

James Ward Elementary School

2701 S. Shields Ave., Chicago, IL 60616
<http://www.jameswardschool.com/> T:773-534-9050

**Stay Positive, Work Hard, Make It Happen
2018-2019 School Year**

Primary Team

Preschool

Welcome back to school! During the first week of school, preschoolers will learn about class procedures, such as how to line up, how to sit at circle time, how to treat the books, etc. They will also learn about our class rules and how to follow them. In Literacy, we will learn to read from left to right and to hear the beginning sounds in words. In math, we will learn to see math in things around us, such as shapes in the housekeeping area and around the class. We will also be talking about "Our Family" so please be sure to bring a family photo for your child to keep in class throughout the year.

Kindergarten-Second Grade

Welcome to Kindergarten! We are so excited to have our new students here with us. Currently, students are learning rules and routines at school to stay safe and make new friends. We are going to learn the alphabet, counting numbers, and start to read sight words. Please remember to check their daily folders and ClassDojo for any news and announcements.

Hello, welcome to First Grade. We are happy and excited to start a new year with our students. The focus of our first quarter is to review and develop basic skills in reading, writing and mathematics. We will be teaching and reviewing letter

Important Dates

September

3rd- Labor Day

4th- First day of school

5th- Welcome Back Assembly in auditorium (Pre-5 to 4 at 1:00 PM; 5th-8th at 8:30 AM)

9th- Happy Grandparents Day

10th-14th- Scholastic Book Fair from 2:45-4:00 PM

14th- LSC meeting at 8:00 AM

24th- GoCPS parent/student meeting at 9 AM or 4 PM (James Ward Library)

25th- 2nd grade walking trip to Chinatown Library

October

5th- Progress Report distribution for quarter 1

8th- Columbus Day- no school

18th- High School Fair at Mark Sheridan School from 6-8 PM

23rd- 2nd grade walking trip to Chinatown Library

31st- Walk-a-Thon and Halloween costume parade

sounds, word structure and number sense [1-20] as well as school rules and procedures. Please check your child's take home folders and ClassDojo for updates. Thanks!

It was very nice meeting parents and students! 2nd graders took the 2nd-5th grade NWEA test during the second week of September. It is normal if their scores are lower than the scores of Spring 2018 because the 1st grade tests were read to the students. Based on the reading test results, students' needs would be met through guided reading instruction. Students will be learning many strategies from the Everyday Math curriculum, such as using a number line to find missing numbers, using ten frames to make 10, using helper facts with larger numbers, etc. Please check your child's homework assignment book, school/homework folders, and ClassDojo for information.

Intermediate Team

Third-Fourth Grade

Literacy-Welcome back to a great new school year! In writing class, the first quarter students will work on the manuscript handwriting, inflected endings and syllable Juncture in vocabulary. We will focus on learning the routine and procedures of a writing workshop and work on personal narrative writing. Students will learn gradually to build their interest and stamina in writing through guided practice. There will be daily practice on the above areas both in class and at home.

In Reading, we will begin the school year by building stamina for both 3rd and 4th graders. We know that practice is needed to improve in anything we do, that is certainly true for reading. This practice should continue at home. Reading for 20 to 30 minutes each evening is necessary for improvement in vocabulary and understanding. Whatever level your child is at, we will work to increase comprehension, fluency, and stamina in whatever they read. Our year begins with following rules and structures in the classroom, and then we will begin our read aloud. This practice will help the students in listening for understanding - which will also increase vocabulary and stamina. Our work continues into October as we begin our novel studies. While reading a novel, students will use various reading strategies to increase their understanding of the setting, characters, theme, and main ideas. They will also learn

Specialists

Science Lab (Pre-K to 4)

Welcome to the 2018-2019 school year. My name is Mrs. Christine Slowik and I am excited to be back at James Ward teaching my favorite subject SCIENCE. I taught science to the 7-8th grades for 21 years. I am back part time assisting the PreK - 4 grade teachers. I am thrilled to be doing the science lab part of the new program the school has adapted called Amplify. Children are naturally curious and I will be tapping into their curiosity with exciting and new science investigations.

Physical Education

About Mr. Rodriguez: I have worked with students from Kindergarten through high school, as well as represented the school community with a nonprofit, parent-teacher organization. I have coached a variety of sports and activities and am an avid participant in intramural sports. Seeking to advance myself professionally and continue to advocate for students, I have served Chicago and the surrounding areas well and am an intricate part of the team at Ward! This year, we will focus on team building, social emotional learning, non-traditional sports and life long learning physical activities.

Fun Fact: I successfully performed the Heimlich maneuver on a 3rd grade student during my teaching

to make connections in different ways.

Math-Welcome! Third and fourth graders will use what they learned in other grades to do more math and become an even better problem solver. Here are some of the things they will do in Third Grade Everyday Mathematics:

- Add and subtract larger numbers
- Estimate and round numbers
- Learn multiplication and division facts
- Solve number stories
- Measure length, time, mass, and liquid volume
- Collect, organize, and represent data
- Model and compare fractions
- Tell time to the nearest minute
- Recognize and measure shapes

Here are some things fourth graders will be asked to do in Fourth Grade Everyday Mathematics:

- Increase “number sense”, “measurement sense”, and estimation skills
- Extend skills with addition, subtraction, multiplication and division of whole numbers
- Find equivalent fractions
- Add and subtract fractions
- Learn about using letters to stand for unknown numbers and other beginning algebra concepts to write algebraic equations
- Expand ability to collect, organize, and interpret data
- Developing skills with 2 dimensional geometry, working with angles, classifying polygons, and investigating symmetry

Science-Welcome back to another fun year of Science! This year the 3rd and 4th graders will have their own investigation notebooks for each unit of Science. This is a new program for James Ward School called Amplify. The units are as follows:

3rd grade

Balancing forces
Inheritance and traits
Environments and Survival
Weather and climate

4th grade

Energy and Conservation
Vision and Light
Earth’s Features
Waves, Energy, and Information

Career!

Hobbies: Traveling, spending time with my family, camping, volunteering and cooking and eating!

Technology

Welcome back students and parents! We will start the year off for K-2 with a typing program which they can then use throughout the year. In 3rd and 4th we will be receiving email accounts and exploring Google Drive and also a unit on Internet Safety. In 5th and 6th will be doing a unit on Internet Safety to start the year off. In 7th and 8th will be developing a website on which students will display their work throughout the year. This can be a benefit to them when they apply for high schools.

Art

Welcome back parents and students! We are going to have an exciting year full of creativity and critical thinking in the art room. To start the year off, students will be reintroduced to the routines and procedures of the art room and then dive right in to learning. First quarter will be devoted to art history and reviewing the different elements of art. Primary students will explore lines, shapes, patterns, and colors. Intermediate students will be going back in time to explore cave art, Ancient Egyptian art, and Mexican Folk art. Sixth graders will explore the use of motion in art and seventh

Social Studies-To begin the school year students will participate in positivity circles and activities. These lessons will help students to focus on a successful start to the school year with an open mind. We will also begin to understand what a community is and how it is important to ourselves and families.

For October, the third and fourth grade will celebrate Hispanic Heritage month. Both classes will create projects based on culture from Hispanic countries. The third grade will design and create a brochure about a Spanish speaking country while the fourth grade will focus on the Spanish explorers. Both units are tied to the curriculum in Spanish class with Ms. Vasquez.

Parents :) Please check your child's homework assignment notebooks daily and parent portal weekly. Your child needs your help this year to stay organized!

Upper Team

Fifth-Sixth Grade

Literacy-Welcome back! I am looking forward to getting to know my new 5th graders, and so excited to see my 6th graders again. 6th grade this quarter will be diving deeper into the structure of stories, looking in particular at the "hero archetype" - what makes a hero? How do authors craft good hero stories? We will be looking at Percy Jackson as our example hero within our full class text, while students will be breaking into smaller groups for book clubs to read other hero stories such as *The Hero and the Crown*, *The Chronicles of Narnia*, *Akita Witch*, *Harry Potter*, *The Golden Compass*, *The Odyssey*, and more in order to compare and contrast the ways different authors have used the hero archetype over the years. 5th graders will be diving into the novel *Esperanza Rising* as they read about and investigate the ideas of human rights. 5th graders will be conducting a close reading of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and using the ideas of human rights as a framework as they read fiction stories of the struggle for human rights such as *Inside Out and Back Again*, *Red Scarf Girl*, *The Giver*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *Long Walk to Water*, and more within their own book clubs. I'm excited for us to roll our sleeves up and get started!

Math-Welcome back to a wonderful new school year and I am looking forward to working together with each and every one

graders will be creating larger than life size sculptures inspired by the artwork of Claes Oldenburg. Eighth grade students will facilitate a personal exploration of art history ending with a brief presentation on their given time period or artist.

Music

It's going to be a great year of music learning! We are fortunate to have a new Chromebook station to supplement our learning in the music classroom. Students will be using web tools to practice their music literacy skills and create their own music. We will kick off the year with rhythm studies. Students in the primary and intermediate grades will develop their sense of pulse and explore rhythm through games, chants, poetry, and unpitched instruments. 6th-8th grade students will be composing with rhythms and performing complex rhythm pieces for drum and xylophone.

Spanish

¡Bienvenidos! During Hispanic Heritage Month, our 4th - 8th grade Spanish scholars will investigate one Spanish speaking country's independence day history and cultural celebrations. Students will share their findings with their class and visually depict it on a self-made piñata! We will culminate our investigations with a Hispanic Heritage Assembly in October.

of you!!! Our fifth graders will start the quarter with learning about areas and volumes while our six graders will be working with factors and multiples.

Science-We will have some changes in our science program, which I am very excited about. Because of our changing world, our curriculum will now have more opportunities to investigate and learn more about solving real world phenomena as a scientist and engineer. Amplify Science is our new curriculum that is more in line with the shifts in teaching science aligned with the NGSS (Next Generation Science Standards) where students will be learning in a multifaceted format between in class experiences along with digital support and hands-on experiences. 5th graders will begin learning about Patterns in Earth while the 6th graders will dive deeper into Microbiome. Our young scientists and engineers will be having so much more fun learning about the world we live in! I am very excited for this brand new year. Please remember to ask your child to share with you what they've learned. Please remember if you do not have an email address to get one as soon as possible and share that with us. We would like to invite you into our Classroom Google so you may also see what is happening in our school. A gmail account would be the easiest.

Social Studies-I am looking forward to a wonderful 2018-2019 School year!!! 5th grade will be focusing on American History and Geography. 6th Grade will be focusing on World History (Ancient Cultures) and Geography. I am hoping that our 5th and 6th Graders will all be very nice, respectful students who consistently act as positive influences at James Ward School. Parents, I hope you, your child and I can become a successful TEAM working together toward the best interests of your child/my student.

Seventh-Eighth Grade

Literacy-Welcome back to a new year in the 7/8th Pod. I am looking forward to hearing about everyone's summer activities and to jumping into literacy this year. We will continue using Accelerated Reader to help students keep up on their reading and demonstrate an understanding of what they have read - in addition, I will be asking students for a summary of what they read along with each AR quiz (every other Monday). We will continue using Words Their Way for vocabulary study, just in a October. Following, our students will review what they learned last year through interactive station games, which slightly different format. Finally, I plan to introduce a daily grammar

Following, our students will review what they learned last year through interactive station games, which will culminate in a review assessment.

Our 3rd grade Spanish students will discover where Spanish is spoken in our global community and where each country is located on a map. They will also explore how Spanish spread from Spain to the 21 other Spanish speaking countries. Lastly, our scholars are also exploring various Hispanic heroes, their impact on our community, and their country of origin.

Our primary Spanish students will learn how to greet people, say their name, and express their emotions in Spanish. Our students will continue their interactive notebook and learn how to make papel picado to celebrate Hispanic Heritage month!

with parent signature each week, so please ask your students to tell you what they are reading about every week.

Our 7th graders will begin the year talking about identity and society while reading *House of Mango Street*. The novel is written as a series of vignettes (short, focused passages) and students will be writing their own vignettes as the unit progresses.

The 8th graders will start with some of my favorite short stories and proceed into a shared novel study of *Uprising*, the story of the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire of 1911, in conjunction with their study of the Industrial Revolution in social studies class. I look forward to a productive and academically challenging first quarter with our students.

Math-I'm very excited to meet the 7th graders and all new students at James Ward! We're going to hit the ground running and jump into our first units the first week of school. 7th graders will be working with 2-dimensional geometry (angles, and properties of polygons), 8th graders: Direct and Inverse variation and Algebra: bridging arithmetic and algebra. Please be sure to check google classroom for all updates/assignments and announcements!

Thank you for all the parents who have already accepted invitations to join google classroom. Invitations forthcoming to those who haven't signed up yet. Please be sure to share your email address with me. (Recommended: gmail)

Science-It has been a busy summer for science here at James Ward. There have been some shifts in content with a new scope and sequence for grades 6th-8th. Students in 6th-8th grade will now follow a more integrated scope and sequence where students will learn some Earth, Life and Physical Science topics every year. In addition to a new scope and sequence we had the adoption of a new science curriculum: Amplify Science. Our new curriculum focuses on students learning science and engineering content through taking on the role of scientists and engineers as they solve real world phenomena. This is more in line with the shifts in teaching science outlined by the Next Generation Science Standards. Amplify Science supports students in learning through a more digital, yet hands-on curriculum experience.

Other News

Social Emotional Learning

The staff, students and parents of James Ward School will be introduced to "**The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People**" throughout the school year. During the month of September, we will focus on **Habit 1-Be Proactive**.

- I am a responsible person.
- I take initiative.
- I choose my actions, attitudes, and moods.
- I do not blame others for my mistakes.
- I can only be offended if I choose to be.

Our 7th graders will take on the role of planetary geologist in the first unit working to explore the possibility of habitable planets other than Earth. Our 8th graders will begin the year solving an engineering challenge of designing safe and cost effective means for space travel where power sources may be limited. I'm looking forward to a great start to this year. Please be sure to ask your students to tell you about the exciting things we are doing in class!

Social Studies-Welcome back Everyone!!! I am so excited to get this school year started with all the 7th and 8th Graders! We have a lot of great things we are going to cover this year. I just got back from a 3 Day Professional Development in Washington DC at the Holocaust Museum. I can't wait to show the students everything I learned. This year in 7th grade, we are going to start the year understanding the basic concepts that we will discuss over the next two years in social studies. Once we establish some foundations, we are off to discuss colonization and will end the quarter with the Revolutionary War and our first project. 8th grade is going to pick up where we left off last year and discuss the period of Reconstruction. Our Essential Question we will be focused on is "How does a country heal after being ripped apart?" We will be using primary sources and investigating what groundwork was laid down during this period that still impacts us today. Later this quarter we will begin looking at the Industrial Revolution and the Progressive Era. I am looking forward to get the ball rolling this year and to start off on a fantastic foot!

Go, JAGUARS!

