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Family Cougar News

January 10, 2026

This Week at JMS

Monday:

5:00 - Girls' basketball at Salado

Tuesday:

1:45 - Fire Drill

5:30 - Cheer Tryout Parent Meeting in Library

Wednesday:

5:30 - PTO Meeting in Library

Thursday:

5:00 - Boys basketball at JMS vs. Salado

Saturday:

Regional Band Clinic and Concert at Groesbeck HS



26-27 School Year Coming Soon!!!!

As we progress into the second semester, we will begin planning for next school year.

In the coming months, we will have several selections for you to make regarding planning for their children transitioning to middle school.



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Uprising 6th Grade Parent Night: Feb. 4th at 6:00 p.m. in the JMS Cafeteria

26-27 School Calendar Options

Various committees have been diligently working to create two calendar options for the 2026/2027 school year. Please look at images below to view the two drafts.

To vote for your preferred calendar, please complete this [survey](#). The voting period will be open from January 5th to January 14th. On January 21, 2026, the calendar option with the most votes will be presented to the JISD Board for approval. Please submit your vote and feedback by the deadline to ensure your voice is included.

If you have questions or need further clarification, please don't hesitate to contact studentservices@jarrellisd.org.

Thank you for your time.

Option One

Option Two

A note from your principal

During my elementary and middle school years, I often visited my uncle at his ranch. I would spend holidays, weekends, and summers there whenever possible. During those times, I learned various skills such as branding cattle, operating a tractor, hunting, fishing, and even using a whip. Those days were filled with hard work, getting dirty, exhaustion, and I cherished every moment of it.

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As I grew

older, I learned that Frank was actually a retired Navy SEAL. One day, after we finished branding cattle, I was sitting atop the cattle chute while we loaded the last calf. Frank and my uncle were talking nearby, and I wasn't paying attention to what I should have been doing. I accidentally fell into the chute, ending up covered in dirt, mud, and other unpleasantness. When my uncle helped me up and started to brush off some of the dirt, Frank looked at me and commented that I resembled a "sugar cookie." He and my uncle were laughing, I just thought they were crazy, there was no way I looked like a cookie with all of the dirt and grime all over me. I spent quite a bit of time showering that afternoon, trying to get everything off of me.

Years later, I discovered that for a Navy SEAL, the term "sugar cookie" refers to something quite different from my initial understanding. Specifically, it describes the process of diving into the ocean, becoming thoroughly wet, and then rolling around in the sand, ensuring sand gets all over the body—even in the places you least want.

Recently, a friend lent me a book titled "Make Your Bed" by Admiral William H. McRaven. In this memoir, the retired Admiral shares stories from his service in the Navy SEALs, including an account of him becoming a "sugar cookie." Sometimes, this was used as a form of discipline, and as Admiral McRaven mentions, other times it served as a reminder that life can be challenging.

The key takeaway is that despite our hardest efforts, things do not always go as planned; and that's okay. We can dust ourselves off, take a shower, and begin anew. Failing to succeed at something we've worked so hard for is a valuable learning experience; the true failure lies in not trying at all.

This upcoming semester promises to be busy and filled with challenges. It's important that we support one another, as each of us plays a vital role in helping our students succeed. Getting a little dirty is part of the journey.

Charlotte Mendoza, JMS Principal

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