



August 13, 2019

Dear Jackson Families,

Happy back-to-school time! The staff and I look forward to welcoming our Jackson students to a new school year, tomorrow, Wednesday, August 14th. I know I am speaking for all staff when I say that we are excited to have students back in our hallways and classrooms, filling them with positive energy and an enthusiasm for learning. This letter contains important information regarding the beginning of the school year.

New Staff

We are excited to welcome new staff to the Jackson family. Some staff members are new to District 45 and others are joining us from other schools in the district. Please join me in welcoming the following staff to Jackson:

- Mr. Aiello, Special Education Teacher
- Mrs. Baxtrom, 6th Grade Social Studies Teacher
- Ms. Daly, Special Education Teaching Assistant
- Ms. Kucik, 7th Grade ELA Teacher
- Mr. Mendoza, ESL Teacher
- Ms. Olvera, 7th Grade ELA Teacher
- Mrs. Reising, Special Education Teacher
- Mr. Rivera, Dual Language Teacher
- Ms. Vitale, Physical Education Teacher

Health Information

We encourage all students to get involved in school-sponsored activities. For those students interested in participating in Jackson athletics, the following information/forms must be completed and on file at school **before** the student is allowed to participate in any intramural or interscholastic sports program:

- 6th grade:
 - Completed State of Illinois physical (required for **all students** entering 6th grade) with the permission to participate in interscholastic sports marked, "yes"
 - Agreement to Participate in Interscholastic and Intramural Athletics
- 7th and 8th grade:
 - IHSA/IESA Pre-Participation form (completed by doctor and parent/guardian)
 - Agreement to Participate in Interscholastic and Intramural Athletics

Forms can be found on the Jackson website under the Athletics tab.



First Day of School

As I stated earlier, the first day of school is tomorrow, Wednesday, August 14th. This is a full day of student attendance (8:30 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.). Upon arrival to school, students should report to the bus plaza located on the north end of the building. ***If you are dropping off your child by vehicle, please pull as far forward in the plaza drive as possible.*** This will help with a smoother drop-off flow of traffic. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and attention to safety.

At 8:20 a.m., students will enter our doors through grade level entrances and report to designated locations. Staff will assist with this process. For your information, specific details are below:

- 6th graders: enter through door #4 and are escorted by 6th grade teachers to second floor classroom locations
- 7th graders: enter through door #5 and report to the Main Gym
- 8th graders: enter through door #5 and report to the Aux Gym

Once in grade level locations, students will receive a finalized copy of their schedule. Following schedule distribution, students will be dismissed and report to homeroom locations. During homeroom time, students will:

- connect with teachers and peers
- check/organize lockers
- turn in any homeroom supplies to homeroom teachers
- learn about building-wide behavior expectations

First Day of School Schedule

We will be running a special schedule for the first day of school in order to accommodate time for an extended homeroom and PBIS kickoff assembly at the beginning of the day. Below is the schedule for the first day of school:

Period	6	7	8
Entry Bell	8:20 a.m.		
Homeroom	8:30 - 9:15		
PBIS Assembly	9:15 - 10:00		
1	10:03 - 10:28		
3	10:31 - 10:56		
4	10:59 - 11:42	10:59 - 11:12 (HR)	10:59 - 11:42



		11:12 - 11:42 (L)	
5	11:45 - 12:28		11:45 - 11:58 (HR) 11:58 - 12:28 (L)
6	12:31 - 12:44 (HR) 12:44 - 1:14 (L)	12:31 - 1:14	
7	1:17 - 1:42		
8	1:45 - 2:10		
9	2:13 - 2:38		
2	2:41 - 3:15		

Chromebooks

Chromebook distribution will take place, for any students who did not receive a Chromebook during Jaguar Jump-Start, on August 14th and 15th. Grade levels will be called down to the LRC when it is time for those students to pick up Chromebooks. All students will be informed/reminded of usernames and passwords during homeroom time.

Please take the time each evening to remind your child to charge his/her Chromebook. Devices should be charged at home nightly. Also, please remind your child of the importance of keeping usernames and passwords confidential.

Curriculum Night

Please mark your calendar to join us for Curriculum Night on Wednesday, September 4th at 6:00 p.m. Curriculum Night is an opportunity to meet your child's teachers and hear about some of the wonderful experiences your child will have for the 2019 - 2020 school year. Feedback provided from families who attended last year's curriculum night was positive. Below is the curriculum night schedule:

Time	Schedule Details	Location
6:00 - 6:10 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administration Welcome Support Staff Introductions 	Main Gym
6:15 - 6:35 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical Education Fine & Practical Arts 	Main Gym
6:40 - 7:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6th Grade Teacher Presentation 	Main Gym



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7th and 8th Grade Open House 	Families Visit Classrooms and Meet Classroom Teachers
7:05 - 7:25 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7th Grade Teacher Presentation 	Main Gym
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6th and 8th Grade Open House 	Families Visit Classrooms and Meet Classroom Teachers
7:30 - 7:50 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8th Grade Teacher Presentation 	Main Gym
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6th and 7th Grade Open House 	Families Visit Classrooms and Meet Classroom Teachers

School Announcements & Extracurricular Information

Wondering how to stay “in the know” with everything that goes on at Jackson? Check out the **Daily School Announcements** link on the Jackson website homepage. This link takes you to the daily announcements shared with students at the start of each school day. Please use this link to keep up-to-date with activities and events available for your child. This link is also available in PowerSchool if families prefer to set up a daily email notification. Event information can also be found on the Jackson website calendar.

While you are on our website, check out the **Activities, Clubs, & Sports** link under the “About Us” tab. This link will bring you to a document that lists all the activities, clubs, and sports offered at Jackson. For each extracurricular listed, the following information is included:

- Activity, club, or sport name
- Grade levels eligible for the activity, club, or sport
- Meeting times
- General description of the activity, club, or sport
- Supervisor/coach contact information

PTA

Our first PTA meeting is August 22nd at 6:15 p.m. in the Jackson LRC. Please contact Laura May, our Jackson PTA president, at mayboys4@hotmail.com with any questions or ideas. All PTA meeting dates and times are posted on the Jackson website calendar.

Jackson Spirit Wear

New spirit wear is an exciting part to the start of a new school year! Check out and order our newest Jackson spirit wear. You can access the Jackson PTA online store by visiting <https://jacksonmiddleschoolspirit19.itemorder.com/sale>. Special thanks to the Jackson PTA for helping families and staff build their spirit wear collection. The order deadline is August 26th.



Attendance Line

A friendly reminder that it is the responsibility of a parent/guardian to contact Jackson in the event his/her child will be absent from school. Please plan to report your child's absence, prior to 9:00 a.m., by calling our attendance line at **630-516-7368**. Parents/guardians will leave a voicemail reporting their child's absence. In the voicemail, please include the following information:

- Child's name and grade level
- Date of absence
- Reason for absence

Student absenteeism should be kept to the minimum; however, the School Board recognizes that some absences are unavoidable. The following are valid causes for a student's absence and will be considered "excused," as specified in Section 26-2a of the Illinois School Code:

- Illness
- Observation of a religious holiday
- Death in the immediate family
- Family emergency
- Other situations approved by the school principal

Lastly, middle school is a wonderful time for students to discover their talents, expand their academic knowledge, and become equipped for their high school years and beyond. Jackson staff is committed to providing a secure, engaging, and rigorous learning environment where all students can excel. We welcome our families and look forward to partnering with you to make this year successful. GO JAGUARS!

Warmest Regards,
Jill Amrhein, Principal
Jackson Middle School