

OCTOBER 2018

Red Ribbon Week

Red Ribbon Week 2018 has been themed “Life is a Journey – Travel Drug Free”. This national event is hosted every day during the last full week of October. It was originally started in memory of DEA Agent Enrique “Kiki” Camarena. Agent Camarena was murdered while working undercover with the DEA in Mexico. Angered parents and youth in communities across the country began wearing red ribbons as a symbol of their commitment to raise awareness of the killings and destruction caused by drugs in America. Today, America is facing a huge opioid addiction problem. Heroin overdoses have increased due to addicts turning to heroin when they cannot get their opioid fix. This problem is affecting not only our teenagers but sadly our pre-teens as well. Substance Abuse Clinics across the country are trying to battle the opioid addiction crisis as well as other drug and alcohol problems. Now more than ever, parents and educators need to talk with their students about the dangers of substance misuse and how to get help if he or she develops an addiction problem. Open communication about setting boundaries and expectations are vital to helping youth avoid drug and alcohol misuse. Educating youth about the dangers and side-effects of drug and alcohol abuse is an important...

"We are Jacksonville High School, a community of learners who develop college and career ready individuals."

Jacksonville Crimsons

INTRODUCING THE 2018 NATIONAL RED RIBBON WEEK® THEME



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Red Ribbon Week

Preparing for College:

October is college application completion month. This is the month to begin to apply for the next big step in your life. Make sure to continue making lists and carefully checking out all your options. Applying for college can be intimidating and even confusing, however there are many resources for help.

Red Ribbon Week cont.

Educating youth about the dangers and side-effects of drug and alcohol abuse is an important step in trying to prevent future addictions. However, education is not enough. Youth supervised programs that host drug-free activities with positive adult role models are also necessary in the fight to stop drug and alcohol misuse. Adults that provide drugs and/or alcohol to minors (commonly known as social hosting) are subject to fines and/or imprisonment. Our youth are still growing and developing including their brains and the introduction of illegal substances can cause health issues down the road. Allowing teenage parties contributes to all of these negative factors in the long run. Studies show that youth who engage in risky behaviors including experimenting with drugs and alcohol: perform more poorly in school, are more likely to engage in sexual activity, have truancy and behavioral issues, and end up in trouble with the law. Students that are highly involved in school activities and feel a sense of connection to their school and community are better adjusted in their lives. They have more self-confidence to walk away from risky behaviors. Unfortunately, peer pressure is very powerful and another key factor is to help develop the social skills needed in our youth to say no to substance misuse. Crimson Courage is a chapter of SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions). Once a month, Crimson Courage hosts a drug-free activity for JHS students. Members of Crimson Courage pledge to be drug, tobacco, and alcohol free. The organization promotes awareness and prevention for topics like substance misuse and more. Take the pledge. Travel through life's journey drug free. Be the best me that you can be!



Willkom-
men in
Amerika!



GAPP Students

Welcome German Students!

Our friends from overseas have come to visit again! This years German American Partnership Program (GAPP) students have arrived! The students and teachers are here for three weeks, spending their time on trips and experiencing American culture like football and free refills. Be sure to talk to them and not only learn about what it's like in Germany, but also make some new friends!

Bully Prevention Month

October is deemed as National Bullying Prevention Month. There are many theories as to why bullying exists and how to address bullying in society as well as in school systems. One theory deals with the type of school environment and culture. In other words, how do the students and faculty within the system work and interact with one and other. What skill sets are used to create a safe learning environment? Are individuals connected to extracurricular activities, such as: clubs, organizations, and sports? Is there a sense of community and school spirit? How to individuals address one and other when communicating? Are students using their manners and treating one and other with respect and understanding? Is tolerance and learning about different belief systems and values part of the curriculum? How is tolerance for others addressed?

Bully Prevention Month cont.

We live in a global society in the 21st century. Technology has brought on an entire new way of connecting and interacting with the world population. It has even changed how we educate and do business. Acknowledging these changes and the importance of developing empathy and social-emotional skills in students is essential to a positive school culture and their own personal success in their future lives. Students who are willing to operate within the golden rule and treat others the way that they would want to be treated are more open-minded. They are in a better position to take responsibility for their own actions and make strides toward positive growth and change. When one finds their own identity and voice, he or she is comfortable taking on leadership roles, engaging in real learning, and working towards self-actualization. Empowering students to be a driving force in their own school culture and environment will allow them to gain valuable life-skills and have a deeper understanding of other people in the world. It also fosters connections and impacts other peers to do the same. Service-based learning is a great opportunity to get students to volunteer and perform community service activities. Allowing them to foster their own ideas, plan the projects, run the programs, and see the end results is when real understanding and empathy is learned. There are lots of other programs in schools that help to create a healthy positive school culture and foster growth, understanding, and learning within in school populations. These include: social emotional learning which brings about balance and harmony within an individual as well as groups of people; assemblies that address not only teenage issues but those that enhance the arts and college career planning; student recognition programs; events for historical milestones; school improvement projects; and student advisory boards. Opportunities afforded to the youth that foster good positive life skills, increase the likelihood of creating a healthy school culture and environment. It also reduces the percentage of students that are bullied and harassed within that environment. Every person in every system plays a vital role in the overall culture of their environment. It is time to recognize the unique talents of each person and tap into their strengths to bring about the best possible educational setting to ensure the success of each individual within the system. Let's put an end to bullying and a beginning to Crimson Pride!

Events:

Friday, Oct. 4, 6:15 pm Football
Senior Night

Parent Teacher Conferences,
Thurs. Oct 3-Fri. Oct. 4

No School Mon. Oct. 8, Columbus
Day

Thursday, Oct. 12 5pm Soccer
Senior Night

Wednesday, Oct. 17 5-7pm, Crim-
son Courage Hotdog Roast, Nico-
las Park

Thursday Oct. 18 7pm, Volleyball
Senior Night

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