

## News You Can Use

1. While I am a little late getting started, I plan to continue using Chuck Wagner's communication tool, News You Can Use. To all of our stakeholders, please know that I believe communication is vital to a well run school. Over the past few weeks, I have spent most of my time learning about our most important stakeholders, our students. Knowing students' needs and uniquenesses makes communication more effective and opens doors for problem-solving. I have found our JHS students to be bright and forthright. This should be a very successful school year.
2. The Key Club, 400 strong, held the first of many Jamestown blood drives this September. The Red Cross workers were vocal in their praise for Jamestown and its students. The level of service that the Key Club provides to our community is outstanding.
3. We will announce soon the names of two of our band members who have been selected to the U.S. Army All-American Band. Having two students from one high school selected is extraordinary.
4. The Back-to-School Night was a great success. My thanks to the PTSA for its support of the event and its support for our teachers and staff as we began the year. Have you joined the PTSA yet?
5. Speaking of BTS night, the room visitation format will change for the second semester BTS event to make our "B" day conversations more effective.
6. We are fortunate to have three teachers pursuing the prestigious National Board certification for teaching excellence. Peter Pritchard (Fine Arts Department), Kelley Clark (Mathematics) and Molly Sandling (Social Studies) face a grueling challenge, and we wish them luck.
7. What is ELT? We have rebranded last year's study block to focus on the true purpose of this important Extended Learning Time. Its purpose is to give students the opportunity to make up missed assignments, complete homework, and receive 1:1 or small group assistance in a quiet, structured environment during school hours. Students have the opportunity to meet at least one additional time each week with their teachers for a one half hour block. Ask your student about it. As I survey students, it is rare that I find anyone who doesn't see the benefits.
8. Some important academic dates are coming up:
  - October 12 PSAT testing
  - October 13 Interim reports are sent home

Thanks for sending us your teenagers!

Parke Land