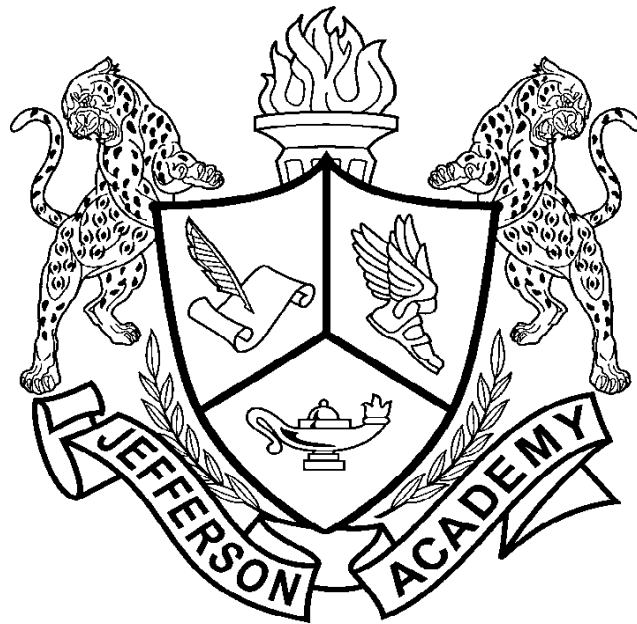


# **Jefferson Academy**

## **Junior High**



### *Course Description Guide*

### *2020-2021*

*11251 Reed Way*  
*Broomfield, CO 80020*  
*Phone (720) 887-1992*  
*Fax (720) 887-2435*

#### **JEFFERSON ACADEMY MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of Jefferson Academy is to help students attain their highest academic and character potential through an academically rigorous and content-rich educational program that prepares students for the rigor of college.

# Welcome!

Welcome to Jefferson Academy Junior High. We are thrilled to have you join our community. Our goal is to prepare you for the multi-faceted rigors of college and beyond by offering challenging and engaging courses, athletic opportunities and numerous social activities. The information in this course catalog provides an overview of courses that are generally offered at Jefferson Academy Junior High; some course offerings will change on a yearly basis to allow a broad selection of opportunities to enrich your junior high school experience.

JA is a small school so we must focus our attention...on you. Besides challenging and interesting courses, the JA staff, faculty and administration have the opportunity to get to know each of you individually and are excited to offer personal attention to help you accomplish your goals.

On behalf of the Jefferson Academy Junior High team, welcome to your school!  
We are excited to get to know each and every one of you.

Sincerely,

Heather Grantham, Principal

Marti Porreco, Assistant Principal

Maurice Williams, Dean of School Culture

Craig Melville, Athletic Director

Kyrie Adams, School Counselor

# ADMINISTRATION

Phone 720-887-1992

Fax 720-887-2435

Name	Position	303-465-xxxx
Attendance	Call to report absences	7605
Mrs. Heather Grantham	Principal	7616
Mr. Maurice Williams	Dean of School Culture	7614
Mrs. Marti Porreco	Assistant Principal	7617
Mr. Craig Melville	Athletic Director	7615
Mrs. Kyrie Adams	School Counselor	7621
Ms. Mary Beth Mellott	Post-Secondary Advisor	7622
Ms. Amanda Parsons	School Social Worker	7691
Mrs. Sharon DesJarlais	Administrative Assistant/Athletics	7620
Mrs. Joan Larson	Business Manager	7618
Mrs. Anne Leoni	Administrative Assistant/Registrar	7619
Ms. Angie Murray	Clinic Aide/Receptionist	7605
Mrs. Renee McCarty	Front Office Coordinator	7606
Mr. David Bollig	Special Education Teacher	7674
Mr. Clint Bott	Facilities Director	7675

## INDEX

Required Core Courses	4
Required Health Education/PE	7
Fine Arts Elective Options	8
General Elective Options	9
Technology Elective Options	12
Assigned Alternative Electives	13
Junior High Sports Program	14
Student Activities/Organizations	15
Annual Student Field Trips	16

# COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

## Required Core Courses:

### **ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS 7 (COURSE FEE)**

Students will explore the different genres of literature including short stories, novels, essays, speeches, graphic novels, and poetry as developed by the Common Core Curriculum. The students will read selected poems, *The Outsiders*, a play called "Fools," and selected short stories. In addition to these core works, students will read novels of their choice and complete analytical book reports as well as reading groups focusing on classic short stories with varying themes. Students will explore the idea of conversing with literature through the use of literary terms, group discussion and writing. Along with the literature component, students will also expand their knowledge of expository writing, narrative writing, research writing, and the writing process. Students will also be required to critically evaluate their writing with an emphasis on writing narratives, informative essays and argumentative essays. Students will also focus on grammar, spelling, and vocabulary.

Students will be given an opportunity to earn Honors distinction on their transcripts in their science, language arts, and social studies classes. Any student who wishes to participate in this process may choose to do so by meeting the established criteria and deadline for the course. Core teachers will detail Honors criteria to all students at the beginning of each semester.

### **ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS 8 (COURSE FEE)**

At the eighth grade level, Common Core Standards emphasize comprehensive historical exploration of texts and the human context. Among these are *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Animal Farm*, various short stories, and Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night." In these, as well as other works, students will be able to recognize and understand the use of various literary techniques, and application of literary lessons to real life. In addition to these core works, students will read novels of their choice and complete analytical book reports as well as reading groups focusing on classic short stories with varying themes.

Students will be given an opportunity to earn Honors distinction on their transcripts in their science, language arts, and social studies classes. Any student who wishes to participate in this process may choose to do so by meeting the established criteria and deadline for the course. Core teachers will detail Honors criteria to all students at the beginning of each semester.

### **MATH 7**

This full-year course meets the 7th grade Colorado Standards. Students will build on their previous knowledge of properties of rational numbers, algebraic expressions and equations, probability, statistics and geometry. A particular emphasis will be placed on the overarching concept of rates, ratios and proportionality. The curriculum is supported with a workbook-style textbook that students will be able to write in. There will also be access to online materials via the workbook publisher.

*Workbook 7th: enVisionmath 2.0, 7th Grade, Common Core 2017, Pearson.*

### **MATH 7/8 (ACCELERATED 7TH GRADE & PRE-ALGEBRA: FOR QUALIFIED STUDENTS)**

Prerequisites: Math 7 or Course Equivalent

Math 7/8 is a full year advanced 7th grade math course for students that have proven both advanced in math understanding, and have shown a strong work ethic and responsibility in their prior classes. It includes both 7th and 8th grade Colorado State Standards. The aim of the course is to prepare students for the rigors of Algebra I. It includes the core knowledge and foundational material of Math 7 (see course description) along with the rigorous pre-algebra component of Math 8 (see course description), as well as material such as the Pythagorean Theorem, and rotations, reflections, and dilations using Coordinate Geometry. Simplifying exponents and radicals are also covered. The curriculum is supported with a workbook-style textbook and online materials.

*Workbook 7th: enVisionmath 2.0, 7th Grade Accelerated, Common Core 2017, Pearson.*

### **MATH 8 (PRE-ALGEBRA)**

This course does not satisfy high school graduation requirements for mathematics. This course covers the

fundamentals of algebra, statistics, and geometry. The algebraic portion first semester emphasizes the development of a strong number sense, graphing ability, and the utilization of algebraic manipulation. Students will explore linear equations and systems of linear equations as well as and other functions including quadratics, exponentials, and inverses. Emphasis will be given to the development of mathematical descriptions to everyday problems. During the second semester, practical applications of data collection and statistical analysis are thoroughly investigated. In addition, the geometric relationships of length, area, and volume among two and three dimensional shapes are examined extensively. *Textbook: enVisionmath 2.0, 8th Grade, Common Core 2017, Pearson.*

### **ALGEBRA (FOR 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE QUALIFIED STUDENTS)**

Prerequisites: Pre-Algebra Course

This course meets 9th grade Colorado standards and requires a C or better to pass. Students will learn to demonstrate proficiency in the four basic math operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division) with rational numbers and algebraic expressions. Students will manipulate, solve, and evaluate linear and quadratic equations with one variable. They will also learn to correctly graph ordered pairs on a coordinate system, interpret graphs of linear functions, write and manipulate linear, quadratic and exponential functions, and manipulate linear equations in two variables. Students will extend and connect their understanding of two variable concepts by solving systems of equations and inequalities. The course will also include factoring equations with an emphasis on quadratic functions. The course will culminate with quadratic equation factoring. *Textbook: Algebra I, Common Core 2015, Pearson.*

### **SCIENCE 7 (LAB FEE)**

Seventh grade Science is a melding of Core Knowledge and Common Core Colorado State Standards. Units learned include Scientific Method and Metric System and selected Physical and Life Science topics.

Students will be given an opportunity to earn Honors distinction on their transcripts in their science, language arts, and social studies classes. Any student who wishes to participate in this process may choose to do so by meeting the established criteria and deadline for the course. Core teachers will detail Honors criteria to all students at the beginning of each semester.

### **SCIENCE 8 (LAB FEE)**

Eighth grade Science is a melding of Core Knowledge and Common Core Colorado State Standards. Units learned include major topics in Biology, Physics and Astronomy, including topics such as Newtonian Physics and Ecology.

Students will be given an opportunity to earn Honors distinction on their transcripts in their science, language arts, and social studies classes. Any student who wishes to participate in this process may choose to do so by meeting the established criteria and deadline for the course. Core teachers will detail Honors criteria to all students at the beginning of each semester.

### **SOCIAL STUDIES 7**

Seventh grade social studies will focus on the foundations of American government and America in the twentieth century. In accordance with the Core Knowledge Sequence we will be exploring American History on a decade by decade basis. Students will learn about the trends, events, and people that shaped our modern society into what it is today.

Students will be given an opportunity to earn Honors distinction on their transcripts in their science, language arts, and social studies classes. Any student who wishes to participate in this process may choose to do so by meeting the established criteria and deadline for the course. Core teachers will detail Honors criteria to all students at the beginning of each semester.

### **SOCIAL STUDIES 8**

The focus in 8th grade social studies will be a comparison of American, World, and Cultural revolutions. As consistent with both the Core Knowledge and Common Core curriculums, students will use a variety of techniques to gain an understanding of major historical revolutionary time periods following the colonization of the new world. Topics will focus both American and international revolutionary struggles

that shaped the world today.

Students will be given an opportunity to earn Honors distinction on their transcripts in their science, language arts, and social studies classes. Any student who wishes to participate in this process may choose to do so by meeting the established criteria and deadline for the course. Core teachers will detail Honors criteria to all students at the beginning of each semester.

## **Required Health Education/Physical Education Course:**

### **HEALTH EDUCATION/PE (COURSE FEE)**

This course will be offered as a 7th/8th grade combined course for one quarter. This course will incorporate the health topics generally related to teen wellness. The course will meet the classroom requirements of the Teen Living Course. Students will complete Final Exam taken online at the end of the quarter. This course also involves the instruction in fundamental skills in various sports and games. Students will demonstrate the concepts and skills every Colorado student should know and be able to do throughout their preschool through twelfth-grade experience:

1. Movement Competence and Understanding
2. Physical and Personal Wellness
3. Emotional and Social Wellness
4. Prevention and Risk Management

Developing and maintaining lifelong wellness habits involves decision-making and communication skills that sometimes can determine life-and-death outcomes. The skills and knowledge gained in health and physical education provide the structure that makes it possible to prevent risk behavior and adopt healthy lifestyles.

## **Fine Arts Elective Options:**

### **CHOIR (7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade Course, COURSE FEE)**

This is a non-audition group of students, grades 7-12. This is a performance group and the quarter will culminate in a concert. Students will learn the music of different composers and styles suited to varying levels of ability and experience with singing. Students will be working on music theory throughout the quarter, all quizzes and tests will be provided. This course requires a course fee, which covers the cost of music and the theory book.

### **CONCERT BAND (COURSE FEE)**

Concert Band is designed to promote students' technique for playing brass, woodwind, and percussion instruments and cover a variety of band literature styles, primarily for concert performances. Band class takes place every morning during Zero Hour.

### **EXPLORATION IN DRAMA (COURSE FEE)**

This elective will introduce students to the foundations of theatre and acting. Students will learn beginning acting skills through improv, dance, monologue and scene work. Students will learn the historical foundations of acting. Students will learn about set and costume design giving them a well-rounded understanding of what it is to work and act in the world of the THEATRE!

### **MUSIC HISTORY (COURSE FEE)**

Music is one of the most fundamental forms of human expression. The first portion of this course will give students the knowledge they need to understand and describe musical techniques that musicians use to express themselves. Students will learn about such concepts as rhythm, melody, and harmony through lecture, video, analysis of primary source music, and basic performance. The second portion of this course will place musical expression within its historical context. Students will trace the parallel development of musical forms with contemporaneous social and historical movements and analyze potential connections between the two.

### **THEATRE ARTS (COURSE FEE)**

This course is designed to build the performance skills of the students through the preparation and performance of selected musical and non-musical productions and scenes. Sing, move, and act their way through this quarter-long class. This course culminates in a daytime and evening performance.

### **VISUAL ARTS 1 (2D only, COURSE FEE)**

This course will provide students with an introduction to the visual arts focusing on only using two-dimensional materials such as drawing, relief, painting, printmaking, etc. Students will explore art as artists by directing their own learning, investigating their own ideas, and making artistic decisions on their own accord. Students have choice in everything from subject matter to technique. Choices become meaningful to the student's interests and what they want to explore as artists. Compositional Design and the Elements of Art (line, shape, color, value, texture, space and form) will be taught to further guide the students in their artistic decisions. Each project will include new techniques for the students to choose from so they are seeing many types of art mediums. Due to the continuous introduction of different art techniques, this gives students a chance to receive advanced instruction by taking Visual Arts I multiple times.

### **VISUAL ARTS 3 (3D only, COURSE FEE)**

This course will provide students with an introduction to the visual arts focusing on only using three-dimensional materials such as paper mache, plaster, pottery, etc. Students will explore art as artists by directing their own learning, investigating their own ideas, and making artistic decisions on their own accord. Students have choice in everything from subject matter to technique. Choices become meaningful to the student's interests and what they want to explore as artists. Compositional Design and the Elements of Art (line, shape, color, value, texture, space and form) will be taught to further guide the students in their artistic decisions. Each project will include new techniques for the students to choose from so they are seeing many types of art mediums. Due to the continuous introduction of different art techniques, this gives students a chance to receive advanced instruction by taking Visual Arts III multiple times.



## **General Elective Options:**

### **CAREER EXPLORATION**

In this career exploratory class, students will research career paths, develop skills to compete successfully in the workplace, and learn how to make important decisions in regard to their future. Students will have an opportunity to broaden their knowledge of personal skills, talents, interests and strengths necessary to be successful in the career of their choice. Students will participate in taking various career inventories as well as skills and ability assessments in order to apply these results in choosing a career.

### **COMMUNICATION SKILLS**

This course will provide an understanding of interpersonal communication concepts and theories, including those related to perception, verbal channels, nonverbal channels, listening, and relationships. This is an opportunity for students to examine their own relationships and communication habits in order to identify those that work and those that may be causing problems. The class will be a safe environment in which to develop and practice new interpersonal communication skills as well as public speaking. Included in the course is an in-depth analysis at new communication trends and the consequences of social media. Students will explore presentation skills, fundamentals and the evolution of the communication process, listening and feedback skills, as well as types of conflict and managing conflict.

### **COOPERATION & CONFLICT 2 (WARFARE – FROM GUNPOWER TO NUCLEAR AGE)**

This course continues the examination of military innovations and major armed conflicts. Highlights include the history of gunpowder, naval warfare, the Samurai of feudal Japan, Napoleonic Wars, European wars of conquest against the Native Americans and Aztec Empire, airpower, WWI, WWII, guerrilla tactics, the morality of nuclear weapons, drones and the future of war.

### **CREATIVE WRITING**

This course is designed to aid students in their creative expression, as well as their quality of writing. Students will write poetry and short stories both in fiction and nonfiction. This course will focus on effectively delivering writing to a variety of audiences and in a variety of styles. Students will read examples of creative writing – short stories, essays, and poems. They will also read and evaluate articles on the art of writing. Students will heavily review and peer-review their writing and focus on the masterful use of mechanics. Students will create and present a portfolio of their writing as a final project.

### **DEBATE**

This course will strive to engender critical thinking and argumentative strategy. Students will receive information on both sides of current issues, some which have sparked debate in the media, other which may directly affect young adults. Student will engage in in-class debates and participate in brainstorming sessions on how to present a compelling argument, as well as lessons on how to conduct effective, reliable research on the pros and cons of a given topic.

### **HISTORY OF SPORTS 2 (SPORTS IN AMERICA)**

“In our play we reveal what kind of people we are”-Ovid 1st Century AD

It is with this quote in mind we peel back the years of ESPN, twitter, and fantasy football to get to the heart of the relationship between the American people and our unique pastimes. In this class students will get an in-depth background of America's love affair with sports. From Naismith and the peach basket to MMA and everything in between, we will learn the origins of sports, how sports evolved, then we go out and play them ourselves! \*Please note that although this course is offered by the Social Studies department, students should expect light physical activity.

### **INTRO TO PSYCHOLOGY**

This course will introduce students to psychology, and how it influences their lives within specific environments. Topics, which will be covered, include what is psychology, a brief history of psychology, theorists and theories such as behaviorism, cognitive theory, humanistic theory, and sociocultural theory. Students will work individually and in groups discovering the dynamics of biological,

environmental, and social actions and their relationship to human behavior.

### **LIFETIME FITNESS EDUCATION**

This course will challenge your physical ability by increasing your knowledge in body training, eating habits, and flexibility. This class will be suited for athletes and non-athletes, whether you are looking to increase your speed and strength for your athletic sport or simply wanting to become educated in living a healthy active lifestyle. Living the correct healthy lifestyle can change your life. Classes will involve physical activity every day from weight lifting/body weight training, lifetime games and activities, and even some variations of yoga to reach a healthy state of flexibility. An exciting class that kids will enjoy but will also further their knowledge of how to stay healthy while loving what they are doing.

### **LITERATURE AND FILM (COURSE FEE)**

Everyone has walked out of a theater, exclaiming, "The book was better!" This course seeks to understand why. Why, if society so universally agrees about book-to-movie adaptations, do directors continue to make these attempts? We will read books, watch related movies and evaluate the directors' choices and authors' intent. Students will have an opportunity to try their hand at scripting scenes from in-class books as well as evaluating and discussing the way society consumes information and stories. Students who complete this course will be able to analyze Literature and pop-culture phenomenons, as well as our need for stories in all forms.

### **LITERATURE MYSTERY (COURSE FEE)**

Do you like to write creatively and with suspense? Do you like to watch suspenseful movies and shows? Do you know what a red herring is? Well, this mysterious elective might be just the thing for you! This elective will explore the elements of the mystery genre. We will read some mentor texts, watch movie and television clips, and even research some creepy places in our State to understand the mystery genre. We then will develop our creative writing skills to tackle writing and publishing a mystery by the end of the quarter!

### **MEDICAL MYSTERY**

What is wrong with M'Kenna? M'Kenna has a set of symptoms. Through the course of this quarter, we will explore Human Body Systems in order to diagnose what is going wrong with her, and help her seek treatment.

### **MYTHOLOGY**

What can you learn about people from the stories they tell? In this class, students will learn about the worlds of the ancient Greeks, Egyptians, and Norse through a study of the myths that each culture preserved and retold throughout the generations. Students will become familiar with the worlds of Zeus, Ra, and Thor through a mixture of reading, play-acting, discussion, art, and other creative projects, with a focus on drawing connections between the myths told by each culture and the fundamental themes found throughout human history.

### **PARTICULAR TOPICS IN U.S. HISTORY (NEW YORK)**

In a class that jams in close to 400 years of local history into 10 weeks come study American history by the way of the Five Boroughs. As the center of business, finance, theater, art, immigration, and technology, New York City has captivated the world. Students should expect an in-depth hands-on classroom experience focused on Gotham art, fashion, cuisine, geography, and lifestyle. So put yourself in a New York State of mind, grab a slice and an egg cream and join us in the city that never sleeps. It's up to you NY, NY!

### **SCIENCE ELECTIVE (FRONTIERS OF SCIENCE AND IMAGINATION)**

A blend of science and creativity, this course investigates both the strangest and the most fundamental phenomena in science and pushes the boundaries to speculate what is "beyond the known". This course is ideal for the uber open-minded science aficionado who is also a bit of a daydreamer - a thinker, a seeker, and an explorer. This course is designed to provide students with a solid core of scientific knowledge while providing a creative outlet to both (1) question our current understanding and (2) explore "what if?" scenarios. The science component will cover conceptual descriptions of advanced content such as Einsteinian relativity, black holes, quantum mechanics and the nature of life itself.

Following this, the course continues and examines the psychology of perception and inner workings of the brain. The course concludes by delving into the nature of reality, the self, and consciousness. Throughout the course, particular emphasis will be placed on researching the latest scientific breakthroughs and ideas. Most importantly, the focal point of this exploration will be the student's own ideas, contribution, and research on possible alternatives to our current thinking and understanding. This course will use scientific media along with creative outlets of expression including journaling, projects, and class discussions, to inspire and propel the imagination.

### **SPANISH 101 (COURSE FEE)**

This class will continue to build on concepts learned in elementary Spanish classes and also serve as a transition into required high school level Spanish classes. For students who have not taken any elementary Spanish, this class will serve as a basic introduction to the language and culture, with the goal of exposing students to language prior to high school.

### **SPECIFIC SPORTS (MARTIAL ARTS)**

The way of the hand and foot" this course will be designed to teach youth discipline, respect, and confidence plus physical fitness, self-defense, and lots of fun! The martial arts offer teens an opportunity to grow in mind and body in a non-competitive atmosphere. Several guest instructors from the surrounding martial community visit the class to share invaluable techniques and provide resources. From the physical improvements, to the enhancement of both mental and spiritual well-being, martial arts paves the way for students to reach their peak potential.

### **TRACK & FIELD (TEAM SPORTS, COURSE FEE)**

This course is for a junior high track and field team. Students in this class will compete in after school events against other junior high teams. The class will focus on training and conditioning for running, jumping, and throwing events. It is for both boys and girls and no prior experience is required.

## **Technology Elective Options:**

### **INTERACTIVE MEDIA (COURSE FEE)**

We live in a world of technology. This course will merge technology and the creative arts giving students the opportunity to explore different forms of digital media to present their ideas and creative individuality. Digital projects will include experimenting with a variety of technology, video, photography, audio, graphics, typography, and Photoshop. This course is a personal journey and just like anything else, the process involves practice, experimenting, trial and error and of course, creative exploration of one's own ideas.

### **MEDIA LITERACY**

Media Literacy is a way of thinking about the media; a way of understanding media messages to gain more control over them. In this class, we will be deconstructing media content -- photographs, newspaper articles, advertisements, tv shows, movies, documentaries, websites, social media platforms, and more. Students will develop an understanding of how this media content influences us and how we in turn can influence others. This course aims to help you become media literate, but also to think more strongly about the media as they relate to digital citizenship. Students will apply critical thinking to media messages and to use media to create their own messages, which is a key 21st century skill. Students will have a hands-on experience utilizing a variety of computer software and technology.

### **PRE-ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY (COURSE FEE)**

The primary focus of this class will be the development of critical thinking skills. We will develop these skills through puzzles, research, engineering, and many problem solving projects. The in-class hands-on projects include: robotics (LEGO Mindstorms), model rockets, trebuchets, roller coasters, computer physics engines, and bridges. This class may be repeated to challenge students to improve on their previous work and designs.

### **PUBLICATION PROD: YEARBOOK**

Application Required

In this course, students will work as a team to create the junior high yearbook. Topic coverage includes media ethics, photojournalism, typography, caption and copy writing, layout and design principles, graphic design, advertising, sales, and video production, all of which are applied to the school yearbook. Yearbook design includes creating aesthetically pleasing layouts, using enhancing graphics, and effectively using color. Integral to yearbook journalism is developing and carrying out a theme, both visually and verbally, that suits Jefferson Academy. Students in this class will have a hands-on experience utilizing a variety of computer software and technology. Leadership is an expected role for all students, which will manifest in assisting others, taking responsibility for themselves and others to make a product for the school, and by representing the yearbook staff in a positive way in the school community. **Offered during the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> quarters. Students are expected to be enrolled in all sections of this course. This course requires 100% student dedication and after school time is required for this class.**

## **Assigned Alternative Electives:**

### **ADVISEMENT (ONLY FOR STUDENTS WITH MULTIPLE Ds AND Fs)**

The objective of the Academic Focus class is to help students become more organized, gain a greater understanding of course work content and to provide opportunities to increase the likelihood of improving grades. Students will learn organizational skills, goal setting, study skills, check grades weekly, have time to complete homework assignments, and have access to a teacher for assistance.

### **LEARNING SKILLS (ONLY FOR STUDENTS ON AN IEP)**

The Learning Skills course is designed to further student success in regular education courses, increase personal study skills, and achieve individual IEP goals and objectives. Students will develop learning strategies, receive assistance with class work and get instruction in writing. Academic Assistance is not a substitute for homework completion at home. It is designed to support students in their regular courses and increase academic skills. Parents/guardians are asked to promote homework completion at home.

### **STRATEGIC READING (ONLY FOR IDENTIFIED STUDENTS)**

Strategic Reading Intervention is designed to improve the needs of students who are "below grade level" or have scored/tested "below average" in the previous semester standardized testing for Reading. This may be in the areas of comprehension, fluency, vocabulary, and phonics. The course includes individually, self-paced practice, audio presentation testing and verification of various CBT (computer based technology) reading comprehension disciplines. One of the programs utilized is Mindplay, a research based reading comprehension training program that will track student efforts with proven results and excellent reporting tools. This reading program can/may be accessed at any time from any device, with individual login information. Mindplay Virtual Reading Coach (MVRC) is an effective online reading program that improves reading abilities. It permits students with diverse skills and unique needs to read with increased control and precision. Another graphic based tool used for listening/comprehension practice and testing is Flowcabulary. This is a grade appropriate, current event, classroom interactive program that uses fun music and rap lyrics to practice and test comprehension, while allowing students to discuss current events. Areas of instruction for public speaking/presentation skills, listening, and research will also be covered.

## **Junior High Sports Program**

Junior High sports will offer the opportunity for all interested students to try out for 2020-2021 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter and 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter sports (girls volleyball, boys basketball) in May 2020. Tryouts for 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter and 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter sports (girls basketball, girls soccer) will be in October 2020.

Based on assessed skills, coaching staff will select particular students to be part of the competitive teams, placing them in the Team Sports class. These teams will practice during the school day, and compete in after school contests and tournaments with area middle schools. The competitive Team Sport classes have a \$100 fee and require a current physical and completion of the online participant registration paperwork.

General physical education classes are offered to all students and have a uniform/lock fee.

### **\*TEAM SPORTS: GIRLS VOLLEYBALL (COURSE FEE)**

Tryouts: TBD - Students must attend all days to be considered for the team.

Class is offered 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter: Practices every day during school, competitive games after school.

### **\*TEAM SPORTS: BOYS BASKETBALL (COURSE FEE)**

Tryouts: TBD - Students must attend all days to be considered for the team.

Class is offered 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter: Practices every day during school, competitive games after school.

### **\*TEAM SPORTS: GIRLS BASKETBALL (COURSE FEE)**

Tryouts: TBD - Students must attend all days to be considered for the team.

Class is offered 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter: Practices every day during school, competitive games after school.

### **\*TEAM SPORTS: GIRLS SOCCER (COURSE FEE)**

Tryouts: TBD - Students must attend all days to be considered for the team.

Class is offered 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter: Practices every day during school, competitive games after school.

### **\*TEAM SPORTS: TRACK & FIELD (COURSE FEE)**

No tryouts. This team must be selected on the Course Selection Form during the course selection process. Class is offered 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter: Practices every day during school, competitive meets on weekends.

### **\*CROSS COUNTRY (COURSE FEE, After school sport): late August to mid-October**

Practices and meets after school; days and times to be determined.

### **\*BOYS SOCCER (COURSE FEE, After school sport): late August to mid-October**

Practices and games after school; days and times to be determined.

**Coach Maurice Williams: [motamwilliams@hotmail.com](mailto:motamwilliams@hotmail.com)**

### **\*BOYS BASEBALL (COURSE FEE, After school sport): mid-March through May**

Practices and games after school; days and times to be determined

**\*A current physical and completion of online participant registration paperwork is required for participation in all Team Sports.**

## **Junior High Student Activities/Organizations**

### **BOOK CLUB**

Junior High Book Club meets during lunch multiple times throughout the semester to discuss a book we've all read, answer trivia questions, and eat donuts. Students are able to join any Book Club session and do not need to commit to every meeting.

### **BRAIN BOWL**

This is a face-paced general knowledge game in which students match wits with other teams from JA and other schools. There are buzzers, a host, and questions on almost anything you can imagine. If you have ever seen Jeopardy this is the version for kids!

### **BUILDERS CLUB**

Builders Club is a student-led community service organization supported by Kiwanas. We offer many events throughout the year for our members to choose, including Newborns in Need, Adopt-A-Street, and Operation Christmas Child. Builders Club is open to all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students.

### **CHESS CLUB**

Chess Club is an informal club meeting weekly to play matches and learn strategies. All levels are welcome. No experience necessary.

### **CLIMBING TEAM**

Season usually runs from October through February with practices on Tuesdays and Thursdays. JH students are not eligible for competitions, but are welcome for practices. Fees apply.

### **CODING CLUB**

Coding Club is open to any student who wants to learn more about programming and coding computers. Students learn to code with mini lessons, challenges, and projects. As members gain experience, the club will attend coding competitions both online and in person. Programming language is currently Python but may change based on member interest.

### **GAMING CLUB**

Do you like games?!? Board games, card games, strategy games and even video games are the topic of this course. If you enjoy gaming, then join gaming club, where you can have a few hours to de-stress and meet fellow gamers. Gaming club is open to all ages.

### **GAY-STRAIGHT ALLIANCE (GSA)**

The Junior High GSA is student-run organization that unites LGBTQ+ and allied youth to build community and organize around issues impacting such individuals in school and the greater community. Meetings are held weekly during lunch.

### **NATIONAL JUNIOR ART HONOR SOCIETY**

The National Junior Art Honor Society (NJAHS) is designed specifically for junior high school students (grades 6-9). In 1989, the National Art Education Association began the National Junior Art Honor Society program to inspire and recognize students who have shown an outstanding ability and interest in art and to generate interest in art programs at the secondary levels and beyond. Students who join NJAHS get a chance to create art with their peers to service our community through art. In addition, students hold art events to fund raise to be considered a nationally recognized society and for a chance to go on field trips to immerse themselves into the art world. We have done everything from creating a children's illustrated book, working with senior citizens, Paint & Sip fund raisers, face painting at Fall Fest and more! Students are encouraged to contact Mrs. Roberts for more information.

[www.arteducators.org/community/national-art-honor-societies/learn-more](http://www.arteducators.org/community/national-art-honor-societies/learn-more)

### **NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY (NJHS)**

Students who have a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or greater are invited to apply to the Jefferson Academy National Junior Honor Society. Students who are selected (based upon character, leadership, service

and scholarship) work on individual and group community service projects. This program gets junior high students prepared for the high school National Honor Society program which they can apply for at the end of their sophomore year.

### **PERFORMING ARTS**

This club meets twice a week after school and is open to all secondary students. Jefferson Academy is proud to be the home of Thespian Troupe #89258 The Entourage. Students will produce at least one play and participate in the County and State Theater Festivals. All students are encouraged to audition for a role and/or participate in the technical side of making productions successful.

### **REMOTE CONTROL CLUB**

RC Club is an informal club that meets most Fridays after school to share a passion for operating remote-controlled vehicles. These include cars, drones, planes and boats. We meet on campus and occasionally at nearby parks. While most members have their own vehicles, the club does have its own vehicles and provides training for anyone looking to get started in this hobby.

### **STUDENT GOVERNMENT (JUCO)**

Prerequisite: Elected, teacher recommended and interview

Junior High student government is composed of responsible and motivated student leaders who wish to be actively involved in establishing and maintaining communications within the school and promoting and maintaining school pride and spirit. JUCO plans several dances, pep assemblies, community service projects, and activities throughout the year. There will be an informational meeting and application process in the Fall.

### **WINDS/STRINGS ENSEMBLE**

We are currently offering a Winds & Strings Ensemble Tuesdays & Thursdays mornings (7:30-8:15am).

## **Annual Student Field Trips**

### **ELITCHES**

All 8<sup>th</sup> grade students can participate in the end of year trip to Elitches.

### **NEW YORK/WASHINGTON, DC History Trip**

This trip is offered to all 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. Students are invited to be part of this educational one-week trip touring many historical sites throughout Washington, DC during the spring of the school year. Students are encouraged to raise money through several fundraising opportunities to afford this trip.