

James Madison STEAM Academy
500 24th Avenue
Greeley, Co. 80634

Phone: 970-348-1700
Fax: 970-348-1730



Cathy Nelson
Principal

Cameron Shinn
Assistant Principal

Kelly Atkinson
Dean of Students

Dear James Madison STEAM Academy Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year! We hope you and your family had a safe and healthy summer, and your children are eager for school to begin! This will be a year filled with new beginnings! As we welcome everyone to our spectacular new building, we'd like to highlight that while the building and name have changed, we remain a family, a community of incredibly intelligent scholars, outstanding teachers, and supportive families. Our vision remains the same and will continue to be our compass:

JMSA engages, empowers, and inspires our scholars to succeed and be prepared for both college and career.

We will not waver from our mission that our students engage in opportunities to choose their post secondary college or career path and become successful, upstanding members of society. To this end, it is essential that you, as parents and guardians, hold your child(ren) accountable for their behaviors and academics when they are home. We expect students to complete their homework, especially reading and math, every day. It is our expectation that students come to school ready to learn and grow, as well as demonstrate respectful and safe behavior at all times, but we cannot do this alone. Your involvement is vital for JMSA scholars to continue achieving outstanding academic and social success. Consistency is key; our teachers and staff provide a consistent message of high academic expectations and exceptional peer relationships. By partnering with families, we can create consistency at home and school, which leads to greater success.

While on our JMSA campus, your student will be enveloped in a culture and climate where everyone feels safe and able to learn. Our core values are:

- We believe everyone on our campus of learning is equal and important.
- We believe that diversity is a strength that we value and celebrate.
- We work to put our scholars first, academically and emotionally; we always do what is best for them.
- We build positive and respectful relationships with all in our community: scholars, families, and other stakeholders.
- We commit to being a school where scholars become lifelong learners who are college and career ready.
- We commit to making a difference through innovation, continuous improvement, and retaining quality staff.

We are SUPER EXCITED to have so many staff returning and know we have hired only the best of the best to join our JMSA family. Please join us in welcoming the following new hires:

Principal - Cathy Nelson; **Office Secretary** - Lixsy Loma Garcia; **Health Clerk** - Jessica Garcia;
Night Custodians - Polly Huitt Price, Joe Morado, and Lydia Rico; **Lunch Monitor** - Ernie Rodriguez
Counselor - Jessica Zeff; **Social Worker** - Laura Reid; **MAB SE Teacher** - Amanda Kennedy **MAB Para's** -
Shoshannah Schreiber and Madison Wilkinson; **Preschool Teachers** - Lori Ann Goodman and Jennifer Hykes;
Preschool Assistants - Delia Jimenez Chavez, Maricela Guzman, and Arylena Flores; **Second Grade Teachers** -
Kaila Smith and Riley Davis; **Third Grade Teachers** - Rachel Shelburne and Walker Council; **Fourth Grade**
Teacher - Olivia Molsen; **Fifth Grade Teacher** - Kylie Johnson; **Sixth Grade Teachers** - Jessica Burtness and
Kandle Davis

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Another change from last year is that students may continue to wear a uniform if they choose or they may dress in a manner consistent with the district dress code (please access the Parent Handbook on our website to review). Students also have the option to purchase JMSA clothing items from GoJo's (<https://www.gojosprintshop.com/>).

FOOD AND DRINK - We have been gifted an incredible new space but with this gift comes the responsibility of keeping it nice for the next 50+ years. To help us maintain our building, per district policy, we ask that our scholars refrain from bringing gum, takis/hot chips, soda pop, or any colored beverages (e.g., gatorade, powerade, coffee, hot chocolate, etc.) to school at any time. Thank you ahead of time for supporting our school and this district policy in this way!

Back to School Night will be held on August 10th from 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm. During this time you have the opportunity to meet your scholars teacher, meet the administrative team, complete your family Annual Student Updates, apply for scholars free/reduced meals, tour the school, and to complete the required paperwork to support communication between home and school. Administration will be available to answer any questions you may have.

First Days of School Schedule

August 14th - 15th	Kindergarten Assessment (parents will receive a call 1st week of August to schedule)
August 14th	1st - 6th Grade last name beginning with A-L at 8:35 am - 2:50 pm.
August 15th	1st - 6th Grade last name beginning with M-Z at 7:35 am - 2:50 pm.
August 16th	1st - 6th Grade ALL STUDENTS at 7:35 am - 2:50 pm
August 17th	Pre K & Kinder last names beginning with A-L at 7:35 am - 2:50 pm.
August 18th	Pre K & Kinder last names beginning with M-Z at 7:35 am - 2:50 pm.

We look forward to being back as a family and wish you and your scholars a successful school year.

Respectfully,

Cathy Nelson, Principal

Cameron Shinn, Assistant Principal

Kelly Atkinson, Dean of Students