

JR. HIGH WEST

Gregory Galtere, Principal

Boyertown Junior High West is located on the border of Berks and Montgomery counties at the southern edge of the borough of BOYERTOWN. Our school population of **approximately 800** students comes to us from a variety of economic and cultural backgrounds. Junior High West is a vital part of the BOYERTOWN community and is very much interested in being a positive influence in the lives of its residents. Parents and other community members are encouraged to participate with us in our educational and extra curricular programs.

Our staff provides an excellent educational opportunity for all students who attend. They are a caring, supportive and well-trained group of individuals who know the importance of providing a positive learning environment. Our students are constantly encouraged to achieve to their fullest potential. The staff sets the example for their students by continually updating their knowledge through college courses and professional workshops to keep themselves well informed on all the new issues in education.

Students are provided a strong academically oriented educational program. Our program starts with a more structured seventh grade offering and gradually increases the number of elective choices that each student makes as they reach ninth grade.

Our staff has developed a system of extensive support services for our students. Our schedule includes a 35 minute "flex period" at the end of the day. This period gives us the opportunity to have tutoring and extra help available for students at the end of each day. We also have tutoring provided throughout the school day. Immediately after school, tutoring is available Monday through Thursday. These tutoring sessions last until 3:30 p.m.

In addition to the academic program a wide variety of clubs, activities, sports and music programs are offered. We think the extra-curricular program is a vital part of the total school picture. Students will succeed where their interest is the strongest. At West we try to combine the academic and extra curricular programs to help develop a well-rounded student.

In order to provide the best possible learning environment for our students, Junior High West uses the Team approach to education. Students in grades 7 & 8 are assigned to academic teams. Each team is made up of four academic area teachers -- mathematics, communications, social studies, science -- and a school counselor who meet weekly to discuss their students and decide how they can best meet each student's individual needs. Parents are encouraged to come into team meetings to share their comments and concerns with the team to form a partnership that bridges the gap between the home and school.

Teachers also work in collaborative teams with teachers of the same subject and grade level from both Junior High East and West. This approach is part of the Professional Learning Community initiative we began seven years ago. By working together, we will be able to provide the best education possible for our students.

In addition to their team involvement, our school counseling department is in constant touch with students, teachers and parents on an individual basis to give assistance where needed, and to begin having students think about their future through a variety of career programs.

The staff works with students, parents, and local police officers to provide a safe school environment. Respect for all is emphasized and modeled. A corps of ninth grade students serves as mentors for our seventh grade students through the “Bear Ambassador” program. Our Student Assistance Team works with the parents of students who are a risk for depression or drug/alcohol involvement. Programs teaching all our students about avoiding drug/alcohol are used in health and physical education classes. Junior High West has been certified a “No Place for Hate” school for seven years in a row by the Anti-Defamation League of Philadelphia. West was the first school in Pennsylvania and Delaware to hold that distinction. Throughout the year, we sponsor a number of programs which encourage acceptance and understanding of others.

We are proud of the accomplishments of our students. Our showcases and walls will always have on display the outstanding works of students from all subject areas.

Some key dates for the coming year are:

October 6th - "Back to School Night" - 7:00 PM. Parents of all 7th, 8th and 9th graders are encouraged to visit West and become familiar with both our programs and the teachers of their children.

October 13th – Parent-Principal Coffee. – 9:00 AM. Parents of all students are invited to share thoughts concerning the school program and hear about upcoming events.

November 16th & 22nd – Parent Conferences - 5:30 - 8:30 p.m. This is an opportunity for parents to talk one on one with any of their children's teachers.