

John Adams Middle School

Co-Curricular Clubs 2019-2020

ART CLUB

This club allows all 6th, 7th and 8th graders an opportunity to work together to create Art for the school community. Due to the nature of this club, space is limited to 30 students.

BAND

- **6th Grade Band**

This group is open to all current 6th Grade JAMS Band students. The 6th grade band was designed to help introduce students to the middle school band setting. It offers students the opportunity to come together as a large ensemble with students at their music level. This band also serves as a feeder to the 7th and 8th grade band. Many goals are set for this ensemble. Musically speaking, students are introduced to concepts of blend and balance. Socially, these students have the experience of belonging to a group, where they are motivated to do their personal best, and are expected to be outstanding “team members”.

- **7th & 8th Grade Band**

This group is open to all current 7th & 8th Grade JAMS Band students. The 7th & 8th grade band plays literature of a higher caliber. These students are expected to work together to prepare music for upcoming festivals. This band focuses on preparing 8th graders for their high school experience. These students continue to work towards becoming a better band through exploring a higher level of musicianship. Through these before school sessions, the students have the experience of belonging to a group, where they are motivated to do their personal best, and are expected to be outstanding “team members”.

- **Jazz Band**

Jazz Band is a select group. Current band students may audition for this 20 piece group. We work on understanding the music we call Jazz through performing and active listening. Students perform concerts throughout the Spring. Several students in this group are given the opportunity to be soloists in this venue. Because this group is extremely select, students are accountable for playing their own parts. Sign-up information can be found on the jazz band google classroom. See Mrs. Buckelew’s for code.

BOOK LOVERS CLUB

Book Lovers Club is a place where those who love to read can gather together in a stress free environment. The objective of the club is to read student selected, teacher approved novels as a group as a means of sharing fun personal connections, answering questions, or just simply sharing in the joy of reading! Students are responsible for acquiring the novels chosen from either the school or public library and attending scheduled meetings. See Miss Richards in room 209 if you have any questions!

BRAIN GAMES CLUB

Students will spend the first half of the club using problem-solving skills to creativity and collectively find a solution to a posed problem or puzzle. The second half of club time will be used for students to bring in their own school appropriate “brain games” to challenge other students. These can include but are not limited to: Scrabble, Dungeons and Dragons, Monopoly, Backgammon, etc.

Students will be encouraged to talk with one another and practice communication based skills, along with strategic problem solving and negotiation skills. The teacher will participate in the “brain games” to build relationships with students while supervising the games themselves.

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CHESS CLUB

This club will be used to encourage friendly competition via organized chess tournaments for students to practice their chess skills and challenge each other. We will also use instructional videos/websites to learn the basics of the game and/or acquire higher-level skills and strategies.

Creative Writing Club

This club provides a safe classroom environment for students to write freely and expressively; to write stories and poems that will be shared amongst fellow club members. Students will participate in writing stories of their choice and competing in various writing contests! They will have a fun opportunity to not only tell their stories, but to hear the fascinating stories of fellow club members.

CHOIR

Students will have plenty of opportunities to develop their solo and choral voice, hone their social and leadership skills and appreciate the values of perseverance and discipline through rehearsals and performances in different ensembles of the choir. Students have plenty of opportunities to sing solo and in smaller ensembles. Students have lots of fun making new friends and participating in planning movements and choreography in certain choir songs. Students who belong to choir classes may also participate in Central Jersey, New Jersey, All-Eastern and National Honor Choirs upon the choir teacher's recommendation. The choir goes on a yearly trip to the NJMEA Middle School/Junior High Choral Festival in Rutgers or Rowan University and a show in New York City.

- **Sixth Grade Choir**

Open to ALL 6th Grade JAMS students interested in singing; No auditions required; meets every Friday, 7:40-8:20 am. Starts on October 4, 2019. There's a CHOIR Meet and Greet Rehearsal for all 6th, 7th & 8th Grade Choir members on Wednesday, Oct. 2, 2019 with snacks. Just bring your own drink.

- **Concert Choir**

Concert Choir is the large choir that's open to ALL 7th and 8th Grade JAMS Students interested in singing, no auditions needed. 6th Grade Bel Canto members are also invited to join; meets every Wednesday, 3-4 pm. Rehearsal starts on October 2, 2019.

- **Bel Canto**

Auditioned Choir; open to 6th Grade & 7th & 8th Grade in the Choir/Music Classes; meets every Thursday, 7:45-8:20 am; Bel Canto auditions are Sept. 25, 3:15-4 pm and Sept. 26 & 27, 2019, 7:45 - 8:20 am. Bel Canto members are also part of the Concert Choir. The last Men's rehearsal to learn the audition song is Monday, Sept. 23 at 7:40 am. The last Women's rehearsal to learn the audition song is on Tuesday, Sept. 24. The last combined Men & Women's rehearsal to learn the audition song is on Wednesday, 7:40 am. Bel Canto officially starts on October 3, 2019, 7:40am.

- **Women's Ensemble**

Women in 6th, 7th & 8th Grade BEL CANTO; auditioned ensemble; meets every Tuesday, 7:45-8:20 am. Officially starts on Tuesday, Oct. 8, 2019

- **Men's Ensemble**

Men in 6th, 7th & 8th Grade BEL CANTO; auditioned ensemble; meets every Monday, 7:45-8:20 am; officially starts on Monday, Oct. 7, 2019.

- There's a **CHOIR Meet and Greet Rehearsal for all 6th, 7th & 8th Grade Choir members on Wednesday, Oct. 2, 2019, 3-4 pm** with snacks. Just bring your own drink.

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COURTYARD CLUB

The Courtyard Club is for students who are not afraid of work and getting dirty! Club members work collaboratively on enhancing the school through garden and spatial design, planting flowers, cleaning flower beds, and taking an active role in fundraising through many school wide sales such as bake sales.

DEBATE CLUB

Club members will have opportunities to share their opinions and explore different sides of current issues. While holding debates, members will also have opportunities to fine tune public speaking, persuasion, and research skills, while using statistics and facts. All students are welcome to join friendly and competitive debates over current topics chosen by members.

“DIY” Craft Club

If you are crafty, creative and like working in teams, this club is for you! The “DIY” Craft Club would provide members with a creative, comfortable, and collaborative learning atmosphere to learn and create “do it yourself” crafts. Crafts are both thought-provoking and educational. Our club would allow members the freedom to investigate and explore a variety of different subjects and themes such as culture, art, science, and math with an emphasis on creative problem solving, self-direction, and innovation.

DRAMA

JAMS Drama will produce a large-scale spring musical on June 3rd & 4th. There will be an interest session for anyone interested in joining Drama. We will announce the show, important information for cast and crew, and changes to the program at the interest session. You can attend Thursday, September 26 from 3:00-4:00pm in Room 207.

There is a \$70 production fee for all cast and crew, which includes a tshirt.

Cast - Singers, Dancers, and Actors

- There are opportunities for actors, singers, dancers. If you want to audition, you must come to one of the audition days.
- Cast rehearsals will be Mondays and Fridays from 3:15-6:00pm in the JAMS Cafeteria from October to June. Extended and/or additional rehearsals will be held in May; also tech weeks will be mandatory.
- Actors will be “on-call” based on their part/role; they will only attend when their role/position is scheduled.
- Music rehearsals will start in October.

Stage Crew

- Stage crew is open to any JAMS student. has opportunities for art, crafts, props, tech, makeup, hair, costumes, organization, and leadership.
- Crew will run October to June. We can work with crew members regarding their schedule to make it possible for them to join. Leaders will be selected from the crew in early 2020.

JAMS Drama does not conflict with JAMS music programs; however, actors and crew leaders can not be in both Drama and Odyssey of the Mind (OM). Please list all conflicts on your sign up form, and we will try to work with you.

We will host a Parent Meeting to discuss the upcoming year. The date is to be determined. It’s important that your parent/guardian does not miss this meeting!

Join this year’s Google Classroom for more information; the code is posted outside of Room 207 and Room 208 after the information session. Please see Mrs. Malone in Room 207 or nicole.malone@edison.k12.nj.us with any questions.

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FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America)

Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) “inspires and prepares students to become community-minded business leaders in a global society through relevant career preparation and leadership experiences” as outlined in the organization’s website. The program provides business education, leadership development, confidence, character, patriotism, efficient financing, and community service to students through a variety of academic competitions, educational programs, select college scholarships, conferences, and award portfolios. At the middle school level, there are a variety of events and programs to participate in including the elevator speech, community service projects, multimedia/ website development, and a critical thinking team performance. FBLA strengthens and refines skills in business, financial literacy, community service, public speaking, and much more. With opportunities for leveled competitions, community outreach, membership recognition, and awards, this club has tremendous potential for success.

FCCLA (Family, Career and Community Leaders of America)

Personal growth and leadership development are at the forefront of the FCCLA mission. By completing service projects and participating in competitive events, students gain important leadership skills they take with them for life. Students have opportunities to demonstrate leadership at every level of the organization.

Involvement in FCCLA offers members the opportunity to expand their leadership potential and develop skills for life - planning, goal setting, problem solving, decision making and interpersonal communication - necessary in the home and workplace. While FCCLA does weave in cooking, this club offers ways to improve one’s leadership skills and personal motivation!

FORENSICS

Students will become familiar with the various methods utilized in forensic science to solve crimes through Math, Science, and Technology. Students will learn about the history of forensic science, how to classify fingerprints, apply techniques like chromatography, blood spatter analysis, and dental impressions, reconstruct a crime scene, and solve a murder mystery.

JUNIOR THESPIANS

The International Thespian Society (Junior Thespians) is an honor society for theatre arts students with 2.3 million members inducted since 1929. There are more than 4,700 schools that participate and over 125,000 active inductees a year. It brings distinction to students, theatre programs, and schools. Students are provided assessment, competition, performance, and leadership opportunities. Pride, confidence, motivation, and confirmation will be instilled by recognizing student accomplishments.

Membership to ITS includes tangible benefits of pins, certificated, member cards, and publications. ITS provides clear, attainable goals, keeping students motivated. ITS celebrates work of students involved in all aspects of theatre. Students can participate in state events to expand educational and theatrical horizons by providing exposure to theatre arts educators, professionals, and peers; at state events, students can participate in competitions and develop a sense of community in a school and a state. There are potential opportunities to participate in the Junior Festival.

Student leadership will be promoted through troupe officer positions. There are opportunities for community-wide recognition and support including a national food drive. The troupe may participate in competitions and events. The troupe will manage fundraising initiatives, plan and host the induction ceremony, track student participation and achievement, plan the cast/crew party, and plan the Broadway trip.

Graduated students become Junior Thespian alumni and begin their high school careers with half the points needed for Thespian induction at JP Stevens. Students who join the Drama Club may become eligible for Junior Thespians.

KNIGHTLY NEWS

Calling on all aspiring news broadcasters! The Knightly News is looking for motivated 8th Grade Knights to produce JAMS weekly news casts. We are looking for anchors, filmers and producers. The club will meet once a week during 8th grade

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lunch but you will be filming and editing throughout the week. Our final product is the ever popular newscast on Friday mornings.

KNIGHTS FIT FOR LIFE CLUB

Are you interested in weight lifting, circuit training, boxing (must provide your own gloves), crossfit, or just fitness altogether? Are you a student athlete looking to keep your fitness up on or off season? In the Knights Fitness For Life club we will explore all different types of training and work out styles while having fun at the same time. Come join us Wednesdays after school for a great workout with friends!

MATH COMPETITION CLUB

This club is for exceptional and high-achieving math students who are passionate about Math and would like to compete in a fun and academic environment. Members will participate in both in-school and out-of-school Math Competitions. All interested students will take an entrance exam in which 25 students will be selected to participate. The entrance exam will take place on Wednesday, September 18th at 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm in the cafeteria.

ODYSSEY OF THE MIND

Odyssey of the Mind is an international educational program that provides creative problem-solving opportunities for students from kindergarten through college. Students apply their creativity to solve problems that range from building mechanical devices to presenting their own interpretation of literary classics. They then bring their solutions to competition on the local, state, and World level.

ORCHESTRA

- **6th Grade Orchestra**

Is open to all 6th grade orchestra students. This ensemble performs basic to intermediate level repertoire. Rehearsals are scheduled bi-weekly, as well as for special dress dates prior to concerts. We perform at annual Winter and Spring Concerts, the North Edison District Orchestra Festival, the CJMEA Festival and the annual orchestra field trip.

- **7th & 8th Grade Orchestra**

Is open to all 7th & 8th grade orchestra students. Similar to the 6th Grade Orchestra, rehearsals for this group are scheduled bi-weekly, as well as for special dress dates prior to concerts. This ensemble performs more repertoire and repertoire that is intermediate to advanced levels. We perform at the Winter and Spring Concerts, the North Edison District Orchestra Festival, the CJMEA Festival and the annual orchestra field trip.

- **The Chamber Orchestra**

Is a balanced, auditioned ensemble that performs advanced level repertoire. This ensemble is open for audition by those students who are in an orchestra class and who perform with either the 6th or 7th & 8th Grade Orchestras. Auditions are blind and take place early in the school year. This ensemble rehearses weekly and has a goal of performing without a conductor. The Chamber Orchestra performs at all of the concerts listed above, as well as invitational and school / community service performances.

PBSIS CLUB

The PBSIS Club is for students who want to make JAMS a better place where “respect, responsibility, and excellence occur all day, everyday”. Students will have a voice in our school and work with the Faculty PBSIS Committee. It also promotes school spirit which instills a sense of Knight Pride and brings us together as a school community.

ROBOTIC ENGINEERS

Students in the Robotics Engineers club will use Lego Mindstorm EV3 to build robots, write code, and to program robots to do various tasks. Experience with coding and/or Lego Mindstorm EV3 is preferred.

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ROCK DRUMMER'S CLUB

This club is designed for intermediate drummers. Although beginners are welcome to attend, it is designed to enhance the abilities and skills of a drum student that has already mastered the basics. We listen to established Rock bands and learn the drum patterns. As well, drum students can bring in music of their own to learn those patterns. All in all the Club is designed to enhance the musical ability and style of "a student of the drums."

SCIENCE CLUB

Science Club will provide students a highly engaging environment to improve and enhance their understanding of Science. They will be participating in activities/experiments organized by the Club and also the activities of their interest that promotes the use of technology to enhance their learning in Science.

STUDENT AMBASSADORS

The 8th Grade Ambassadors is a student group at JAMS comprised of select 8th graders who have demonstrated academic excellence, exemplary leadership skills and/or school spirit throughout their middle school years. They assist with the 6th Grade Orientation, Back to School Night, Parent-Teacher Conferences, providing new student tours throughout the school year and are generally helpful students to call upon to provide assistance to the school community, when needed. The Ambassadors embody JAMS' motto by demonstrating respect, responsibility and excellence all day, every day.

STUDENT COUNCIL

Student Council, led by Mr. Sernal (6th grade), Mrs. Orzechowski (7th grade), and Ms. Hickman (8th grade), is to be a student-led outlet and voice in our school community. Representatives are elected by their peers to represent their homerooms. Students should exhibit positive character traits and be willing to aid students and staff in various areas of our school community. Student Council representatives are divided into committees and attend both committee and full council meetings.

YEARBOOK

The yearbook committee will be open to all students who have an interest in the design process of the yearbook. Students must be detail oriented and willing to put in overtime to create a successful yearbook. The process involves intensive editing and corrections, page layout & photo processing. The interested students should be goal oriented, have a command of editing software, photo processing software and the ability to engage in focused individual work. The club will meet early in the morning on Mondays through Thursdays, and sometimes in the afternoon. Students will need to provide a signed permission slip from each of their teachers indicating that they are current in all of their assignments and that they are maintaining at least a B average. Students will also have to write a proposal indicating their qualifications for the club, to include their strengths and weaknesses.