exciting year and learning together!
Bilingual Staff

Mrs. Jian

- BA in English from Sichuan Institute of Foreign Language in China
- Master in Bilingual Education From Chicago State University
- From Chongqing, China so she loves spicy food
- Loves cooking Sichuan Dishes and Classical Music

Ms. Tam

"You Learn More From Failure Than From Success. Don't Let It Stop You. Failure Builds Character." - Unknown

"It's Not Whether You Get Knocked Down, It's Whether You Get Up." - Vince Lombardi
Support Staff

Ms. Perry
- 25th year at James Ward
- Attended Dunbar High School and Kennedy King College
- Has 2 adult kids

Ms. Jackson
- Attended college in Tuscaloosa, AL
- Loves spending time with her family, including going out to dinner, watching sports, and watching old movies

Ms. Griffin
- SECA for 11 years
- Loves the Purple, Reading & Medieval Reenactment
- Pokemon Go Fan
Celebrations!!

NWEA Goals Met!

5th Grade:
Math: 76%     Reading: 73%

6th Grade:
Math: 63%     Reading 72%

7th Grade:
Math: 88%     Reading 69%

8th Grade:
Math: 80%     Reading 69%
Our Alumni Celebrations!

Algebra Exit Exam: 96%

Selective Enrollment Offers: 20

IB Program Offers: 10

Honor’s Program: 2
Goals for the Year

● 100% Students meet/exceed their growth targets for Reading & Math on NWEA
● Continue to develop a culturally sensitive, positive, learning environment
● Increase opportunities for students to use their voice and demonstrate leadership
● Ensure all Middle School Students have a sense of belonging at James Ward
● Maintaining a 98% or higher Attendance
● Increased Participation throughout all classes
Home/School Agreement

**Parent/Guardian responsibilities:**
1. Review and support the James Ward Foundations policies
2. Check your child's progress through the Parent Portal and talk with the student about their progress WEEKLY
3. Check your child's assignment notebook each night for homework/due dates
4. Have your child read 15-30 minutes/night, depending on teacher recommendation
5. Help your child review/study for assessments.
6. Make sure child comes prepared with homework and supplies.
7. Make sure child cleans out backpack weekly. Keep papers/worksheets from outside programs (Ivy Garden, etc.) in a folder separate from James Ward school work.
8. Check for materials in Homeroom Folders on Thursdays - sign and return any forms by the due date.
9. Attend Quarter 1 and Quarter 3 Report Card Pick Up days.
10. Pay child's Activity Fee by the due date.
11. Stay informed by attending LSC (Local School Council), PAC (Parent Advisory Council) and/or BAC (Bilingual Advisory Committee) meetings; learn how to better support your student(s) by participating in parent workshops and volunteering (when you are available).

**Teacher responsibilities:**
1. Share, support and emulate the James Ward Foundations policies
2. Provide instruction that challenges students to learn and grow
3. Help when students ask for clarification on instructions, assignments, etc.
4. Put grades into ASPEN on a weekly basis so parents/students understand student progress
5. Keep website updated quarterly with major assignments/projects/assessments with week due indicated. Rubrics should be posted for major projects/assignments.
6. Discuss possible retakes, extra credit, late work, as options vary by grade level, subject and assignment
7. Respond to parent communication within 24 to 48 hours (weekends are an exception)
Home/School Agreement

Student responsibilities:
1. Review, understand and abide by the James Ward Foundations policies
2. Be an attentive and engaged learner
3. Ask questions (before, during or after class) when you are confused or are unsure
4. Write all assignments for each class in your planner EVERY DAY
5. Bring home planner and necessary school materials to complete all assignment EVERY DAY
6. Check Student Portal on a weekly basis
7. Read 15-30 minutes/night, depending on teacher recommendation
8. Do all homework assignments to reinforce what you learned during the day, and to prepare for tomorrow's classes
9. Bring home all papers and forms to your family and return to school by their due dates
10. Always represent your family and James Ward in the best way possible
11. Be respectful of other classmates, staff and yourself - both people and belongings/materials
Student Rights and Responsibilities

- Student Code of Conduct is now the Student Rights & Responsibilities
- Each student will be required to have the handbook signed and brought back to their homeroom teacher

https://cps.edu/pages/StudentCodeofConduct.aspx
Student Conduct

Students are expected to follow expectations including: Uniform, Prepared for Class, Being on time for class, and participating appropriately inside and outside of the classroom

If one of these expectations is not followed, a student will receive a check mark

4 marks in a week will result in a Restorative Conversation during a Lunch/Recess the following week

15 or less marks: Students will participate in a rewards day

5 or less marks: Students are allowed out of uniform for the day

0 marks: Students are placed in a raffle for prizes!
Student Conduct

Last year, the Middle School implemented the 2nd year of a Restorative Behavior Program with phenomenal success.

97% of all students 5-8 Grade received less than 16 marks in a quarter participated in our quarterly celebratory day.

40% of students have 0 marks total.

This year, we will continue to increase our parent involvement and communication to ensure everyone is informed on our progress.

Student Voice will also include a 5th/6th Grade group in addition to the 7th/8th Grade.
Aspen Gradebook Percentages

50% Formative
30% Summative
10% Homework
10% Participation
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>What makes it up</th>
<th>% of grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Novel Study</strong> (full class novels, book clubs and literature circles)</td>
<td>Application of CCSS skills within class texts, final test, book vocabulary</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Skills/Language Study</strong></td>
<td>Learning CCSS skills - ie, main idea/detail, text structure, grammar, WTW/VTW, IXL, signposts</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Independent Reading</strong></td>
<td>AR quizzes, book choice, habits of good readers, etc.</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Homework</strong></td>
<td>Reading logs and written reflections</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Participation</strong></td>
<td>self evaluation &amp; teacher</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Literacy Grades - Writing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>What makes it up</th>
<th>% of grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Prewriting</strong></td>
<td>brainstorming, collecting information from novel study to apply to writing</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Drafting &amp; Revision</strong></td>
<td>1st draft and subsequent revisions based on application of lessons, constructive peer feedback, teacher conferencing</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Editing</strong></td>
<td>Mechanics of writing (capitalization, punctuation, paragraphing, grammar, spelling)</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Final (Publishing)</strong></td>
<td>Final draft, ready to publish</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Home School Communication

**Google Classroom** - Homework daily and reminders of anything else due..

**Class Dojo**: 5th & 6th Grade will use to send notes to parents/guardians

**Student Planner** - Each student will receive a daily planner to use for their assignments

**Aspen & Email**: We will provide a response within 24 hours except for weekends and breaks

**Thursday Folders** - To be brought back the following school day

**Parent Teacher Conferences**: Nov 14th & April 22nd
Dress Code

Uniform Collared Shirt

Blue or Khaki Pants or Skirts

James Ward issued Shirts & Hoodies

White or Blue solid long sleeve shirts under uniform shirts

Wednesdays: Jaguar Pride Day

Fridays: Out of Uniform Day
Middle School T Shirt

- This year, we will be starting a Middle School T-Shirt Contest
- Next week, any Middle School Student that would like to make a design will have an opportunity to enter the contest
- The following week we will vote on the T-Shirt design and that will be our Middle School Shirt for the Year!
Cell Phones

Phones are to be turned OFF and left in locker all day including before school and after school

- This includes Field Trips and After School Programs

1st Occurrence: Turned into Office and an Adult may pick it up at the end of the day

2nd Occurrence: Turned into Office and an Adult may pick it up on Friday
**Food Expectations**

Breakfast: Until 8:00 am

Snack: 9:45-10:00

Lunch/Recess: 12:45-1:30

Food and Snacks is meant for yourself and is your responsibility to have available and clean up.

Food and Snacks are to be only eaten during the designated time.
Lockers

- You are responsible for your lock and your locker
- Lockers should be locked up whenever not in use
- Practice your combination to become a Master Locksmith!
- Combinations should be kept private
- Lockers should be organized and remember to clean them out on a regular basis!
● At this time you may head upstairs to drop off supplies and meet your homeroom teacher!

● Welcome back Middle School Families!!

● Let’s Have a Fantastic Year!!