

Monroe County Community School Corporation

James Harvey, Superintendent

JACKSON CREEK MIDDLE SCHOOL – HOME OF THE JAGUARS

3980 South Sare Road
Bloomington, IN 47401
Telephone (812) 330-2451
Fax (812)330-2457

Mrs. Donna Noble, Principal
Mrs. Shannon Carroll-Frey, Assistant Principal
Mr. David Pillar, Assistant Principal
Mr. David A. Terwilliger, Guidance Counselor
Ms. Katie Galvin, Guidance Counselor

2008-2009 Grade 7 Course Selection Information

- ? Informational Letter to Parents/Guardians (Please keep.)
- ? Required Course Descriptions (Please keep.)
- ? Elective Course Descriptions (Please keep.)
- ? Music Information Sheet
(This sheet must be detached from the packet and returned with the course selection sheet for all students enrolled in Band, Mixed Choir, or Strings.)
- ? Course Selection Sheet
(This sheet must be detached from the back of the packet and returned to Jackson Creek Middle School.)



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January 8, 2008

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to Jackson Creek Middle School! It is the purpose of this letter and the packet that follows to help you understand important information concerning academic planning for the first year of secondary education for your son/daughter at JCMS. Your son/daughter has received this packet to help you decide what courses to enroll him/her in next year.

Your son/daughter will be enrolling in seven (7) courses. Five (5) of the courses are required by the State of Indiana, and two of the courses are elective courses.

The five (5) required courses are as follows: (See Elective Course Descriptions for more information.)

1. Language Arts
2. Mathematics
3. Grade 7 Exploratory (P.E.-1 semester / Health – Art – Family & Consumer Science: 6 weeks each)
4. Science
5. Social Studies

You will be selecting both of the elective courses. Every attempt will be made to place your son/daughter in his/her first choices. However, scheduling conflicts, lack of space, and teacher changes may prevent a 1st choice from being fulfilled.

Placement in a mathematics course is determined by middle school teachers based on test results and prior teacher recommendation. Your son/daughter will be taking a placement test in the late spring of 2008. The levels of mathematics are as follows:

- ? Accelerated Learning Program - Algebra 1-2
- ? Advanced Grade 7 Mathematics
- ? Standard Grade 7 Mathematics

There are multiple sections of Advanced Grade 7 Mathematics and of Standard Grade 7 Mathematics offered because of the number of students enrolled in those courses. The MCCSC's automated scheduling program will try to place your son/daughter in a section that does not conflict with the two elective choices.

OVER>>

Courses in Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies are teamed in a block and offered at two levels of placement. The levels are as follows:

- ? Accelerated Learning Program – Grade 7 Humanities (Language Arts & Social Studies) & Advanced Grade 7 Science
- ? Standard Grade 7 Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies

The MCCSC's automated scheduling program will randomly place your son/daughter in a teamed block of three classes. No general education students are hand-scheduled to a particular team by a JCMS administrator or guidance counselor as only the computer program makes team assignments. The automated computer program randomly places all of the students in a team that is composed of Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies classes. The only students who are hand-scheduled to teams are as follows:

- ? Special Education & ENL students who are following an Individualized Education Plan as per federal and state law.
- ? Qualified ALPs students who are accepted in the district's gifted and talented program.

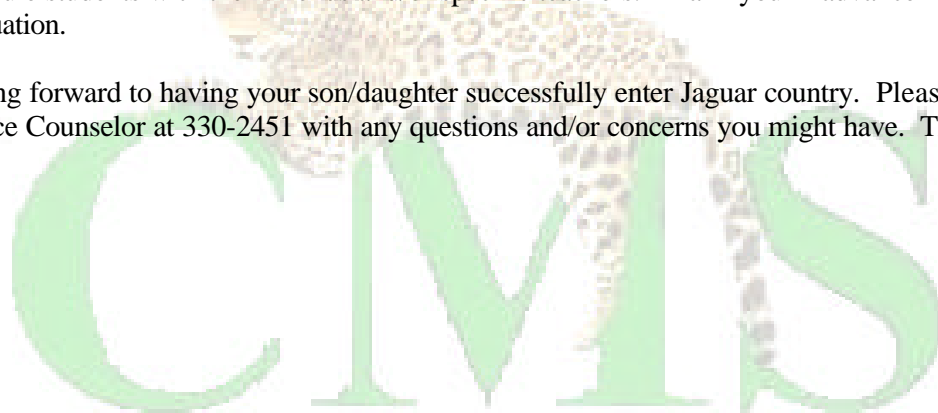
All 7th graders eat lunch with each other every day during Lunch B (11:35 a.m. – 12:05 p.m.). They will have time to be with their friends from elementary school every day. Please keep in mind that the size of the 2008-2009 Grade 7 class is going to be approximately 250 students. This new 7th Grade class is notably larger than the 6th Grade class they are leaving. Please keep in mind that there are so many sections of courses that it makes it impossible to hand-schedule students with their friends and/or specific teachers. Thank you in advance for your understanding of this situation.

The JCMS staff is looking forward to having your son/daughter successfully enter Jaguar country. Please contact a JCMS Guidance Counselor at 330-2451 with any questions and/or concerns you might have. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Donna Noble

Mrs. Donna Noble
Principal



Jackson Creek Middle School Grade 7 “Required” Courses

Jackson Creek Middle School integrates information skills, technological skills, reading and writing skills, and critical-thinking/problem-solving skills into the curriculum of every course offering.

EXPLORATORY COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Grade 7 students will be assigned to the following four courses:

- ? **Physical Education: (semester)** This is a required course which will continue to involve students in activities which emphasize the importance of physical conditioning, physical fitness, and lifelong leisure skills. Students will learn the rules, basic skills, game strategies, sportsmanship, proper etiquette, and teamwork while participating in each unit of study. No matter what the student ability level is at the beginning of a unit, the students are encouraged to do their best to achieve continuous improvement.
- ? **Health Education: (six weeks)** This required exploratory course will include units such as growth and development, nutrition, wellness and appearance, and mental health.
- ? **Visual Art: (six weeks)** This required exploratory course helps fulfill the State of Indiana’s fine arts curriculum requirement. This course is designed to allow students to continue their exposure to the world of art and art making. The curriculum will build upon the elementary art curriculum through structured lessons using a variety of two- and three-dimensional media. Students will be given opportunities to learn appropriate use of tools and materials as well as techniques for increased visual perception. Projects will challenge students to increase their art behaviors of manual skill, learning the language of art, choosing, and interpreting in a problem-solving environment.
- ? **Middle Level Family & Consumer Sciences: (six weeks)** This required exploratory course helps fulfill the State of Indiana’s practical arts curriculum requirement. This course explores the clothing and textiles along with foods and nutrition. The students learn a variety of sewing stitches and will construct a project ranging from stuffed animals to sports balls and pillows. Students will learn through food labs the beginning concepts in cooking, basic food safety and sanitation, equipment and its uses, table setting, and the components of a balanced diet.

LANGUAGE ARTS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Language Arts: (two semesters) This required course will expose students to the various components of language arts. The primary focus will be on major skills such as speech, composition, spelling, vocabulary, and the various genres of literature. Major emphasis will be placed on grammar with respect to usage and mechanics, and developing compositions utilizing the writing process.

Humanities: (two semesters) Placement in this course is based on the selection process of the Accelerated Learning Program. This interdisciplinary course replaces the standard required language arts course, and the Language Arts Humanities students will be enrolled in the Social Studies Humanities course also. The course will expose students to the various components of language arts. Emphasis will be placed on grammar with respect to usage and mechanics, developing writing skills, information skills, public speaking skills, and literature which relates to the social studies component of Humanities. Emphasis is placed on student-directed learning, presentations, and projects.

SCIENCE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Science: (two semesters) This required course concentrates on the study of life science. Life science features cells, living things (plants and animals), and ecology. Hands-on learning is encouraged while students are learning to be good citizens through understanding the impact of science in their lives and the impact of their choices on the environment.

Accelerated Science: (two semesters) Prerequisite: Placement in this course is based on the selection process of the Accelerated Learning Program. This course replaces the standard required science course. The course concentrates on the study of life science with an emphasis on the scientific method and research skills. Life science features cells, living things (plants and animals), and ecology. Hands-on learning is encouraged while each student is learning to be a good citizen through understanding the impact of science in their life and the impact of their choices on the environment. Each student will conduct a year-long scientific investigation which includes extensive research and experimentation.

SOCIAL STUDIES COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Social Studies: (two semesters) This required course is a survey course which focuses on several disciplines: anthropology, cultural studies, current affairs, economics, geography, history, political science, and sociology. This course is taught in a topical rather than area studies fashion, but emphasis is placed on the non-western world, particularly Africa and Asia. Students will be exposed to the traditional social studies skills along with the expansion of student expertise in the utilization of research and presentation skills.

Humanities: (two semesters) Prerequisite: Placement in this course is based on the selection process of the Accelerated Learning Program. This interdisciplinary course replaces the standard required social studies course, and the Social Studies Humanities students will be enrolled in the Language Arts Humanities course also. This course is a topical course which includes ethics, history, literature, economics, political science, sociology, environmental studies, and future studies. This course emphasizes student directed learning, participatory activities, critical and creative thinking skills, independent reading, and creative writing.

MATHEMATICS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Standard Mathematics: (two semesters) This required course is designed to reinforce and expand upon concepts and skills introduced in the 6th grade. The curriculum spans a wide range of proficiencies which include translating, reasoning, connecting, estimating, place-value, operations with rational numbers, evaluating expressions, solving simple equations, measurement, perimeter, area and volume formulas, ratios, proportions, percents, appropriate use of calculators, probability, statistics, data collection, graphing, and data analysis.

Advanced Math: (two semesters) Prerequisite: Prognostic test scores, teacher recommendation, or a combination of both will determine placement in this course. This course replaces the standard required mathematics course. This course introduces and explores topics that provide a foundation for taking either Pre-Algebra or Algebra I in the 8th grade. Students will be exposed to abstract applications with rational numbers, variable expressions, equations, inequalities, ratios, proportions, percents, number theory, graphing in a coordinate plane, geometry and its applications, square roots and right triangles, irrational numbers, polynomials, probability, and statistics.

Algebra I: (two semesters) Prerequisite: Placement in this course is based on the selection process of the Accelerated Learning Program. This course replaces the standard required mathematics course. Topics in this course include operations with exponents, radicals, variable expressions, open sentences, factoring polynomials, solving and graphing linear equations in two variables using various methods (including slope-intercept), solving and graphing quadratic equations (using factoring and the quadratic formula). *This course is organized in a 7th/8th grade combination format.*

Geometry: (two semesters) Prerequisite: Placement in this course is based on the selection process of the Accelerated Learning Program. This course replaces the standard required mathematics course.

This rigorous course is for students who successfully completed Algebra I in the 7th grade. This course consists of a study of the undefined terms, the axioms, and the theorems of Euclidean geometry. Emphasis is placed on understanding the deductive processes involved in proofs, numerical and algebraic exercises and geometric constructions. The topics covered include inductive and deductive reasoning, triangles, perpendicular and parallel lines, constructions, area, the Pythagorean theorem, circles and area, loci, and similar and regular polygons. *This course is organized in a 7th/8th grade combination format.*

Jackson Creek Middle School Grade 7 “Elective” Courses

ELECTIVE – Course Descriptions

Music Selections: Students with a desire to expand their music education may elect to choose one course from this group of offerings.

Band: (two semesters) Band is explored through the study of performance fundamentals on a woodwind, brass, or percussion instrument as a soloist, in small ensembles, and with the full band. Placement in a specific band class will be determined by a student’s musical background and ability. Beginners and experienced musicians are welcome. Regular at-home practice is encouraged. Each class performs 2-4 concerts per year with the possibility of performing at annual ISSMA Festivals. Instruments, books, and supplies may be obtained through local music stores. Instruments, not available through the local music stores, may be rented through the school’s music department. Full or partial scholarships for instrument rental are available on a limited basis.

? **Band** – designed for students who want to start playing a band instrument and for those with some experience who strive to sharpen their skills for future inclusion in the Concert Band. No experience necessary.

? **Concert Band** – designed for students who excel in playing their band instruments, read music well and have significant experience playing in ensembles, large and small.

Mixed Choir 7: (two semesters) Choir is explored through the study of a wide variety of choral literature with emphasis being placed on developing vocal techniques, understanding the fundamentals of music, and refining choral performance skills. Choreography is also a major part of the class. Each class will perform 2-4 concerts per year with the possibility of performing at the annual ISSMA Festivals.

Strings 7: (two semesters) Orchestra is explored through the study of the fundamentals of performance on an orchestral stringed instrument - the violin, the viola, the cello, or the bass - as a soloist, in small ensembles and with the full string orchestra. Regular at-home practice is encouraged. Each class performs at least 2-4 concerts per year with the possibility of performing at the annual ISSMA Festivals. Instruments and supplies may be obtained through local music stores. Cellos and basses may be rented through the school’s music department.

Foreign Language Courses: If selecting a foreign language elective, select one of the following:

? **French I 7: (two semesters)** This elective foreign language course is the first year of study in a two-year middle school program which is designed to prepare students to enter the high school foreign language program at Level II; however, no high school credits are earned. This course provides an introduction to the four basic skill areas of listening, speaking, reading, and writing in a foreign language.

? **Accelerated French I: (two semesters)** **Prerequisite: A Language Arts GPA of 3.0 on a 4 point scale and the recommendation of the grade 6 Language Arts teacher.** This elective foreign language course is the first year of study in a rigorous middle school program designed

to prepare students to enter the grade 8 foreign language program at Level II. Successful completion in this particular middle school foreign language course is the equivalent of completing Level I in the high school program; however, no high school credits are earned. Middle school classes meet about four-fifths the amount of time as high school classes, but a student in the accelerated class will be expected to cover the same material as a high school foreign language student. This course stresses the four basic skill areas of listening, speaking, reading, and writing in a foreign language.

? **Spanish I 7: (two semesters)** This elective foreign language course is the first year of study in a two year middle school program which is designed to prepare students to enter the high school foreign language program at Level II; however, no high school credits are earned. This course provides an introduction to the four basic skill areas of listening, speaking, reading, and writing in a foreign language.

? **Accelerated Spanish I: (two semesters)** **Prerequisite: A Language Arts GPA of 3.0 on a 4 point scale and the recommendation of the grade 6 Language Arts teacher.** This elective foreign language course is the first year of study in a rigorous middle school program designed to prepare students to enter the grade 8 foreign language program at Level II. Successful completion in this particular middle school foreign language course is the equivalent of completing Level I in the high school program; however, no high school credits are earned. Middle school classes meet about four-fifths the amount of time as high school classes, but a student in the accelerated class will be expected to cover the same material as a high school foreign language student. This course stresses the four basic skill areas of listening, speaking, reading, and writing in a foreign language.

PAIRED SEMESTER – Course Descriptions

Art & Artist: (one or two semesters) This elective course is designed for the student who wishes to refine their skills by creating a variety of visual media in both two- and three-dimensions using drawing, painting, and print making to develop and strengthen the skills of observation and imagination. Students will be challenged to find creative solutions to problem solving by using clay, paper mache, and fibers. Students will explore how art history can integrate personal expression with the appreciation of world cultures. The first semester will cover the tribal arts of the Americas (North, Central, and South). The second semester will cover the arts of the non-Western world consisting of Asia, Africa, the Far East, and the Middle East. Art experiences will allow students to acquire the skills, knowledge, and understanding needed to critically view the art and the artifacts of past and present world cultures. Students will learn professional criteria for judging, interpreting, and analyzing works of art which will teach students to form a basis for looking and talking about their own art in a critique setting. Each semester is autonomous.

That’s Life (FCS 7): (one semester) This exciting elective course will teach you different skills related to everyday living. You will be introduced to clothing construction; exciting nutritious food labs; hip babysitting tips; and endless career opportunities. Get on board and figure out what life is all about.

Computer Applications 7: (one semester) This semester-long elective is designed to familiarize students with numerous computer programs. Word processing, presentation, and spreadsheets are covered in this hands-on computer course. In addition, students learn the concept of computer programming and design their own web pages.

Business Technology 7: (one semester) This semester-long elective has two main areas of focus careers and technology. In careers students focus on their personal goals for the future and develop ideas for careers that relate to their interests. In addition, students will explore the elements of diversity and personal responsibility. During the technology portion of the class, students will learn how to gather valid information

from the internet and how to design a web page. Time and resource management and other human issues such as ethics are also covered.

Keyboarding 7: (one semester) This semester long elective course teaches students to use the proper technique when keying information into the computer. Students will practice keying letters, memorandums, and reports with speed and accuracy, while learning the correct formatting and purpose of these documents.

ACADEMIC ASSISTANCE – Course Descriptions

ISTEP+ Reading / Language Arts: (one semester) Prerequisite: Referral by teacher or ISTEP+ remediation conference This course is designed for those students who have obtained ISTEP+ scores below the standard for passing in Language Arts.

ISTEP+ Math: (one semester) Prerequisite: Referral by teacher or ISTEP remediation conference. This course is designed for those students who have obtained ISTEP+ scores below the standard for passing in Math.

Resource 7: (two semesters) Prerequisite: Referral by a teacher or case conference committee. This course is designed as an individualized program for students who exhibit various learning difficulties as specified by the case conference committee. The objectives of the individualized program are developed by the case conference committee.

English as a New Language (two semesters) Prerequisite: Students attending schools in the United States for less than 3 years or referral by teacher. This course provides students with instructions in English that will improve their proficiency in listening, speaking, reading and writing. Emphasis is placed on helping students learn to independently function in an English speaking school.

Jackson Creek Middle School
2008-09 Grade 7 Elective Course Enrollment Sheet

Attention Parents: The boxes below allow you to help your child with the selection of his/her elective courses. Every attempt possible will be made to secure primary choices of electives, but no promises can be made. Please return this sheet as soon as possible to help ensure that your son/daughter secures the best possible chance to get his/her first choices of electives.

Directions: Using the Elective course descriptions in this packet as your guide please rank at least your **TOP FOUR (4) CHOICES** (1 = your first choice, 4 = your lowest choice).
Teacher Approval: The student is responsible for obtaining the appropriate teacher initials for classes requiring prerequisite approval.

<i>Full Year Options</i>			
Prerequisite Teacher Approval	Code	Description	Rank
X	4428	Band *#	1
X	4447R5	Mixed Choir 7 *	
X	4427X5	Strings 7 *	
X	2120L5	Spanish I – 7 *	
X	2020L5	French I – 7*	
	2020X5	Accelerated French I *	
	2120X5	Accelerated Spanish I *	2

<i>Paired Semester Options</i>			
Prerequisite Teacher Approval	Code	Description	Rank
X	4947R7 / 4537R7	Business Tech / Computer Apps 7	3
X	4107R7	Art & Artist / Art & Artist	
X	4107R7 / 4927R7	Art & Artist / That's Life (FCS 7)	4
X	4536R7 / 4537R7	Keyboarding 7/ Computer Apps 7	

<i>Academic Assistance Courses</i>			
	1012L5	English as New Language	
	6027R5	Resource 7	
	4207L7	ISTEP+ Reading (one semester)+	
	4307L7	ISTEP+ Math (one semester)+	

The offering of all electives is subject to their meeting minimum class enrollment standards.
 + JCMS may require a student to take the ISTEP+ remediation courses if they have failed one or more sections of the ISTEP test
 * Students **will not** be enrolled in **two music** or **two foreign languages**.
 # Specific placement based on musical experience and ability

Please sign this sheet and return it to your Grade 6 teacher by Friday, January 19, 2008. Grade 6 teachers will return the sheets to JCMS Guidance office beginning Monday, January 22, 2008. After the 01-19-07 deadline expires, this sheet is due as soon as possible to the JCMS Guidance Office. Elective Request for students not returning Elective Request forms will be completed by the JCMS Guidance Department. **(Please contact the Jackson Creek Middle School "Guidance Department" at 330-2451 for the clarification of any information and/or with any concerns.)**

Print Student's Name _____ Student's Signature _____

Print Parent's Name _____ Parent Signature _____

Home Phone _____ Home Address _____

Work Phone _____ Date _____ Present School _____

Contact the JCMS Guidance Office at 330-2451 if you have any questions or concerns.

Class of 2014

Elective / Math Orientation Night

Jackson Creek Middle School

January 14, 2008

6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

J.C.M.S. AUDITORIUM

All parents of the incoming grade 6 students are invited to attend the information sessions regarding the Elective class offerings at J.C.M.S. for the school year 2008 – 2009.

Principals and counselors will be available as will instructors for the

class offerings of:

MATHEMATICS

ART & ARTIST

CHOIR

BAND

ORCHESTRA

THAT'S LIFE (FCS 7)

COMPUTER APPLICATIONS

BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY

KEYBOARDING

FOREIGN LANGUAGE