

We Are Jasper

FROM CLASSROOM TO CAREER

Indiana's new diploma requirements explained

REGISTRATION

For PreKindergarten and Kindergarten
for the 2025-2026 school year

PARENT GUIDANCE.ORG

A free resource available to all
GJCS families





NEW INDIANA DIPLOMA

FROM CLASSROOM TO CAREER: INDIANA'S NEW DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS EXPLAINED

BY: DR. TRACY LOREY, GJCS SUPERINTENDENT

In December 2024, the Indiana State Board of Education approved new diploma requirements effective beginning with the Class of 2029 (Current 8th graders). The new diploma includes options that allow students to tailor their studies based on their future goals—whether they’re aiming for college, the workforce, or military service.

Here’s a breakdown of the new structure and pathways for diplomas.

CORE DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS

To graduate, students must complete a minimum of **42 credits** across several academic areas.

Key requirements include:

English – 8 Credits	2 credits: English 9 1 credit: Communications course 5 additional English credits
Math – 7 Credits	2 credits: Algebra I 1 credit: Personal Finance 4 additional math credits
Science – 8 Credits	2 credits: Biology I 1 credit: Computer Science 2 additional science credits 2 STEM-focused credits
Social Studies – 5 Credits	2 credits: U.S. History 1 credit: U.S. Government 2 credits: World Perspectives
PE & Health – 2 Credits	1 credit: Physical Education 1 credit: Health & Wellness
Electives/CTE – 12 Credits	Personalized electives aligned to the unique goals of each student
PCC – 1 Credit	Preparing for College and Careers

NEW HONORS SEALS AND PERSONALIZED PATHWAYS

In December 2024, the Indiana State Board of Education approved new diploma requirements effective beginning with the Class of 2029 (Current 8th graders). The new diploma includes options that allow students to tailor their studies based on their future goals—whether they're aiming for college, the workforce, or military service.

Here's a breakdown of the new structure and pathways for diplomas.



To meet these academic requirements, students must:

Complete:

- At least 4 credits in World Language.
- 6 credits in Social Studies.
- 8 credits in Math (including Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, and Pre-Calculus or other advanced math relevant to their course).
- 6 credits in Science (including Biology I, Chemistry, and Physics or other advanced lab science relevant to their course).

Achieve:

- A grade of C or higher in all courses.
- A cumulative B average.

Additionally, complete one of the following:

- 4 AP credits and pass the corresponding exams.
- 6 college credits
- Score a 1250 on the SAT or a 26 on the ACT.



To fulfill these career-readiness requirements, students must:



**HONORS
SEAL**

- Earn a market-driven credential aligned with a specific occupation or complete 3 CTE pathway courses.
- Complete 100 hours of work-based learning.
- Demonstrate skills in Communication, Collaboration, and Work Ethic.
- Meet attendance goals.



To meet these public service readiness requirements, students must complete one of the following:

- Introduction to Public Service course (or an approved equivalent) with a focus on physical and character standards for service.
- Score 31 on the ASVAB and complete the Career Exploration Program.

Additionally, students must:

- Meet attendance goals.
- Demonstrate skills in Communication, Collaboration, and Work Ethics.
- Complete a mentorship experience verified externally with military personnel, veterans, or public safety professionals.

HONORS PLUS SEALS

Students may earn the Honors Plus Seal by completing all Honor Seal requirements and the additional requirements.

ENROLLMENT - EARN THE HONORS ENROLLMENT SEAL, PLUS:

Earn a credential of value* that may include, for example:

- Technical Certificate;
- Indiana College Core;
- AP Scholar with Distinction;

Complete at least 100 hours of work-based learning

Demonstrate skill development in the following areas:
Communication, Collaboration, and Work Ethic.



EMPLOYMENT - EARN THE HONORS EMPLOYMENT SEAL, PLUS:

Earn a market-driven credential of value* that may include, for example:

- Technical Certificate;
- Indiana College Core; or
- Advanced industry certificate

Complete additional, focused work-based learning (total of 650 hours in one or more experiences) that may include, for example:

- Pre-Apprenticeship
- Modern Youth Apprenticeship

Demonstrate skill development in Communication, Collaboration, Work Ethic, and any additional skills determined locally.

ENLISTMENT – EARN THE HONORS ENLISTMENT SEAL, PLUS:

Achieve a score of 50 or higher on the ASVAB

Demonstrate excellence in leadership through one of the following:

- Completion of at least 100 hours of public service;
- Holding a leadership role in a co/extracurricular activity;
- Completion of two seasons of a team-based physical sport or activity

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

If you have questions or would like more details on how these options may benefit your student, please visit the Indiana Department of Education's website.

In the coming weeks, the high school guidance department will be sharing information regarding future meetings intended to assist parents and students with the course selections and pathways focused on each student's unique post-secondary goals.

[Diploma-Comparison](#)



NEW DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS: WHAT TO EXPECT AT JASPER HIGH SCHOOL

BY: THE JASPER HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMIC SERVICES TEAM

The Academic Services Team at Jasper High School is looking forward to talking to students and parents about the new Indiana Diploma types. The new diploma requirements are the first major revision of Indiana graduation requirements since 2017. The new diploma requires the student to earn a minimum of 42 required credits plus the opportunity to earn a Readiness Seal that aligns with a student's post-secondary goals. The new diploma will help prepare students for the next chapter of their lives after high school. It will give them the flexibility to experience work-based learning, earn market-driven credentials, obtain the Indiana College Core, and demonstrate skill development in Communication, Collaboration, and Work Ethic.

The Readiness Seals include:

1. Enrollment- for students who choose to continue their education at a 2 or 4-year university or a trade school.
2. Employment- for students who choose to transition directly into the workforce immediately after high school.
3. Enlistment- for students who choose to serve in one of our military branches after high school.

"Initially when we saw the new requirements we were nervous. Like with anything new or different, there are questions. As we broke down the new diplomas piece by piece we realized that there was much more flexibility for the students and many of the new requirements for all students were things that we already had in place at our school. The most significant changes are all students will be required to take a Computer Science class and a Personal Finance course. These will be one-semester courses that complement the programs we currently offer. Some of the old diploma requirements have been removed so there will be no impact on the actual 'workload' of the student," commented Sean Jochum, counselor on the JHS Academic Services Team.

Our biggest concern for the next few years is we will have 2 groups of students in the building, We will have one set of graduation requirements for students up to the class of 2028 and we will have a different set of graduation requirements for the class of 2029 and beyond. It could be confusing for parents especially if they have students in both groups. We have been preparing the staff and faculty for these upcoming changes and their questions and feedback have helped us learn about points that may be confusing, unclear, or may need some additional explanation. We are looking forward to presenting this information to parents of the class of 2029 in February.

KINDERGARTEN & PREKINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION



for the 2025-2026 school year

Kindergarten Registration for both schools will begin with pre-enrollment, which will open on January 6, 2025. To enroll in Kindergarten, students must be 5 years old on or before August 1, 2025. Pre-enrollment is a two-step process. First, there is a SignUp Genius Link that must be filled out. A time will be selected for families to complete the registration process at the school they wish to enroll on January 29, 2025. After selecting a time on the SignUp Genius, the PowerSchool Link must be completed to be enrolled in the GJCS database. These can be found on the [Greater Jasper Consolidated School Corporation Website](#), [Jasper Elementary School Website](#), [Ireland Elementary School Website](#) or the Greater Jasper Consolidated School Corporation Facebook Page.

Pre-Kindergarten Registration for both schools will take place on Wednesday, January 8, 2025. To enroll in Pre-Kindergarten, students must be 4 years old on or before August 1, 2025. Pre-Kindergarten at both schools is \$100 per month and AM and PM classes are available. Phone lines will open at 5:30 P.M and you must call the school in which you wish to enroll your student to register. Spots are limited. The phone number for Jasper Elementary School is 812-556-3600 and the phone number for Ireland Elementary School is 812-482-7751.

La inscripción para kínder para ambas escuelas comenzará con la preinscripción, que se abrirá el 6 de enero de 2025. Para inscribirse en kínder, los estudiantes deben tener 5 años cumplidos antes del 1 de agosto de 2025. La preinscripción es un proceso de dos pasos. Primero, hay un enlace SignUp Genius que debe completarse. En ese enlace usted seleccionará una hora el 29 de enero de 2025 para ir a completar el proceso de inscripción en la escuela en la que desea inscribir a su hijo. Después de seleccionar una hora en SignUp Genius, debe completar la información en el enlace de PowerSchool para inscribirse en la base de datos de las escuelas de Jasper. Los dos enlaces estarán disponibles en [las páginas web del distrito de las escuelas de Jasper](#) o [el sitio web de cada escuela de primaria de Jasper](#). También los podrá encontrar en la página de Facebook de Greater Jasper Consolidated School Corporation.

La inscripción para preescolar para ambas escuelas de primaria se llevará a cabo el miércoles 8 de enero de 2025. Para inscribirse en preescolar, los estudiantes deben tener 4 años de edad antes del 1 de agosto de 2025. Preescolar en ambas escuelas cuesta \$100 por mes y hay dos turnos disponibles, uno por la mañana y otro por la tarde. Para inscribir a su hijo debe llamar por teléfono. Se empezará a contestar llamadas a las 5:30 p.m. y deberá llamar a la escuela en la que desea inscribir a su estudiante para registrarse. Las plazas son limitadas. El número de teléfono de la escuela de Jasper Elementary es 812-556-3600 y el número de teléfono de la escuela de Ireland Elementary es 812-482-7751.



GJCS is proud to offer a free and confidential resource for families called ParentGuidance.Org, developed by licensed therapists.

Each month, we send out a newsletter focusing on a different topic. In addition to these newsletters, the website provides specialized courses, professional support, and a safe community for parents that allows them to learn how to better support their children.

Parents can find answers to mental health questions on topics like anxiety, depression, self-worth, grief and loss, bullying, family strife, and many other concerns. Over 50 e-courses are available for free. There is also an “ask-a-therapist” section.

GJCS also offers parent coaching to all district parents. This is a free, confidential service where a coach can meet with you to discuss your concerns and needs. You also will have the ability to message the coach anytime if concerns arise.

ParentGuidance.Org is a valuable resource for parents of students of any age. A parent commented, “Parent Guidance encourages a healthy parent-child relationship and offers a comprehensive approach to parenting where you will find connection, education, tools and strategies to help you guide your children through life’s challenges and teach them how to successfully navigate their way through difficult times”.

To get started, try reading the monthly newsletters sent to your inbox by GJCS Marketing and Communications Director, Gillian Blessinger. Additionally, consider visiting ParentGuidance.Org to explore courses that may be relevant to you and your student. As the saying goes, “It takes a village,” and this is one way GJCS hopes to contribute as part of that village. Click on the ParentGuidance.Org icon to visit the website!





Celebrating Culture and Community: The Impact of JHS YLU

The JHS Young Latinos Unidos (YLU) club stands as a beacon of cultural pride and community engagement, having blossomed from a simple call-out meeting about six years ago. With Brian Uebelhor's leadership and sponsorships from Bea Cobo, Megan Johnson, and Kylie Anderson in addition to the foundational support of Evelyn Rivas from ALASI and Jenny Fowler from Southridge, the club has grown into a dynamic community that not only celebrates Latino heritage but actively fosters advocacy for the community.

The club's mission is simple yet profound: to promote advocacy and instill pride in Latino roots and community. Full membership requires students to abide by a code of conduct and engage in community service related to the Latino community. This commitment has fostered a strong sense of responsibility and belonging among its members.

YLU's activities are as diverse as they are impactful. Students participate in college visits, offering them a glimpse into their future academic possibilities. The club's involvement in the Indiana Latino Institute's Education Summit in Evansville provides members with educational and networking opportunities. Additionally, the club's mentoring program at Jasper Elementary School enables high school students to serve as role models, nurturing the next generation.

Cultural celebrations and community service go hand in hand for YLU. The club participates in the Day of the Dead project with Dubois County Museum, offering students a chance to honor their cultural traditions. They also provide essential translation services at school events, ensuring inclusivity for Latino families. Moreover, the club maintains a strong connection with their sister group from Southridge High School, with an annual shared day that strengthens bonds and collaboration.

To support their activities, the club holds fundraising events, such as fixing burritos—a delicious embodiment of their cultural heritage. These events not only raise funds but also bring the school community together in a shared celebration of culture.

The club's growth is a testament to its success and impact, with an impressive turnout of 130 students. This growth reflects the club's positive influence and the increasing desire among students to connect with their cultural roots.

The YLU Code of Conduct encapsulates the club's ethos, urging members to represent the Latino community with pride, respect one another, and remember their roots. It emphasizes the importance of actions and how they reflect on the community as a whole.

Through community service, cultural engagement, and educational opportunities, the JHS Young Latinos Unidos club embodies the spirit of unity and empowerment. It stands as a testament to the power of cultural pride and community service, inspiring students to lead with love, respect, and a deep connection to their heritage.

Who are the ROOS?

Respecting Ourselves and Others - Jasper Middle School

Respecting ourselves and others is not only an important rule to go by for middle schoolers, but for all ages. The ROOS (Respecting Ourselves and Others) Club has been an integral part of Jasper Middle School for over 10 years through serving not only our students, but also our community.

ROOS club is equivalent to SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) at Jasper High School. ROOS is a student led group that is dedicated to growing their leadership skills and implementing self-awareness throughout our hallways. The group is not based on academics or popularity. Instead, this group is based on students who want to be leaders and to have a healthy impact on their school environment and community. ROOS students hold themselves to higher standards on a daily basis by making sure they are respectful and kind to everyone they interact with throughout the day. These students greatly enjoy the privilege of helping others on a large scale.

Students who are involved in ROOS are required to go through a process, starting out with an application, to become a ROOS member. After the application has been filled out, each student then is required to find two teachers that approve them to be qualified candidates. Applications are open to every 7th grader in the 2nd semester of the school year. ROOS members begin their duties in the 8th grade.

A big event for ROOS that comes around every year, right before Christmas, is Toys for Tots. All Jasper Middle School students are encouraged to bring in toys for children throughout the holiday season who may not be as fortunate to receive gifts. The donation drive is put on by the United States Marine Corps but lists Jasper Middle School as a donation site. Another major event that requires lots of student involvement is Red Ribbon Week. This week consists of five dress up days. ROOS students encourage JMS students to sign posters pledging to stay drug free. The group raised money through a Knockout competition and the winner received a pizza party. To make sure all students were involved in the week, ROOS had a door decorating contest within each homeroom. Door decorations were based on the theme of this year's Red Ribbon Week - "Life is a Movie: Live Drug Free." A homeroom from each grade won the contest and received a "free homeroom" in the gym. The winners of the door decoration contest this year were Mrs. Gaither (8th grade), Mrs. Werner (7th grade), and Mrs. Wigand (6th grade). A couple other major events that ROOS puts on throughout the year include a Halloween Costume Contest and Riley Week. The students also try to go to a nursing home in the community to visit with the residents.

STUDENT LIGHTHOUSE TEAM

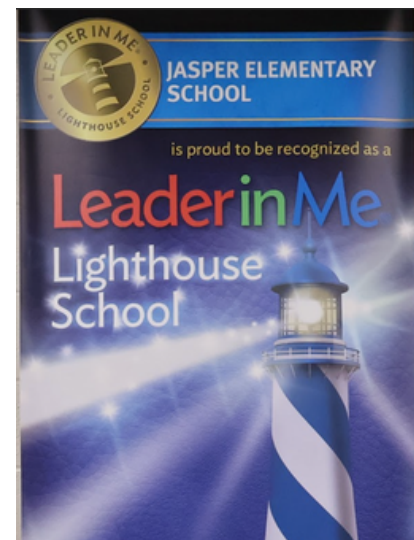


Did you know that Jasper Elementary School has a group of leaders that help lead their school in Celebrations, service projects, and other important activities? At JES, the Student Lighthouse Team meets weekly to plan and coordinate events for the whole student body!

The Student Lighthouse Team is made up of 2 students from each of the 1st through 4th grades and 4 students from the 5th grade. The team is made up of students that live out the 7 habits in and out of school. To be a part of the Student Lighthouse Team, students have to complete an application and undergo an interview with a staff member. Once chosen, they meet together weekly to discuss and plan activities for the whole student body.

The Habits are:

- Habit 1: Be Proactive
- Habit 2: Have a Plan
- Habit 3: Put First Things First
- Habit 4: Think Win-Win
- Habit 5: Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood
- Habit 6: Synergize
- Habit 7: Sharpen the Saw
- Habit 8: Find Your Voice



The Student Lighthouse Team works as a team along with the staff of the Culture Committee to coordinate events for the whole school year. This year they planned how JES would celebrate World Kindness Day in November. They created kindness signs and posted them around the school. They also made a video for the JES news to encourage others to be kind. This year's team also decided to do a service project for the Dubois Humane Society. They made tug ropes for the dogs. They plan to deliver them soon. In the past, the Student Lighthouse team has assisted in the JES Dedication, Riley Week, food drive, pet drive, JES Walk a Thon, Kindness Week in February, and encouraged students during state testing.

The Student Lighthouse Team is a great assist to JES. They are a group of great leaders that live out the 7 Habits of Happy Leaders in their daily lives!

Beyond the Classroom

INSTILLING LIFELONG VALUES IN IRELAND ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

Every day at Ireland Elementary, teachers and staff strive for academic excellence. In addition, one large goal is to create well-rounded students who are respectful, thoughtful, and responsible. Through various programs within our school, such as Lunch Bunch, the Kindness Cart, and Study Buddies, we hope to instill these lifelong values in our students.

Lunch Bunch is a unique program designed for 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders. The goal is to foster social-emotional growth and connection. Each Lunch Bunch focuses on skills like emotional regulation, social awareness, and grit. Mrs. Goodhue, Ireland's School Social Worker, originally created Lunch Bunch to support students who had identified areas of need. It has since evolved into an inclusive initiative. Now, random groups of 8-10 students join their peers for five-week sessions. Over time every student will have the opportunity to participate before leaving Ireland. Through engaging activities and meaningful discussions, students build resilience, strengthen relationships, and learn strategies for navigating challenges all within a supportive and fun environment.

The Kindness Cart is a heartwarming initiative led by 3rd graders who deliver snacks, a drink, and a positive message to staff members. During their rounds, the students also take time to chat with the staff, building a sense of connection and appreciation. Staff members are always pleasantly surprised when they get a visit from the Kindness Cart. The cart not only spreads kindness, but it also helps students develop communication skills while brightening the day for everyone involved.

With a goal of mentorship, upper grades partner with primary grades to support them with reading, projects, and guidance. This partnership allows the older students to take on leadership roles, while the younger ones benefit from encouragement from a buddy and mentor. Buddy time creates connections, enhances learning experiences, and builds a strong sense of community within the school. The buddies see each other in the hallways, wave, and share hugs. They often take these friendships out into the community and share the excitement when they see each other at ball games or events.

As a school, these programs are extremely beneficial in developing considerate and empathetic students. Incorporating these activities in these early, educational years will have an enormous impact on their future.

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: Mr. Pryor teaching JHS Staff Members ways to incorporate AI in the classroom.



Above: JHS Staff participate in the Halloween Parade.

Right: The JHS Octagon Club visited local elementary schools and engaged classrooms in various reading activities.



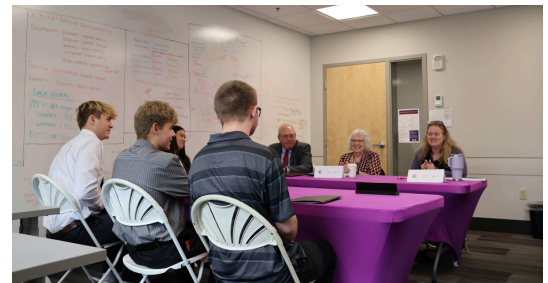
Below: Mrs. Hughes speaking to students during the Natural Helpers Retreat. Natural Helpers is a peer-elected program.



Left: The JHS Veterans Day Program featured guest speaker, Major Nathan Humbert, a former Jasper High School Student.



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



JASPER MIDDLE SCHOOL

First Semester Highlights



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



Above: Ms. Leinenbach works with a student on an activity incorporating School AI in the classroom.



Left: Student work was put on display at the Creative Arts Showcase.

Right: 7th graders with NO 1st quarter Occurrences or Late Assignments were invited to the Soaring CATS Celebration.



Below: The JMS Student Council went to French Lick to participate in team building activities.



Left: JMS Staff gets ready for the first day of school.



Left: The JMS Student Art Club went on a field trip to the Thyen-Clark Cultural Center.

JASPER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

First Semester Highlights



Above: JES celebrated literacy growth by having a Western Day with lots of guest readers.



Above: Mr. Taylor recognizes the State Runner Up Spell Bowl Team.



Left: Kindergarten students had a blast participating in many Thanksgiving themed activities before break.



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: Officer Knies and Officer Lampert spoke to students about the importance of bus safety.



Below: Through the Whole Kids Grant, JES now has a garden for students and staff to enjoy.



IRELAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

First Semester Highlights



Above: After raising money for Ireland Elementary School, the 5th grade students got to enjoy the color run.



Above: Joyce Jones read a book about Larry Bird to third grade students.



Above: 2nd grade students completed a Halloween STEM activity where they inflated balloons with baking soda and vinegar.

Below: Mrs. Peter's class participated in a fun activity with donuts during the first week of school.



Below: Kindergarten students tried a variety of foods during the annual Thanksgiving feast.



Below: 5th grade students visited the Decimal Diner where they put their knowledge of adding and subtracting decimals to the test.



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 6 - School Resumes



January 20 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Snow Make-Up Day



February 17 - Presidents' Day, Snow Make-Up Day



March 7 - End 3rd Quarter



March 24-28 - Spring Break



April 18 - Good Friday



May 23 - End 4th Quarter, End 2nd Semester, Commencement



May 27-30 - Snow Make-Up Days

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

