



# Jackson Academy of Math & Music (JAMM)

## Grade 8 Information Sheet for 2020-2021 school year

### Teacher Information:

Teacher: Mrs. Kayce Gillispie and Denise Listol

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School Phone Number: 408 201-6400 ext 13201 and 13223

### Introduction:

The *Common Core State Standards* serve as important benchmarks to ensure that all students are receiving high-quality education and are well prepared for success in post-secondary education and the workforce. The standards are robust and provide a coherent and rich preparation for the next grade level. This requires a shift in the curriculum at all levels in order to match both the content skills and the understandings contained in the Common Core State Standards. Teachers will use a variety of materials and resources to assist in student mastery of these standards. If you would like to preview the Common Core standards please visit this website: <https://www.cde.ca.gov/re/cc/>

### District Adopted Text by Content for First Trimester

#### **Adopted Text for English Language Arts:**

StudySync by McGraw Hill  
Narrative Life of Frederick Douglass

#### **Projected Topics Covered for Trimester 1:**

Proposition and support writing and/or speaking  
Sequence Writing  
Non-fiction reading and writing strategies

#### **Adopted Text for Social Studies:**

History Alive! The United States Through Industrialism  
by Teachers' Curriculum Institute (TCI)

#### **Projected Topics Covered for Trimester 1:**

Early American Explorers  
Early American Colonies  
Establishing American Independence

**Curriculum: In addition to the projected topics listed above, teachers will be reviewing content from the previous grade level in all subject areas. The review topics will help all students understand the grade-level content that will be covered during this first trimester. Teachers reserve the right to amend the projected topics listed above based on student needs.**

We will be using a standards-based curriculum that follows the three guiding principles of JAMM: direct explicit instruction, multi-source curriculum, and the response principle. This means that we will be: conducting virtual lessons to directly teach content, using many modalities for students to learn the standards, and finally, students will be demonstrating their acquired knowledge in varied activities.

**Google Classroom Information:** For the 2020-2021 school year, we will be using Google Classroom as our virtual learning platform. This is where teachers will be posting announcements, daily/weekly assignments, videos, etc. It is important that students and families log in to google classroom on a daily basis for the most up to date information. The following unique code is what you will type in to join the class.

**Google Classroom code(s):**

**hcwdej1** for Wargocki homeroom

**ed5zy6r** for Listol homeroom

**ebyju6o** for DeCarlo homeroom

If you are new to Google Classroom, please go to this link and watch the provided tutorials on how to navigate the learning platform. Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lgS-hoSljnw>

**Learning Environment Materials Needed:** This is a list of the materials that students will need to complete virtual learning successfully:

Two Spiral bound notebooks  
Pens  
Colored markers (skinny and fat) and colored pencils  
Whiteboard and marker (will be provided)  
Highlighters  
Headphones  
Computer mouse since they often fail on the Chromebook  
Reading books of student's choice  
Post-its  
Index cards

*Optional Items:*

A copy of the book A Young People's History of the United States by Howard Zinn  
Rocketbook Smart Reusable notebook and Pilot Frixion pen (available on Amazon) for digital storage of written notes

**Synchronous vs. Asynchronous Instruction:** We will use two main methods of instruction delivery: synchronous and asynchronous teaching. Synchronous teaching is when a teacher is interacting with students, such as a Zoom Meeting, whole/small group instruction, monitoring student progress, and providing real-time feedback to students. The second instructional style is asynchronous teaching where a teacher has filmed a video, posted a video for students, or posted independent practice assignments. Each method has positive attributes and we will use either method where they feel appropriate.

**Daily Agenda:**

9:15-10:15	Homeroom Teacher	Morning Session 1
10:15-10:25		Break
10:25-11:20	Homeroom Teacher	Morning Session 2
11:20-12		Lunch
12:00-1:00	Secondary Teacher	Afternoon Session 1
1:00-1:10		Break
1:10-2:05	Secondary Teacher	Afternoon Session 2
2:05-2:45	Zimmer	Music
2:45-3:00	All Teachers	Office Hours

**\*\*Please go to your homeroom Google Classrooms for your detailed schedule\*\***

**Communication:** We will establish continuous communication with students and families throughout virtual learning. This communication will be through email, phone calls, progress reports, video conferences when deemed appropriate by the teacher. It is important for students and parents to continually check for Google Classroom updates and email their teacher for clarification when needed. In order to maintain continuous communication, it is important that parents/guardians check Aeries and make sure that the correct email address and phone number are listed. If they are incorrect please contact your child’s teacher and the front office.

**Virtual Classroom Expectations:** Students are expected to check their Google Classroom prior to arrival time and get their materials ready. A list of needed materials will be posted daily. It is best if there is a designated place in the home that is free from distractions and permits the student to have a flat surface for their computer and a chair (e.g. table or desk). While in a Zoom classroom, students are expected to be attentive abide by the following:

- No cell phone usage
- Cameras must be on and the student must be visible for the duration of the call
- All behavior must be in accordance with district and school behavior policies
- Conversations must be civil, on topic and relevant
- Active participation is a requirement
- Clothing must be school appropriate (no pajamas)
- Refrain from walking around

**Attendance:** Teachers will be taking attendance on a daily basis during virtual learning. If students are inactive on Zoom and/or not completing assignments, they will be marked either tardy or absent. It is important that families set up a school routine of signing in to Google Classroom and all other

learning platforms for daily assignments and instruction. If a student is unable to attend a Zoom meeting or complete an assignment, either the student or parent/guardian will contact the classroom teacher.

**Assessment & Grading:**

Students will receive grades A-F to indicate their progress toward the learning standards. It is important that parents have access to the Aeries online portal. This is where teachers will be posting grades on each individual assignment and also show families what assignments have not been completed. Students and families are encouraged to check grades frequently.

**Grading Categories:**

Participation	40%
Classwork	25%
Assessments (essays and tests)	25%
Homework	10%

**Late Work or Absent Work:** Students should make every effort to get assignments turned in on time. During the first trimester of virtual learning, students will have up to one week to get their assignments turned in past the date due, with a ten percent grade reduction (one letter grade). **If a student is absent during virtual learning, they will have the same number of days they were absent to complete the necessary work. It is the students' responsibility to complete and turn in all absent work.**

In order for a student to be excused from daily participation, the parent/guardian needs to inform the teacher as soon as possible. In order to avoid the loss of daily participation points, the absence must meet the requirements for an excused absence by the school district.