



# JUNIOR HIGH

SUCCESS GUIDE

2025 -2026



## Junior High VIP's

School Name \_\_\_\_\_

Principal

\_\_\_\_\_

Assistant Principal \_\_\_\_\_

Assistant Principal \_\_\_\_\_

Counselor \_\_\_\_\_

Counselor \_\_\_\_\_

Nurse

\_\_\_\_\_

Student Resource Officer (SRO) \_\_\_\_\_

Attendance Clerk \_\_\_\_\_

Required Courses:

1. English
2. Science
3. Math
4. Texas History
5. P.E. or Athletics
6. Elective or Reading - Based on STAAR scores
7. Elective or STAAR Math - Based on STAAR scores

## **Junior High Expectations**

Junior High Schools have high expectations for students' conduct and academic achievement. It is very important that all students entering junior high know what is expected and are prepared for the changes.

### **Academics and Grades**

- Promotion and Retention - Students must achieve an overall average of 70 or above for all core academic areas to pass to the next grade level. The term "core academic subjects" is defined in junior high to include English, mathematics, science, and social studies.
- Parents and students can review grades online at any time through Home Access Center. Progress reports and Report Cards will be made available through Home Access Center each six weeks.
- STAAR (State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness)  
7th graders will take STAAR Reading, Math, & Writing
- No Pass = No Play - This means that students who do not pass their classes with a grade of 70 or above each six weeks are not allowed to participate in campus activities such as athletics, band and choir.
- Summer School - Summer School is offered to recover credits not earned during the school year due to failing yearly grades or poor attendance for core classes but it is not free. Each class costs about \$150.

### **High School and Beyond:**

- Grade Point Average - Any "Course for Credit" class that is taken in junior high will count in your High School Grade Point Average. See the Junior High Academic Planning Guide for more information regarding GPA and earning High School Credit.
- Top 10% rule – a student who graduates on the Foundation with Endorsement plan and earns the Distinguished Level of Achievement is eligible for automatic admission at any Texas public college or university. \*University of Texas at Austin is Top 5% currently.

## Attendance

Attendance is a required element to being successful in junior high.

- Tardies - A student is considered tardy if he/she is not in their classroom and ready to learn when the bell rings to begin EACH class period. Multiple tardies will result in a consequence. For example three tardies (in one class) = detention; five tardies = ISS
- Final Exams, Attendance, Discipline, Grades, and Exemptions. It is possible to earn an exemption from some of your final exams with good attendance, discipline, and grades.

Attendance: 0 Absences = 2 Exemptions  
1-2 Absences = 1 Exemption

Discipline Requirements: Students will lose their exam exemptions if the student:

- Receives a disciplinary assignment to on-campus suspension (ISS/Crossroads)  
OR
- Receives a disciplinary assignment to off-campus suspension (OSS) or alternate education program(s) [SOS and/or JJAEP]

Grade Requirements:

Students must have a grade of 80 or above for the class in order to use the exemption.

Exemptions cannot be used for projects that are cumulative for one week or more.

Junior High students must be enrolled for a minimum of 15 weeks of the semester to be eligible for an exam exemption.

Exemption passes must be used in the qualifying semester only and may not be held from one semester to the next. Must be presented at the time of the test.

- Conduct Grades - In addition to six weeks grades, students will receive citizenship marks for each class. Student conduct grades may affect eligibility for participation in some extra curricular activities.

## Student Conduct

Self-control is expected and school rules must be followed by all students.

E = Excellent

S = Satisfactory

I = Needs Improvement

U = Unsatisfactory

Students are expected to adhere to the school's dress code as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct.

# How to Use a Combination Lock

1. Hold your lock with the numbers facing you.
2. Twirl the knob clockwise two full circles going past the zero and stopping precisely at the first number of your combination.
3. Twirl the knob counter-clockwise one full circle going past the first number and stopping at the second number of your combination.
4. Twirl the knob clockwise again going directly to the third number of your combination. Do not make a full turn this time.
5. Pull down on your lock. It should open. If not, twirl the knob a couple of time and repeat the entire process. Make sure you stop precisely on your combination numbers. If you should turn too far or not quite far enough on any number, you will need to start again.



6. When the lock is open, get the things you need from your locker and replace the lock. Make sure the numbers are facing you before the lock is closed.

7. Always make sure the lock is completely closed. To ensure that it is locked pull down on the lock to make sure it is secure. Do not leave the lock set to open.

8. Never give your locker combination out to anyone.

# Get Involved - Clubs and Activities

Each junior high has extracurricular activities for you to get involved! Clubs and activities are a great way to meet new people, learn new skills and contribute to your school in a positive way. Some examples of extracurricular clubs available are:

- Anime Club
- Art Club
- Card/Board Gamers' Club
- Chess Club
- Creative Writing Club
- Fellowship of Christian Athletes
- French Club
- Global Events Organization (GEO Club)
- Makerspace
- Mythology Guild
- National Junior Honor Society-by invitation only
- Robotics Club
- Spanish Club
- Student Council
- Tennis Club
- Theater/Drama Club
- World Affairs Council
- Yearbook Staff

Check your campus website for more information about what is offered at your school.

# Facts vs. Rumors

Sometimes making a change from one school to another is a little scary. The following questions about junior high school were asked by sixth graders. The answers to these questions might help you. If you have any questions, you can ask your elementary school counselor or your new junior high counselor. We are all here to help!

## **Are there restrictions against how you do your hair, make-up, or what you wear?**

The dress code should be described in the information you will receive from the junior high counselors at the start of the school year. Your hair, make-up, or dress should never interfere with the learning process of yourself or fellow students.

## **How long is a school day?**

The junior high school day begins at 8:20 a.m. and ends at 3:35 p.m. You should arrive at school early enough to prepare for the day without being tardy to first period.

## **If you are absent, how many days do you have to make up your work?**

The Secondary School Code of Conduct states that students having excused absences may make up class work within a reasonable length of time. This may be decided school-wide (such as: one-day absence = one-day make-up) or at the discretion of the teacher.

## **What are the consequences for not following the rules at junior high?**

Consequences may include, **but are not limited to**, the following discipline techniques:

- private conference with the student
- verbal correction
- special duties
- behavioral contracts
- withdrawal of privileges
- time-out
- after school D-Halls (usually 30 minutes)
- Saturday D-Halls (2-3 hours in length)
- individualized behavior modification
- parent telephone call, letter, and/or conference
- rewards or demerits
- temporary confiscation of items that disrupt the educational process.

**Can I have use my cell phone in Junior High?**

Each campus has their own policy regarding cell phone use during the school day. You'll want to make sure you understand what the expectation is and follow it. If your cell phone is taken up, your parent will have to retrieve it from the school

**After P.E., do we take showers?**

Taking showers is optional in junior high. Showers are available in the gym locker room for your use after athletics, gymnastics, and P.E. classes.

**What happens if you are in a club but have bad grades?**

State law prevents students from participating in extracurricular activities if their grades are below 70. These activities include clubs as well as sports, band, choir, etc.

**Will they make you carry a MOOSE?**

MOOSE binders are not used in the junior high setting. Instead, you may keep an agenda or planner as you move from class to class each day, or your teacher might allow you to use a phone or mobile device to keep track of assignments. Check with your teachers first before using this method.

**Is there a 7th grade school supply list?**

Each teacher has their own supply list for their class. These lists are posted on their website prior to school starting and will be given out on the first day of school. On the first day of school, all you need to take to each class is paper and pencil. Your teacher will tell you then what you need to bring to class each day.

**If I am late, what happens?**

Students tardy to first period class go the office to be admitted. Tardies between classes are recorded by the teachers and automatic phone calls go out to parents each day you are marked tardy. Too many tardies will result in a consequence such as detention, Saturday school or ISS.

### **How much is breakfast and lunch in the cafeteria?**

Breakfast and Lunch are a little more expensive in junior high. You have more choices, too! The prices will be made available to you at the beginning of each year and the menu is posted on the website.

### **What time is lunch?**

Your lunchtime will be determined by what your 4th period class is. There are 3-4 lunch times depending on the campus. 7th, 8th and 9th graders all have lunch together.

### **Do we have to share lockers?**

All students have their own locker with a combination lock provided on some campuses. It is very important that you do not give out your locker combination to friends. Students who take PE/Athletics may share a locker with a classmate in the gym locker room. You will want to be especially careful with personal belongings. You don't need to worry about your locker being searched as long as you follow school rules.

### **Do older students bully or haze younger students?**

Bullying means engaging in written or verbal expression, expression through electronic means, or physical conduct that occurs on school property, at a school-sponsored or school-related activity, or in a vehicle operated by the District, and that: (1) has the effect of, or will have the effect of, physically harming another student, damaging a student's property, or placing a student in reasonable fear of harm to the student's person or property; or (2) is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive enough that the action or threat creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for a student. Bullying involving either element is strictly prohibited and is subject to disciplinary actions. This conduct is considered bullying if it exploits an imbalance of power between the student perpetrator and the student victim through written or verbal expression or physical conduct, and interferes with a student's education or substantially disrupts the operation of the school. The District prohibits bullying as defined above. Prohibited bullying of a student may include, but is not limited to, hazing, threats, taunting, teasing, confinement, assault, demands for money, destruction of property, theft of valued possession, name-calling, rumor spreading, or ostracism.

**Can you eat candy or chew gum?**

Candy can be eaten in designated eating areas. Students may not chew gum. It is very messy. The school atmosphere is reflected by how neat and clean your campus is. Everyone is part of the team that builds and promotes school pride.

**What happens if I get lost between classes?**

Hopefully, you won't. Special effort and advanced planning by the junior high staffs help eliminate the possibility at the start of the school year. Volunteers and student council members are in the halls to direct students to their classes. Look for someone you recognize in your class to follow or **ask for help**. Teachers standing by their doors are there to help. Extra time may be given the first week before tardies are counted.

**Are there drugs, alcohol, weapons, or cigarettes on campus?**

Since all of these are against the law, they are rarely found on campus. Every junior high campus has a Student Resource Officer (SRO) on staff as well as a team of administrators and counselors who look after the well being of each student. The SRO is always visible in the halls and in the cafeteria so students can feel safe and have someone to turn to in case of problems. Concentrate your efforts on doing your best and on becoming involved in clubs and other organizations and choose friends who will influence you to make good decisions.

**Is it fun?**

School is what you make it. There are many opportunities to have fun as well as opportunities to gain knowledge. You are the person who decides how much fun you have and how much wisdom you acquire. A good balance makes you a well rounded person.

Take pride in how  
far you have come  
and have faith in  
how far you will  
go!

Your future is in your hands!

