



The Generals' Guide

Andrew Jackson Middle School News

The Principal's Outlook: "Dive into Academics!"



Welcome Back Generals!



During the 2019-2020 school year, we look forward to working with you and your children in providing an education in which excellence is the standard. I would like to welcome our seventh-grade students, and returning students, to Jackson Middle School. Our teachers, staff, and administration have been planning and preparing all summer and we are geared up to "Dive into Academics" this school year!

Each year brings positive change, and this includes a few additions to our staff. We are delighted to welcome Mrs. Laura Moxley, Guidance Services Professional; Mrs. Ellen Genet, Media Specialist; Ms. Alex Mohrman and Mrs. Maria Granatosky, Science; Mrs. Eileen Serridge, Mr. Eric Bushong, and Ms. Lisa Machado, to Math; Ms. Kriewaldt, ELA; Ms. Amanda Rosabella, ESE; Ms. Jamie Anderson-Ference, Support Specialist, and Ms. Elsie Brussels, Business Education.

Our staff of highly qualified professional educators and support personnel is committed to providing our students rigorous academic opportunities in programs like AICE Cambridge, as well as academic support programs before school. It is our goal for our students to take steps to improve each day, and to work towards maintaining our "A" school grade! For that reason, our Generals Achievement Program (GAP) is focused on achieving academic excellence. Students are welcome to attend sessions with teachers for whom have scheduled these sessions. Please encourage your students not to come onto campus prior to 9:00am, except for GAP sessions. This is for student safety, as we do not have personnel on duty prior to that time.

Although academic success should always be the primary focus for our students, please encourage your students to become involved with extracurricular activities as well. Students who are engaged are generally most successful. We hope for our students to have the complete middle school experience. Information on our National Junior Honor Society, Future Educators of America (FEA), Future Problem Solvers (FPS), Student Government

Association, Odyssey of the Mind, Builder's Club, Drone Club and Science Research can be found on our website. We make every effort to keep our website current with relevant and important information. Please be sure to visit our website regularly.

Basketball season has already begun! Please come out to support our girls and boys Basketball teams. Our first game is against Madison on September 10th at home. Start time for games is 5:00 pm and the entire schedule can be found on our webpage.

At Jackson Middle School we genuinely value Family-School Partnerships. The engagement of our families and community is integral to our student's success. I encourage you to communicate with us, and to stay in the know about your child's social/emotional well-being, progress on assignments through FOCUS, assessments, and to join our Parent Teacher Organization (PTO). If you are interested in being involved in our PTO, please call the front office with your contact information.

Again, I welcome you to the Home of the Generals and to our outstanding learning community . . . an environment alive with much energy . . . passion . . . and a high standard of excellence. Together, we will embark on a successful middle school experience!



Ms. Tina Susin

Thank you to our Business Partners!

Jackson Middle School truly appreciates our Partners in Education and would like to thank each and every one for their contributions to our school and faculty during the beginning days of our new school year. Kona Ice brought their truck to Registration and Open House days and have contributed a portion of their revenue to the school. Brilliant Smiles Orthodontics and the YMCA also attended Open House. For our faculty and staff to have dinner before Open House, Sonny's BBQ provided iced tea and El Leoncita donated food to the PTO. We look forward to these business partnerships and more growing during the school year.

FRIDAYS!



IMPORTANT DATES

9/2	No School - Labor Day
9/6	Reading Plus - Grade 8
9/6	Early Release Day
9/9-20	Food 4 Thought
9/10	Basketball - Home
9/11	First Interim ends
9/11	Orchestra All State
9/12	Basketball - Away
9/13	Picture Retakes
9/13	SAC Meeting - 8:15 a.m.
9/13	Early Release Day
9/14	Chorus All State
9/16-20	Suicide Awareness Week
9/16	Chick-fil-A Pre-Sale - 4pm
9/16	Interims posted on FOCUS
9/17	Dads Take Your Child to School
9/17	Basketball - Home
9/18	Chick-fil-A Fundraiser - 4:30pm
9/18	Making Math Sense & Study Skills Parent Workshop - 6pm
9/19	Basketball - Away
9/20	Early Release Day
9/24	Basketball - Home
9/26	Basketball - Home
9/27	Early Release Day

Literacy Connection

Dr. Watts

Dear Parents,

On Monday, August 26th, your students began taking the Reading Plus Assessment Benchmark I. This is test that our school district utilizes for monitoring students' progress in reading. There is a strong correlation between student performance on Reading Plus and the FSA ELA test.

During the month of September, all students will have an opportunity to examine and reflect on their FSA English Language Arts (ELA) data, and their Reading Plus data for Benchmark I for this school year. Students will identify the categories in which they excelled and highlight categories in which they need improvement.

The hope is that students will use this time of reflection to focus in the areas they need the most help. We will also send home a letter that includes the information that students will discuss. We encourage you to utilize the information as a tool to encourage your child to improve.

When we tackle students' performance as a team, we excel, so we look forward to your continued support.

ESOL

Please be advised that Mrs. Kriewaldt, Mrs. Woodard and Mr. Driver are teaching ESOL out of field in the certification area Reading and Language Arts for the school year 2019-2020. We want to assure you that the teachers are fully certified by the State of Florida and is currently working to become certified in the area of this out of field assignment

Dads take your child to school day

Brevard County will be celebrating Dads Take Your Child to School Day on Tuesday, September 17, 2019. Dads Take Your Child to School Day is a statewide initiative of the Florida Department of Education to encourage fathers and male role models to become involved in the education of their children as a means for increasing student achievement. Andrew Jackson will participate in this campaign. Fathers, stepfathers, grandfathers, uncles, brothers, foster fathers and other male role models are invited to take their children to school on September 17th!

The Dads Take Your Child to School Day event is designed to highlight the significant role a child's father or male role models can have in enhancing a child's educational experience.



Happy Birthday Marquee Fundraiser!

Make your child's birthday extra special by putting his/her name in lights.

For just \$5.00, we will wish your child a Happy Birthday on the marquee in front of school. Messages will run all day for friends and family to see!

Forms are available under the parent link on the Jackson webpage, or in the front office, and must be filled out and turned in one week prior to your child's birthday. **All proceeds to benefit Jackson Generals!**

FOOD 4 THOUGHT FOOD DRIVE



Beginning Monday, September 9th until Friday, September 13th, 1st period classes will be collecting canned food items and toiletries for our local food banks.

This year, in addition to regular food items, the food bank is looking for a few critical items:

- Powdered infant milk or soy based formulas
- Cereal
- Baby fruits & vegetables
- Baby Meats (no meat sticks)
- Diapers
- Toiletries

*Please do not send in expired items.



Chick-fil-A School Fundraiser

AJMS will be selling Chick-fil-A in the bus loop on September 18th beginning at 4:30pm.

We are selling chicken sandwiches, spicy chicken sandwiches and 8 ct nuggets for \$5 each. Cookies will be for sale for \$2 each. All monies earned will go towards the AJMS school fund. Items will also be available for presale in the car loop before and after school on Monday, September 16th.



Middle Years

Working Together for School Success



Short Stops

Connect after school

Your middle grader may not feel like talking the minute he gets home from school. Try simply saying, "Hi, I hope your day went well!" and giving him time to relax. Later, you might ask about a class or an assignment, such as what he did in art or how his history presentation went.

A load off your back

Carrying a heavy backpack can strain muscles and cause shoulder, neck, and back pain. Let your tween weigh herself and then her backpack to make sure it's no more than 10–20 percent of her body weight. Also, she should carry the bag over both shoulders so the weight is evenly distributed.

Guess my number

This fun family game stretches your child's logical thinking skills. Take turns choosing a number between 1 and 100. Have everyone else ask yes or no questions ("Is it odd?" "Is it more than 60?") until someone figures out the correct number. Then, that person picks a new range (say, between 475 and 600) and a new secret number.

Worth quoting

"Never mind what others do; do better than yourself, beat your own record from day to day, and you are a success." *William J. H. Boetcher*

Just for fun

Q: Who is strong enough to move a castle?

A: A chess player!



A+ organizing strategies

As the school year gets underway, your middle grader will be calmer and more confident if she knows she's on top of things. Strategies like these can help her get organized.

Create "command centers"

Encourage your tween to keep school-related materials in specific places so she'll always know where they are. She could store homework supplies on a kitchen shelf or in a box on her bedroom desk. Have her choose a spot near the front door for items like her backpack, musical instrument, and gym shoes so they'll be ready to go when she is.



file what she needs and throw away what she doesn't.

Use "5-minute wonders"

Suggest these habits that take only a few minutes. Before leaving school each day, she can scan her planner to check dates and deadlines for tests, assignments, and forms. That way, she'll know which books and papers to take home. At home, she could quickly leaf through her folders and notebooks, then

Keep an estimate log

Knowing how long tasks actually take will give your tween an edge when organizing her time. Suggest that she time herself completing different types of schoolwork, such as doing research for a report or reviewing Spanish vocabulary. She could write the times in her planner and refer to them later to help her budget accurately in the future. 👍

Part of the group

Joining an extracurricular activity gives your child a productive—and fun—way to spend his free time. Try these ideas.

■ **Find a good fit.** Suggest that your middle grader listen to morning announcements or check the school website for a list of activities. He can ask the coach or advisor for more details about ones he's interested in.



■ **Arrange transportation.** Set up a carpool with other parents. Or have him find out whether there's a late bus he can ride and get the schedule.

■ **Show interest.** If he joins a sports team, cheer him on at games or meets. Or if he's in the science club, ask him to tell you about an experiment he enjoyed. 👍