Facilities improvement project update: most of the work has been finished, and the rest nears completion this fall

In the fall of 2016, Jamesville-DeWitt voters approved a capital project to improve our facilities. The project was designed to upgrade some of the facilities used by students and community, and to attend to infrastructure issues. The majority of the work was done during the 2018-19 school year and we expect the project to be completed this fall.

At the high school, the cafeterias and most of the bathrooms were remodeled. The large group instruction room was renovated and now provides a bright and modern workspace for students. Work at the middle school included the installation of new windows in particular areas. The pool was repaired and refurbished. Upon completion, work will have been done at all of the schools to modernize fire alarm and smoke detection systems and update HVAC and electrical systems.

The major renovation of the district auditorium at the high school is nearing completion. When finished, our students and the community will enjoy a beautiful updated design, and a state-of-the-art facility equipped with new lighting and sound. We look forward to enjoying various student performances, productions, concerts and musicals in this fantastic space.

We are extremely appreciative of the community’s support of this project.

J-D HS named 2018-19 Recognition School

Jamesville-DeWitt High School was recognized as high achieving and high progress by the New York State Education Department. The State Education Department press release explained that recognition schools are identified as such because they are among the top-performing schools for performance, student growth, and/or graduation rate; met or exceeded either the school or state measures of interim progress for English language arts and mathematics, rate of chronic absenteeism, and college, career, and civic readiness; and met the federally required 95 percent participation rate in the English language arts and mathematics assessments.

It is truly an honor to be recognized in this manner as it highlights the hard work of our faculty, staff, and student body. We are extremely proud of this accomplishment.
Crafting new Strategic Plan among five major areas of focus for district’s goals for 2019-2020

Each year, district goals are written to guide our work. For the 2019-20 school year, we have five major areas of focus. Beginning this fall, we will craft a new District Strategic Plan. This plan will result in action steps that will guide our work going forward. We have hired a consultant from the University of Rochester to help us with this endeavor. The work will be completed by the District Steering Committee, but will include input from all constituents. We expect to develop a plan that is meaningful and utilizes change that results in higher student achievement, improved student life, and a greater sense of fulfillment for the entire J-D community. We hope to have a draft of the plan completed by early 2020.

Curriculum Council

A second area of focus is to build systemic capacity to provide K-12 leadership in curriculum, instruction, assessment, and professional learning. The District Curriculum Council, with teacher and administrative representation from each level, will discuss the requirements and priorities for all of these areas. Our goal is to ensure that we have a coherent K-12 curriculum, to ensure that students receive cutting-edge instruction, that assessments are effectively used to inform instruction, and to provide timely and appropriate professional learning for all staff.

Related to that, the State Education Department has outlined a timeline of implementation of the Next Generation Learning Standards for English language arts and math. We will continue with phases one and two of this timeline throughout the 2019-20 school year.

School Counseling Plan

For the 2018-19 school year, we added new guidance staff and social workers to each elementary school and at the middle school. This year, we will continue to build our capacity to provide social and emotional support for our students. We know that it is imperative for each student to feel safe and secure so that he or she is better prepared to learn. Last year, the K-12 guidance staff helped develop a new School Counseling Plan. This plan includes a K-12 Counseling Advisory Council that will help ensure the plan is meeting the needs of our students. Our elementary counselors worked hard to identify needs at each of their buildings, pool their collective resources, and build lessons to support students’ social and emotional learning. We will continue to build the capacity of all of our counselors by providing professional training in mental health, wellness, and trauma-informed practices so they have the necessary tools to support our students.

Improving Communication

Communication was identified as an area in need of attention. Our goal is to implement a plan to help us effectively communicate the right messages at the right times to the appropriate audiences. We are reviewing different ways to communicate and ensuring that we are able to reach the students, families, and the community as a whole when necessary and that these groups are able to contact us, as well. We will provide more specific information on the communication plan as we move forward.

Addressing Equity

Finally, we will continue our work to address equity throughout the district. We have partnered with the Perception Institute to help us foster a sense of belonging for all students. We will work with the Perception Institute to design and implement professional learning opportunities aimed at building our capacity to help all students access the opportunities available at Jamesville-DeWitt and to ensure success for all. Jamesville-DeWitt offers our students incredible opportunities in and out of the classroom. Upper level and advanced coursework, student clubs and activities, interscholastic sports, and various offerings in music and performance are some of the incredible opportunities available to students in and out of the classroom. We have to make sure that these opportunities are available to all students.

We recognize that this important work will not be accomplished in one year, but we are committed to continue the work that is critical to the success of J-D while being responsive to the changes put forth by the state. We will keep you informed of our progress throughout the year.

Board of Education meetings for 2019-’20

Board meetings begin at 7 p.m. in the District Office, unless otherwise noted.

OCTOBER
7 Regular Meeting
21 Regular Meeting (Middle School)

NOVEMBER
4 Regular Meeting (Moses DeWitt)
14 Public Forum

DECEMBER
2 Regular Meeting (Jamesville El.)
16 Regular Meeting

JANUARY
13 Regular Meeting (High School)
27 Regular Meeting

FEBRUARY
10 Regular Meeting
24 Public Forum

MARCH
9 Regular Meeting
23 Regular Meeting

APRIL
2 Regular Meeting
20 Regular Meeting

MAY
11 Budget hearing & Regular Meeting
19 Budget Vote

JUNE
1 Regular Meeting (Tecumseh Elem.)
15 Regular Meeting
From the
Superintendent

Super greets community at start of first full school year on the job

By Peter Smith, District Superintendent

Dear Jamesville-DeWitt School Community Members,

On behalf of the Jamesville-DeWitt administration, faculty, and staff, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2019-2020 school year.

I am deeply honored to serve as your Superintendent. This is the start of my 23 year at Jamesville-DeWitt. In the course of my career at J-D I have had the opportunity to hold a number of different positions in the district including, teacher, department chairperson, curriculum coordinator, assistant principal, director of curriculum, elementary principal, middle school principal, assistant superintendent, and now superintendent. I think it is important for you to know that I have lived and worked in the J-D community for many years, sent my children to J-D, and I am committed to ensuring that all of our students are safe and successful.

I have spoken with many supportive people in the community and I’m excited for the opportunity to build on the success our school district has enjoyed for many years.

As members of our J-D community, you should know the administration, faculty, and staff are committed to the success of Jamesville-DeWitt. This commitment is demonstrated, in part, through the district goals for 2019-2020. The ongoing work to build on and expand the success of the district is outlined in the initiatives aimed at ensuring the success of all students.

We are very proud of the accomplishments of our students and staff. In and out of the classroom our students achieve at the highest levels. The State Education Department named Jamesville-DeWitt High School as being named the Overall Recognition School as we were among the top schools in the state for performance, student growth, and/or graduation rate. Our students won over 100 scholastic art awards and scholastic writing awards, including a number of special awards. Our students performed exceptionally well on the state mandated Spanish and French exams. Audiences rave about the students’ concerts, musicals, and drama productions. The Model United Nations delegations do extremely well at their conferences. Almost all of our athletic teams were designated as Scholar Athlete Teams. In addition, our varsity teams won ten sectional titles, several teams played in state championship games, and the year concluded with Jamesville-DeWitt being named the Overall Athletic Program of the Year at the All CNY High School Athletic Awards Ceremony. I eagerly anticipate the completion and subsequent opening of our newly renovated auditorium. This state-of-the-art facility will provide a beautiful space in which our students will learn and perform. Community members will enjoy concerts, plays, musical productions, and other events enhanced by new lighting and acoustics.

As a new Superintendent, I look forward to continuing this tradition of empowering and enhancing the programs that have been successful in the past and to leading the district toward new ideas as needs arise. I look forward to the successes and accomplishments our students will enjoy during the 2019-2020 school year. Our commitment to the community is to strive to meet the needs of every student in a safe and secure learning environment.

Your support is critical to our success and it is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Peter Smith

Taxes set for school district residents

The financing of public education continues to be complex and challenging as federal and state governments struggle with the education portion of the budget, while continuing to place more requirements on school districts. In May, J-D voters approved a spending plan for the 2019-20 school year of $57,711,751. That figure represented a 2.56% increase in expenditures in comparison to the 2018-19 school year. The revenue plan presented in May was based upon state legislation which places a limit on the tax levy for government entities in New York State. The voters approved a levy of $40,841,885 which was within our allowable levy limit. The revenue plan presented in May is always an estimate because we do not usually know exactly how much state and federal aid we will receive, the exact assessment determination in each town, or how much revenue will be available from one fiscal year to apply to the next.

The revenue plan is finalized at the end of August, when more specific information is available. The assessment base in the Town of DeWitt, the majority of the school district, has increased consistently over the past several years. As part of the tax levy legislation, the district was provided an estimated levy growth factor in January. That estimated growth factor turned out to be a little low when compared to the actual growth of the assessment base as determined in August. Consequently, the tax rate increase projected in May was slightly high.

The Board of Education at its August meeting approved the 2019 tax levy and finalized the tax rate in the amount of $23.65 per thousand dollars of assessed value which represents a rate increase of 1.40%. In 2018 that rate was $23.32, and in 2017 that rate was $23.25. We have worked hard to keep that rate change as small as possible over time. There is some variation in this rate for residents in the Towns of Pompey, Onondaga, and Lafayette due to differing equalization rates.

We remain committed to sustaining our quality educational program. We will continue to monitor our expenditures very closely to insure that all of our resources including your tax dollars are used wisely.
J-D welcomes new teachers and new staff to the district

### Elementary & Middle Schools

#### Ashley Finlon
Jamesville
K-6
Education: B.S. Childhood Education, Elmira College; M.S. Students With Disabilities, Le Moyne College

Since 2006, Finlon has taught at Casey Park Elementary in the Auburn Enlarged City School District. Her tenure in Auburn included work as a Special Education teacher in the district’s summer school program. Finlon has also worked as a data coordinator, and is certified in therapeutic crisis intervention.

#### Megan Keukelaar
Jamesville
Psychologist
Education: B.S. Psychology & Anthropology, SUNY Cortland; M.S. School Psychology, SUNY Oswego; C.A.S. School Psychology, SUNY Oswego

For seven years, Keukelaar worked as a school psychologist (grades 4-7) in the Canastota Central School District. In that capacity, she acted as, among roles, the chairperson for all CSE annual review meetings. Most recently, since 2016, she has worked as a school psychologist for Liberty POST.

#### Corrine McAuliffe
Jamesville and Moses
Art
Education: B.F.A. Alfred University; M.S. Education, Le Moyne College

Since 2008, McAuliffe has taught visual arts to students in grades K-12 in the Port Byron Central Schools. Her work for the district included being involved in the Partnership For Results after-school program. McAuliffe also coached Girls’ Varsity Track and Field, and Girls’ Varsity Volleyball.

#### Christina Snow
Jamesville
K-6
Education: B.S. Psychology and Childhood Education, Le Moyne College; M.S. Education,

Snow is no stranger to J-D, having worked at Moses DeWitt as both a special education teaching assistant and a special education teacher. She previously worked for two years as a teaching assistant at OCM BOCES. Among other roles, Snow has also been an assistant coach for Girls’ Varsity Lacrosse, also at J-D.

#### Ivy Starowicz
Jamesville
K-6
Education: B.S. Childhood/Early Childhood Education, SUNY Cortland

Most recently, Starowicz worked as a third-grade lead teacher (grades 4-7) in the Canastota Central School District. In that capacity, she acted as, among roles, the chairperson for all CSE annual review meetings. Most recently, since 2016, she has worked as a school psychologist for Liberty POST.

#### Josh Coles
Tecumseh
Music
Education: B.S. Music Education, SUNY Potsdam; M.S. Music, Syracuse University

Since 2006, Coles has taught K-6 vocal and general music, and headed up three choruses, in the Canastota Central School District. Before that, he taught K-8 vocal and general music for three years in the Lyncott Union-Free School District. Coles has also served as a teaching assistant at Syracuse University.

#### Kara Azria
Middle School
Special Education
Education: B.A. English Literature, Le Moyne College; M.S. Early Childhood Education/Special Education, Syracuse University

Since 2016, Azria has worked as a special education teacher in the Syracuse City School District, in a Specialized Class for Students with Autism (SCSA). Before that, she was a program assistant and a special education teacher in the Skate and Stelleta programs at OCM BOCES.

#### Sarah Babbles
Middle School
Math
Education: B.S. Elementary and Special Education, SUNY Geneseo; M.S. Mathematics Education, SUNY Buffalo State

Since 2007, Babbles has taught mathematics at Orchard Park High School in western New York. Her instructional duties included Common Core algebra and geometry. For most of that time, Babbles coached Girls’ Modified Field Hockey, also at Orchard Park High School. She is certified in First Aid, and AED/CPR.

#### Maria Koster
Middle School
K-6
Education: B.A. European Studies, Emerson College; M.S. Education, Harvard University

A familiar face around J-D Middle, Koster has served as a long-term and regular substitute there in grades 5 and 6 since 2013. Before that, she taught seventh-grade English at Christian Brothers Academy, and French at the Montessori School of Syracuse. Earlier in her career, Koster was an instructor/visiting lecturer for the International Teaching Assistant Development Program at Cornell University.
J-D welcomes all of the new teachers and staffers

### Middle School, High School and District

**Nujoud Makhlouf**
*Middle School K-6*
**Education:**
B.S. Inclusive Elementary and Special Education, Syracuse University; M.S. Elementary Education, Le Moyne College

Makhlouf’s wide-ranging teaching experience includes working as a fifth-grade instructor at Errick Road Elementary in North Tonawanda, NY, and previously as a fourth- and fifth-grade instructor at J-D Middle. Makhlouf, who is fluent in Arabic and was a professional dancer in an Arabic troupe for 10 years, has also taught special education in Waipahu, Hawaii.

**Nicole Plontkowski**
*Middle School Spanish*
**Education:**
B.S. Adolescent Education and Spanish, SUNY Oneonta; M.S. Adolescent Education, Le Moyne College

For the past two years, Plontkowski has taught Spanish to students in grades 8 and 9 in the East Syracuse-Minoa Central School District. She had previously done her student teaching in the North Syracuse Central School District and the West Genesee School District. Plontkowski’s was a teaching assistant for Spanish at SUNY Oneonta.

**Nicole Plontkowski**
*Middle School Spanish*
**Education:**
B.S. Adolescent Education and Spanish, SUNY Oneonta; M.S. Adolescent Education, Le Moyne College

For the past two years, Plontkowski has taught Spanish to students in grades 8 and 9 in the East Syracuse-Minoa Central School District. She had previously done her student teaching in the North Syracuse Central School District and the West Genesee School District. Plontkowski’s was a teaching assistant for Spanish at SUNY Oneonta.

**Nicole Plontkowski**
*Middle School Spanish*
**Education:**
B.S. Adolescent Education and Spanish, SUNY Oneonta; M.S. Adolescent Education, Le Moyne College

Most recently, Shockey was a long-term substitute teacher in English at the George Junior Republic Union-Free School District. Before that, she worked as a substitute teacher in the Cortland City School District and the Homer Central School District. Shockey did her student teaching at Wellwood Middle School and F-M High School.

**Hannah Shockey**
*Middle School English (Reg. sub)*
**Education:**
B.A. Sociology/Criminal Justice, Hartwick College; M.A.T. English Education, SUNY Cortland

Most recently, Byrd has worked as a substitute teacher and taught the math portion of an SAT prep course at J-D High School. That came after taking time off to be at home with her children, before which Byrd taught algebra, geometry and honors calculus for nine years at the high school. Prior to that, she taught math for four years in the Sherburne-Earlville Central School District.

**Kathryn Byrd**
*High School Math*
**Education:**
B.A. Mathematics, SUNY Geneseo; M.S. Reading, SUNY Cortland

For the past two years, Plontkowski has taught Spanish to students in grades 8 and 9 in the East Syracuse-Minoa Central School District. She had previously done her student teaching in the North Syracuse Central School District and the West Genesee School District. Plontkowski’s was a teaching assistant for Spanish at SUNY Oneonta.

**Anna Delaney**
*High School Social Studies (Reg. sub)*
**Education:**
B.A. History and Adolescent Special Education, Le Moyne College

Most recently, Delaney completed her student teaching at Chestnut Hill Middle School in the Liverpool Central School District, and at Fulton Junior High School in the Fulton City School District. At Le Moyne, she was a tutor and counselor for first-generation college-bound students in the Upward Bound program.

**Anna Delaney**
*High School Social Studies (Reg. sub)*
**Education:**
B.A. History and Adolescent Special Education, Le Moyne College

Most recently, Delaney completed her student teaching at Chestnut Hill Middle School in the Liverpool Central School District, and at Fulton Junior High School in the Fulton City School District. At Le Moyne, she was a tutor and counselor for first-generation college-bound students in the Upward Bound program.

**Anna Delaney**
*High School Social Studies (Reg. sub)*
**Education:**
B.A. History and Adolescent Special Education, Le Moyne College

For six years, Nowicki instructed elementary school students with learning, behavioral, and intellectual disabilities at Sunflower Elementary in Andover, Kansas. Before that, she was special-needs coordinator at Blessed Sacrament School in Wichita, Kansas, and prior to that she privately tutored students with learning disabilities, for nine years.

**Erin Nowicki**
*High School Special Education*
**Education:**
B.A. Comparative Literature, Hamilton College; M.S. Special Education, Wichita State University

Since 2015, Frechette has provided physical therapy services to early intervention and preschool-aged children at Little Lukes/Rehab Resources in DeWitt. Before that, she provided home-based physical therapy services to residents of Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Harford County in Baltimore, Maryland. Her extensive resume includes a year at Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Syracuse.

**Julianne Frechette**
*District Physical Therapist*
**Education:**
B.S. Kinesiology, University of Massachusetts Amherst; Ph.D. Physical Therapy, SUNY Upstate Medical University

For six years, Nowicki instructed elementary school students with learning, behavioral, and intellectual disabilities at Sunflower Elementary in Andover, Kansas. Before that, she was special-needs coordinator at Blessed Sacrament School in Wichita, Kansas, and prior to that she privately tutored students with learning disabilities, for nine years.

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GIRLS’ SOCCER
9/10  4:30 PM  A  Fowlert
9/12  5:30 PM  A  ES-M  
9/17  4:30 PM  H  Oswego  
9/19  6:30 PM  A  Auburn  
9/24  7:30 PM  A  Central Square  
9/26  6:30 PM  A  Fulton  
10/1  4:30 PM  H  Fowlert  
10/3  4:30 PM  H  ES-M  
10/5  4:30 PM  H  F-M  
10/7  6:30 PM  A  Oswego  
10/10  4:30 PM  H  Auburn  
10/17  4:30 PM  H  Cortland  

BOYS’ SOCCER
9/7  12:00 PM  A  @ Central Square  
9/10  4:30 PM  H  Fowlert  
9/12  4:30 PM  H  ES-M  
9/17  6:30 PM  A  Oswego  
9/19  4:30 PM  H  Auburn  
9/24  4:30 PM  H  Central Square  
9/26  4:30 PM  H  Fulton  
9/28  12:00 PM  A  CBA  
10/1  4:30 PM  A  Fulton  
10/3  5:30 PM  A  ES-M  
10/7  4:30 PM  H  Oswego  
10/10  6:30 PM  A  Auburn  
10/12  11:00 AM  A  Rome  
10/19  1:00 PM  H  Cortland  

GIRLS’ VOLLEYBALL
9/11  6:30 PM  A  Homer  
9/12  6:30 PM  A  Fulton  
9/16  6:30 PM  A  Oswego  
9/19  6:30 PM  A  F-M  
9/20  6:00 PM  A  Auburn  
9/21  9:00 AM  A  Tourn. @ Marcellus  
9/23  6:30 PM  H  Central Square  
9/26  6:30 PM  H  Fowlert  
10/1  6:30 PM  H  Bishop Grimes  
10/3  6:00 PM  A  Fulton  
10/7  6:30 PM  A  Marcellus  
10/11  4:00 PM  H  Skaneateles  
10/17  6:30 PM  H  Auburn  
10/19  4:30 PM  H  Pittsford Mendon  
10/24  6:00 PM  A  Central Square  

BOYS’ VOLLEYBALL
9/11  3:30 PM  A  Fulton (@ Battle Island)  
9/16  3:30 PM  H  Auburn (@ Drumlins)  
9/17  3:30 PM  A  @ Oswego Country Club  
9/19  3:30 PM  H  Cortland & Syr. (@ Drum.)  
9/23  3:30 PM  A  @ Central Square  
9/24  3:30 PM  A  Syracuse City (@ Drum,)  
9/26  3:30 PM  A  Auburn (@ESM, Links at)  
10/1  3:30 PM  H  Fulton (@Drumlins)  

GIRLS’ GYMNASTICS
9/12  6:00 PM  A  @ New Hartford  
9/18  5:00 PM  H  Utica Proctor @ JDHS  
9/27  5:00 PM  H  ES-M/L’pool @ JDHS  
10/3  5:00 PM  H  Rome @ JDHS  
10/7  5:00 PM  A  @ Baldwinsville  
10/11  5:00 PM  H  Whitesboro @ JDHS  
10/15  5:30 PM  A  F-M @ Central Square  

BOYS’ GOLF
9/11  1:30 PM  A  Fulton (@ Battle Island)  
9/16  3:30 PM  H  Auburn (@ Drumlins)  
9/17  3:30 PM  A  @ Oswego Country Club  
9/19  3:30 PM  H  Cortland & Syr. (@ Drum,)  
9/23  3:30 PM  A  @ Central Square  
9/24  3:30 PM  A  Syracuse City (@ Drum,)  
9/26  3:30 PM  A  Auburn (@ESM, Links at)  
10/1  3:30 PM  H  Fulton (@Drumlins)  

GIRLS’ SWIMMING & DIVING
9/6  6:00 PM  A  Nottingham  
9/12  7:00 PM  A  CBA (@ Le Moyne)  
9/17  5:00 PM  H  Mexico  
9/19  5:00 PM  H  F-M  
9/26  7:00 PM  A  CNS (@ Le Moyne)  
10/2  5:00 PM  A  Liverpool  
10/4  5:00 PM  H  New Hartford  
10/11  5:00 PM  H  West Genesee  
10/16  5:00 PM  A  Auburn  
10/22  5:00 PM  H  Oswego  
10/29  5:00 PM  H  Baldwinsville  

GIRLS’ TENNIS
9/9  4:30 PM  A  Fulton  
9/11  4:30 PM  A  Auburn  
9/13  4:00 PM  A  Oswego  
9/16  4:30 PM  H  Central Square  
9/18  4:30 PM  A  Cortland  
9/20  4:30 PM  H  ES-M  
9/23  4:00 PM  A  Syracuse West  
9/24  4:30 PM  H  Fulton  
10/1  4:30 PM  H  Auburn  

CROSS COUNTRY
9/14  8:00 AM  A  ES-M Invitational  
9/18  4:30 PM  A  Central Square (@ ES-M)  
9/25  4:30 PM  A  C-NS (@ Cortland)  
10/2  4:30 PM  H  Syracuse West/Fulton  
10/5  8:00 AM  A  Whitesboro invitational  
10/16  4:30 PM  A  League Championships  

FOOTBALL
9/20  7:00 PM  A  Carthage  
9/27  7:00 PM  A  Oswego  
10/5  2:00 PM  A  Edison Tech, in Rochester  
10/12  2:00 PM  H  Fulton  
10/18  4:30 PM  A  Fowler (@ Corcoran)  
10/25  7:00 PM  A  Independent Bowl  

For updated schedules and other athletic information, visit: www.jamesvilledewitt.org/athletics.
### October 2019

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<td>1</td>
<td>East Side College Fair @ ESM – 6:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>Board of Education Meeting 7:00 p.m. @ District office</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Columbus Day (NO SCHOOL)</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>Board of Education Meeting 7:00 p.m. @ JDHS</td>
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### November 2019

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<td>3</td>
<td>Board of Education Meeting – 7:00 p.m. @ Moses DeWitt</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Superintendent’s Conference (NO STUDENTS)</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Veteran's Day (NO SCHOOL)</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>K-4 – ½ day of School a.m. Parent Conferences</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Board of Education Public Forum 7:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Board of Education Meeting – 7:00 p.m. @ District Office</td>
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## KEY

- MO: Moses DeWitt Elementary
- TE: Tecumseh Elementary
- JE: Jamesville Elementary
- MS: Middle School
- HS: High School
- PTG: Parent Teacher Group
- DO: District Office

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**District Calendar**

**October 2019**

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The District has a written policy on matters of harassment and discrimination. J-D officials and board members take seriously concerns about and complaints of discrimination and harassment based on race, sex, sexual orientation, age, color, creed, national origin, ethnic background, disability, weight, religion, religious practices or gender. District residents, employees and students who feel they have been discriminated against or harassed on school property or at school-sponsored events have rights under the law and board policy. Anyone wishing to lodge a complaint should use the Dignity for All Students Act site: jamesvilledewitt.org. Or, they may contact the district’s compliance officer, Pete Reyes. The compliance officer has 10 days to respond to a complaint, and the person filing the complaint can appeal the decision. All complaints are handled confidentially and with discretion.

For more information about this, contact Superintendent Peter Smith at 445-8304.