



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Fellow Knights,

I am honored to serve our amazing students, parent community, and staff, and welcome you to Joseph Kerr Middle School. This year marks the beginning of my 9<sup>th</sup> year here at JKMS. I look forward to welcoming our entire student body back to a new and upgraded campus.

Zachary Cheney  
Principal

Matthew Kempen  
Vice Principal

Nichole Cecil  
Teacher in Charge

I hope you are enjoying these last days of summer. If you can believe it, as I draft this letter, we have just completed what turned out to be a very successful summer school session and are busily preparing for Jump Start and the first day of full in person learning.

As a child advocate at heart, my primary objective is to ensure that all students have an equal opportunity to learn in a safe environment where they are nurtured and supported physically, emotionally and socially. In addition to providing students with high quality classroom instruction, we strive to impart to all students a deep understanding of our school motto, “Knights show... Kindness, Effort, Respect, and Responsibility.” These four words serve as the foundation upon which our work is built and are the corner stones for the civic character we strive to build that is so critical to the future success of all students.

Please know that the Kerr family is composed of teachers, administrators, classified, and support staff who are all vested in student success and well-being. Middle school is an exciting time in the lives of students and marks an important transition into a period of life that is characterized by accelerated physical, intellectual, social, and emotional changes. We endeavor to provide a supportive community where students feel like they belong and are safe to mature into the very best citizens they can be.

To that end, we will continue to work diligently throughout the summer to ensure a seamless transition for our incoming 7<sup>th</sup> graders and a strong start for our new and returning 8<sup>th</sup> graders. I believe JKMS is a fantastic place to be and am excited to be able to extend a warm welcome, on behalf of our entire staff.

GO KNIGHTS!!!

Zachary Cheney, Principal

**Joseph Kerr Middle School**

8865 Elk Grove Blvd ~ Elk Grove, CA 95624

Administration  
(916) 686-7728

Attendance  
(916) 686-7736

Fax  
(916) 685-2952

*Knights show... **K**indness, **E**ffort, **R**espect and **R**esponsibility*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 2021	EVENT	TIME
August 2	Student Leadership Training	9:00 am-3:00pm
August 3-6	Jump Start	8:30am -12:30pm
August 9-11	Teacher Pre- Service	8:00 am-3:30 pm
August 12	Student Schedule Pick-up	8:00 am-8:25 am
August 12	First Day of School/Schedule Distribution @ 8 am	8:30am-3:05pm
August 13	Spirit Day: Red and Black	All Day
August 17	Lifetouch Photo Day	During PE Class
August 18	Instrument Demo and Rental Night	6:00-8:00pm
August 20	7th Grade Ice Cream Social	During Lunch
August 23-24 and 26	Girls Volleyball Try-Outs	3:00-5:30 pm
August 25	Back to School Night/ELAC LCAP Meeting	5:00-8:00pm
August 26	8th Grade Ice Cream Social	During Lunch
August 27	Spirit Day: Red and Black	All Day
August 31	Bring Your Parent to Lunch Day	11:30 am-1:00 pm

September 2021	EVENT	TIME
September 3	Lunch Time Activity/Spirit Day	During Lunch
September 6	No School: Labor Day	All Day
September 8	Fund Raiser: Dinner Night Out	5:00-8:00pm
September 9	Minimum Day	8:30 am-12:30 pm
September 9	Girls Volleyball @ Kerr	4:00-6:00
September 10	Spirit Day	All Day
September 13	School Site Council Meeting	3:30-4:30pm
September 14	Make-Up Picture Day	During PE Class
September 14	Girls Volleyball @ Kerr	4:00-6:00 pm
September 16	Club Rush	During Lunch
September 16	Girls Volleyball @ Rutter	4:00-6:00 pm

*Knights show...Kindness, Effort, Respect and Responsibility*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September	EVENT	TIME
September 17	Spirit Day	All Day
September 17	Popcorn Friday	During Lunch
September 21	Girls Volleyball @ Kerr	4:00p-6:00 pm
September 22	Minimum Day	8:30 am-12:30 pm
September 23	Girls Volleyball @ Eddy	4:00-6:00pm
September 24	Lunch Time Activity/Spirit Day	During Lunch
September 30	Girls Volleyball @ Johnson	4:00-6:00pm

October	EVENT	TIME
October 1	Spirit Day/ School Dance	3:15-5:15pm
October 5	Girls Volleyball @ Harris	4:00-6:00pm
October 7	Girls Volleyball @ Kerr	4:00-6:00pm
October 7	Fund Raiser: Dinner Night Out	5:00-8:00pm
October 8	End of First Quarter/Minimum Day	All Day
October 11	Girls 8 Volleyball Play Offs @ Pinkerton/Jackman	4:00-6:00pm
October 12	Girls 7 Volleyball Play Offs @ Rutter	4:00-6:00pm
October 13	Girls 8 Volleyball Play Offs @Albiani	4:00-6:00pm
October 14	Girls 7 Volleyball Play Offs @ Ed Harris	4:00-6:00pm
October 15	Spirit Day/Popcorn Friday	During Lunch
October 18	School Site Council Meeting	3:30-4:30pm
October 20	Fall Concert	5:30-8:00pm
October 21	Jazz in the Quad	During Lunch
October 22	Fall Festival	1:05-3:00pm
October 25-27	Basketball Try-Outs	3:00-5:00pm
October 25-29	Red Ribbon Week	All Week
October 27	Staff vs. Student Volleyball game	2:15-3:30 pm

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# YEARBOOK

Make sure to buy your Kerr yearbook now! Yearbooks are on sale for the price of \$45 through October 31th. The price will increase after October 31th. Yearbooks do sell out, so make sure to order yours! You can buy them by going to [www.jostensyearbook.com](http://www.jostensyearbook.com), find Joseph Kerr, Middle School and order.

## ACTIVITIES CORNER

### HELPING FAMILIES

Students face a variety of challenges as they transition into middle school. It takes the combined efforts of students, teachers and parents for students to make this transition a successful one. Here are a few ways in which parents can support their middle school students.

\* Use Synergy ParentVue to verify what work is assigned and what is expected. Talk to your student about school. Offer to proof read a written assignment, check math or quiz on spelling words.

\* Help your student stay organized, prioritize assignments and manage time effectively.

\* Show patience with your child as they develop the skills necessary to become a successful middle school student.

\* Eat family meals together. Children who eat with their families are better nourished, have lower rates of obesity and better vocabularies. Family mealtime is an opportunity to enrich their lives and promote positive self-esteem.

### October 22th -29th Red Ribbon Week

Show your spirit by dressing up and saying no to drugs! Red Ribbon Week is celebrated every year during the last week of October. Red Ribbon Week promotes tobacco, drug, alcohol, and violence prevention. This campaign provides knowledge and skills to help young people make healthy choices leading to a safe and healthy lifestyle. Here are the scheduled events for Red Ribbon Week.

Show your spirit by dressing up!

Spirit Day Themes to be determined by  
Kerr's  
2021/2022 Leadership Class



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## Spirit Days

Show us your Kerr spirit by wearing the colors red and/or black every Friday.



## Fundraising Dinner Night Out

Put those pots and pans down and go out to dinner in support of our school.

**Little Brazilian– September 8th  
Leatherby's–October 7th**

Dinner Nights out benefit our student activities programs.



## **Keith Hawkins Motivational Assembly**

We are excited to announce our motivational assembly with Keith Hawkins on September 7th.

Keith Hawkins is an international motivational speaker. Keith helps people understand the greatness that is bottled up inside them and the opportunities that life has to offer them. Keith attributes his success to leadership and education.

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# ATHLETICS and PHYSICAL EDUCATION

## Packet Includes:

1. Sports Physical Examination Form (must be signed by Doctor)
2. Emergency Form
3. Concussion and Head Injury Form
4. Sudden Cardiac Arrest Parent Review Form
5. Parent/Student CIF Heat Illness Form
6. Agreement for Team Participation Form
7. <http://jkms.egusd.net/programs/athletics>



All completed forms can be sent to the Athletic Director, Richard Palmiere, via email at [rpalmier@egusd.net](mailto:rpalmier@egusd.net).

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Our primary goal is to teach every child, how and why he/she should maintain a healthy lifestyle throughout their lifetime. The physical education program provides learning experiences that are developmentally appropriate and increase physical activity. Our physical education curriculum includes a balance of skills, concepts, game activities, physical fitness and dance experiences designed to enhance the cognitive, motor, and social development of every child. We offer students a diverse curriculum that includes individual and team activities, lifetime sports, cooperative games and multicultural activities, and sometimes homework.

EGUSD has not cleared our campus to dress for PE at this time. Kerr's PE uniform will include a JKMS PE t-shirt and shorts OR a plain gray shirt with no logos and plain black shorts with no logos. Socks and athletic style shoes are recommended. When students begin to change into their PE clothing a combination lock is required. It is suggested that the lock is not a key style lock.



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# COUNSELING CORNER

## Know what's up!

At the beginning of the year, many students are concerned about what to wear, what their friends are doing and getting used to their schedule and new team of teachers. They are typically not thinking about the other equally important, but less exciting parts of the school day. Here are some ways you can help them stay focused throughout the year on all the moving pieces and how you can stay in the loop too:

- Keep up on the school calendar. First term ends on October 8th.
- Keep your students attendance updated with the office. The number for attendance is (916) 686-7736.
- Reading the student/parent handbook is helpful in understanding our campus culture.
- Check Synergy regularly. Email counselors and teachers with questions.

## COUNSELING DEPARTMENT

As a reminder, JKMS counselors are available to meet with students and parents regarding academic, personal and/or social concerns. Counselors are assigned as follows:

<u>Counselor</u>	<u>Student Last Name</u>
Mr. Farwell	A – L
Ms. Espinoza	M – Z

Our Counseling department phone number is 686-7728.

Welcome to the  
School Counselor's Corner



*Knights show...**K**indness, **E**ffort, **R**espect and **R**esponsibility*

# Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS)

Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is a proactive approach to establishing the behavioral supports and social culture needed for all students at JKMS to achieve social, emotional, and academic success. At JKMS, we implement PBIS by teaching expectations to all students in all areas of learning, recognizing those students who are contributing positively to school, and coming alongside those that need support. Students earn Kerr Kudos for showing Kindness, Effort, Respect, and Responsibility and are eligible to win prizes and privileges for their positive behavior. As a school, we work hard to help our students grow and prepare for the next step in their journey, and we want to encourage them in their positive behavior.

Currently, our staff are recognizing students through handwritten postcards, and stickers. Along with that, students who have been recognized with our Kerr Kudo system have been put into a drawing, and are eligible for prizes. Teachers are also selecting students for end of term awards, and those students will be receiving a certificate and prize.



**JKMS STUDENTS**  
**Show**  
**KINDNESS**  
**EFFORT**  
**RESPECT**  
**RESPONSIBILITY**

## DEPARTMENT INFORMATION

### BAND

The Kerr Band program is excited to get back to our #1 Band Goal: Make Great Music *Together!* Beginning Band, Concert Band and Jazz Band students can anticipate lots of fun with friends, learning to play a band instrument in a group setting, and especially, live concerts. Anyone can join, school-owned instruments are free, and there is no cost to join. Visit [www.kerrband.com](http://www.kerrband.com) to learn more.



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## ENGLISH

English teachers are ready to start a new year that will excite students to read for knowledge and enjoyment, as well as encourage all learners to improve in their communication skills. Students in both 7th and 8th grade will be using the Study-Sync curriculum. Students will be building their reading comprehension by practicing annotation strategies and citing text evidence; their writing skills will reflect a consistent structure, known as “TBEAR”, in order for them to build confidence with clear expectations for any scholastic endeavor. All students should be reading at least 20 minutes a day in an independent reading book. Books are available for checkout through JKMS library and the EG Public Library.



## SOCIAL SCIENCE

Welcome to 7th Grade Social Science at Joseph Kerr Middle School! We have an exciting year planned. We will start with a quick review and a geography unit then begin our study of the Ancient World. Students will learn history about different areas of the world during the Medieval period and analyze the geographic, political, economic, religious and social structures of the Middle East, West Africa and China during the first terms. We are looking forward to meeting our new 7th grade students.

8th grade Social Science department is anticipating another great year with our students. Students will learn about our nation’s past from Colonization (1600’s) to Reconstructions (1870’s).

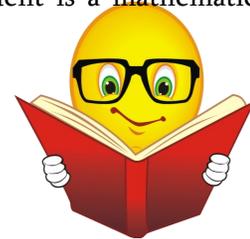
Students should come to class daily with their fully charged, Chromebooks. It is suggested that students have colored pencils, glue Sticks, writing utensil, binder paper for 7th and a composition book for 8th graders. Parents should expect communication through Synergy.



## MATH

Kerr’s Math Department is so eager to have students back to full time and in person for the upcoming school year. We have missed the face to face interaction and know that learning is richer when conversations happen. We believe that EVERY student is a mathematician; it’s all about your mindset!

**STAY  
POSITIVE  
|X|**



## SCIENCE

The Kerr Science Department looks forward to having our students studying the wonders of science and nature. 7th grade will emphasize life sciences and biology while the 8th grade are devoted to the physical sciences of chemistry, physics, and astronomy. Please ensure your student knows the school web address or the email addresses for their teachers so that we can facilitate communications more effectively. We look forward to a fun and productive year.

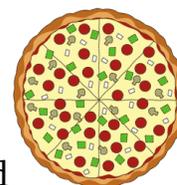
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## Library



**Welcome back to our newly remodeled library!**  
Scholastic Bookfair from August 20th-August 26th  
August 30th our annual Pizza Reading Contest begins  
Just read 4 books by September 30th and turn in a signed  
Pizza Reading Form



The library will be checking out textbooks and library books following the CDC and EGUSD safety guidelines.

### Answers to Common Questions

**The Main Office** is located at the front of the school. The Principal (Zachary Cheney), Vice Principal (Matt Kempen), Teacher-in-Charge (Nichole Cecil) and counselors are located in this office. The secretary, academic counselors, **attendance** and the nurse/health tech are also located in this building.

JKMS has a **six-period day**, with multiple transitions. Students need to be aware of the expectations of multiple teachers. Students may want to keep track of their projects and assignments using a 3-ring binder with tabs for each class. Please contact teachers via ParentVue email or phone for any questions or concerns you may have. Your student's **academic counselor** may help as well. Kevin Farwell covers students with last names starting in A-L and Margarita Espinoza covers K-Z.

**ParentVUE** is our interactive online communication tool. Please make sure you are able to log in and update any **emergency information** concerning your student. **Grades and assignments** are posted by our teachers to ParentVUE. ParentVUE is also used for **email communication** between teachers, parents and students. Parents can check on student's **attendance** using ParentVUE. In addition, the school posts the daily bulletin and important school information on our **JKMS website**.

**Lunches** are designated by the students 4<sup>th</sup> period class. **Early lunch** is 11:30 a.m.-12:05 p.m. and **Late lunch** is 12:30-1:05 p.m. For the 2021-2022 school year, Food and Nutrition Services will offer meals **at no cost** for any student enrolled in the EGUSD, when they are in attendance.

Become familiar with the **Early Dismissal** process. To ensure students are getting the most instruction possible, **students will not be called out of class to wait for you**. Students will be called from class when you arrive. Be prepared to wait 5-15 minutes for your student to arrive to the attendance office from class (**if your student is in PE and needs to change or out on lunch it may be a longer wait**). Students may not be signed out after 2:50 p.m. on regular days and 2:15 p.m. on Wednesdays or 11:45 a.m. on minimum days due to teachers' closure procedures. District policy states that middle school students are not allowed to check themselves out of school. Students should be picked up by a parent/guardian or an adult listed as an emergency contact in Synergy. Photo identification (i.e. **driver's license or CA photo ID**) will be required if you or an emergency contact is picking up a student early from school.

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**Traffic** is busy before and after school. To avoid congestion, plan to drop off your students by 8:10 a.m. When you enter our parking lot, **please pull forward as far as possible before letting your student out of the vehicle.** The first bell rings at **8:26 a.m.** and students are expected to be in their seats and ready to work when the start bell rings at 8:30 am. After school, have a pre-designated meet place to pick up students. The **"Parent Drop-off & Pick-up Loop"** is located in the front parking lot. If your student arrives after **8:30** am they will check in at the attendance desk to receive a late pass.

**Attendance** is handled in the Main Office building. If your student is absent or is late to school, please notify **Attendance** by phone at **916-686-7736**, letter or email at [jkmsattend@egusd.net](mailto:jkmsattend@egusd.net). **Teachers do not handle attendance.** Parents have **seven days** to clear an unexcused absence/late before it becomes a truant. Examples of excused absences include illness, doctor, eye or dental appointments, death in the immediate family, observance of a holiday or ceremony of his or her religion with prior written notice, and/or due to quarantine under the direction of a county or city health officer. Truancy, flat tires, illness of a sibling or parent, missing the bus, sleeping in, traffic, suspensions and vacations, are coded as unexcused absences.

**Backpacks** are heavy! We do not have lockers for books. Teachers will let students know when they must bring their textbooks to class, so do not bring all textbooks unless instructed to. In addition, please speak with your child about keeping their backpack safe. Students should leave valuable possessions, such as iPods, iPads or extra cash at home.

**PE/Locker room-** Students will have PE all year and will be assigned a PE locker. The locker room is a safe and secure place for personal belongings during PE if students take the responsibility to make sure they **lock their items each and every day. PE clothes and locks may be purchased at Jump Start or at the SAC (Student Activity Center).** PE teachers suggest students purchase these combination locks, as the teachers maintain the master list of combinations. Key locks are not recommended as students often lose their key. In addition, students should take their PE clothes home every Friday to clean.

\*\*\* STUDENTS ARE CURRENTLY NOT DRESSING FOR PE DUE TO COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS.

**The Elk Grove Public Library** is a great resource for our students but please do not plan on using it for after school childcare. There is a limited number of students that are allowed into the library at any given time. Please be a good neighbor.

**Joseph Kerr Middle School has a "gate-to-gate" cell phone policy.** Cell phones, earbuds/headphones, and other electronic devices are to remain off and are not to be visible at any time, including passing and lunch periods, during the school day. Students must turn off their cell phones and other electronic devices **prior to entering any gate on campus, and students may turn on cell phones and other electronic devices once they leave campus through any gate.** Staff may supervise students in using cell phones or other electronic devices in class for academic purposes at their discretion. If a student receives an electronic device violation their devices **will be taken and held in the office until the end of the school day. Subsequent violations will result in the parent or guardian needing to pick up the device from the office.**

**Forms for athletics** can be found on-line at the EGUSD website. Our JKMS Website is a great resource for forms and information. You can find us at [JKMS.egusd.net](http://JKMS.egusd.net).

*Joseph Kerr Middle School welcomes those with disabilities to participate fully in the programs, services and activities offered to students, parents, guardians and members of the public. If you need a disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, to participate in any program, service or activity offered to you, please contact Zachary Cheney at least 48 hours before the scheduled event so that we may make every reasonable effort to accommodate you. [Government Code Section 54953.2; Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Section 202 (42 U.S.C. Section 12132).]*

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*Knights show...**Kindness, Effort, Respect and Responsibility***