



Jackson Middle School

Transition to Middle School Guide

Dear Parents and Students,

The transition from elementary to middle school is often an exciting, yet nerve-racking time for students and parents. Best case scenario would be that each incoming 6th grader feels prepared to enter Jackson Middle School.

The transition to middle school can be challenging for students due to the difference in middle and elementary school settings. It is important for parents to transition, as well as their child. One adjustment for parents and students is to know that in most cases students no longer will have one core teacher, but six or seven. This transition guide will provide general information about the functioning of the Jackson Middle School.

As educators and parents, we can greatly enhance students' comfort level through this transition change by exposing them to common concerns that may arise in middle school and equipping them with skills necessary to be successful. This transition guide has been created in an effort to support 5th grade students, parents, and families in this process.

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General Information



WHO'S WHO IN THE MIDDLE SCHOOL?

Students may notice when they get to the middle school that there are several adults around, but they are not always sure what those adults do and who to ask for help.

PRINCIPALS



Mark Broermann, Principal



Tara Richards, Assistant Principal



SCHOOL COUNSELOR

Abigail Duffy, School Counselor

One very important thing for students to understand is that their middle school counselor is there to help them. Jackson Middle School has a school counselor who is located in the main office. The counselor in the middle school will not be in the classroom as much as an elementary counselor might be, but they are available for individual and group sessions. The counselor is not an administrator and is not responsible for disciplinary actions.



NURSE

Lori Moore, Nurse

The school nurse can help with medication administration, supporting students with medical needs, and doing screenings for eyes and hearing. She can also assist with any emergency medical needs or first aid. Her office is located in the main office. If your child takes a daily medication, or you have medical questions regarding your student at school, please contact Mrs. Moore at lmoore@jcs.k12.oh.us

SECRETARIES



Carla Potter



Lisa Perkins

The school secretaries are the first people that you will meet in the office. They are an invaluable resource for solving any issue that may arise. The secretaries are also responsible for attendance, and other official paperwork.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER (SRO)

The school resource officer is not a security guard, but a Jackson County Sheriff's Deputy. His/her presence on the campus can be intimidating if students are unaware of the role the resource officer plays within the school. These individuals are on campus to maintain student safety. Almost all middle schools in the county have one, so it does not mean that a school is a tough school for having a full-time resource officer. The school resource officers are very approachable and they are another source of help for students.

For review....Who should I talk to?

- What if I come late to school?
- Having problems with a bully?
- Need to see the nurse or school counselor?
- Having problems with my locker?
- Had an argument with my friend?
- Failed a test or assignment?
- About keeping the school safe?

GLOSSARY OF MIDDLE SCHOOL TERMS

- **CORE CLASS**
 - Although elective choices may vary, all Jackson Middle School Students are required to take Math, English, Science, and Social Studies. These are considered CORE CLASSES.
- **BINDERS**
 - Most teachers require an organizational system of binders and/or folders. A 3-ring binder is usually required and acts as the student's desk, the place where he/she keeps most things for class.
- **BOOKBAG/BACKPACK**
 - These are required to be mesh or see-through, and can be used to carry around the students binder, Chromebook, and supplies.
- **CHROMEBOOK**
 - Every Jackson Middle School student has a district issued Google Chromebook. This is how students will access online learning modules, and do remote learning on ANY missed days.
- **AGENDA**
 - While Jackson Middle School does not issue an official agenda, they are recommended to help students work on their organization skills. Agendas can be as simple as a daily list of assignments written down on a piece of paper to a formal agenda binder. Consider speaking with your student to determine the best way to keep on top of assignments.
- **DISCIPLINE**
 - It is important that middle school students are aware early of the policies for the school. The student handbook will detail these policies for anyone who may have questions or concerns. Students need to understand the difference between elementary policies and middle school policies. Topics such as dress code policy and other common violations should be talked about at length with students. Though specifics cannot be addressed by the elementary school on every middle school rule, it is important to begin dialogue about some of the differences.
- **ELECTIVES**
 - These are classes that students take in addition to core classes that allow for variety in their day. Some examples include art, gym, choir, and band. In 6th grade, most schools require that students take keyboarding class. Students will also take physical education (PE).
- **END OF COURSE TESTING**
 - These tests are given to students who take high school level courses like Algebra, and are restricted to those in 8th grade.

- INCLUSION
 - Students with special needs can have their instruction provided to them in the regular classroom setting. Students with an IEP may be served in either the inclusion classroom or through a resource room depending on their specific area of need.

- LOCKERS
 - Students in the middle school will be assigned a locker and locks. The students will only have limited time to visit their lockers at the start of the school day, and before and after lunch. Teachers may provide time for students to go to the bathroom or their lockers. Teachers will keep copies of the lock combinations in case a student forgets their combination. Teachers will also provide students time to practice with their combinations at the start of the year.

- POSITIVE BEHAVIOR INTERVENTION & SUPPORT (PBIS) and CHARACTER EDUCATION
 - Jackson Middle School participates in PBIS. This is a program established with the school for teaching and rewarding positive behavior. Additionally, essential to students' growth and development, teachers incorporate character education lessons into their classroom curriculum. The traits that Jackson Middle School emphasizes are - Courage, Good Judgement, Integrity, Kindness, Perseverance, Respect, Responsibility, and Self-Discipline.

- SUPPLY LIST
 - By the beginning of the school year, parents and students will be provided with a list of needed supplies for a student to have for their core classes and electives. This list will also be posted online.

JMS Supply List 2021-2022

CLEAR or MESH BOOK-BAGS are permitted

It is recommended for students to have a Book Bag

Locker use will be limited throughout the day!

STUDENTS WILL BE PERMITTED TO CARRY BOOK BAGS THROUGHOUT THE DAY!

BASIC SUPPLIES for ALL 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade Students

*Pencils	*Colored Pencils
*Scissors	*Individual Packages of Tissues
*4 Pk Multi-Colored Highlighters	*2 Sets of Binder Dividers
*Package of Dry Erase Markers	*Package of Loose Leaf Paper
*Personal Pair of Earbuds	*Package of Cap Erasers

Grade 6- Class Specific Supplies	Grade 7- Class Specific Supplies	Grade 8- Class Specific Supplies
Language Arts 6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1- 3 Ring Binder (.5 inch) 	Language Arts 7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1- 3 Ring Binder (1.5 inch) 	Language Arts 8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1- 3 Ring Binder (2 inch) 3 Glue Sticks 1- Pkg of Post-it Notes Markers Optional
Math 6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1- 3 Ring Binder (1.5 inch) 	Math 7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1- 3 Ring Binder (any size) 	Math 8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1- 3 Ring Binder (2 inch) 1- Pkg of Mechanical Pencils 1- Pkg of Erasers 1- Ruler 1- Pkg of Graph Paper
Science 6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1- 3 Ring Binder (2 inch) 1- 2 Pocket Folder 	Science 7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1- 3 Ring Binder (2 inch) 1- Pkg of Reinforcers 	Science 8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1- 3 Ring Binder (2 inch) 1- Binder Dividers with tabs
Social Studies 6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1- 3 Ring Binder w/ pockets (2") 1- Pencil Pouch for Binder 	World History 7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1- 3 Ring Binder (2") 	History 8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1- Notebook Folder
Phys. Ed. 6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Notebook and Folder 	Phys. Ed. 7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Notebook and Folder 	Phys. Ed 8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Notebook and Folder
Band 6 Highlighters (blue, yellow, green, pink)	Band 7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1- 3 Ring Binder w/ pockets (1") 1- Bind Divider with tabs 	Band 8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1- 3 Ring Binder w/ pockets (1") 1- Bind Divider with tabs
Music 6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basic Supplies will be used 	Choir 7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 inch binder w/clear page slot on front. Dividers 	Choir 8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 inch binder w/clear page slot on front. Dividers
Computers & Career Exploration 6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basic Supplies will be used 	Health 7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Notebook 1 Folder 	Vocational Agriculture 8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Notebook 1 Folder
Art 7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1- Composition Book Wooden ruler, glue sticks, pencil pouch 		

- TRANSITION TIME

- This phrase refers to the time between classes and is usually a short-time of 3 to 5 minutes. This is typically adequate time for students to move between classes as long as students do not stop and talk or socialize with friends in the hallway. A bell will sound to notify staff and students of the end of one class period and the beginning of the next.

ACADEMICS



ACADEMICS

Letter Grading (Middle School)

In middle school, students earn letter grades of A, B, C, D, or F on their report cards. They may also be assigned a grade of "I" for "Incomplete" if, because of an emergency, they do not complete work by the end of the grading period. The "incomplete" becomes an F if the work is not finished by an assigned time. Letter grades have the following values:

A	94-100%
B	85-93%
C	70-84%
D	60-69%
F	Below 60%

In addition to academic performance requirements, students must meet the JCS attendance policies as well. Failure to meet the requirements of the attendance policy may result in failure of a class and retention.

GPA (Grade Point Average)

Middle schools' transition to letter grading allows students and families to calculate a GPA. Learning how to calculate your GPA is important, as the 8th grade year can impact the high school GPA.

To calculate your GPA you will need a few pieces of information:

Letter Value

Each letter grade has a corresponding value:

A	4
B	3
C	2
D	1
F	0

And each class has a credit value

Year Long Class	1.0
Semester Class	0.5

Taking these pieces of information, we can use the following formula to calculate GPA”

$$\text{MATH} = \frac{\text{_____}}{\text{(Letter Grade Value)}} \times \frac{\text{_____}}{\text{(Credit Value)}} = \text{_____}$$

$$\text{ENGLISH} = \frac{\text{_____}}{\text{LGV}} \times \frac{\text{_____}}{\text{CV}} = \text{_____}$$

$$\text{SCIENCE} = \frac{\text{_____}}{\text{LGV}} \times \frac{\text{_____}}{\text{CV}} = \text{_____}$$

$$\text{SOCIAL STUDIES} = \frac{\text{_____}}{\text{LGV}} \times \frac{\text{_____}}{\text{CV}} = \text{_____}$$

$$\text{SPECIALS} = \frac{\text{_____}}{\text{_____}} \times \frac{\text{_____}}{\text{_____}} = \text{_____}$$

Now, add the totals up, and divide by the total number of credits:

EXAMPLE: MATH = 2.0 x 1.0 = 2.0
ENGLISH = 3.0 x 1.0 = 3.0
SCIENCE = 3.0 x 1.0 = 3.0
SOCIAL STUDIES = 4.0 x 1.0 = 4.0
ART = 3.0 x 1.0 = 3.0
CHOIR = 3.0 x 1.0 = 3.0

TOTAL POINTS = 18
TOTAL CREDITS = 6

$$18/6 = 3.0$$

Honor Roll Recognition

Most middle schools recognize students who have made the honor roll. An honor roll is a list of students who have made either all A's (The All A honor roll) or who have made a combination of all A's and B's (The A/B Honor Roll) on their report card during each quarter's marking period. Middle school recognitions may include certificates, rewards, names being read on the announcements, lists of names in the local newspaper, and/or awards ceremonies.

Homework Requirements

Homework at the elementary level is used for skills practice and is an indicator of understanding of concepts. It is not supposed to be used to determine a student's level of proficiency. **In middle school, students have homework to complete every night, presentations to give in class, and big group projects to turn in.** It is the foundation for future tests. **Rising 6th graders must understand that they will be held accountable for correctly completing homework.** Students and parents should understand that the student is accountable for and responsible for completing any work missed at school. Although the absence may be due to illness or any other issue, the homework and classwork must be made up or will be recorded as zeros. Parents should encourage their students to find a homework buddy in their classes to ask about assignments and missed work when they are absent. Several middle school teachers have websites linked to the main website, as well as Google Classrooms, that can be accessed to find assignment information.

Time Management/Study Habits

In middle school, time becomes a precious commodity. Students normally have at least six classes in a school day - with six different teachers, six different expectations, and sometimes six different homework assignments. Along with being responsible for all of the above, students must also be responsible for managing time; both at school and at home. One major academic process that students must fit into their busy schedules is homework - whether completing homework assignments, major projects, or studying for tests. Learning and utilizing study skills will both qualify and quantify time for a 6th grader. Students should use completed work as a study guide, along with notes from class. When studying ahead, students should review notes each night.



DESCRIPTION OF CORE CLASSES

Sixth grade students study Math, English, Science, World Studies/History, Computers and Careers, and Physical Education. They can choose to participate in Band as an elective.

MATH State Standards rest on important “processes and proficiencies” with longstanding importance in mathematics education. They describe the characteristics and habits of mind that all students who are mathematically proficient, should be able to exhibit. The eight standards are:

- Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
- Reason abstractly and quantitatively
- Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others
- Model with mathematics
- Use appropriate tools strategically
- Attend to precision
- Look for and make use of structure
- Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning

ENGLISH or Language Arts (ELA) follows the State Standards to assist students in developing skills in reading, writing, speaking and listening, and language through experience with print and digital resources. Students will read a wide variety of text, with varying levels of sophistication and purpose. Through print and non-print text, the student will develop comprehension strategies, vocabulary, and higher order thinking skills.

SCIENCE

Traditional laboratory experiences provide opportunities to demonstrate how science is constant, historic, probabilistic, and replicable. Although there are no fixed steps that all scientists follow, scientific investigations usually involve collections of relevant evidence, the use of logical reasoning, the application of imagination to devise hypotheses, and explanations to make sense of collected evidence. Student engagement in scientific investigation provides background for understanding the nature of scientific inquiry.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Students in sixth grade will continue to expand the knowledge, skills, and understanding acquired in the fourth and fifth grade studies of Ohio and the United States by connecting those studies to their first formal look at a study of the world. Sixth graders will focus heavily on the discipline of geography by using the themes of location, place, movement, human-environment interaction, and region to understand the emergence, expansion, and decline of civilizations and societies from the beginning of human existence to the Age of Exploration.

COMPUTERS AND CAREERS

Technology is an ever-present element in all of our lives. In sixth grade, students will learn about safe technology use, applications and programs for school use through middle school and high school, careers in technology, robotics introductions, graphic design, and other technology and media skills.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The Physical Education courses meet the state standard for health and wellness for sixth grade. Students will learn individual and team sports, health and nutrition, and safety and hygiene.

ACADEMIC SUPPORTS

From time-to-time, students may need additional academic support. The recommended support model is to start by speaking with your student's teacher. If the student needs additional support, they may be referred to the after school program - SUCCESS. This program allows students to get academic and homework support with certified teachers after school. The program generally runs September through April. If your student is in need of additional support beyond these measures, please consider contacting the school counselor for a consultation.





Social and Emotional Growth

Problem-solving, Making Good Choices, and Responsibility

It is important to remember that students' first priority in middle school is to LEARN! That being said, social skills can greatly enhance their chances of having a positive environment in which to learn. Efforts and choices will directly affect grades, opportunities to participate in sports and/or other extracurricular activities, peer interactions, and relationships with adults - both at school and at home. Part of growing up and gaining independence involves gaining the trust of both teachers and parents. To do so, students must demonstrate responsibility and the ability to make good choices across settings. The students' ability to problem-solve and choose positive ways to interact with parents, teachers, and peers will aid in making their middle school experience successful.

MAKING AND CHOOSING FRIENDS

One of the cool but scary things about middle school is seeing all of the new faces. Knowing how to make new friends will be extremely important in the middle school setting. Several different elementary schools feed into the middle school, and students are assigned randomly to classes. As a result, students may not be on the same schedule as their friends from elementary school, but many students do not know anyone at all because they may have attended school elsewhere before coming to the middle school. Going to middle school is a great opportunity to make new friends. Some tips on making new friends are:

- Get involved in school activities
- Introduce yourself to students who sit around you in your classes.
- Choose different partners during group work assignments in your classes.
- Sit with different people at lunch
- Make an appointment with the school counselor for help with making friends.

PEER PRESSURE

Middle school is a time of great transition - emotionally, physically, and socially. All of these changes can either be nurtured, or hindered by peers. Remember, peer pressure can be either positive or negative. Examples of positive peer pressure might include encouraging friends to study by offering to study with them or motivating them to work hard at a sport. Examples of negative peer pressure include someone encouraging students to spread rumors, be disruptive in class, or skip school. In order to best handle social pressure, the following tips might be helpful:

- Find friends will similar interests, values, and beliefs
- Be assertive - tell friends what you like/don't like
- Don't use alcohol or other drugs
- Avoid situations in which you know that you could get into trouble
- Learn to handle conflict in a positive way
- Talk with trusted adults about situations that you don't understand and/or make you feel uncomfortable

BULLYING

Bullying is unfair (meaning the bully uses some sort of power over their victim) AND one-sided (meaning that ONLY ONE person or ONE group of people is engaging in bullying behavior in the situation). Bullying happens when someone keeps hurting, frightening, threatening, or leaving someone out on purpose. Bullying can include behaviors like:

- Physical violence and attacks

- Extortion and theft
- Taunts, name-call and put-downs
- Peer group exclusion
- Threats and intimidation
- Cyberbullying

Help is available to students who feel that they are being bullied. If a student witnesses a bullying situation, they have the power to be a part of the problem or a part of the solution depending on their reactions to the situation. They can make a situation worse by doing nothing, encouraging the bully, or pretending not to see what is happening. Students can HELP a situation by immediately reporting the situation to the nearest adult, by helping the victim get out of the situation and encouraging the victim to get help.

It is imperative that every student knows at least three appropriate things to say and/or do when they are victims of bullying. Another aspect of bullying involves forming cliques. While forming groups of friends with common interests are natural and healthy, cliques exclude students based on superficial things like “not pretty enough/rich enough/smart enough”. Stereotyping, discrimination, and negative social interactions with other groups are possible outcomes of joining cliques.

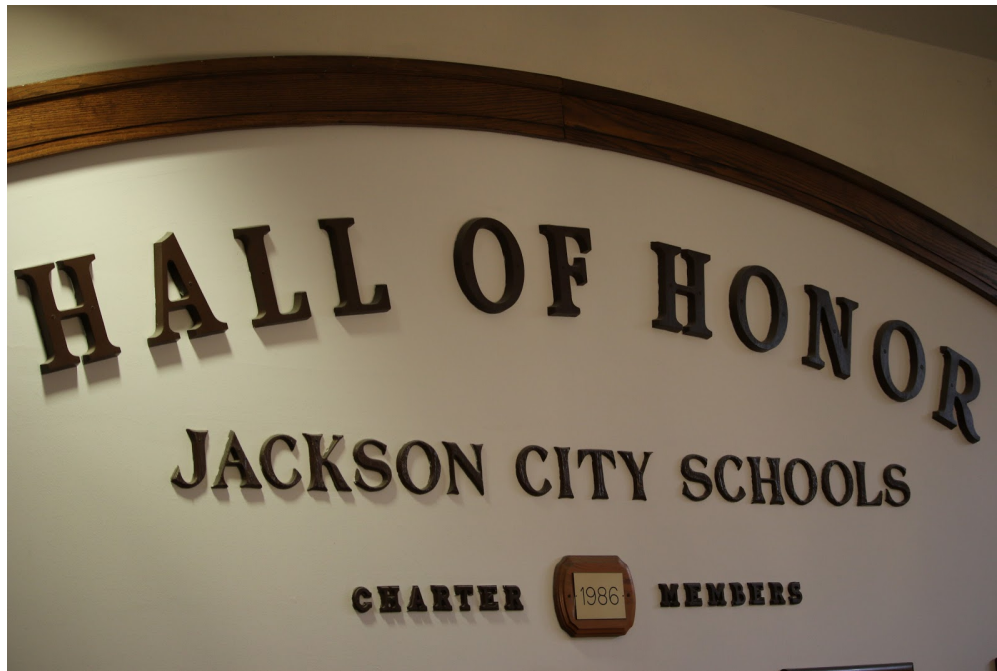
CYBERBULLYING

Cyberbullying occurs when a student uses a data device (phone, Chromebook, computer, tablet, etc) to bully or harass another student. This may occur in various ways including text messaging, posting messages on social media, online messenger services, or via email.

INTERACTIONS WITH OLDER STUDENTS

Most middle schools are designed so that 6th grade students have limited access to interactions with 7th and 8th grade students. Just as in elementary school, positive social interactions of all students are encouraged, and bullying is not tolerated. If students find themselves in uncomfortable situations in which they feel they need help, they should be aware that teachers, the school counselor, and any other school personnel are there to help.





Getting Involved - Extracurricular



GETTING INVOLVED IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

SPORTS

An activity that many students enjoy getting involved in when they come into middle school is sports. The opportunity to represent your school through athletics. JMS policy allows that only 7th and 8th grade students can try out for and participate on a sports team. However, there are ways that 6th graders can get involved.

BE A MANAGER

Most of the coaches in middle school will reserve the role of team manager for an eager 6th grader. Students wanting to be managers should be aware that it is a significant time commitment and could take away from other activities. Students interested in being a manager should contact the appropriate coach as soon as possible.

BE A FAN

Sixth-grade students should be encouraged to come to athletic events and support their teams and their school. Games are not only a great way to plug into the school, they are a great way to meet new friends and hang out with your old ones.

CLUBS

Like sports, some of the clubs only allow 7th and 8th grade students to participate. Usually, these clubs are considered honors and only students who maintain good grades as 6th graders are eligible to participate. There are some clubs and extracurricular activities that are available to 6th graders:

- Student Council
- Book Club
- Chess Club
- Media Team
- ROX

Clubs for 7th and 8th graders:

- Student Council
- Book Club
- Chess Club
- WEB
- ROX

Music/Band

Band and Choir are two other ways for middle school students to get involved in their school culture. If rising 6th grade students wish to participate in the band, they will need to participate in the summer program by noting their interest during the band recruitment process. Choir is for 7th and 8th grade students, and music class is available for those interested in 6th grade.

Please remember that your GPA from your 4th nine weeks this year will determine your eligibility for fall sports. All extracurriculars will be concerned about a student's grades and behavior. Be careful to set yourself up for the best number of choices. Parents and guardians should also be on the lookout for Sports Physicals notices in the mid spring.



Additional Information



Registering for Middle School

Families who are new to the district should begin by visiting the Central Office at 450 Vaughn Street to complete registration materials. Once students are registered and records are collected, students will be enrolled at their specific school. At the middle school, this means that the secretaries or school counselor will contact you once the student is enrolled and will notify you of the date to start.

Communicating with Middle School Counselor

If you need to speak with the school counselor regarding your student, student schedule, programming, or for community links and support, you can contact the school counselor via the main middle school line or through her email at aduffy@jackson.k12.oh.us. Understand that the counselor has many obligations throughout the day, but does seek to respond to all communication within 24 hours.

Making Information Accessible

In an effort to make support and information available, the school counselor will be sending email access to a parent support Google classroom at the start of the year. This means that parents and guardians should make sure that their email address is up-to-date in the school information. If you need to correct your information, please contact the school secretaries.

Transition Programs

Beginning in the 21-22 school year, we will be partnering 6th graders with a mentor 7th or 8th grade student. The goal of the program is to help acclimate students to the middle school, and to create leadership opportunities for all students.

Tips for Parents

It can be stressful for parents and guardians to navigate all the changes in middle school. Be assured that the school has resources and support for students and families. Communication with staff and with your student can create a critical bond to navigate through this time.

Stay Connected

Progress Book Parent Portal - The Progress Book Parent Portal is a way for parents to keep track of student achievement in real time. If you have any questions regarding access to the Parent Portal, please reach out to the school librarian.

Additionally, you can follow us online at <https://m.facebook.com/jcs.k12.oh.us/>