**CRITERION AND GUIDELINE FOR “MOST IMPROVED STUDENT AWARD”**

**\*Updated 11/4/2024\***

**Purpose of this Semester Award**

To recognize and reward students who have shown a significant improvement in their academic performance from the immediate prior quarter to the end of the particular semester. This award, as is true of all JEF student awards / rewards, falls under the administrative responsibility of the JEF’s administrative officer and his/her team.

The first MOST IMPROVED STUDENT AWARD will be given in both grade categories starting at the end of the first semester of school year 2024/25 and, depending on the availability of funds, will be given at the end of every semester thereafter.

During the first quarter of each semester, students will only be awarded under the Making the Grade program. Then grades in the first quarter will be matched against grades in the second quarter and grades in the third quarter will be matched against grades in the fourth quarter to determine the most improved student for the particular semester.

**Eligibility**

Family members in grades fourth through eleventh are eligible for the award. The award will be given in two grade-level categories: grades **4th through 8th** and grades **9th through 11th.** Students in grades 1st through 3rd are not eligible for this award.

**Submission Process**

The student and his or her parents will complete and submit the awards submission form on the Jones family website arkansasjonesfamily.com. This is **the preferred way** to submit the application. A copy of the application may as a last resort be texted or emailed to the administrative officer, but this will be a rarely used method in that it will slow the administrative process and is discouraged. If there are questions about grades or any other matter,

a copy of the student’s official report card may be requested by the JEF.

Applications submitted later that 14 calendar days after the close of the semester will not be considered unless there are compelling circumstances as determined by the JEF president or the majority of JEF officers.

As the JEF works to upgrade its processes, monetary rewards for this and all other JEF programs may be electronically transferred into a parent’s or student’s bank account. Parents, please assure that your child’s link between his or her hard work and this reward remains strong.

The administrative officer and his or her team and the JEF treasurer will work to assure that the award is presented to the student or his or her parent as soon as possible--normally within five calendar days after final administrative approval. The total number of grades a student will be paid for is five (5) and all courses paid for must be CORE courses. As mentioned, this award will only be given at the end of each semester.

**Core subjects**

1. English / language arts--This includes literature, writing and communications skills.
2. Mathematics courses--this includes algebra, geometry, trigonometry, calculus, and like courses.
3. Science--this includes biology, chemistry, physics, earth science, and computer science
4. Social studies / history --this includes history, government, and economics.
5. Foreign languages and Fine Arts like music or visual art, and physical education courses.

**Rating and Ranking Formula:**

The formula is that each grade between the “prior received grade” and the “up-grade or current received grade” will count for 1 point and then the “up-grade or current received grade” is added to this or these points for one (1) additional point.

In the following example there is no in-between grade so you can only count the “up-grade or received grade,” the C, for the one (1) point. **This is an example of a one (1) grade jump or improvement (D to C) equaling 1 pt.**

In the following example you have one in-between grade, the C between grades D and B; that results in an earned one point. You then count/add the “up-grade or received grade,” the B grade, resulting in two (2) points. **This is an example of a two (2) grade jump or improvement (D to B) equaling 2 pts.**

Based on the above formula, a student who received an immediate prior quarterly grade of D and has earned an A in the current quarter will for example earn three (3) points.

The student with the highest average grade point improvement in the five core subjects listed above will earn the award. No points are awarded for improving from an F grade.

In cases where two students have the same high points in a category, both students will be given the award. Since this is a semester award, it will only be given at the end of the second and fourth quarter of the school year.

**Quick processing of this and ALL AWARDS is especially important.**

Should the administrative officer and staff or the treasurer need assistance getting this or any award paid timely, assistance will be given first by the JEF Vice President and then by other officers as requested.

**Compensation for the Award**

The Most Improved Student Award is an add-on Special Award. Students who win this award will first be rewarded under the “Making the Grade” program. This Special Award and it’s payment amount is in addition to the “Making the Grade” amount.

The amount of money paid for this award in school year 24/25 has been set by the JEF at $15.00. After consultation with the Jones Family LLC President, this amount may be changed up or down for a given school year by a majority vote of JEF officers.

This award / reward may be given in the form of a check, cash, a gift, credit card, a movie ticket or baseball game ticket etc. Should the compensation be other than money, the value of the compensation will be closely equivalent to the dollar amount set by the JEF for the particular school year.

For students in grades four through eight, the monetary award/reward will normally be given to the student’s parents. An award certificate or trophy may also be given.

The trophy for this and other Special Awards will be given only once a school year, but it should be noted on the family’s website and at award ceremonies that a student may have earned the award twice during the school year.

**Funding and Frequency**

While funding for the award will normally be paid out of funds received annually from the Jones family LLC, individual family members or a group of family members may volunteer to give money to the JEF to help with this or any other award. Please complete and submit the donation form on the family’s website.

The person or persons contributing money may be recognized on the family's website unless they choose not to be recognized. Students should be recognized on the family website each time the award is earned. There is no limit on the number of times a student may earn either of the Special Awards.

This is the end of the criterion and guideline for the **Most Improved Student Award.**