School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

**Academic Excellence**
*Personalized Learning is used to meet student needs through the use of flexible digital content, targeted instruction, data driven decisions, and student reflection and ownership*
*Teachers have a common planning time including special education teachers to plan, deliver, and assess quality lesson plans*
*JML offers an accelerated math curriculum, and high school courses which allow students to foster a deeper understanding of mathematics*
*90% of students are enrolled in a high school credit class by 8th grade*
*Intervention systems are in place to assist struggling learners
*JML engages in cross curricular projects to solve authentic, challenging problems and create a public product while connecting to experts in the field
*Formative and summative assessments are used to drive instruction, allowing teachers to remediate and enrich all students
*Instructional technology is embedded throughout instruction- we use Achieve3000, ALEKS, Discovery Ed, etc.

**Developmental Responsiveness**
*Deans, counselors, and secretaries move with students from 6th grade to 8th grade to build relationships
*Interventions in place include check in/check out, school within a school, spectrum program for gifted students, Bridges
*We host rising 6th grade transition day, visit 5th graders at their elementary school to ease anxiety, and sponsor Lions Leap- a week long summer camp designed to help students feel comfortable in their new setting
*Teachers trained on suicide awareness and prevention
*PBIS is embedded in all school facets and promotes respect, ownership, achievement and responsibility in the building; students are rewarded when showing these characteristics
*JML hosts a variety of events throughout the year to establish great community relationships: STEAM day, Big Night Out, Lunsford vs. Mercer charity b-ball game, Tailgate at JML
*Differentiated instruction, and continual professional development in project based learning, One To The World, and Personalized Learning emphasizes the value that all students can learn

**Social Equity**
*Special education students are mainstreamed into inclusion classes as much as possible- this includes having honors inclusion classes at each grade level and content area
*Case managers have their students for resource, allowing for knowing specific strengths and weaknesses toward goals, better communication with parents, and access to assisting with organization and completion of work
*JML houses several special education programs- IBS, MD, ID, ED and Autism
*ELL students receive sheltered instruction in English and are mainstreamed with support in math, science and social studies
*Staff hired mirror the demographics of our student body to create a culturally and linguistically diverse staff
*PBIS tier two and three interventions are in place
*Clubs and activities match student interest and need: Excellent Options, PRIDE and Fellowship of Christian Athletes are simply a few of the 30 free clubs kids can join
*Counselors conduct needs assessment at start of year to develop groups
*Students participate in Day at Work, College in Eight to explore post secondary school options
Organizational Support

*Instructional Leadership Team, comprised of department leaders, support staff and admin team members, meets once a month to discuss current issues, plan for instructional changes, reflection of practices, and eliciting all stakeholder voices in school based decisions

*Focus on VISION 20/20 to empower students to make meaningful contributions to their world

*Building divided into “houses” to make a large school feel smaller, to promote team identity, and to build relationships

*Dean, counselor, secretary move with students through the grade levels

*Faculty meetings replaced with teacher led staff PD to address SIP goals and division mission

*Student Focus Files are created at each grade level to identify at risk students and create action plans and assign teams to monitor progress of interventions

*Heavy presence online including a school Twitter page, Facebook account and updated, interactive website