



2019 Washington State ASCD Whole Child Award



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jemtegaard Middle School recipient of the 2019 Washington State ASCD Whole Child Award

Olympia, WA April 30, 2019 – Washington State ASCD announced Jemtegaard Middle School in Washougal, Washington, as the recipient of their 2019 Whole Child Award. The Whole Child Award is intended to acknowledge and honor a school that has made significant contributions to student learning by creating a school culture with programs that exemplify two or more of the five tenets of The Whole Child Initiative: **Healthy, Safe, Engaged, Supported, and Challenged**; as well as serve as models for all educators across the state. Jemtegaard Middle School (JMS) will receive their award on May 8th, along with \$500, sponsored by SHAPE Washington. Read on to learn the mission at Jemtegaard Middle School and their efforts to develop systems and programs which support and engage all students.

The mission at [Jemtegaard Middle School](#) (JMS) is to ensure that everyone gets what they need to thrive academically, physically, socially and emotionally.

Equity and meeting the needs of the Whole Child is what drives the work of administrators, teachers, staff and community members at Jemtegaard Middle School. JMS has developed a sustainable Student Support Protocol to foster a positive working relationship with peers and teachers for students to feel safe and supported in the classroom. Their Student Support Flowchart works to eliminate disruptive and/or off task behavior that can be damaging to the relationship between the student and teacher. Their primary process goals are to (a) keep students in the learning environment as long as possible, (b) allow teachers to keep teaching, even after problem behavior has occurred, and (c) provide an opportunity for students to reflect on their behavior and have a voice in the refocus process.

As a result, this method has led to an 80 percent drop in disciplinary referrals this years, minimal suspensions and a high approval rating from staff. Many students who received disciplinary referrals on a regular basis last school year are having minimal discipline concerns now. This has also given their Tier 2 and 3 support teams more time and opportunities to work with students who struggle the most. Interventions include friendship groups and boys' and girls' social skills groups, for those most at risk for isolation and internalizing behaviors.

The most effective way for students to learn is to be in the classroom with a quality teacher every day. Prior to this year, when a student left class they could be out of the classroom between fifteen (minor violations) to fifty minutes (major violations). Because of their new student support process, out of class time was reduced to five minutes (minors) and twenty minutes (majors) for the majority of discipline referrals, they have kept students in class an additional 691 hours.

Restorative practices have also played an integral role in repairing relationships and restoring safety after bullying occurs. Traditionally, bullies had been punished through exclusionary discipline. At JMS restorative practices have been used to bring all parties together so that the victim and family can explain how the bullying has impacted them and what they need from the student doing the bullying in order to feel safe. They have found that in 100 percent of bullying cases this year, with clear expectations and procedures for Restorative Circles used, none of the students have violated the conditions after the meeting or continued bullying at JMS. Parents and guardians also appreciate the opportunity to meet each other and support all students.

Two years ago, JMS staff, ASB, community members and their Boosters developed Club 8, an after-school program on Tuesday and Thursday afternoon, named to represent an 8th period of the school day for an additional learning opportunity. The goal of this program was to address an equity issue related to lack of extracurricular opportunities for students on free and reduced lunch who did not have access to transportation. Club 8 not only provides a bus ride home

to remove the transportation barrier but provides all students an afternoon snack. The program regularly has around 90 students in attendance for a school just over 500 (not including 7th and 8th grade athletics with 40-70 students per season.) The list of opportunities offered by Club 8 continue to grow as the support of community members continue to reach out to offer their services.

It is no wonder that Washington State ASCD is proud to recognize Jemtegaard Middle School as the 2019 recipient of the Whole Child Award as they have created equitable and sustainable systems and programs that intentionally focus on supporting the Whole Child. Congratulations Jemtegaard Middle School!

Founded in 1956, as Washington State Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, now known as Washington State ASCD, is a community of all educators committed to promoting promising practices to ensure ALL students are safe, healthy, engaged, supported and challenged. For additional information, please contact Executive Coordinator, Carrie Lam.

CarrieLamASCD@gmail.com | 206-817-6847 | Sammamish Office: 1220 269th Ct SE, Sammamish, WA 98075
Olympia Office | 825 Fifth Avenue SE, Olympia, WA 98501 | (360) 357-9535 | www.wsascd.org | @wsascd



The 2019 Washington State ASCD Whole Child Award is sponsored by [SHAPE Washington](http://SHAPE.Washington).