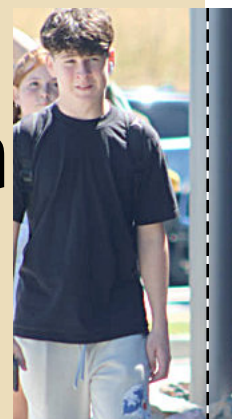


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# New Kids on the BLOCK

The band teacher, **Mr. Meska** graduated from college last year, making this year his first year teaching. He said, "I'm excited to be in my own room and actually teaching my own stuff." **Mr. Porreco** used to work as a coach at a different school. However, he chose JA "because of the staff; I know the staff and I knew I wanted to be in a good environment and I wanted to be associated with the families and students of JA."



## TIMES to Remember

Most thought the Back To School Assembly was fun, and a good way to ease into the first day of school. **Arthur Whitmyer** explained how he thought the assembly was "better than the one at the elementary school." If he could make it better he would "make sure everyone gets good seating." **Francesca Anstey**, a new 8th grader, however didn't feel welcomed, "I was a new kid, and I didn't know where to go."



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Sometimes being a new kid at a new school is scary. Especially when you are an 8th grader and everyone went to the same school a year before you did. After the first day of school, **Caleb Sharit** is walking with new 8th grader **Johnny Gray**. "It's fine, it's actually a pretty good school compared to my other school," Johnny said. It also was not a scary transition for **Heather Simonds**. "I really like it here, it's welcoming and fun," Heather explained.



With 13 years of teaching experience, **Ms. Moyer**, the math intervention teacher, started her first year at JA. "It's nice to have genuine conversations with people, I like to hear what's going on in people's lives, and when all the people around me are positive," Ms. Moyer said.



## You Got a FRIEND in Me

One friend group, **Maddie Wernert, Emma Jurek, Reyah O'Neill, and Krista Scofield** met in 7th grade. "I met Maddie because of a girl she didn't like. The others I met in my classes," Reyah said. "We like to eat food. I want go to the Butterfly Pavilion with them, but I don't know if my mom will let me," Reyah added.



Some friendships last a long time. **Olivia Fiorenza, EmmaLynn Blake, Piper Lanterman, and Hailey McKinley** have known each other since they were little. "I met Piper when I was eight months old when my mom set us on a blanket at my brother's baseball game. Olivia and I met in fourth grade, and Hailey and I had been friends since we were in third grade. We've all been friends ever since," EmmaLynn recalls.

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