

## Attention Parents and Students Registered for the 2020 JMUES Snow Sports Program:

We are excited to be getting started with our first snow sports session on Thursday, January 2! Hopefully you have received info directly from Pats notifying you of some important details regarding the program and the mountain specifically. Read through carefully, as it may answer questions you have. If you have any others, feel free to contact us (Ms. Mitchell or Mrs. Goodman) via school email. If we don't know the answer, we'll do our best to find it out for you.

We and the other staff member chaperones will be holding a brief info meeting on Thursday, December 19 (during the school day) for the kids to introduce the staff members who will be with us each week. We encourage ALL the students that will be up at Pats, not just the ones that'll be on the bus but the other ones that are enrolled in the 'open' program as well to join us for this meeting. We plan to go over some important info regarding behavior/conduct expectations both on the bus and while at the mountain. Additionally, we'll discuss equipment, importance of tags, lessons, being a part of a group and making everyone feel comfortable and welcome regardless of their ability level! We look forward to having this opportunity to meet with all the kids, so please mention to your child about attending. There will also be a reminder on the AM and PM school announcements on that morning that they will hear.

### **Some reminders and heads up:**

1. Please have your child return their conduct form if they have not. We will give out extra copies at the meeting if they need one.
2. If there are additional people you'd like added to these emails (other parents, grandparents, etc., please let me know and we'll add them.) Also, the contact number I have in case of an emergency is the number you provided to Pat's Peak upon registration. If you would like another contact added, please let me know!

### **Some other info for you to take specific note of is:**

**\*Dates:** JMUES snow sports dates are **Jan.2, 9, 16, 23, and 30** (*\*Feb. 6 if needed as a make-up date.*)

**\*Cancellations:** Weather depending, Pat's Peak may cancel the program. **If school is cancelled on one of these Thursdays, snow sports will be cancelled as well.**

**\*Behavior:** The expectations during this program are the same as what is followed while at school, as defined in the JMUES Parent/School Handbook as well as on the conduct forms that were signed by parents and each of the students. We are representing Merrimack and JMUES and we expect everyone to behave in a respectful, responsible, and safe manner always. We strongly encourage kids to pair/group up while skiing and boarding for safety as well as for fun. Stay together and help to include everyone! Difficulty following any of the expectations may result in suspension from the program.

**\*Tags:** We will have the kids' tags if you have registered your child. We will hand out Tags to Open Program Kids on this Thursday at our meeting. The students riding the bus will be given their tags on the bus heading to the mountain on Thursday, January 2. Students will then be responsible for keeping it on their jacket. It is each student's responsibility to have their tag each Thursday to identify them as part of the program. Also, many of them have equipment rentals and money for food attached to the cards. **It costs \$10 for the student to replace a card if it is lost or misplaced.**

**\*Food/Drinks:** If your child does not have money on their tags for food, please make sure that they have cash or drinks/food from home to have at some point while we are there. They can stop at any point in the time we are there to eat (no designated time). Also, having snacks/water bottles are good for the bus ride headed there and back. If you purchased a café card, that money will be loaded onto your child's pass which will be securely attached to their ski jacket. You can add money onto your child's account at any time by contacting the number this number: **1-888-patspeak**. We will have all passes the first night and your child's name will be clearly printed on the front. Between sessions you/your child will be responsible for those passes. They do need to come with us each week and there is a fee for replacement cards if lost. If your child is bringing dinner, please make sure it is packed with their ski bag, so it isn't left on the bus with their school bag.

**\*Gear:** Parents are responsible for getting all personal ski/snowboard equipment to the school on Thursday mornings. No skis or snowboards can go on the bus in the morning. Please label everything, ideally with your child's name and JMUES. Equipment drop off (**for the students on the bus**) is between **8:10 and 8:30 am on each of the Thursdays** at school. Use **Bishop St. to enter the oval/drop off area, park in the parking lot in front of the smith gym, then come into the building through the Smith Gym doors**. Please be aware that we do not have anyone available before or after those times for drop off and keep in mind that this is a busy morning arrival time for all our students. Please neatly place gear in the marked area in the foyer.

**\*If your child just has a bag with snow clothes, they may take that on the school bus!!! NO skis, poles or boards may go on the school bus!!!**

If your child is renting, all fitting will be done at the mountain on the first afternoon. Please remember that every child needs to wear a helmet to participate and needs to be dressed appropriately (snow pants, jacket, gloves, non-cotton long underwear, etc.) Helmets are available for rent at an additional cost through Pats. If you forgot to add that on you can always call and do so by contacting the Pat's Peak Snowsports desk at 1-888-patspeak (1-888-728-7732) or 603-428-3245. **\*If your child is renting equipment from there, know that we will have chaperones designated to go into the rental area with the kids each week to make sure they get what they need.**

**\*Clothing:** Being properly dressed is essential to your child's safety. Skiers and Boarders should be dressed in layers so that clothing can be added or removed as needed. Remember that it may be colder at the mountain than back in Merrimack. Waterproof mittens/gloves and outerwear are a must. Goggles are highly recommended. Cotton clothing is not recommended. Pat's Peak reserves the right to refuse to teach a student who is improperly dressed.

**\*Bus:** On the actual bus ride students will have access to their school bag, so they can do homework, read, or have a snack. All gear is loaded under the bus and they won't be able to get to it until we arrive at the mountain.

**\*Departure/Pickup:** We leave the front lot at JMUES by 3:30 pm and typically return by 8:30-8:45. Meet us at JMUES main entrance office area for **pick up between 8:30 and 8:45 pm**. We will send out a group email as we depart the mountain to give everyone an estimated arrival time home, as it always varies a little. You are always welcome to meet us at the mountain. However, if your child takes the bus to the mountain and you choose to bring them home, please find one of the chaperones and sign your child out. **\*\*I can't stress this detail enough!!** Similarly, if anyone other than the listed parent/guardian will be picking your child up at JMUES, please let us know so we can be sure all children are being safely delivered home to you! **Your child's safety is always our biggest priority!**

**Typical Snowsports club afternoon:**

-Children are dismissed to the Smith Gym where they change into snow clothes and gather bags (Attendance taken)

- **3:15** *Bus departs JMUES (Attendance taken)*
- **4:15** *Arrive at Pats, get rentals, etc.- Our Home Base is in the smaller lodge*
- **4:30-5:30** *Free Ski/Board/Dinner*
- **5:30-6:30** *Lessons*
- **6:30** *Free Ski/Dinner*
- **\*Remember to sign your child out before 7:00PM if they are not returning on the bus with us!**
- **7:00-7:15** *Final check-in time at the lodge varies on the night but is usually during this time. (Attendance taken) Return rental equipment, gather bags, change, etc.*
- **7:15-7:30** *Bus departs for JMUES (Attendance taken prior to departure)*
- **8:30-8:45** *Arrive JMUES for parent pick-up*

We hope you found this to be helpful information as we want to make sure to cover all the bases to make the JMUES 2019 snow sports program the BEST ever! Feel free to contact any of us with any questions or concerns. Looking forward to this snowy season with your children!

Sincerely,

Ms. Claire Mitchell ([claire.mitchell@sau26.org](mailto:claire.mitchell@sau26.org))

Mrs. Cathy Goodman ([catherine.goodman@sau26.org](mailto:catherine.goodman@sau26.org))