



JTS intro: <https://www.wevideo.com/view/2485707606>

One of my favorite quotes suggests, “Education is what remains after I’ve forgotten everything I’ve learned.” It reminds me that real education doesn’t rest in the memory of our students but in their core and the heart of their character. Real education is lived and applied. Test scores and academic performance take center stage in the elementary classroom, but some of the most important things we teach our students can’t be quantified or scored. Character, integrity and Social-Emotional Learning may not be assessed in our gradebooks, but they must be intentionally woven into the fabric of our schools and our students’ education. It’s difficult to do that when most of the school day is allocated to reading, writing, and math. What if Jamison Elementary School could start each school day with kid-friendly character education reminders and relatable social-emotional learning lessons brought to life through our school-wide morning announcements? Much like the mission of PBS’s Sesame Street, The Jamison Today Show has a goal of helping our students grow smarter, stronger, and kinder. The Jamison Today Show, JTS for short, broadcasts daily announcements streamed to every classroom and the Jamison Community. The JTS studio is managed by an elite group of fifth and sixth grade students trained by a creative sixth grade teacher, Jon Reynard. Mr. Reynard goes above and beyond in bringing kid-friendly character ed content to every classroom through a variety of creative JTS features. Many of those features teach students the importance of respecting others no matter what religious, racial, cultural, or other differences exist, and prepare them to stand up for justice.

As an homage to Sesame Street, every JTS broadcast starts with a “Word of the Week.” Our words of the week usually highlight a specific pillar of character education and allow our students to kick off their school day with some positive vocabulary.

- Respect: <https://www.wevideo.com/view/3572089317>
<https://www.wevideo.com/view/3584162416>
- Attitude: <https://www.wevideo.com/view/3565528693>
<https://www.wevideo.com/view/3582241232>
- Service: <https://www.wevideo.com/view/3560294347>
<https://www.wevideo.com/view/3578478206>
- Ownership: <https://www.wevideo.com/view/3563148248>
<https://www.wevideo.com/view/3579913824>

-Unite: <https://www.wevideo.com/view/3663773437>

Jamison Elementary has seen an explosion of ELD students. As a way of making those students feel welcome in our school, Mr. Reynard oversaw the creation of “High Fives, Handshakes, and Hugs.” Each episode taught students how to say hello in a different language.

- <https://www.wevideo.com/view/2861047710>
- <https://www.wevideo.com/view/2883626429>
- <https://www.wevideo.com/view/2967141628>

It’s important for students to see positive role models doing the right things. “Shout Out” is another important feature that runs on JTS. “Shout Out” celebrates students who go above and beyond in doing what’s right.

- <https://www.wevideo.com/view/3584335917>
- <https://www.wevideo.com/view/3319020868>
- <https://www.wevideo.com/view/3232894357>

Under Mr. Reynard’s direction, The Jamison Today Show plays an important role in helping at risk kids get some positive attention and build confidence. Mr. Reynard works closely with our student support counselor to identify and help some quieter students come out of their shells through custom-made features that run on JTS.

- <https://www.wevideo.com/view/3010415887>
- <https://www.wevideo.com/view/2596159042>
- <https://www.wevideo.com/view/3221764918>

The two most impactful JTS social-emotional learning features that Mr. Reynard has created and produced are two shows called, “Leave it to Levy” and “Mr./ Ms. Manners”. “Leave it to Levy” is a spin-off of Leave it to Beaver. Two puppets, Leroy and Mee-Maw, help our school counselor explain a different character trait each month on our JTS morning show. Mr. Reynard writes humorous scripts that explain each character trait in a way even our youngest kindergarteners can understand. Mr. Reynard’s creative genius really shines as he brings Mee-Maw the puppet to life.

- <https://www.wevideo.com/view/2917748229>
- <https://www.wevideo.com/view/3082077815>

Mr./ Ms. Manners is a spin-off of Mr. Rogers Neighborhood. Mr. Reynard works with a team of sixth graders to produce monthly videos that highlight social emotional learning concepts in a fun way that engages students and challenges them to put them into action.

- <https://www.wevideo.com/view/3764320671>
- <https://www.wevideo.com/view/3764320759>

I haven’t even gone into the countless other features that are a part of our JTS morning show that may not directly focus on social emotional learning but give every student at Jamison Elementary an opportunity to shine and feel like they are an important part of our school. “Name that Toot” puts the spotlight on kids who play musical instruments (<https://www.wevideo.com/view/3705812722>). “Hide and Seek” helps kids get to know our building (<https://www.wevideo.com/view/3700678641>). “Friday Funnies” lets

little kids share the spotlight and tell jokes that make the entire school laugh (<https://www.wevideo.com/view/3691722805>). “Rolly Ball on the Wall” highlights different sensory walks featured in the hallways of Jamison Elementary (<https://www.wevideo.com/view/3660831481>). “Holi-Yays” showcases a variety of holidays celebrated all around the world (<https://www.wevideo.com/view/3653336919>). “Happy Birthday Shout Outs” get sent out to any students who have a birthday that we forget to announce on our morning show (<https://www.wevideo.com/view/3600214866>). “Golden Tray” encourages good behavior in the cafeteria (<https://www.wevideo.com/view/3187855119>). “Classroom Close-ups” highlights new teachers so all the students get to know new faces (<https://www.wevideo.com/view/3705807024>)

Mr. Reynard’s creative content and body of work is staggering. Each one of these features run on a monthly basis and take a ton of time, energy, and creativity to produce, but the pay-off is worth the effort. We know our JTS morning show is having a positive impact because people are telling us. Mr. Reynard and our JTS team have mentored at least six different elementary schools in and outside of Central Bucks School District in starting a student run morning announcement show. Matt Murray, the video specialist for CB South and the person responsible for implementing morning announcements across the district has repeatedly said our JTS morning show is the best elementary morning show in the district. We frequently hear from parents of students involved in JTS explaining the positive impact being involved in JTS has on students. It’s common for parents to share heartfelt appreciation for seeing their child’s confidence grow in taking the lead to get involved in their school and stand up for what’s right. Teachers tell us that our morning show is a spring board for their morning meetings and helps them integrate character education into their school day. Finally, we see a huge impact in our students. It’s common for younger students to give Mr. Manners high fives and even hugs as he walks down the hall. We’ve even had students suggest episode ideas to our Ms. Manners team because a certain social issue is popping up on the playground or cafeteria. After some inappropriate bathroom behavior was spreading through our school, our Mr. Manners team created a short episode on positive bathroom behavior and the inappropriate behavior stopped. Students overwhelmingly want to be involved in our morning announcements. Well over fifty percent of our fifth and sixth graders sign up to be involved with morning announcements.

Those are just some of the stories from our Jamison Today Show adventures made possible by Mr. Reynard. We’ve seen a huge change in how our students treat each other because of the lessons they’ve learned from our morning show. If education is what remains after we’ve forgotten everything we’ve learned, then our JTS morning show is truly educating students at Jamison. We’ve had two students come back to visit us after graduating college to tell us that they got the job they did because of our JTS morning show. One student went into video work and currently works for Marvel Studios because he fell in love with making videos when he was in fifth grade working on JTS. Another student went into computer security because he fell in love with the technology end of our JTS morning show. Mr. Reynard may not have the same platform as Jim Henson, Big Bird, and Sesame

Street, but he's just as dedicated and showcases the same unique creative genius in helping our students grow smarter, stronger, and kinder.