

J. L. STANFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL



PALO ALTO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

SHARON OFEK, PRINCIPAL

February, 2010

Dear Parents of Fifth Graders Who Will Attend JLS Next Year,

We welcome you to the wonderful world of Middle School! The purpose of this letter is to give you an overview of the activities which will take place in the next few months, as your child begins the transition to middle school.

A team consisting of Sharon Ofek, Principal; Gerry Larvey, Assistant Principal; Ryan Fletcher, Assistant Principal; Chris Grierson, Administrative TOSA, and Arvind Arya, sixth grade counselor, will visit your child's elementary school classroom to talk about being a middle school student. During these visits students will have an opportunity to ask questions. At that time, a **Parent Input Card** will also be distributed to each student. Please use this card to give us general information that will help us get to know your child better. JLS students are placed in balanced heterogeneous groups for sixth grade instruction. We do not honor parent requests for specific teachers, but are interested in knowing as much as possible about your child so that their sixth grade experience will be successful. **Parent Input Cards should be returned to your child's teacher by March 5th.** The visitation dates to the elementary schools are:

Thursday, February 25	Friday, February 26
9:00am Fairmeadow	10:30am Hoover
10:30am Palo Verde	12:45pm Ohlone
12:45pm El Carmelo	

The only elective choice for sixth graders is music. During the week of March 29th elementary music teachers will explain the various music choices and distribute music registration sheets to their students. **Please return the completed music registration sheet to your child's 5th grade music teacher by April 9, 2010.**

If your child will not be attending school in PAUSD next fall, please indicate that and return the signed forms to the teacher by the above dates.

There will be an opportunity for parents to learn more about the middle school program at the **Parent Information Evening, 7:00pm on Wednesday, February 24, in the JLS Cafetorium.** Your child will also have the chance to visit and tour the campus, when fifth grade classes **visit JLS on Friday, May 21, 2010.** In the first few weeks of school, sixth grade students will participate in a 3-day orientation called Panther Camp. This camp will give students a comprehensive overview of middle school life, as well as acquaint and build relationships amongst this class. You and your child can also learn more about JLS by checking out our website at www.jls.pausd.org.

We look forward to seeing all of you on Wednesday, February 24, 2010 in the JLS Cafetorium when we will describe our sixth grade program. If you have questions please call Joan Scherer in the JLS Guidance Office at 856-5182.

Sincerely,

Sharon Ofek

ON THE REVERSE IS A COMPLETE LISTING OF ALL TRANSITION ACTIVITIES

Calendar of Middle School Transition Activities for Incoming Sixth Grade Students and Parents

Wednesday, February 24
7pm; JLS Cafetorium

Parent Information Evening. Middle School Principal and staff will present information and answer questions regarding the sixth grade programs.

February 25, 2010
&
February 26, 2010

JLS Administrative Staff visit Elementary Schools. Administrative staff and counselors will visit each of the feeder elementary schools to answer questions about middle school.

Thursday, February 25	Friday, February 26
9:00am Fairmeadow	10:30am Hoover
10:30am Palo Verde	12:45pm Ohlone
12:45pm El Carmelo	

Tuesday, March 2, 2010
Wednesday, March 3, 2010
Wednesday, March 3, 2010

Choice Program Evenings.
Connections – JLS Cafetorium; 7pm
Spanish Immersion – Jordan Library; 7pm
Direct Instruction – Terman; 7pm

Friday, March 5, 2010

Parent Input Card due to your child's teacher.

Friday, April 9, 2010

Music Registration Sheet due to your child's music teacher.

Thursday, May 13

Parent visitation day at JLS. Please call Joan Scherer at 856-5182 after May 3 to reserve a space for the special sixth grade tour. The tour is from 9:30-10:30am. Space is limited.

Friday, May 21

Fifth grade students visit JLS.

For additional information and/or questions

Joan Scherer
Guidance Secretary

856 - 5182

Arvind Arya
Sixth Grade Counselor

856 – 5129

JLS Administration

856 - 5188