Jemtegaard Middle School

Jemtegaard Middle School

- Built in 1981 with a capacity of 322 students, now houses 491 students with addition of portables.
- 50,808 square feet
- Enrollment: 489
- Age: 33 years old (built in 1981)
- Programs/facilities: Life skills classroom, resource room, 2 Title 1 classrooms, 2 computer labs, art room with clay room, cafeteria with stage, Japanese program, dean of students, intervention specialist, in-school suspension room, offices within each pod, library, art work in courtyard, wrestling room, gym, track, football field, Danielsen soccer fields.

What's special about Jemtegaard?

- The Positive Behavior Intervention System has had a dramatic impact on the atmosphere at the school. Fewer students are demonstrating disruptive behavior which increases learning time.
- Increased outreach to non-English speaking parents to build trust and community
- A focus on academics has involved streamlining programs to build culture of learning and camaraderie
- JMS students benefit from specialized programs including Japanese, Robotics, computer labs, jazz band & marching band, and enrichment opportunities such as Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), which competes at the state level.
- Interventions and supports are available for students who are struggling academically.
• Advanced academics continue to challenge students through opportunities for high school credit.
• School staff is working hard to build a collaborative culture with families by fostering programs that bring parents to school.
• Hathaway tutoring program – JMS students visiting Hathaway to help with reading.

Challenges at JMS:
• More than 1/3 of students spend their day in a portable.
• Open “pod” design forces students to exit building many times per day to access restrooms and travel between classes, making securing the property impossible.
• Portables have outlived useful lifespan, some by more than 10 years.
• Roof leaks in areas, HVAC is old and inefficient, A/C is inadequate to cool classrooms full of students.
• Learning spaces are undersized for the number of students, oddly shaped rooms make learning activities challenging, and difficult to navigate when full of students and projects. Current facilities lack space for student to collaborate.
• Building lacks science labs comparable to those at CCMS, which would allow for higher level lab classes.
• Building a K-5 school on the same site will reduce size of Gause, and let it eliminate portables, as well as reduce pressure from growth on Cape & Hathaway.
• The Facilities Committee determined that the cost of renovating the existing structure was prohibitive and dollars would be better spent constructing a new facility.
• Ramp to access portables is heavily used and needs frequent repairs.
• Exterior doors allow cool air into classrooms and require a considerable amount of time for HVAC to return temperature to normal.
• Helping students learn to be self-reliant, teaching spaces where the teacher can act as a facilitator instead of a lecturer.
• Space for teachers to group students for differentiation.
• Adequate classroom space would allow teachers to keep student projects for longer term learning activities. Flexibility to do support group work, for students to learn to work in teams, solving real world problems, applying their learning to projects.
• Facilities Committee suggests planning to accommodate growth through 2025.