

JASPER MIDDLE SCHOOL - HOME OF THE DRAGONS

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Principal:Corey Thompson
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Counselor:Harriett Wilder
Academic CoachKim Hamilton



Corey Thompson
Principal

Welcome to Jasper Middle School for the 2019-20 school year. The beginning of school is always an exciting time. We look forward to welcoming our newest Dragons as well as our returning Dragons. JMS encourages families to be involved in school – whether helping with homework, attending a PTO meeting, parent-teacher conference, or volunteering – it is all important and let's your student know that you believe in them and that what they do at school is of great value. On behalf of the faculty and staff, we are especially ready to see the smiling faces of our students! We have two new assistant principals, a counselor, and new academic coach joining us this year in addition to several new teachers. This is an exciting time for JMS students as we continue to build on the foundation created in elementary school, preparing our students for all that is ahead. I look forward to a great year and getting to know many new students and families.

What we want our Parents to know

While beginning a new school can be

a tad bit scary, we want all of our parents to know a couple of important things that will make the transition a little easier.

First, make certain you know where morning and afternoon drop-off will take place. This year, both drop-off and pick-up will occur on Stegall Drive, in front of the school. This is a new procedure. There will be signs and staff members to assist in directing traffic.

Secondly, the fifth-grade/sixth-grade combination allows students to gain more independence and freedom. We are not an elementary school nor a junior high – we are the best of both worlds. We are working to develop students academically as well as socially.

We are here to serve our students and their families. If you have questions, a concern, or something positive to share, let us know. We are here to support you and your child. You can call the school or email your child's teacher or administrator. By working together, we can make the middle school experience a positive one for your child and your family.

What we want our Students to know

We know there are mixed emotions in leaving your elementary school and coming to a new school. Do not worry; your friends feel the same way! JMS is the first time all elementary students come together in one building. This is a time to make new friends and meet new people. It is a time to try new things, and just know that we have teachers, administrators and a counselor here to help you.

Drop-off and Pick-up Procedures

Morning car rider drop-off AND afternoon car rider pick-up for students will be in front of the school. Morning drop-off will begin at 7:50 a.m. and parents will drop students off at the front door area. Afternoon pick-up will begin at 3:30 p.m. For afternoon pick-up, parents will need to pull down to the gym stairs. Students will load and unload at the front sidewalk. Staff members will be present to assist students. Parents are asked not to exit their vehicles during the process.

After the initial drop-off and pick-up routines are established, students remaining after 4 p.m. will be sent to the afterschool program. Please be patient during the first couple of weeks of school as we work through this process.



What's new at JMS this year?

Our Connections classes will be offered in 9-week increments to ensure students can be exposed to as many options as possible. We will continue to offer yearlong Chorus in 5th and 6th grades and well as yearlong band to sixth graders. Ag-Tech is offer as a semester-long class for fifth graders and a yearlong class for sixth graders. All Connection classes will be located in the main building near the gym.

JMS will have two assistant principal positions this year and both APs are new to the school. Our new academic coach will be Mrs. Kim Hamilton, and Mrs. Harriett Wilder will be our new school counselor. We are expanding our positive behavior system to include a House system. Students will be divided into one of four houses and the house with the most points at the end of each 9 weeks will earn a House celebration. We have a new Parent Resource Center in the front office area with games, activities, and information on how parents can help their students at home. These resources are free to sign out.

Our Theme for 2019-20

This year's theme for JMS will be learning through experiences. If we think back to our days in school, we remember the learning experiences we had. The staff of JMS will work to provide those great learning experiences for our students this year in order to build leaders for tomorrow.

"Your education is a dress rehearsal for a life that is yours to lead."



- Nora Ephron

Buddy up

Many schools will give out classroom assignments a few days before the first day of school. Parents can investigate who is in their child's home-room and initiate contact with the parents of one or more of those students. Collectively, parents can make a buddy plan for students to arrive to school together and enter the classroom as a team. Coordinate clothing colors or have students wear another unifying symbol. This may allay fears and make the first day of school more fun.