

Welcome to PTO 7TH Grade Conversations!

December 6, 2017



A decorative border of colored pencils surrounds the central text. At the top, three pencils (brown, green, red) are arranged horizontally. On the left and right sides, pencils are arranged vertically: yellow, blue, red, and green on the left; blue, yellow, and brown on the right. At the bottom, three pencils (brown, yellow, blue) are arranged horizontally. In the bottom right corner, there is a light blue pencil holder containing several colored pencils.

AGENDA

- JJMS Communication
- Social-Emotional Learning
- Team Building
- Role of the School Counselor
- Counseling Curriculum - Character Strengths
- Questions

A word cloud centered around the words 'Counselor' and 'Guidance'. The words are in various colors and sizes, with 'Counselor' and 'Guidance' being the largest and most prominent. Other words include 'conduct', 'auspices', 'government', 'advice', 'leadership', 'counseling', 'intelligence', 'conduction', 'instruction', 'control', 'conveyance', 'supervision', 'direction', 'management', 'help', 'navigation', and 'teaching'.

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Communication – How Do Parents Receive Information from JJMS?

- Website - www.klschools.org
- eChalk - Teacher and Team Communication Page
- PTO Bi-weekly Newsletter
- ConnectEd messages - grade level or schoolwide
- *From the Middle* Newsletter - bi-monthly
- Student Planners





Communication – Who Should I Contact?

- Contact the **teacher** with questions, concerns or support about grades, curriculum, lessons, studying, or tests. (Encourage your child to contact the teacher directly for homework questions and extra help).
- Contact the **team leader** (7th grade) to arrange for a conference.
- Contact the **school counselor** for questions, concerns or support about mental health, schedules, academic plans, recommendations, student-to-student conflicts, etc.
- Contact the **Asst. Principal** with questions, concerns or support about discipline, DASA, recess, rules and procedures, after school activities, etc.
- Contact the **Principal** with faculty/staff concerns.
- When in doubt - Contact your child's school counselor

Social-Emotional Learning

- Team activities, meetings and units of study
- Social studies classes look at character strengths through the curriculum lens
- Character education lessons naturally evolve in all classes especially in short stories units, and through ELA units
- Arts: critique of work in a productive way is modeled and practiced
- Group based classroom structure lends itself to character education as an ongoing theme
- Writing: evidence based reasoning- lends itself to appropriate discourse- supporting one's thinking with data



Leading in Social Emotional Learning

- RULER
- Homebase
- Mindful vs Mind full
- Leadership opportunities



Team Building

- Mt. Lakes Workshops in October - followed the day after with a counseling lesson tying Mt. Lakes and character strengths together
- Focus on working together and character strengths (yours and others)
- Touchstone experiences each trimester - Malala in February and Reflection in late Spring





Student Feedback from Mountain Lakes Team Building Workshops & the Counselor Classroom Character Strengths Lesson

Curiosity:

- “If I am more curious, I can get to learn more, and be smarter”

Hope:

- “I need to stop being so negative and be more open about things”

Kindness:

- “I would like to be nicer to people because last year, lets say, I wasn’t nice at all”

Perseverance:

- “If I am struggling in a class I will review notes and go to extra help”

Creativity:

- “I will use creativity to get around difficult questions that I might not understand. Also, I will use creativity to experiment with different study strategies”

Love of Learning:

- “I love the way it feels when you know the answer to a question a teacher asks. It makes me feel happy and proud that I know about that I didn’t know before. I will study more so I can experience that feeling”

Gratitude:

- “I can use gratitude to be thankful for friends and family who help me every day”



7th grade Counselor Expectations for Students

- Independence
 - Building off last year's character strengths wo
 - Coming prepared to class
 - Completing homework
 - Time management
 - General organization
 - Problem solving/critical thinking
- Self Advocacy
 - Seeking help from teachers (e-mail, extra help, class participation)
 - Seeking help from counselors (social/emotional concerns)
- Respecting Differences
- Recently I had the opportunity to give a presentation on organization at a recent PTO meeting

VIA Classification of Character Strengths



7th Grade Counselor Lessons

1st Lesson - Given in Fall in conjunction with the Mountain Lakes Team Building Trip:

- Pre Mt. Lakes revisiting top 3 character strengths in academic block and picking their 7th grade top 3 character strengths
- Mt. Lakes trip
- Counselor going into class the day after Mt. Lakes trip to help kids explore and understand how character strengths were used, discovered and built on at Mt. Lakes
- Kids wrote down 3 ways character strengths can improve this 7th Gr. Year - Their 7th grade character strengths goals



Continued . . .

2nd Lesson - Given in Winter

- Most likely in coordination with the students seeing the Malala film and then exploring character strengths, Malala's and theirs

3rd Lesson - Given in Spring

- Under construction - will look to further our students use of their character strengths



Save the Dates!

January 2018						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

FEBRUARY 2018						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			



- Curriculum Conversations - January 10, 2018 - 7pm - Theatre
- PTO Group Discussion Series - February, 8, 2018 - 7pm - Library
- Rec n'Roll - February 23, 2018 - 7pm - Gymnasium

QUESTIONS??

- Thank you for attending!!

