## Dear Parent/Guardian,

When speaking with people about James Madison Preparatory High School, I am often asked what a charter school is and what makes JMPHS unique. People frequently confuse charter schools with private schools or alternative schools. This confusion is understandable given the variety of school choice that currently exists in Madison County. As you consider the best option for your child, we hope you will look at all that JMPHS has to offer.



## Who Are We?

The mission of JMPHS is to provide college and career readiness education with an emphasis on S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) so our students can confidently step into a college or career setting after graduation. We strive to instill the core values of community, personal development, intellectual curiosity, and social responsibility. As a fully accredited high school through AdvancED, we serve Grades 9-12 and have fully qualified, state-certified teachers.

We are a charter school, meaning we are an independently-operated, tuition-free public school. Therefore, as a charter school, rather than being directly under the authority of the Madison County School District, we operate through a "charter" or a contract with the school district. We have our own Board of Directors that works with our administration, faculty, and staff and with the school district to make decisions regarding the education of our students. However, because we are a public school that receives state funds, we are held accountable for our academic performance and financial status based on Florida Department of Education standards as traditional public schools are.

Because we follow many of the Madison County School District's policies, students are able to transfer to JMPHS with relative ease. Students who wish to pursue sports or band, participate in these at Madison County High School alongside MCHS students.

We provide a smaller learning environment with a maximum of 200 students. We are open to all students who are able to spend at least 80% of their time in a regular classroom and receive fewer than 20% special education services. We begin accepting applications for open spots in all grades in February for the next school year. At the end of our first enrollment period, we fill as many of our open spots with the applications we receive. If we receive more applications than we have spots in a particular grade, then we hold a lottery. Students not enrolled initially are put on a waiting list and contacted if a spot becomes available.

## What Makes Us Unique?

Although we are relatively small, we are BIG on education. Our size and compact campus allow us to get to know our students and their parents/guardians individually so we can help them create realistic and achievable goals. We understand that students grow and change and so do their wants, needs, and dreams. Thus, we work with them to adjust their goals throughout their time with us based on consistent and caring monitoring of both their academic performance and their personal interests and situations.

We are constantly working to improve the quality of our educational program and to expand our program offerings, including our S.T.E.M. and art programs. Each classroom is equipped with digital technology to create a modern learning environment. Our engineering building houses dual-monitor computers, 3-D printers, wide-format printer, laser engraver, and sublimation press for hands-on learning. Increases in the number of laptops and Chromebooks along with the use of eBooks help our students become more comfortable with digital learning tools. To promote good

social balance, students participate in extracurricular activities, including MCHS sports and band; homecoming and prom; and school clubs, including Beta Club, Yearbook, and Student Government Association.

We set our classroom rigor and our standards of behavior high because we believe all our students are capable of meeting these expectations. Every teacher provides tutoring because each has a deep desire to help our students achieve their goals and to develop leaders with integrity. We value each student's success and accomplishments whatever that success may look like because we understand that each student is unique and meant for a unique path in life.

## What Have Our Students Accomplished?

Currently, JMPHS has a Florida School Grade of "B" for the 2017-18 school year. Among the eight public high schools in our six-county area, our school grade percentage ranks second only behind Lafayette High School and tied with Branford High School. We also rank third in total Florida State Assessment points behind Lafayette High School and Branford High School. On state assessments, 18% of our students scored Level 5 and 20% scored Level 4. Our graduation rate for 2018 was 91%, up from 88% in 2017. On average, 84% of our graduates enrolled post-secondary education, 67.5% in college and 16.5% in vocational training programs.

This year 32% of our students in Grades 9 - 12 participate in dual enrollment at North Florida Community College, including 17% of freshmen, 27% of sophomores, 38% of juniors, and 39% of seniors. In October, all of our 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> grade students took the PSAT, a national test that assesses college readiness. Our students scored 9.5% higher than the district average and matched the state average for all grades. Our 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders scored higher than both the district averages. Our 11<sup>th</sup> graders scored higher than the district average and matched the state average for all grades.

We invite you to come to our campus, speak with me and our faculty and staff, and see what we have to offer. We would love the opportunity to meet you, to discuss your child's educational path, and to answer any questions you may have. Please call (850) 253-2173 or visit our website at <u>www.jmphs.org</u>.

Warmest Regards,

Scot Bunch, Principal James Madison Preparatory High School 176 NW Crane Avenue Madison, FL 32340