



James Lick Middle School
1220 Noe Street
San Francisco, CA 94110
(415) 695-5675 FAX: (415) 695-5360

July 23, 2012

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all of you back for our upcoming school year and to share some important information with you. I am looking forward to seeing you again!

Parent Orientation Meetings

Parent Orientation for incoming 6th grade families and new 7th and 8th grade families will take place on Thursday, August 16th, at 6:00 p.m. in the school auditorium. At this meeting we will review school policies, provide your child's class schedule, and discuss other issues important for your child's beginning the school year in a positive manner. Returning 7th and 8th grade families can come in to pick up their student's classroom schedules in on a drop-in basis August 16th and 17th from 8-4:00 PM, in the counseling office (room 106).

First Day of School

Children return to school for their first day of class on Monday, August 20th. Students should report to the schoolyard at 8:15 a.m. and enter the building from the yard at 8:25 a.m. Students who have already picked up their schedules can go straight to class. Other students will pick up their schedules on the yard. Students will be bringing home emergency cards, lunch forms, and school policies to be filled out by parents that evening and returned the next day.

Updated Dress Code Policy

We have appreciated parent support for our dress code in the past and hope this continues. In an effort to have a more consistent dress code, we have revised the policy to be more specific. Please read the attached policy carefully and ensure your child is dressed appropriately on the first day of school and every day thereafter.

Late Start Bell Schedule

In the past, we have had an early release bell schedule twice a month where students were dismissed at 12:30 and staff members participated in professional development. Due to transportation costs, our special bell schedule will change from early release to late start. What this means is that school will start **every** Wednesday at 10:00 AM. There will be limited morning supervision beginning at 8:15 and more extensive supervision beginning at 9:30 AM. Also, please expect modified bell schedules during parent conference weeks and state testing.

Algebra Program

All 8th graders take algebra for mathematics. In the past, we leveled students' algebra classes based on students' math performance/ability with the idea that we could offer more targeted algebra instruction to groups of students who performed at similar levels. Our data has demonstrated that this practice has been *consistently ineffective* for the past seven years and students have *not* made the expected gains. This year, we will be mixing students into heterogeneous groups for algebra, just as in 6th and 7th grade math classes, with an emphasis on differentiated instruction so that all students in the class are supported and challenged. If your student would benefit from additional support in algebra, he/she may enroll in a 6-week course with Mr. Grimstad during 6th or 7th periods in place of their enrichment class; just contact Ms. Woehl or Ms. Koral to sign up.

Special Education Program

In an effort to better serve students with disabilities, we are redesigning our special education program to offer a wider range of services to students with Individual Education Plans (IEPs). With this redesign, we will be able to offer services at each grade level that better serve each child's individual needs. We will present a brief overview of these services on Wednesday, August 29, at 6pm in the cafeteria.

Daily Homeroom

This year, we will have a daily homeroom period that lasts fifteen minutes. Our homeroom will provide a structure whereby small groups of students meet daily with a caring adult in order to improve attendance, better home-school communication, foster organizational skills, and strengthen school community. Please ensure that your child is on time to school each day so he/she does not miss this important period.

Restorative Practices

Please see the attached flyer regarding our efforts to implement Restorative Practices in order to build caring relationships and a stronger sense of personal responsibility.

Things to Know and Do

- Remember that your child needs a physical to participate in all after school sports. You can find the form at <http://cifsf.org/admin/forms/PreparticipationPhysical2.pdf> . Also, there will be baseball and softball try outs the first week of school.
- Jamestown will continue to run the after school program. They will send out a separate mailing with the application. You may also call their office at: (415) 647-4709
- We need each and every family to fill out the meal application, regardless of interest or eligibility. Meal applications are now available on line at <https://schoolmealapp.sfusd.edu>
- If you haven't already, please send your child's proof of the Tdap Vaccine in August. More information is available at <http://www.healthiersf.org/> under "California Immunizations."

Stay Connected

There are many ways to stay connected to what is happening at James Lick. Please check your child's student planner daily, check your child's backpacks on Wednesdays for information packets, attend PTSA, SSC, and ELAC meetings, come to the Principal's Chats, and listen for the weekly auto dialer message. In addition,

- Visit our website at www.jameslickpta.org for updates
- Sign up to see your child's grades and get school information by joining School Loop at <http://jlms-sfusd-ca.schoolloop.com/>
- Communicate with other families by joining our list serve at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/JamesLick/>

You can telephone the office with questions at 415-695-5675 or e-mail me at: nazarianb@sfusd.edu

Sincerely,

Bitia Nazarian, Principal