

We Are Jasper

CALLING ALL 5 YEAR OLDS

On or before August 1, 2024

REGISTRATION

Information for the 2024-2025 school
year

INDIANA

Literacy Cadre and the Science of Reading



NURTURING LITTLE MINDS

The Wonders of Early Childhood Education

BY: DR. TRACY LOREY, GJCS SUPERINTENDENT



Early learning opportunities are crucial to a child's overall development. Not only for the immediate benefits it provides in terms of cognitive and social development but also for its long-term impact on a child's overall well-being and success in life. Investing in quality early childhood education is considered an investment in the future of individuals and society as a whole.

Research suggests that children who participate in high-quality early childhood education programs are more likely to succeed academically, have higher educational attainment, and experience better long-term outcomes in terms of health and employment later in life.

Overall benefits of high-quality early learning include:

Brain Development

The early years of a child's life are critical for brain development. During this period, the brain forms the majority of its neural connections, and experiences during early childhood can have a lasting impact on cognitive and emotional development.

Social and Emotional Development

Early childhood education provides opportunities for children to develop social and emotional skills. Through interaction with peers and adults, children learn to manage their emotions, build relationships, and develop empathy.

Language and Communication Skills

Early childhood education supports the development of language and communication skills. Exposure to a rich language environment helps children build vocabulary, enhance communication skills, and lays the foundation for later literacy.

Cognitive Skills

Early childhood education programs often include activities that stimulate cognitive development. These activities can include problem-solving tasks, creative play, and exposure to basic academic concepts, setting the stage for future learning.

Preparation for School

Early childhood education helps children transition smoothly into formal schooling. It introduces them to routines, helps them develop basic academic skills, and fosters a love for learning, making the school experience more positive.

Socialization

Early childhood education provides a structured setting for children to interact with their peers. This helps in the development of social skills, cooperation, and a sense of community, preparing children for future social interactions.

Identifying and Addressing Developmental Delays

Early childhood educators are trained to identify signs of developmental delays or learning difficulties. Early intervention in such cases can lead to more effective support and better outcomes for the child.

Reducing Achievement Gaps

Access to quality early childhood education can help reduce educational disparities and achievement gaps. It provides a more level playing field for children from diverse backgrounds.

GJCS takes pride in providing a nurturing and stimulating environment for our youngest students. We believe in the power of early childhood education to shape bright futures.

EARLY LEARNING

At Greater Jasper Consolidated Schools

**BY: TINA FAWKS, ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT -
CURRICULUM INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT**



The overall and educational development of children begins long before they enter the formal educational environment. Childhood development is an individual process, through which every child progresses differently, and includes not only cognitive development, but also physical, social, and emotional skills. Every child enters their formal educational years at a different place in their overall development, and each student progresses through these developmental stages at a different rate.

Mrs. Angie Sander, Jasper Elementary Preschool Teacher, explains that one of her primary goals as a preschool teacher “is to ensure that each child entering through our program’s door has a positive first school experience.” From teaching students school routines, such as how to walk in a line with their classmates and the manners required in the cafeteria, to introducing a variety of early learning curriculum through hands-on experiences and small group activities, the preschool and kindergarten years are a unique and incredibly important part of developing “the academic foundation for future school success,” Mrs. Sander maintains. To further emphasize the importance of the first school experiences, Mrs. Valerie Small, JES Kindergarten Teacher, states that “letting students know that each day is new and someone is cheering them on, hopefully gives them the bravery to stretch themselves and try something they didn’t do the day before.”

At both Jasper Elementary and Ireland Elementary Schools, hands-on learning opportunities are one of the primary early learning experiences. Integrating music, art and other multi-sensory experiences are key components for early education.

Mrs. Sander goes on to explain that “there are activities planned that provide opportunities for problem solving through group and cooperative play.” And Mrs. Small emphasizes that due to the world’s increased dependence on technology and the exposure that many young children have to technology, socialization and in-person conversation is even more important than it has been in the past. Teaching children to have a conversation with others and how to play cooperatively are important goals for the teachers in the GJCS preschool and kindergarten programs.

According to Mrs. Mindy Sendelweck, Ireland Elementary Preschool Teacher, “listening skills, problem-solving skills, self-care skills, and social-emotional skills” help build a foundation for education alongside the “early concepts of language, reading, and math.”

Educating a child at any stage is a partnership between schools and families, but this is especially important during the early learning phase, as children need experiences that lend themselves to learning and their natural development. But, these experiences don’t have to be overwhelming or difficult for families. Talking to and reading to children, engaging them in conversations, listening to music and singing, and reciting nursery rhymes are all easy to integrate into daily interactions with the young children at home. Encouraging physical and imaginative play, fostering curiosity about the world, and integrating counting, puzzles, patterns, and shapes into interactions with children can have an impact beyond what most recognize, and these kinds of activities reinforce the skills and concepts that students learn each day at school. Regardless of a child’s experience prior to formal enrollment in the educational environment, the early learning opportunities provided through preschool and kindergarten programming at Greater Jasper Consolidated Schools will set students on a path to success.



KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION



for the 2024-2025 school year

Mark your calendar! Kindergarten Registration for the 2024-2025 school year is right around the corner. If your student will be 5 years old on or before August 1, 2024, you are able to enroll them in Kindergarten at Ireland Elementary School or Jasper Elementary School.

Online Registration will open on January 8, 2024. Online Registration is a two-step process. The first step will be to complete the SignUp Genius link. The second step is completing the PowerSchool link. On January 8, those two links will become available on the [GJCS website](#), [Ireland Elementary School Website](#), and [Jasper Elementary School Website](#).

After completing the online portion of registration, families and students will need to attend the In-Person Kindergarten Registration on January 29, 2024. Make sure to bring the Birth Certificate, Social Security Card, Immunization Record, and Proof of Residency for your student. Additionally on this evening, the student will be evaluated with a Kindergarten Readiness Assessment. The SignUp Genius Link in the online portion of registration is where you will select a time to be at the school on January 29.

Current PreKindergarten students at Ireland or Jasper Elementary who will be attending the same school for Kindergarten are not required to register on PowerSchool or attend Kindergarten Registration Night. PreKindergarten teachers will be completing the Readiness Assessment in class and current GJCS PreKindergarten students are already in the PowerSchool Database. Paperwork will be sent home to be returned, so keep an eye out for that. You are welcome to come to the In-Person Registration night to tour the school and visit a Kindergarten classroom. You are more than welcome to attend, but not required, and do not have to select a time.



Inscripción para kínder (kindergarten) para el año escolar 2024-2025



¡Marquen sus calendarios! La inscripción para kínder para el año escolar 2024-2025 está a la vuelta de la esquina. Si su hijo cumple 5 años el 1 de agosto de 2024 o antes, puede inscribirlo en kínder en la escuela primaria de Ireland (Ireland Elementary) o de Jasper (Jasper Elementary).

El registro en línea se abrirá el 8 de enero de 2024. El registro en línea conlleva un proceso de dos pasos. En el primer paso tiene que completar unas opciones a través del enlace de SignUp Genius. En el segundo paso tiene que completar la información de pre-registro a través del enlace de PowerSchool. El 8 de enero ambos enlaces estarán disponibles en [el sitio web de GJCS](#) (las escuelas de Jasper), [el sitio web de la Escuela Primaria de Ireland](#) y [el sitio web de la Escuela Primaria de Jasper](#). Los enlaces no estarán disponibles hasta el 8 de enero de 2024.

Después de completar la parte de la inscripción en línea, las familias y los estudiantes deberán asistir a la inscripción de kínder en persona el 29 de enero de 2024. Asegúrese de traer el certificado de nacimiento, la tarjeta de Seguro Social, el registro de vacunas y el comprobante de residencia de su hijo. Además, esa tarde, su hijo será evaluado para ver el nivel de preparación para kínder, es decir, para ver el conocimiento básico que su hijo tiene antes de entrar en kínder. A través del enlace de SignUp Genius en la parte en línea de la inscripción será dónde seleccionará su horario de preferencia para crear una cita para la tarde del 29 de enero.

Para alumnos que este año están cursando pre-kínder en las escuelas de Jasper: Los alumnos de pre-kínder que actualmente asisten a las escuelas primarias de Ireland o Jasper y que asistirán a la misma escuela para kínder el año que viene no tienen que registrarse en PowerSchool ni asistir el 29 de enero por la tarde. Los maestros de preescolar completarán la evaluación del nivel de preparación de estos alumnos en clase. Además, los alumnos que están cursando preescolar en las escuelas de Jasper este año ya están inscritos en la base de datos de PowerSchool y por ello no tendrán que hacerlo de nuevo. Recibirá información y documentación acerca de esto en casa que tendrá que devolver, así que esté atento a los papeles que lleva su hijo. Igualmente, le invitamos a venir en persona la tarde de inscripciones para visitar la escuela y las aulas de kínder. No tiene que seleccionar una hora para ello, ¡simplemente puede presentarse en la escuela y listo! Están más que bienvenidos a asistir, pero no es obligatorio.

NAEYC ACCREDITATION

GJCS Preschool Programs at both Jasper Elementary School and Ireland Elementary School were named NAEYC Accredited Preschool Programs. This accreditation was awarded after observations in the classrooms of Mrs. Beach and Mrs. Sendelweck this fall. Jasper Elementary School and Ireland Elementary School are the only school based preschool program in the state of Indiana to receive this distinguished honor. Using NAEYC tools and materials, preschool programs are continuously improving their programs to provide the best possible education opportunities for children.

NAEYC Programs must:

- Promote positive relationships for all children and adults to encourage child's sense of individual worth.
- Implement a curriculum that fosters all areas of child development: cognitive, emotional, language, physical, and social.
- Use developmentally, culturally, and linguistically appropriate and effective teaching materials.
- Provide ongoing assessments of each child's learning and development and communicate the child's progress to the family.
- Promote the nutrition and health of children and protect children and staff from injury.
- Employ and support a teaching staff that has the emotional qualifications, knowledge, and professional commitment necessary to promote children's learning and development to support diverse interest and needs of families.
- Establish and maintain collaborative relationships with each child's family.
- Establish relationships with and use resources of the community to support achievement of program goals.
- Provide a safe and healthy physical environment.
- Implement a strong personnel, fiscal, and program management policies so that all children, families, and staff have high expectations.

PreKindergarten Registration will take place on Wednesday, January 10. Students must be 4 years old on or before August 1, 2024. To register, call the school you wish to enroll your student. Phone lines will be open from 5:30pm to 6:30pm. Translators will be available at Jasper Elementary School. Limited spots are available and will be filled in the order calls are received. The cost is \$80 per month, but financial assistance is available.

Ireland Elementary School: 812-482-7751

Jasper Elementary School: 812-556-3600

DAY IN THE LIFE

Have you ever wondered what the Day in the Life of a Kindergartener looks like?

Check out the Day in the Life of Ava, a Kindergartener at Jasper Elementary School [here!](#)



Have you ever wondered what the Day in the Life of a Preschooler looks like?



Check out the Day in the Life of Berkley, a Preschooler at Ireland Elementary School [here!](#)

Class Times:

Ireland Elementary School	Jasper Elementary School
AM: 7:50 - 10:50	AM: 7:45 - 10:45
PM: 11:50 - 2:50	PM: 12:00 - 3:00

Cost: \$80 per month. Financial Assistance is available.

THE SCIENCE OF READING



Indiana Literacy Cadre and Get Your Teach On

BY: JENNY HANNEMAN & CHRISTINE SHAFER

The Greater Jasper School Corporation is excited to partner with Indiana Department of Education (IDOE), Center of Education in Leadership of Learning (CELL) at the University of Indianapolis, and the Center for Vibrant Schools at Marian University. The Indiana Literacy Cadre is working to help Indiana's students read proficiently by the end of third grade with the Science of Reading.

What is the science of reading? The science of reading is scientifically based research about reading and issues that relate to reading and writing. The Science of Reading is based upon the five pillars of reading: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension.

To achieve this mission, the Indiana Literacy Cadre develops and implements collaborative professional development for K-3 educators across the state based on the science of reading, a compilation of evidence-based research on reading, reading development, and reading instruction.

We are also thrilled to participate in Get Your Teach On in a partnership with the Indiana Department of Education to provide additional professional development opportunities for Ireland Elementary and Jasper Elementary. Amelia Capatosta is here to support and elevate the educator profession. She will help us with our school goals and develop ongoing relationships. These opportunities promote positive educational outcomes to develop the whole learner.

Ireland Elementary and Jasper Elementary are thrilled for these opportunities that have been presented to us this school year. We are busy teaching our students with strategies that are supported by the Science of Reading and look forward to all the memorial moments we will have with our students due to these partnerships.



JASPER HIGH SCHOOL

First Semester Highlights



Above: Officer Jason Knies speaks to students in Mrs. Jochum's class about being a police officer, assessing a crime scene, and more.



Above: Seniors participate in table surfing at the first day of school pep session.



Above: A student in Mrs. Lofton's class completes a lab activity.

Below: Freshman in Dubois County went on the Tour of Opportunity, where they learned about job opportunities in the area. Here, they are pictured at SWICACC.



Right: Students compete in the We The People Competition at the University of Evansville. We The People is a course available to JHS Seniors.

Right: The JHS Performing Arts Club put on a production of 'All Shook Up' this fall. The production took the audience back to the 1950s.



Left: JHS students spend time during the day with the Little Wildcats. They assist with the daily activities. Here, they can be seen sitting with the Little Wildcats during a pep session.



JASPER MIDDLE SCHOOL

First Semester Highlights



Above: The JMS Fishing Club has hosted many fun events for members and their families!



Above: During the first week of school, Mrs. Heberer taught students the cup song as a way to incorporate music and relax during what can be a stressful week.

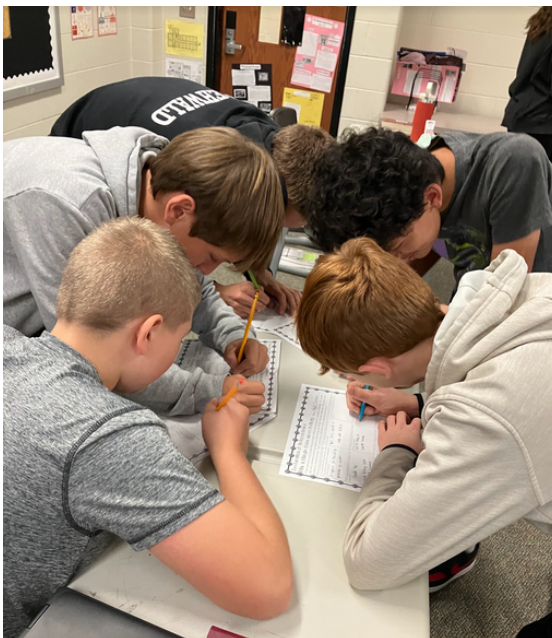


Left: Art is viewed at the JMS Creative Arts Showcase that highlighted student work.

Right: Students dressed up for the annual costume contest on Halloween.



Below: Mix n' Mingle - Declaration of Independence Activity in Mrs. Gaither's US History Class.



Left: JMS Band Students played their trumpets during the Veterans Day Program.



Left: The JMS Spell Bowl Team placed second in the area competition. Congratulations, team!

JASPER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

First Semester Highlights



Above: JES celebrates being recognized as a Top 5 ESEA Distinguished School.



Above: Students were excited to see Skye on the first day of school.

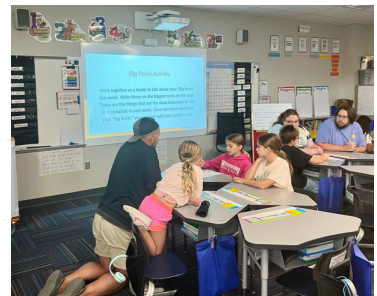


Left: First grade completed apple tastings and activities while learning about Johnny Appleseed.

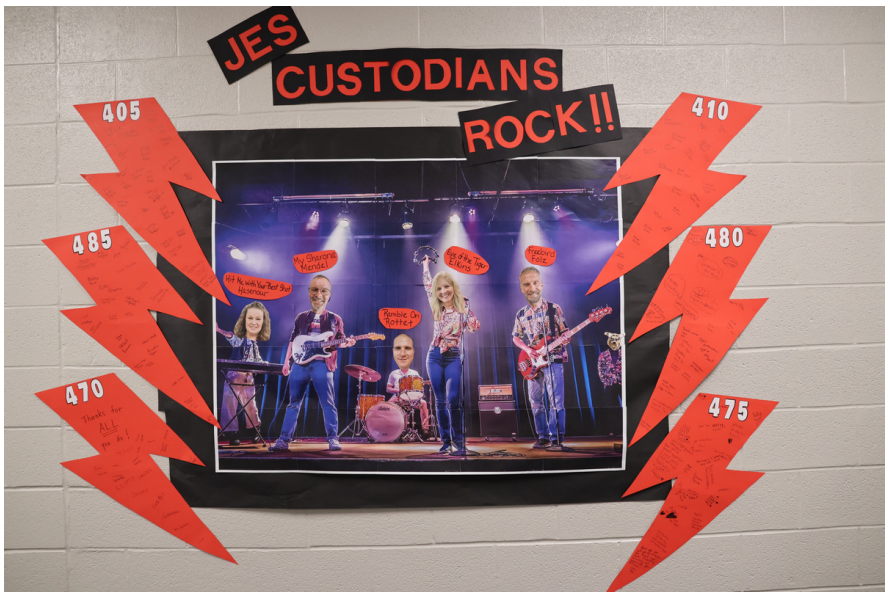


Left: JES raised over \$5,000 for Riley Children's Hospital during Riley Week through dress up days and activities.

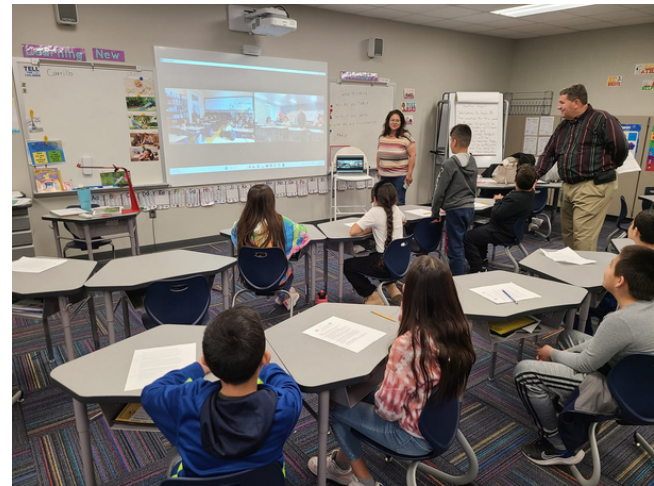
Right: JES hosted a Family Leadership Night where families could learn more about the Leader in Me Program.



Below: Students made a display to recognize the custodians because they ROCK!



Below: Bea Cobo and Mrs. Carrillo organized a cultural projects for students in which they talked with a class in Spain.



IRELAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

First Semester Highlights



Above: Second grade teachers and Mrs. Hanneman co-taught a lesson on problems and solutions, referencing Taylor Swift.



Above: After reading *Because of Winn Dixie*, Mrs. Johnson's class had a party, just like in the book.



Above: The Ireland Fire Department spoke to students about fire safety and what to do in an emergency during Fire Safety Week.

Below: First grade completed an informative writing lesson in which they used their senses to write a few sentences about pumpkins.



Below: Kindergarten students give a thumbs up after trying new foods during the annual Thanksgiving Feast.



Below: Officer Knies and Officer Lampert taught Bus Safety Training to Ireland Elementary School students.





Gratitude is the Attitude at JHS

Gratitude: a thankful appreciation for what an individual receives, whether tangible or intangible. Different people have different associations with gratitude. Some may recognize gratitude in the daily, simple tasks of life, while others may notice it in more grandiose gestures and occurrences. Regardless, there is one thing we all could probably agree with, and that is the fact that gratitude is a choice—and a positive one at that. An article published by the Harvard Medical School comments on research findings about the correlation between gratitude and happiness, stating “gratitude helps people feel more positive emotions, relish good experiences, improve their health, deal with adversity, and build strong relationships”.

Gratitude can be seen, expressed, and felt in a multitude of ways at Jasper High School. Since gratitude can look different to every person, let’s hear from the perspective of some Jasper High School students and staff members in relation to three questions related to gratitude for our school:

1. Why do you love our school community?
2. What sets our school apart from others?
3. What/who are you grateful for in our school community?

Student Responses

“Our pep sessions, and all the clubs and groups we have and how much we incorporate everyone.” - **Taryn Truesdale (JHS Junior)**

“A grateful teacher is needed in every school. Mrs. Venderley is Jasper’s grateful teacher. She makes sure that all her students are happy. She will always be willing to talk to us whenever we have a problem.” - **Ava Werner (JHS Senior)**

“Because there are so many opportunities to put yourself out there and be yourself!” - **Lilly Hanshaw (JHS Freshman)**

“I’m grateful for all the teachers who come in early before school to help students with difficult subjects or just to talk with their students. It makes me feel appreciated and lets me interact with them on a human level.” - **Kailyn Wright (JHS Senior)**

“Mrs. Stephanie Burns, she makes the library an amazing atmosphere to be in!” -

Anonymous

“Teachers are always happy to help students in any way that they can because they care about our success. They push us to try harder, but don't leave us to fight by ourselves, instead they are a guide.” - **Peyton Vaal (JHS Senior)**

Staff Responses

“I'm grateful for our maintenance and custodial staff as well as the technology support staff. Working in a clean environment where the moving parts and tools function smoothly is truly indispensable.” - **Mr. Daniel Otto (German teacher)**

“Our school is a community. Everyone is welcoming and they're willing to offer a hand no matter their title.” - **Mrs. Ashlyn Hoffman (Little Wildcats Lead Teacher)**

“I am grateful that our administrators lead by example. They are hardworking professionals that care about everyone in our building. They trust that we have our students' best interest without micromanaging the staff.” - **Mr. Dean Jerger (Science/Math teacher)**

“To me, it's like family. Everyone has each other's back.” - **Mrs. Jessica Mehringer (Business teacher)**

“Our students and teachers make learning fun and interact well with each other.” - **Mr. Andy Noblitt (Science teacher)**

“I'm grateful for the outstanding kids and staff (that is more like family) in the Special Education room. They are the reason for me NOT retiring. I love my job!” - **Tina DeKemper (Instructional Assistant)**

Out of the 80 responses from students and staff, our attitude of gratitude at JHS comes from a deep gratitude for our positive and caring learning community. We understand that it takes a community to work together to see through our goals- from academic to personal goals. We love Jasper High School and are proud to be a part of it because of our spirit and tradition of excellence that drives us each day! We're also thankful for our supportive administrators and teachers that invest in making Jasper High School a great place to work, learn, and grow! Go Wildcats!



Imagine
With all
your mind.
Believe
With all
your heart.
Achieve
With all
your might.

We've got spirit, yes we do! We've got spirit, how 'bout you?

Jasper Middle School is rising to the top in the spirit department! Between spirit weeks and dress-up days, students are showing their pride and love for their school by participating with each designated day. Not only is Jasper Middle School passionate about spirit in dress, but also spirit in camaraderie. Students are working together and interacting positively with one another through team building.

Jasper Middle School's student council has excelled at achieving student involvement through spirit days. Some of the spirit days that the students have dressed for thus far include the following: black and gold, college, and dress like your teacher. Student council is able to keep track of student involvement through spirit points. Each spirit day in homeroom, teachers will count the number of students who participated. At the end of each month, student council members will count the spirit points. The homeroom that has the most spirit points gets the spirit stick. The spirit stick is designed by the student council's Spirit Stick Committee. It is a great way for each homeroom to show their pride and achievements. Katherine Wuebkenberg and Jenna Peters, members of the Spirit Stick Committee, gave insight as to why they joined this committee. "We wanted to make our school more spirited and have people be more involved."





Ireland Elementary Pre-K is a busy, engaging, and educational environment! The Pre-K class features numerous activities to enhance each child's early childhood learning experience. Each class has a monthly mystery reader in which a guest comes in to read an age-appropriate book to the class. There are also special visitors throughout the school year to talk with the students to enhance their knowledge on topics. The daily curriculum includes monthly thematic units and child-directed play in learning centers. Pre-K at Ireland Elementary offers an enriching experience for every child to prepare them for Kindergarten!

Ireland Elementary provides a full-day learning experience for Kindergarten students. Throughout the school day, students participate in whole group instruction and small group learning stations or centers. The classes also incorporate themes throughout the year to enhance learning. The Kindergarten classes collaborate as a grade level to create "Fun Fridays", which are educational, themed activities. Kindergarten students are also enriched in additional subject areas, such as Art, Music, Library, and Physical Education. The Kindergarten day is jam-packed with numerous educational opportunities!



JES Preschool



At JES, we understand that the early years of a child's education affects the development of the whole child. In addition to developing the academic foundation for future school success, we also focus on the social emotional and overall well being of the students. We provide services for general education Pre-K students as well as Developmental Preschool

We ensure that each child entering through our program's door has a positive first school experience. We introduce them to a variety of curriculum and concepts through a hands-on approach and small group activities. We offer a variety of art and music experiences. Activities are planned that provide opportunities for problem solving through group and cooperative play. We create our lessons with the intent to scaffold the child's learning by building on previously mastered skills. Open ended activities allow for a variety of concepts and skills to be taught in one activity, both in large groups and in small group activities.

School & Building Directory



Jasper Elementary School

(812) 556-3600

jes.gjcs.k12.in.us

3799 N Portersville Rd.
Jasper, IN 47546

School Day: 8am-3pm



Ireland Elementary School

(812) 482-7751

ies.gjcs.k12.in.us

2386 N. 500 W.
Jasper, IN 47546

School Day: 7:50am-2:50pm



Jasper Middle School

(812) 482-6454

jms.gjcs.k12.in.us

3600 Portersville Rd.
Jasper, IN 47546

School Day: 8am-3pm



Jasper High School

(812) 482-6050

jhs.gjcs.k12.in.us

1600 St. Charles St.
Jasper, IN 47546

School Day: 8am-3pm



Greater Jasper Consolidated School Corporation Central Office

(812) 482-1801

gjcs.k12.in.us

1520 St. Charles St, Jasper, IN 47546

Office Hours: 8am-4pm



Greater Jasper

CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS

1520 Saint Charles Street, Jasper, IN 47546

IMPORTANT SECOND SEMESTER DATES



January 4 - School Resumes



January 29 - Professional Development Day, No School



February 16 - Snow Make-Up Day, No School



February 19 - President's Day, No School



March 25-29 - Spring Break



April 1 - Snow Make-Up Day, No School



April 8 - 1:00pm Dismissal



**May 24 - Snow Make-Up Day, No School
JHS Commencement Ceremony**

We Are Jasper Magazine is published by the Greater Jasper Consolidated School Corporation and posted to our website.

Find us on social media and online at
www.gjcs.k12.in.us

