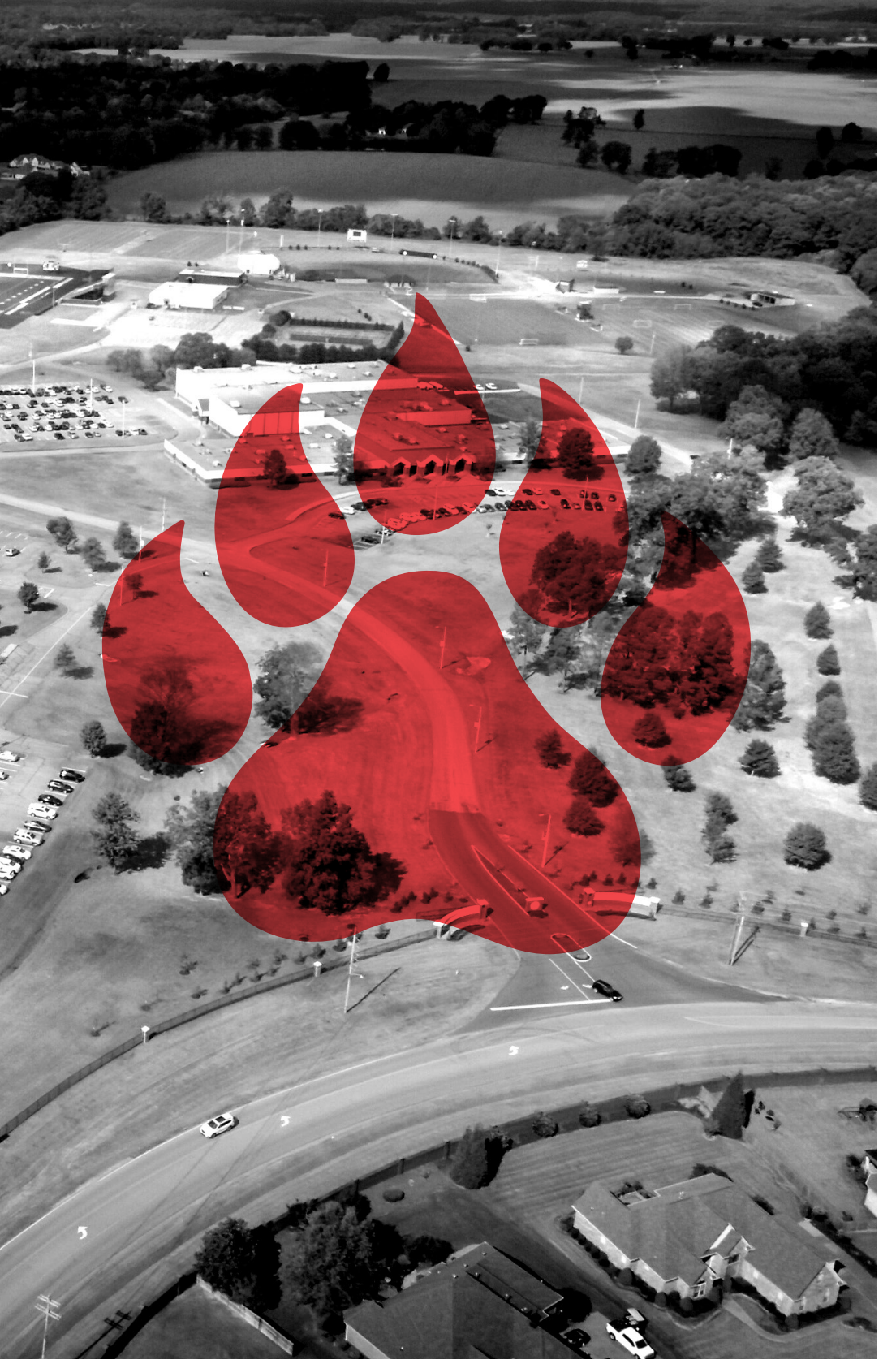
WELCOME TO THE USJ
Middle School





Dear Middle School Students and Parents,

Warmest welcome to USJ Middle School! We are so excited to have the opportunity to get to know you as you learn more about the opportunities that USJ Middle School provides. We know that this is an integral, sometimes challenging, time for young students, so we aim to make the transition to USJ Middle School as comfortable and efficient as possible.

At USJ, we strive to offer students a well-rounded education that starts with academics and includes athletics, fine arts, character education, and leadership. You will see that this packet offers you information about each of these core values and insights to find the right fit for you.

At USJ Middle School, students are offered a variety of challenging academic courses designed to prepare them for Upper School and beyond. Each student is enrolled in a rigorous academic schedule that includes English, Math, History, Science, and a World Language (7th and 8th only). Each of these courses requires a comprehensive final exam in December and May, which counts as 1/7 of the student's average for the semester. In addition to these courses, students take a variety of extracurricular and fine arts classes, including Art, STEM, Intro to Literature and Writing, Strength and Conditioning, and Physical Education. Students may choose to take band, music, or choir.

This booklet is not meant to replace the Middle School Handbook; instead, it is designed to be an additional resource for you to better understand life in the Middle School. Take time to peruse this packet, read the Student Handbook, and become familiar with what is to come. I look forward to a great school year!

Sincerely,

Margaret Livingston
Head of Middle School



Middle School

Margaret Livingston,
Head of Middle School
mlivingston@usjbruins.org

Alissa Wells,
Middle School Secretary
731.660.2110, awells@usjbruins.org



Student Responsibility

Middle School is an integral time for students to grow and practice habits that will set them up to be successful in Upper School, college, and career. Middle School students are expected to accept and practice responsibilities as they embark on a new academic, social, and emotional journey. In addition to reporting to class on time and managing a 7 class-period rotating schedule, students should email or speak with teachers when questions arise, schedule and attend tutorials, check their grades regularly, and keep up with coursework, among other responsibilities. Responsibility, however, is a practiced skill, and our teachers, counselor, and administrators are here to help guide your children as they learn how to organize coursework, manage time, practice responsibility, and accomplish challenging tasks. In addition to help from school faculty, the Middle School offers homework and test Google calendars(links found on the Resource Boards) that allow parents and students to review assignments and prepare for assessments as needed. Assignments are also posted in Google Classroom.

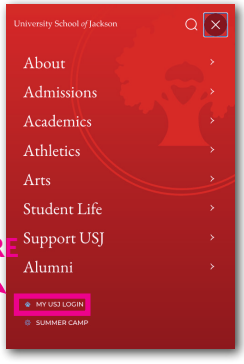
Monitoring Student Accounts & Technology Usage



Our faculty and students use technology at all grade levels to enhance learning. Although USJ Middle School enforces a cell-phone free classroom, Google Classroom, and web-based resources are integrated into the learning environment via laptops. With such tools comes an increase in student and parent responsibility to monitor student accounts. School accounts include Google Classroom (assignments), Blackbaud/My School App (grades/attendance), and Gmail (email). We recommend that parents monitor any personal chat features and messaging tools, as well as student web history. All students and parents sign an acceptable use policy at the beginning of the school year. For more information and resources about monitoring student accounts, see the technology page of the USJ website.



Resource Board and Grades



To find important Middle school information and to check student grades, parents and students are urged to visit My School App's Middle School Resource Board. Here, you will find information such as the tutorial schedule, calendar highlights, the Middle School handbook, links, and schedules. To access the Resource Board, log into **www.usjbruins.myschoolapp.com,** click on "resources," and click "Middle School Resource Board." To check grades, log into My School App, and click on your child's name. When you scroll down, you will see courses listed. Change the term, and click on the correct quarter. Grades will then appear. Under each grade, you may click "see grade detail" for more information.

Homework and Test Calendars

Homework and Test Calendar links will be available on the Middle School Resource Board on MySchoolApp. We encourage parents and students to view these calendars regularly.

Absences

USJ recognizes that education requires continual instruction, classroom participation, learning experiences, and diligent study for students to reach their maximum potential. Tardiness and absenteeism are detrimental to academic achievement. Research has shown that there is a direct relationship between attendance and scholastic performance. Students with satisfactory attendance records have a better chance to achieve higher grades, enjoy school, and learn the responsibility necessary for independence and success in later life.

A parent must notify the Middle School Assistant, Alissa Wells (731-660-2110 or awells@usjbruins.org) between 7:45 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. on any day that a student is to be absent from school, will check out for an appointment, or will check in late. Families are required to give notice of an absence to the school prior to the absence date and as soon as the absence is known. In case of absence, the student will be held responsible for all make up work. Students must request all assignments from teachers and make arrangements to make up any assessments.

Students check themselves in and out through the Middle School office.

Please see the Middle School Handbook located on the MS Resource Board for full information.

Grading Scale

Evaluation of student academic performance will be expressed by means of letter and number grades. A student is required to attend tutorials when he or she has a grade of C- or below in a certain class.

NUMERICAL GRADE	LETTER GRADE EQUIVALENT	GPA EQUIVALENT
98 – 100	A+	4.5
93 – 97	A	4.25
90 – 92	A-	4.0
87 – 89	B+	3.5
83 – 86	B	3.25
80 – 82	B-	3.0
77 – 79	C+	2.5
73 – 76	C	2.25
70 – 72	C-	2.0
65-69	D	1.0
0-64	F	0.0

Summer Reading

The Middle School English Department selects the books for rising 6-8th grade students to read during the summer. Students are urged to read carefully and annotate the text in order to prepare for class discussion and assignments. Information concerning summer reading selections will be distributed to the rising 6th, 7th, and 8th grade classes after Memorial Day, and all summer reading information can be found on the website and accessed from the Middle School page.



Athletics

Middle School students are eligible to participate in the following interscholastic sports. Athletes are expected to display good sportsmanship and abide by all USJ policies and regulations, on and off the court and fields of play. Tryouts are communicated via athletic department emails.

Fall Sports:
Cross-country (6-8)
Football (7-8)
Soccer (girls) (6-8)
Softball (6-8)
Cheer (6-8)
Tennis (6-8)

Winter:
Basketball:
Girls (7-8)
Boys (7-8)
Volleyball (6-8)

Spring:
Golf (6-8)
Soccer (boys) (6-8)
Baseball (7-8)
Track (6-8)











Musical Productions

The Middle School musical productions are a fun way to help prepare the students for the larger productions in the Upper School. Students get the opportunity to perform on the Blankenship Theater stage up to four times a year. Typically, there are one to two Middle School productions, and sometimes the Upper School musicals, and even plays, will open auditions up to the Middle School students. This is a great way to showcase your talents. Even if you are not a strong singer, but a great actor or dancer, there are plenty of ways to get involved. Students who are leaning more towards the technical side will also find the musicals to be a lot of fun and educational.

Every musical and play will hold auditions in the theater. For the musicals, students will get up as a group and sing one of the hit songs from the show. Once they are familiar, they will sing individually so the directors can see what part will best suit them. Upon completing the vocal audition, they will be asked to get up on stage and read a specific scene from the show with other students. There are usually two days of auditions, with call backs on the third day if needed. Rehearsals typically start the following week and will be held first thing in the morning before school starts, after school, or in the evening. Some Saturday rehearsals will be required, and every show has mandatory rehearsals that students must attend. There is something for everyone in USJ theater!

Band



Band is one of the many wonderful opportunities available to students in Middle School. You probably have seen the Bruin Band perform at football and basketball games or at other civic and community events. Maybe you heard them in the orchestra at one of this year's musicals. We even have members in area church ensembles and youth orchestras. USJ band students are taking top awards at local, regional, and state Honor Bands and competitions. Our graduates have been offered and have accepted band scholarships to universities as they pursue their chosen careers. We are very excited about music education at USJ and we would like to extend an invitation to be a part of our program. Most importantly, we know your student has other talents and interests. Athletics, academics, cheerleading, dance schools, and community projects are just some of the interests our present band members also enjoy. Our band program is about strengthening your student in all that he or she is. These activities will not conflict with your child's participation in our band program. We will work with you and your student to ensure their success and enjoyment of all USJ has to offer. Here is all you need to do:

Step 1 - Talk with your student about band, and have him or her enroll in Band during Middle School Course Selection in February. Contact Clare Fisher with any questions.

Step 2 - During the first week of school we will have "hands on" time to select the instrument your child will play. Don't worry if they don't know what they want to play. We'll find it.

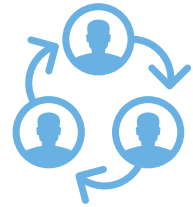
Step 3 - During that same week, we will have an evening meeting with parents and students to make arrangements to either purchase or rent the instrument that the student will play.

This is an exciting time for your family, and we would like to help your student realize their special gifts and develop the abilities that will last them a lifetime. Please feel free to contact Mrs. Fisher at any time about the band program.

Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Advisory



Advisory is an integral part of life in the Middle School. The purpose of Advisory is to begin to understand and master social-emotional skills, such as emotion management, impulse control, problem solving, and empathy. Each Middle School student is assigned a faculty advisor from his or her grade level who becomes a mentor throughout the school year. The advisor can be extremely helpful to Middle School students as they become acclimated to their new Middle School environment. For each year of middle school, advisory groups provide an opportunity, outside of the academic environment, to build relationships among students and teachers. Advisory groups meet on Thursdays and have a specific, research-based curriculum for social-emotional learning, called Character Strong. The topics are built around the skills necessary to thrive in and out of the classroom, such as making good decisions, developing a growth mindset, dealing with conflict, and being a confident learner. If you have any questions about Middle School, please don't hesitate to contact counselor Keli Gooch, kgooch@usjbruins.org, for more information and thank you for your support as we work to build a safe and supportive school community.



Field Trips

USJ values well-rounded individuals and believes in the importance of cultural and academic growth. Such growth may be enhanced by the exceptional opportunity for students in the Middle School to engage in real world learning by participating in field trips.



6 Grade will participate in a team building day.
7 Grade will travel to St. Louis
8 Grade travels to Washington D.C./ New York City

Sample Bell Schedule



MIDDLE SCHOOL Bell Schedule
Rotation by Weeks

PERIOD	TIME	B WEEK	R WEEK	U WEEK	I WEEK	N WEEK
1st	8:00 a.m. - 8:50 a.m.	A	B	A	B	A
Break/Assembly	8:50 a.m. - 9:05 a.m. (assembly Mon. 9:45 a.m.)					
2nd	9:10 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	B	A	B	A	B
3rd	10:05 a.m. - 10:55 a.m.	C	G	F	E	D
4th	11:00 a.m. - 11:50 a.m.	D	C	G	F	E
Lunch	11:50 a.m. - 12:20 p.m.					
5th	12:25 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.	E	D	C	G	F
6th	1:20 p.m. - 2:10 p.m.	F	E	D	C	G
7th	2:15 p.m. - 3:05 p.m.	G	F	E	D	C
Lab/Tutorial	3:05 p.m. - 3:35 p.m.					

Sample Student Schedule

Student Schedule — **University School of Jackson**

Sample Student '33 — **Grade: 6th Grade**

Course	Start Time	End Time	Room	Block	Teacher
8/07/2026 B Week					
English 6 (A)	8:00 am	8:50 am	Middle School - 2122	A	Emily Morris
Music 6 (B Fe Gr)	9:10 am	10:00 am	Middle School - 2107	B	Tammy Grant
PE 6/Strength 6 (Fe)	9:10 am	10:00 am	Middle School - MS Gym	B	Jeffrey R Jones (H), Danny Giles
Earth Science 6 (C)	10:05 am	10:55 am	Middle School - 2124	C	Tremon Cockrell
World Geography 6 (D)	11:00 am	11:50 am	Middle School - 2123	D	Mike Schwartz
Math 6 (E)	12:25 pm	1:15 pm	Middle School - 2125	E	Ella Engles
MS Sem Study Hall (Gray - F)	1:20 pm	2:10 pm	Middle School - 2027	F	Alicia Gray
Introduction to Foreign Language 6 (M/W/F G)	2:15 pm	3:05 pm	Middle School - 2108	G	Paul Conway
Foundations (T/Th G)	2:15 pm	3:05 pm	Middle School - 2120	G	Bryce King

Student Council

Student Council gives students opportunities for leadership and service to the school community. The Student Council is led by students who are elected in the fall by their homerooms to serve a one-year term. The representatives are divided into a Spirit Committee and a Community Service Committee to help organize events and activities for the Middle School. Students' suggestions will be brought to the Student Council for consideration by representatives of each homeroom. Student Council members will also help in hosting prospective students on their visits to the school. Student Council is a wonderful opportunity for student involvement and leadership.

Community Service

The Middle School faculty believes it is important for our students to connect to their community- learning what the problems are, who is working to solve those problems, and how they can positively impact our community.

Our student council leaders and sponsors are instrumental in organizing the Middle School community service projects described below:

RIFA Backpack Program or Canned Food Drive- Each year our Middle School students participate in RIFA's Backpack program or Canned Food Drive.

Lebonheur or St. Jude- Middle School students raise money through the faculty versus student volleyball game to give as a donation.

Salvation Army Angel Tree – Middle School classes adopt an Angel Tree child and collect gifts for Christmas.

Money Wars- Each year, Middle School students participate in a friendly competition to see which grade can raise the most money.
The Student Council votes on a local nonprofit each year, providing students with an opportunity to learn about the organization's mission and impact before presenting the donation.



Co-Curricular Programs

The Middle School provides unique and exciting opportunities for students including assemblies; student advisories and character education classes; interest groups; Student Council; Spelling Bee; MS Science Bowl; athletics; drama productions; academic awards and Eighth Grade celebration; Honor Bands and Choirs; Eighth Grade study tour; Seventh Grade study tour; Sixth Grade day excursion; and field trips related to subject areas, such as Quebec trip for French.

Tutorials

The daily schedule offers tutorial time from 3:05-3:35. Students may schedule tutorials with a teacher for any day; in addition, each week, teachers offer a structured tutorial. The schedule is available on the Middle School Resource Board.

Interest Groups

At the start of the school year, students may sign up for interest groups via a Google form. Interest groups meet at varying times throughout the school year, and students are responsible for organizing their interest group schedules. Interest group descriptions will be posted on the MS resource board and sent out via email with the signup form.

USJ Study Group

USJ Study Group is a student-led peer-to-peer mentoring and tutorial program that pairs Upper School students with Middle school students in an effort not only to provide academic and organizational tutoring, but also to help bridge the gap between Middle and Upper Schools. Students are recommended to the study group by their teachers, though interested students are urged to reach out to their teachers for more information.



Middle School Course Descriptions - Grades 6-8

ENGLISH

Sixth Grade English: This course focuses on the writing process, reading comprehension, spelling and vocabulary development, and refinement of grammar skills. Students learn how to demonstrate knowledge of a topic using self-expression through technology both within groups and/or individually. The course introduces the writing process for expository, narrative, and argumentative topics.

Seventh Grade English: This course emphasizes grammar, vocabulary, literature, and composition, particularly grammar usage and its incorporation into written composition. There is continued use of novel reading and discussion skills, and the research paper is introduced in this course.

Seventh Grade English - Honors: This course stresses grammar, vocabulary, and composition, along with the introduction of the forms and terms of literature. The novel, the short story, drama, and poetry constitute the literary genres. The course includes research and creative writing projects.

Eighth Grade English: This course focuses on grammar, vocabulary, literature, and composition studies with a continued emphasis on grammar mastery and research skills. Study skills that will be needed in the Upper School are introduced in this course.

Eighth Grade English - Honors: This course focuses on grammar, vocabulary, literature, and composition studies with a continued emphasis on grammar mastery and research skills. Study skills that will be needed in the Upper School are introduced. A special emphasis on SAT vocabulary is stressed.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Sixth Grade Geography: The first semester, students will develop an understanding of Tennessee history, from its frontier days to when it became the 16th state in the Union. During second semester, students study World Culture and Geography to develop an understanding of how different cultures developed. This is done through a study of the seven continents, which also improves knowledge of geography.

Seventh Grade Ancient World History: This study of history and geography examines social, cultural, and technological changes beginning with prehistoric times. A major focus of this course is the development and advancement of ancient civilizations.

Eighth Grade United States History: This is a complete study of the United States from the discovery of America to Reconstruction. Geography and map skills are included.

MATHEMATICS

Sixth Grade Mathematics: This course emphasizes mastery in fundamental skills of mathematics. Content material is explored through reasoning, problem solving, number relationships and theory, patterns and functions, and pre-algebraic concepts.

Sixth Grade Mathematics - Honors: This course transitions students from arithmetic to algebra. The course builds foundational skills using basic operations with integers, the use of variables, solving equations and inequalities, problem solving skills, relations and functions and polynomials. Students become familiar with the concept of the numerical expressions, algebraic expressions, and equations.

Students selected for Honors Math are required to meet three of four prerequisites: year math average of 95+, above average stanine math score on the Aspire Test, teacher recommendation, and 95+ score on mid-year 5th grade math exam. The teacher recommendation is based on the student's work ethic and math aptitude.

Seventh Grade Mathematics: This course allows students to review and improve arithmetic skills with focus on decimal, fractions, and percentages. There is a continued emphasis on pre-algebra skills integrated with informal geometry.

Seventh Grade Mathematics - Honors: This course covers pre-algebra concepts in greater depth. Students will synthesize and algebraically represent situations to solve problems, especially those involving linear relationships.

Eighth Grade Mathematics: In this course, students complete pre-algebra material while introducing fundamental processes of algebra needed for Upper School Mathematics.

Eighth Grade Mathematics - Honors: The sequence of this course involves the application of abstract concepts from previously learned concrete concepts. Students will apply algebraic representations to real world situations and analyze the nature of changes in linear and non-linear relationships.

SCIENCE

Sixth Grade Earth Science: This course outlines our current understanding of the Earth's systems as well as our place in the Universe. Generally, three areas are addressed: the structure of the earth, which includes the four spheres; the earth's history; and the earth as part of the solar system. Varied teaching strategies are used to make this a fun and informative study.

Seventh Grade Life Science: This course introduces students to the complexity of life from the cellular level to a complete, living organism. Students learn life's structures and functions in bacteria, plants, and animals, as well as heredity and the different organ systems of the human body. Lab experiences enrich the curriculum through hands-on experience and direct observation. This overview of life creates an interest in the world around us as we discuss similarities and differences throughout creation.

Eighth Grade Physical Science: This course provides a study of the basics of chemistry and physics, probes the interaction of matter and energy, and endeavors to give the student an appreciation and understanding of the physical world. Laboratory experiences enhance the learning of principles.

WORLD LANGUAGE

French/Spanish (Seventh and Eighth Grades): Language courses introduce students to the languages and cultures of French and Spanish-speaking regions. These courses encourage a desire to continue foreign language studies in the Upper School. Students can choose one of the two languages to begin to develop listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills with an emphasis on vocabulary and cultural awareness.

ENRICHMENT CLASSES

Art: Art classes introduce students to the basic elements of design and how to apply them to fundamental drawing, painting, printing, sculpture, ceramics, and miscellaneous crafts. Also included is a survey of art appreciation used for studying both contemporary and historical art.

Band: The USJ band program is designed to expose students to advanced-level music skills. The purpose of the course is to foster and develop goal setting, time management, rehearsal etiquette, performance practices, and personal and group responsibility, and to instill a desire for life-long learning. Students may choose concert band, athletic band, guitar ensemble, percussion ensemble, woodwind ensemble, brass ensemble, and/or jazz ensemble as well as musical orchestra.

STEM Lab: STEM is an acronym that stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. While the primary focus of this course will be on the Technology and Engineering elements of STEM, Science and Math will undoubtedly play an integral role as well.

Sixth Grade - In this Introductory STEM course, students will integrate essential academic skills, such as keyboarding, research methods and Google app mastery, in the implementation of the Coding and Robotics STEM curriculum. Through this curriculum, Students will learn the basics of block coding as well as lego robot assembly and manipulation using their newly acquired coding knowledge.

Seventh Grade & Eighth grade - As students move through the next two years of the STEM rotation, they will spiral through an increasingly challenging Coding and Robotics curriculum. In addition, students will be introduced to the Engineering Design Process and be given opportunities to work within that process, from product need recognition and planning through creation and marketing.

Introduction to Foreign Language: This class introduces sixth grade students to Spanish and French culture, history, and vocabulary. They increase listening and speaking skills through class participation. This course is designed to help students choose their preferred language of study for the 7th and 8th grade years and beyond.

Foundations of Middle School: This course is designed to help students navigate the transition into Middle School while developing skills, character, and leadership qualities necessary to thrive as a part of the USJ community. Students will examine the mission, guiding principles, and oath of honor of USJ in order to better understand what it means to be a Bruin and how to positively contribute to the USJ community.

Music: The music program exposes students to basic music skills with emphasis on music elements such as music theory, music and rhythmic composition, and music history, including the study of musical styles. Eighth grade music students are taught to play the ukulele as a pre-band instrument.

Choir: The middle school choral program utilizes the learning of vocal production skills and technical performance skills while utilizing varied vocal repertoire. Students are expected to audition for the Tennessee Northwest Jr High Honor Choir (7-8).

Physical Education/Strength and Conditioning: This is an organized program of exercise, instruction, and participation as Middle School students develop physically, mentally, socially, and emotionally in a co-educational environment. The student will develop an understanding of personal fitness, along with learning the rules and skills of many team sports.

Honors Prerequisites

Please note: Students who accumulate more than 10 absences in a class period may not be considered for an honors course. All students enrolled in honors course(s) must read and submit a signed honors contract.

6th Grade Honors Math

Students selected for 6th Grade Honors Math are required to meet following prerequisites: year math average of 95+, above average stanine math score on the Standardized Test, teacher recommendation, and 95+ score on mid-year 5th grade math exam. The teacher recommendation is based on the student's work ethic and math aptitude.

7th and 8th Grade Honors Math

To remain in Honors Math, 7th and 8th Grade Students must have an 88+ year average from their previous year in Honors Math and a teacher recommendation. 6th Grade Standard CP students who have a 98+ year average, above average stanine math score on the Standardized Test, and teacher recommendation may be recommended for 7th Grade Honors Math. The teacher recommendation is based on the student's work ethic and math aptitude.

7th Grade Standard CP students who have a 98+ year average, above average stanine math score on the Standardized Test, and teacher recommendation may be recommended for 8th Grade Honors Math. The teacher recommendation is based on the student's work ethic and math aptitude.

Honors English

Students selected for Honors English are required to meet the following prerequisites: year average of a 94+ in English, strong relevant standardized test scores - above 80 percentile, strong teacher recommendation. The teacher recommendation is based on student work ethic and performance in coursework.

Honors World Languages

Students selected for Honors language courses are required to meet the following prerequisites: academic excellence (a minimum cumulative average of 93 through Quarter 3 of the the student's current course), teacher recommendation (based on effort, attitude, and aptitude as demonstrated in class), and mastery of necessary skills and knowledge on placement test (to be determined by Chair of World Languages and Cultures). In some cases, an oral interview in the target language may be necessary.



Honors Freshman Level Science

Rising ninth grade students selected for Biology I Honors are required to meet the following prerequisites: A minimum of cumulative average of 93 through Quarter 3, strong relevant standardized test scores, strong teacher recommendation.

**Registrars do not move students into or out of honors courses without recommendation from or conference with a teacher.*

***All honors prerequisites and placements are based on the final yearly average. After initial course placement in February, all honors placements are reevaluated at the end of a school year, and students may be added to or removed from honors courses based on their final year-end academic performance.*



Middle School Technology Guide

GOOGLE CLASSROOM - SCHOOLWORK AND HOMEWORK

- Website: classroom.google.com
- Login: Your child uses their school email and password through Gmail/Google.
- Access Code: given by teacher at start of year
- What you'll find
  - Daily assignments and due dates
  - Class announcements and updates
  - Submitted work and teacher feedback
  - Upcoming projects and tests
- Parent Tip: Ask your child to show you how to navigate their Google Classroom.

Note: Parents must access Google Classroom through the child's account. Middle School does not allow parents to join the classrooms.

MY SCHOOL APP - CHECKING GRADES AND ATTENDANCE

- **Website:** http://usjbruins.myschoolapp.com/
- **Login:** Your username and password are yours. Login using the same email and password you use to sign your annual enrollment contract. Use "forgot password" feature on the website to recover password if needed.
- **To Check Grades:**
  - Parent persona
  - Click on Child's name
  - Progress tab is default.
  - Scroll down to Courses
  - You might have to click on the down arrow beside "Grades" to change the quarter.
  - Click on "see grade details" for each listed course to see details, assignments, etc.
- **To Check Report Card:**
  - Parent persona-> Child's name -> Progress-> Performance -> Report Cards
- **To Check Attendance (Absence and Tardy):**
  - Parent persona-> Child's name -> Progress-> Attendance Summary
  - Click on each box for details about the absence/tardy.

Note: Middle and Upper Schools take attendance by class period, so if you miss one full day, you will see 7 absences.

- Recommendation: Check grades weekly, not daily, to avoid over-monitoring

Note: Check attendance regularly. Any attendance appeals must be submitted to the teacher or Mrs. Wells within 7 days for consideration. There will be no attendance changes after 7 calendar days of the recorded absence or tardy.

RESOURCE BOARDS ON MY SCHOOL APP

- All things Middle School are available on the Middle School Resource Board.
- What you'll find: handbook, policy documents, schedules, calendar highlights, summer reading, school supply lists, etc.
- Access: My School App-> Parent Persona-> Resources.
- Boards: Click on "MS Back to School" Board or "MS Resources" Board. There are also resource boards for Lunch Tabs, Library, Student Council, etc.
- Links: Available on Resource Board in My School App.

ASSESSMENT AND HOMEWORK CALENDARS

- Links: Links for the Assessment and Homework Calendars are available on the Resource Board on My School App.

Note: Calendars are run through Google and must be added to a personal Google calendar. If you are having difficulty, be sure that you have linked our calendars to a personal Google calendar first.

STUDENT EMAILS

- Login: Students login to check email via Google at www.gmail.com
- Recommendation: Students should check USJ Gmail a minimum of once daily, usually during study hall.

CONTACTING TEACHERS

- Use email to contact teachers. Email addresses are available on Google Classroom, My School App, or on our website at usjbruins.org/about/meet-our-faculty-staff

STUDENT ACCOUNTS TO MONITOR

- Google Classroom
- Blackbaud/My School App
- Gmail/Email
- Chat features
- Messages (Mac, texting, etc.)
- Visit usjbruins.org/academics/technology for additional parent resources.

Contact Information

The Middle School office is staffed from 7:45 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. on a daily basis. It is impossible to provide an exact chain of command of whom to call for every situation. A general rule of thumb should be to begin at the level closest to a particular problem or situation.



Absences/General

(call or email before 8:30 a.m. if not pre-arranged)
Alissa Wells,
Middle School Assistant
(731) 660-2110
awells@usjbruins.org

Emergency Messages

Alissa Wells,
Middle School Assistant
(731) 660-2110
awells@usjbruins.org

Assignments for a Sick Child

Classroom Teacher
Email available at
https://www.usjbruins.org/about/meet-our-faculty-staff

Athletics

Derrick Pritchard, Athletic Director
(731) 664-0812
dpritchard@usjbruins.org

Nick Stamper, Assistant Athletic Director
nstamper@usjbruins.org

Cafeteria Accounts

Allison Badgett
(731) 664-0812 ext. 136
abadgett@usjbruins.org

Academic Concerns

Classroom Teacher
Email available at
https://www.usjbruins.org/about/meet-our-faculty-staff

Disciplinary Concerns

Bryce King,
Middle School Dean of Students
(731) 660-2110
bking@usjbruins.org

Jim Hardegree,
Dean of Students
(731) 664-0812 ext. 127
jhardagree@usjbruins.org

Counseling, including psycho-educational evaluations

Keli Gooch, MS/US Counselor
(731) 664-0812
kgooch@usjbruins.org

The Academic Center

Lindsay Brady,
Academic Center Director
(731) 668-8401
lbrady@usjbruins.org

Field Trips

Mary Ann Giampapa- 8th Grade
mgiampapa@usjbruins.org

Kathy Davis- 7th Grade
kdavis@usjbruins.org

Emily Morris- 6th Grade
emorris@usjbruins.org

Other Concerns

Margaret Livingston,
Head of Middle School
(731) 664-0812
mlivingston@usjbruins.org

**For concerns about your student's grades, assignments, or class related activities, the classroom teacher should always be contacted first via email. If further exploration of the matter is needed, please contact the Middle School Director, Margaret Livingston.



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