



Jackson Hole Middle School

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www.tcsd.org/JHMS



August 2023

Dear JHMS Parents,

Welcome to the 2023-24 school year at Jackson Hole Middle School! We are excited to welcome our students back to JHMS on September 5. As we prepare to kick off another exciting academic year, I want to assure you that our dedicated team of educators and staff is committed to providing a safe, nurturing, and enriching environment for your child. We understand the importance of your partnership in the education of your child, and we value the trust you place in us to support their development. Throughout the year, your child will have the opportunity to engage in a diverse range of academic subjects, extracurricular activities, and character-building experiences. Our goal is to provide a well-rounded education that not only fosters intellectual growth but also cultivates social skills, creativity, and a sense of responsibility.

We look forward to the school to home partnerships that are vital to the success of our students. Thank you for your continued support during your student's middle school years!

JHMS is making a shift in how we report academic progress and grades. This year, each student will receive two end-of-the-quarter grades. One grade will be called **Habits of Work** and one will be a mark of **Performance Assessments**:

- *Habits of Work (HoW)* include the following: homework, participation, organization and smaller in-class activities. This grade will be recorded as an A, B, C, D or F.
- *Performance Assessments* are grades that represent progress towards the Wyoming Standards that are established for each class. This mark, similar to elementary, will be reported as 4 (Advanced), 3 (Proficient), 2 (Basic), and 1 (Below Basic).

In this shift, we hope to build a stronger sense of student agency and self-efficacy, their belief in themselves as learners and their belief that they have the power to change their academic trajectory. By separating academic behaviors, which are vitally important in middle school, from academic progress, we hope to have a more accurate and better understanding of student performance and a better system of feedback to students and parents. This new system won't be perfect, but no grading system is perfect. We will always strive to improve and we will continue to communicate how this process is developing.

JHMS is excited to announce several new faculty members or veteran faculty in new positions joining our school community.

- David Wells-Spanish
- Trevor Deighton-Science
- Sandra Sanderson-Assistant Principal
- David Kirkpatrick-Social Studies
- Nate Goss-Woliner-Intro to Engineering
- Jessica Bressler-Special Education
- Tracy Hiatt-School Psychologist
- Krista Hollis-AVID



Parent newsletters are published once per month. Shorter, more immediate announcements will also be sent as necessary. As always, feel free to reach out with questions.

We are planning a 6th grade and new student drop-in/open house on August 31, 1:00-3:00. This is a chance to tour the school and meet staff, and it is intended as an informal opportunity to familiarize students with JHMS before school begins the following Tuesday. Our official Back-to-School Night (Open House) is scheduled for all grades on September 14, from 6:00-7:30. More information to come about that night.

We look forward to seeing students soon!

Matt Hoelscher
Principal, JHMS

Student Schedules

We are still working on finalizing student schedules. Please be on the lookout for an email from JHMS with your student's schedule on August 31.

JHMS Parent Drop-Off and Pick-Up

First and foremost, we encourage as many students as possible to ride the school bus to and from school, or to walk (if possible), or to ride bikes and e-bikes. We realize that our drop-off and pick-up is less than ideal. Our school resource officer, Heidi Schmidl, will be directing morning traffic as much as she can. When dropping off, please pull up to the farthest available spot, drop off quickly, and pull around the backside of staff parking. If you get to school early, please do not idle in the drop off zone with your student in the car. Rather, please park until your student is ready to enter the building.

JHMS 2023-24 Schedule

[Linked HERE](#) is the JHMS Bell Schedule and Drop 2 rotation example. JHMS building hours for students are from 8:30 am - 4:00 pm. We ask students to not arrive at school prior to 8:30, unless scheduled for a teacher meeting or club or athletic practice.

School Supply List

Linked above is the school supply list. We tried to keep it very simple. Students may need additional supplies as the year progresses, but we hoped to reduce the amount of unused or barely used supplies this year. If you are in need of binders, spirals or pencils, we will have lots and lots available for free for students.

Colt Fridays Program

The Colt Fridays program has 4 instructional Fridays that will be customized to address the following:

- Intervention and enrichment opportunities for students.
- Flexible, individual/small group student support.
- Clubs and activities.



- Not ALL students are required to attend in-person on these particular Fridays, but ALL students do have the opportunity to participate.
- Transportation will be provided on a modified schedule and the Colt Friday programming will end at 12:25.

All students will be provided the opportunity to sign up for programming and may be requested/required to attend certain sessions by teachers or administrators. If a teacher or administrator requests that a student attend a Colt Friday, their attendance is required and expected.

Colt Friday Dates: Nov 3, Jan 12, March 8, May 10

Breakfast/Lunch Meal Update

[*2023-2024 Food Service Letter to Parents*](#)

[*2023-2024 Food Service Parent/Student Handbook*](#)

The standard meal cost is \$2.50 for breakfast and \$3.75 for lunch for the 22-23 school year. JHMS participates in the National School Lunch Program for subsidized breakfast and lunch for qualifying students. All families are encouraged to apply. Applications in English and Spanish are available in the JHMS front office or you can apply online at [myschoolapps](#). Applications must be completed and signed and sent to Danny Reed, Box 568, Jackson, WY. 83001 or given to lunchroom staff. [My School Bucks](#) is an online system that allows parents/guardians to monitor student meal accounts and make payments online. Questions? Email [Danny Reed](#), Food Service Director, or call at 307-732-3757.

Canvas

We would like to invite you to be a partner in your student's Canvas courses. You will do this by becoming an observer in their Learning Management System (Canvas). An Observer has limited permissions that will allow you to see what is going on in the course. Observers may be able to view assignments, course events, and grades for your student in the Canvas Parent app. We want 100% of parents as CANVAS observers. Please find the directions on setting up your observer account here.

[Directions in English](#)

In the near future, we will set up zoom meetings to offer support for setting up parent observer accounts. Please contact Seth Feters if you need assistance, sfeters@tcsd.org.

iPads

All students will receive their TCSD issued iPad. It is the student's responsibility to properly care for and use their district iPad. iPads are insured through the school's lease program with Apple which covers most damage issues. You may purchase additional theft insurance, but it is optional. That form is linked [HERE](#). And, the acceptable use policy is also linked [HERE](#).



Use of Cell Phones

We will return to a cell phone free school at JHMS, with one exception. We ask all cell phones to be stored in the student's backpack during the school day. However, we did build into the schedule an afternoon snack break this year. This will be the ONE time students are allowed to check their phone to see if there is a message from you. If you need to send your student a text, please do this by the 2:30-2:40 snack break. If you miss this time, please call the office, and we will deliver the message to the student. After the 3:45 dismissal bell, students are allowed to use their cell phone to check messages or make phone calls. Schools are one of the last places students can find a distraction free environment away from the constant bombardment of social media, tweets, snaps and texts. We really appreciate your support in maintaining a cell phone free school.

Activities & Athletics Information

Please reach out to our activities director Jason Huggins, jhuggins@tcsd.org, to be added to our activities newsletter. Fall sports are underway, but it is not too late to join. Contact Mr. Huggins for more information.

PE Uniforms

PE uniforms will again be required this year and available for purchase through the PE department.

District Registration

If you have not done so already, please take 5-10 minutes to register your student(s) for school. This re-enrollment applies to ALL students. TCSD #1 uses an online system to manage student registrations. By Tuesday, August 23, you should receive an email from your child's school with your "SnapCode" to register your returning student. If you do not receive the email, contact Shelly Paciulli, 307-733-4234, and she will be able to re-send the code to you.

Counselors

JHMS has three counselors, Jamie Vargas, Jessica Costello, and Stephanie Sloan. Stephanie works with 7th grade, Jamie with 8th grade, and Jessica with 6th grade. They can be contacted for a wide variety of social-emotional and academic concerns. Ben Brettell, our school social worker, is also available for families. Please reach out to the counseling department with any questions.

School Nurse

Maddie Pitts is our full-time nurse at JHMS. She can be contacted for any medical concerns or immunization questions, mpitts@tcsd.org. Please ensure if your child has any health concerns that she is aware of them. Paperwork does need to be completed for any medication that may need to be administered at school (over the counter medications, epipens, inhalers, other daily medications, etc...).

Absences

Please, please communicate all absences to our secretary, Isela Magana, 733-4234. For an extended absence, please call Ms. Magana and the student's counselor.

E-bike Safety

This year we will require an e-bike parking sticker that can easily be obtained by following safety protocols and watching a short e-bike video, and demonstrating their knowledge on a quiz. Overall, we encourage biking and e-biking to school. We could use parental support in making sure students are being safe to and from school. We plan on having a safety



course in partnership with our SRO and Pathways, similar to last spring with our PE department. Please ensure your e-bike rider is maintaining a safe ride by following safety guidelines:

- Wear a helmet! Passengers on the bigger bikes should also wear a helmet.
- Maintain a safe and reasonable speed on pathways and school grounds.
- Use hand signals to turn right and left.
- Announce a pass to a walker or biker.
- Yield to walkers/runners during high traffic moments.
- Stop at crosswalks and obey bicycle signage.
- Get off the bike during high-traffic moments of arrival and dismissal at school.

JHMS Documents

[Bell Schedule](#)

[Medications at School](#)

[Medications at School-Spanish](#)

[Reporting Absences](#)

[Reporting Absences-Spanish](#)

[JHMS Handbook](#)

[JHMS Handbook \(Spanish\)](#)

[Hotspot Request Form--English](#)

[Hotspot Request Form--Spanish](#)

Important Upcoming Dates

- August 31--6th Grade and New Student Open House, 1:00-3:00. Drop In Style
- September 5--First Day of School!
- September 14--Back to School Night, 6:00-7:30
- November 3--Colt Friday
- November 3--
- June 11, 2024--8th Grade Promotion, 6:00

Our Purpose: The purpose of JHMS is to provide an exceptional education for middle school students that allows all students to embrace, challenge, and recognize their potential while building character and community.

Our Beliefs:

JHMS is committed to a set of beliefs based on what we know about the middle school child, and teaching and learning.

We believe...

- *in respecting and valuing the uniqueness of each child.*



- *student mastery of reading, writing and math is the foundation for life-long learning.*
- *critical thinking, problem solving, and collaboration are vital skills for the 21st century student.*
- *a safe and positive school environment enhances learning.*
- *staff, students and family share the responsibility for learning.*
- *high standards for learning challenge students and increase achievement.*

We are looking forward to a fantastic 2023-24 school year.

Matt Hoelscher
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