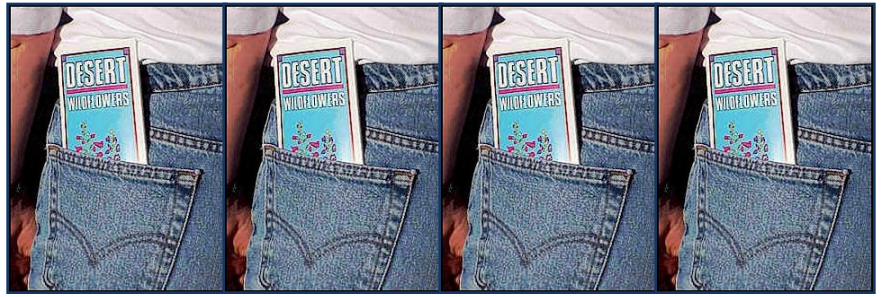


John Poole's **BACK POCKET**



December 16, 2011

**A Thought for Today:
“Curiosity is free-wheeling intelligence.”**

- Alistair Cooke

Building a Resume

All parents want the best for their kids, but our community is blessed with such amazing opportunities at our local high school that we are probably more attuned than most to the processes that qualify eighth graders to gain access to special programming. Even though our staff and our PTSA do a fabulous job supporting JPMS students, and Poolesville High School is wonderful at providing excellent programming for every student in their building, it still isn't easy to be sure everything will fall into place and each child will make the most of high school.

Part of the problem is that so many children really have no idea what they want to devote their futures to when they are in middle school. I was the same way. I went to college planning to major in math, work as an actuary and retire by 50. I ended up teaching English and French, moving on to school administration, and working well beyond my half century because I love my job. If you had asked me at 13 if this would be my future, I'd have guaranteed the answer was no. Both my parents were teachers and I knew first hand how hard their job was. Along with any profession that required me to work with people who were bleeding, a career in the public schools was definitely not going to happen for me. Ha!

So how do we take advantage of the excellence that's out there for our students when there really is no way of knowing the course they will take? I think it's important to begin early by accessing a wide array of experiences. This is a way to expose kids to options and build an impressive resume at the same time.

It goes without saying that sports, music and the arts are important components that can begin at almost any age. When I worked at Richard Montgomery as the Magnet Program and AP Coordinator, I was in frequent contact with college admissions officers. They often told me they looked twice at student athletes whose grades stayed high after their sport's season ended. Good grades during basketball season could be the influence of a dedicated coach; the same grades after the season ended meant the student was a self-motivator. I also heard praise for musicians and artists who had honed their skills over years of creative effort because that demonstrates their ability to commit to a project and strive for excellence.

At JPMS we work hard to provide academic opportunities that might help a student find his or her life's passion and that will also contribute to a spectacular resume. Math Team, Debate Team, Science Fair, National History Day, Newspaper Club – all these programs build extensive background knowledge; develop research, technology and organizational skills; and teach kids to work independently toward their goals. They also look great on a kid's application to a high school program or the college of his or her choice.

Don't wait until 8th grade to encourage your child to participate in these opportunities. The time to start building that resume is now.

Hallway Heroes

Hallway Heroes are students we honor for demonstrating exemplary **PRIDE** behaviors as they move from class to class, helping to keep our hallways safe and comfortable for everyone.

The students recognized below consistently demonstrate **Purpose, Respect, Integrity, Dedication** and **Effort** everywhere they go at JPMS. They are **Hallway Heroes** and we are proud to celebrate their high expectations and their Timberwolf PRIDE!



Kaylee Bonnefond

Christina Hilton

Michael Morgan

Hannah Bush

Amelia King

Stephanie Parker

JC Cooley

Travis Lowe

Michael Yin



Congratulations!

Christian Andrade has made the U13 1999 Boys Olympic Development Program for the state of Maryland!

The US Youth Soccer ODP is a national identification and development program for high-level players. The program identifies and develops young players throughout the country to represent their state and regional associations.

At the state association level, pools of players are identified in each eligible age group and brought together as a team to develop their skill through training and competition. From the state pools and subsequent teams, players are identified for regional and national pools and teams. Maryland ODP teams are comprised of the best Maryland players in various age groups.

Go Christian!

SSL Opportunity: Board of Elections Seeks Student Election Aides to Work for 2012 Presidential Primary Election

The Montgomery County Board of Elections is seeking school-age students, grades 6-12, to serve as Election Day student aides during the 2012 Presidential Primary Election, Tuesday, April 3, 2012. Students and their guardians must attend mandatory training to serve on Election Day and, if applicable, to receive Student Service Learning (SSL) credits. Students are placed in neighboring precincts according to their home addresses.

This initiative combines civic participation and the opportunity to observe democracy in action. This program is available to all students within a public, private, independent, religious or home-school setting located in Montgomery County. U.S. citizenship is not a pre-requisite to participate. Students with bilingual and American Sign Language skills are encouraged to apply. Interested parents/guardians can register their student(s) online by visiting the Montgomery County Board of Elections' website at

<https://www4.montgomerycountymd.gov/BoardOfElections/registerGuardianFv.seam>.

For additional information, email future.vote@montgomerycountymd.gov.

“CINDERSTEIN” Was a Huge Success!

Congratulations to the cast and crew, and thanks to Hisaho Blair, Pam Doring, and Twyla Insalaco for sending in these great pictures!

CAST LIST

Jordan Allentuck
Sirisha Ashley
Dorothy Ballmann
Sukalp Bhatija
Erika Blair
Courtney Bourque
Cory Brown
Taylor Byrd
Gabby Capobianchi
Carissa Caruso-DiPaolo
Josephine Caruso-DiPaolo
Paris Copeland
Ava Corral
icole Duran

Jimmy Dutton
Liesl Green
Mackenzie Gross
Tori Gruber
Kate Heimbach
Franklina Hover
Chloe Insalaco
Clara Jackson
Claire Jensen
Darby Johnson
Erin Larkin
Julia Link
Glenn Mandere
Maureen Miller

Theresa Nardone
Austin Nichols
Stephanie Parker
Renee Quaranta
Danielle Roche
Alesya Sarakhman
Anelia Slavoff
Nicole Slebodnik
Shelby Smith
Melanie Staszewski
Bryce Taylor
Kelly VanMeter
Emma Whitehouse
Courtney Williams

Production Staff

Director
Stage Manager
Tech Crew
Set Design and Dressing
Costumers
Sound System
Props/Costumes
Concessions
Programs
DVD Sales
Videographer
Ticket Sales

Dorald “Dee” Turner
Stacey Jesuitas
Keila Alfaro, Elise Evans, Makayla Herbert, Glenn Mandere, Triana Wallace
Jones Family and Poolesville Performing Arts Showcase
Georgia Micheals, Sukalp Bhatija
Brian Gross and Phoenixx Systems
Dusty Shafer/ Frostburg State University and Phantom Players’ Parents
Lori Gruber, Michelle Roche
Jill Brown
Sarah Nichols
Tim Link
Kimberly Lartz







We Have Talented Kids!

If you missed the Winter Concert this week, you missed a real treat! Our students sang and played a wide variety of music from holiday favorites to smokin' hot jazz, and they were all great.

I'm especially proud that, in these times when the struggle to meet academic targets has forced many schools to abandon the arts in order to concentrate on the basics, we are keeping our test scores high AND building our music program at the same time.

A lot of the credit goes to the gifts of our children and the support of our wonderful parents, but Ms. Sprague deserves kudos as well. When she started at JPMS in August of 2009, she had only three classes and the Poolesville Youth Symphony Orchestra meeting after school on Thursdays. No chorus, no jazz band, and no guarantee there would be enough student enrollment to keep music education alive at our school.

Since then, she has helped students enjoy becoming skilled musicians, and they have repaid her efforts by signing up for music in increasing numbers each year. In 2010, we added a chorus class. In 2011, Ms. Sprague added an after school Jazz Band, and this week we were treated to beautiful music performed by 130 students – fully one third of our school. And next year? I'm hoping to see more students playing stringed instruments so we can add an orchestra class.

PERIOD	TIME	PERIOD	TIME
Period 1	7:35-8:10	Period 1	7:35-8:10
Concert - Gym	8:14-9:45	Concert - Gym	8:14-9:45
Period 2	9:49-10:20	Period 2	9:49-10:20
Period 3	10:24-10:55	Period 3	10:24-10:55
Period 4	10:59-11:30	Period 4	10:59-11:30
LUNCH A	11:34-12:04	Period 5	11:34-12:15
Period 5	12:08-12:49	LUNCH B	12:19-12:49
Period 6	12:53-1:28	Period 6	12:53-1:28
Period 7	1:32 – 2:08	Period 7	1:32 – 2:08
Homeroom Locker Clean out	2:12 – 2:20	Homeroom Locker Clean out	2:12 – 2:20

Next Friday, December 23, we've scheduled a concert assembly so that students who didn't get here Wednesday night can hear their friends perform. The schedule is printed at left. (Please note we're ending the day with locker clean out. It would help if you would send your child to school with a tote bag to bring home the accumulated clutter of the first semester. Please also be sure your child's winter coat makes it home on Friday; our building will not be open for most of winter break.)

If you would like to join us for the concert, please arrive by 8:10 and have your driver's license ready to swipe in the main office so you can get a visitor's badge.

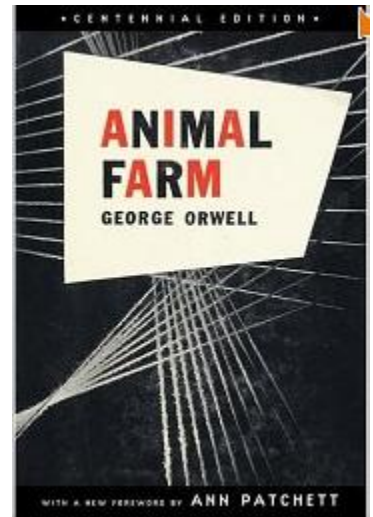
Next week's *Back Pocket* will feature photos from Wednesday Night's fabulous Winter Concert. If you have some great pictures to share, please send them to me electronically! Thanks!

Books Needed

The 8th grade students are reading the novel Animal Farm by George Orwell, but we find ourselves short of usable books. If you have an 8th grade student, please consider purchasing a copy of the book as an early holiday gift so your son or daughter has a clean, fresh book to read!

If you have usable copies of other 8th grade texts in your home, please consider donating them to John Poole. We lose books every year and are seeking to replenish our supply of a few key titles, including: Animal Farm, The Giver, The Hunger Games, The Pearl, and As You Like It.

Thank you!
The English Department



Keeping JPMS Green

JPMS earned the title “Maryland Green School” four years ago by demonstrating our commitment to learning about environmental issues and implementing best practices for energy conservation and environmental management. Now it’s time to recertify.

Over the next few months, our students and staff will be documenting the work we do in the classroom and community to support these goals. We’re looking for parents and neighbors to work with us on the recertification team. We know you care about our environment – won’t you help us earn another four years as an official Green School?

Please call the school at 301-972-7979 or email Mrs. Yesnick (shari_k_yesnick@mcpsmd.org) or Mrs. Callaghan (margaret_l_callaghan@mcpsmd.org) to get on board. Thanks!

8th Grade Newseum Field Trip

The 8th grade team is planning a field trip for Tuesday, January 31, 2012, to the Newseum in Washington, D.C. This trip is part of our unit on the Constitution. The purpose of the trip is for students to be able to describe examples of the five freedoms guaranteed by the First Amendment and explain how these can cause social change.

We will leave John Poole Middle School between 7:45-8:00 am and return by 2:15 pm. The cost of the trip is **\$18.00**. Students will need to bring a bagged lunch. Students not going on the trip are expected to be in school. Permission forms and the **\$18** fee need to be returned to the school to their American History teacher by Friday, December 23. If any student has any financial concerns or problems the parents should contact Mrs. Arnold or their History teacher.

We welcome any 8th grade parents/guardians interested in chaperoning. If an eighth grade parent would like to go as a parent chaperone, indicate this on the permission form. A separate fee may apply. Chaperones will be determined by the order of the date the permission forms are turned in. If you have any questions, please email Mr. Young - Terry_W_Young@mcpsmd.org or call 301-972-7979.

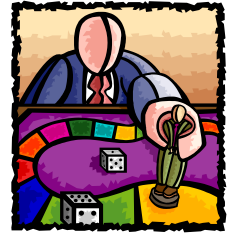




Math Team!!

JPMS Timberwolves need you!!

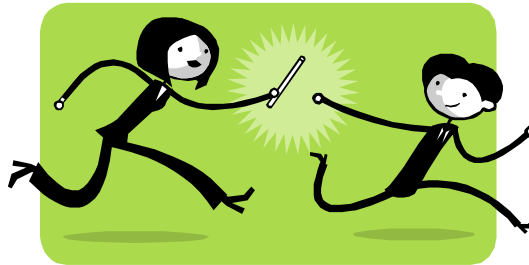
Do you like math?
Do you like to solve logic puzzles?
Do you like a challenge?
Join the Math Team!



Sample Relay Questions:

Question 1:

$$\left(\frac{2}{3} \div \frac{1}{9}\right)^2 + 2^3 [5(3+1) - 4]$$



Check your answers
against Ms. D's.
Question 1 = 164
Question 2 = 90
Is she right?

Question 2:

Let h = answer you received from Question 1.

What is the perimeter of the *rectangle* whose **area is h** and whose **length** is the largest prime factor of h ?

If interested in more information, please ask your math teacher or Ms. Dutcher.

Ms. Dutcher will sponsor the team practices after school on

Tuesdays in room 308.

We need at least **two more students** to join our team so that John Poole MS can compete with other schools in the Middle School Math Meets.

There are only 3 competitions left: **2/1, & 2/29**



Some of the activities scheduled for this year are Books and Boxing, Babysitting Club, Jewelry Making, Zumba Class, Scrapbooking, Photo Club and much more. Keep checking the *Back Pocket* for upcoming classes. It is our goal to provide activities to meet the desires of all students. If you have any suggestions for new programs, please contact Mrs. Crutchfield at Winessa_R_Crutchfield@mcpsmd.org.

RecExtra needs your donations: Wrapping paper, beads and old jewelry, fabric and textbook supplies. Please drop all donations in the RecExtra box in the front office. Thank you!!

VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME and JOIN THE PTA

- **Sharon Armstrong - President**
- **Marilyn Soltis - Vice President**
- **Dawn Albert - Vice President**
- **Dreama Hemingway - Secretary**
- **Sue Van Meter – Treasurer**
- **Lori Kocur – Membership & Volunteers**
- **Anne Donovan – Staff Appreciation**

It is always worthwhile and never too late to join John Poole Middle School's PTSA.

Your membership entitles you to receive the 2011-2012 JPMS Student Directory at no charge!

Please contact Lori Kocur at kocurs@verizon.net for membership information or to register as a JPMS Parent Volunteer. Once you are a registered volunteer, you will receive emails when opportunities to help out at school arise. It's as easy as that!

Show your kids how much you care and how important their school experience is to you – register to volunteer today!

Membership and volunteer forms are available at the JPMS website:

[http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/uploadedFiles/schools/poolems/parents/13\[1\]%20ptsa%20volunteer%20form.pdf](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/uploadedFiles/schools/poolems/parents/13[1]%20ptsa%20volunteer%20form.pdf)

Boys Soccer Coach Needed

JPMS is looking for a qualified boys soccer coach who has experience coaching and working with middle school students.

The season runs March 14, 2012 to May 17, 2012. Practice is only 3 days a week, Tuesday – Thursday, 2:30 – 4:00 p.m. There are 5 games during the season.

If you're interested in applying for the vacancy, please email Mr. Young to set up an interview at Terry_W_Young@mcpsmd.org.

Thanks!



An Important Reminder:

Beginning January 3, 2012, the Visitor Management System will be in full implementation at JPMS. That means every adult who comes to our school with the intention of entering the building beyond the office or lobby area will need to bring a driver's license. Your license will be read electronically and a personalized Visitor's Badge will be printed for you.

That means you will have to remember to bring that driver's license every time you visit and allow time for this process in your plans. If this is news to you, be sure to read the article that follows. Thanks!

The New Visitor Management System

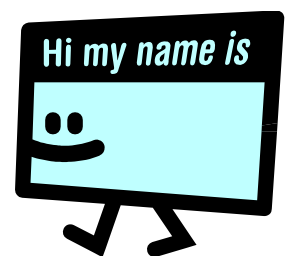
Our school will soon be using a computerized mechanism when visitors come to JPMS. About half the schools in the county already have this system in place, and the roll-out will continue until every school is hooked in. The Visitor Management System (VMS) is intended to enhance security for our students and staff – and that is a good thing – but it will take a little getting used to.

Every school in the county has a big sign on all the doors that tells visitors they must report directly to the main office. The intention is to make it possible to identify strangers before they come into contact with children and to be sure that only people with legitimate reasons to be there are at large in the building. The sign-in sheet and visitor's badge also help by allowing us to monitor how long someone has been at school and by making clear to everyone that a stranger has permission to be in our halls. I have to admit that we have often been lax about these procedures, allowing frequent volunteers to come and go without visitor's badges because so many of us know these wonderful folks – but when you think about it, substitute teachers, maintenance staff and other parent volunteers may not know them or feel comfortable that they can be trusted. It's just a good idea to follow the same procedures for everyone.

The VMS will help. The way it works is that visitors have their driver's licenses scanned (or provide their name and address if they don't drive) when they enter the building. A simple swipe of the license will do the trick. A visitor's badge with the person's name and the date is printed, and we're in business.

The computer is hooked up to a data base that will tell us some things we wouldn't ordinarily know. For example, it will identify registered sex offenders and those with restraining orders preventing contact with children. In this way, it keeps our students safe and has foiled more than one kidnapping attempt by an estranged parent. **The VMS will not show arrest records or immigration status – it is only designed to protect the security of our children, not to track down people in trouble with the law.**

In January, we will ask everyone who comes through the main doors from our lobby into our hallways to be checked in through the VMS and to wear a visitor's badge – even our "regulars". It won't be necessary to do all that if you are coming into the main office only – you can still drop off a forgotten lunch without scanning your driver's license – but going to your child's locker or visiting the Counseling Office will require you to use the VMS. Please start thinking now about always bringing your driver's license with you as you come to JPMS and plan for the time it will take to sign in and get a badge. Thanks for working with us to keep our school safe for students and staff!





The Montgomery County Council of PTAs
2096 Gaither Rd, Ste 204, Rockville, MD 20850
301-208-0111 • 301-208-2003 (fax)
office@mccpta.com



NAACP Parents' Council
Montgomery County, Maryland Chapter
PO Box 2165, Rockville, Maryland 20847-2165

PLEASE JOIN US FOR AN IMPORTANT CONVERSATION ABOUT FUNDING FOR OUR SCHOOLS ... THE MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT LAW

DOES IT GUARANTEE A FLOOR FOR PER PUPIL FUNDING?

WHAT IS "RE-BASING" AND WILL OUR SCHOOLS RECEIVE
\$70 MILLION LESS IN FUNDING NEXT YEAR AS A RESULT?

SHOULD THE LAW BE CHANGED?

WHY ARE SCHOOLS SUBJECT TO STATE PENALTY IF COUNTIES DO NOT MEET
MOE, AND WILL OUR SCHOOLS BE PENALIZED \$26 MILLION?

Join us for an informative panel discussion with Maryland Senate Delegation Chair Jamie Raskin, House Delegation Chair Brian Feldman, and Elected leadership from the Montgomery County Council and the Montgomery County Board of Education.
It's a conversation you can't afford to miss.

Wednesday, January 4th, 2012, 7:30 – 9:00 pm
Carver Educational Services Center
850 Hungerford Drive
Rockville, MD 20850

Presented by the Montgomery County Council of PTAs and the
NAACP Parents' Council



Announcing –

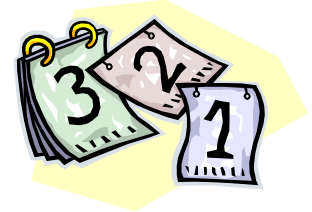
Yearbooks

Yearbooks can be pre-ordered through Jostens only. If you do not pre-order a yearbook, you are not guaranteed a yearbook. You can go to www.jostens.com today to pre-order your yearbook. If you have any questions, please contact Kelly Aulls at Kelly_M_Aulls@mcpsmd.org.

School Pictures

School pictures make great holiday gifts! You can order all sorts of items with your child's school photo on them. View the possibilities online at www.hjclix.com. Details are on the card that was distributed with your pictures. Call 800-244-4373 for Customer Service if you need help.

Save the Date!



Important events you won't want to miss!

December 21 & 22	Geography Bee (in class)
December 26	HOLIDAY, Christmas
December 27-30	Winter Break
January 2	HOLIDAY, New Year's Day
January 3	Return to School
	Full implementation of the Visitor management System begins.
January 3-10	MAP-R Testing
January 10	8 th Grade Class Pictures
	PTA Meeting at 6:30 p.m. Presentation on Cyberbullying at 7:00
January 11	Geography Bee Finals (2:30 p.m.)
January 12 - 20	Semester Exams

JPMS Basketball Schedule

January 3	Girls play Neelsville at JPMS (2:40 p.m.) Boys play Neelsville at Neelsville (3:00 p.m.)
January 10	Boys play Baker at JPMS (2:40 p.m.) Girls play Baker at Baker (3:00 p.m.)
January 26	Girls play King at JPMS (2:40 p.m.) Boys play King at King (3:00 p.m.)
February 8	Boys play Kingsview at JPMS (2:40 p.m.) Girls play Kingsview at Kingsview (3:00 p.m.)
February 16	Girls play Clemente at JPMS (2:40 p.m.) Boys play Clemente at Clemente (3:00 p.m.)

PHS NEWS

Go Falcons!



PHS Talent Show - December 22 @ 7:00 p.m.

Did you know that:

- if you TALK on a hand-held phone while driving it's as dangerous as driving while intoxicated, and
- if you TEXT while driving, it's three times as hazardous as driving drunk.

On Tuesday, December 20, during school hours, students will hear a powerful and potentially life-saving presentation about the harsh realities of driving while distracted. Salvatore Zambri, a Montgomery County parent and attorney, will conduct the presentation. Parents are welcome and encouraged to attend this important program, which will begin at 8:00 a.m.

Girls Varsity Basketball

December 16	5:15 p.m.	PHS vs. Damascus HS at Damascus HS
December 19	5:15 p.m.	PHS vs. Watkins Mill HS at PHS
December 21	5:15 p.m.	PHS vs. Seneca Valley HS at PHS
December 27	8:00 p.m.	PHS vs. Clarksburg HS at Clarksburg HS - Holiday Tournament
December 28	2:00 p.m.	PHS vs. Northwest HS at Clarksburg HS - Holiday Tournament
January 3	5:15 p.m.	PHS vs. Wheaton HS at Wheaton HS
January 6	7:00 p.m.	PHS vs. Northwood HS at PHS
January 10	7:00 p.m.	PHS vs. Rockville HS at Rockville HS
January 13	7:00 p.m.	PHS vs. Einstein HS at PHS

Boys Varsity Basketball

December 16	7:00 p.m.	PHS vs. Damascus HS at Damascus HS
December 19	7:00 p.m.	PHS vs. Watkins Mill HS at PHS
December 21	7:00 p.m.	PHS vs. Seneca Valley HS at PHS
January 3	7:00 p.m.	PHS vs. Wheaton HS at Wheaton HS
January 6	7:00 p.m.	PHS vs. Northwood HS at Northwood HS
January 10	7:00 p.m.	PHS vs. Rockville HS at PHS
January 13	7:00 p.m.	PHS vs. Einstein HS at Einstein HS



CoEd Varsity Swim and Dive

December 17	9:15 a.m.	Poolesville and Blake at Germantown Indoor Swim Center
January 7	11:30 a.m.	Poolesville and Northwest at Montgomery Aquatic Center
January 14	11:30 a.m.	Quince Orchard and Poolesville at Gaithersburg Aquatic Center

Boys Varsity Wrestling

December 22	6:00 p.m.	PHS vs. Einstein HS at PHS
January 4	6:00 p.m.	PHS vs. Rockville HS at Rockville HS
January 11	6:00 p.m.	PHS vs. B-CC HS at PHS

Call John Poole!

Main Office 301-972-7979
Counseling 301-972-7980
Cafeteria 301-407-1037
Health Room 301-407-1029



And Ask for...

Principal - Mrs. Boucher	Assistant Principal - Ms. Lemon
Technology & Arts IRT & Grade Level Coordinator	- Mr. Grotenhuis
English IRT	- Mrs. Lindsay
Social Studies IRT	- Ms. Nachlas
Math IRT	- Mr. McKay
Science IRT	- Mrs. Callaghan
Counseling - (Ms. Kitts, Secretary)	Mrs. Arnold - Mrs. Hardy

JPMS
Timberwolves
live with
Purpose
Respect
Integrity
Dedication
Effort

Our Vision

The Timberwolf community experiences joy in learning, celebrates excellence, and values positive relationships.

Our Mission

At John Poole Middle School, our mission is to:

- **promote joy in learning through motivation and engagement**
- **celebrate excellence by acknowledging achievement foster a shared responsibility for academic and social success**
- **value positive relationships, thereby promoting a respectful and supportive learning environment**

