

Jefferson Middle School

Preparing for Middle School



Included in this Packet:

- Welcome Letter
- Countdown to Success Tips
- Master Schedule & Class Placement Letter
- Important Dates
- JMS-at-a-Glance
- Instrumental Program
- Summer Reading List and English Assignment
- Elective Information and Timeline
- <http://jefferson.tusd.org> Click on 'Academics' top tab, and then scroll down and click on 'Incoming 6th Grade' page for more information

Welcome Incoming JMS 6th Grade Students!





WELCOME



ANZA and VICTOR 5th Grade Parents

Welcome to JMS! We want to share with you what good hands your child will be in joining the Jaguar Family. At JMS we “pride” ourselves on providing an enriching and supportive learning environment that not only develops the academic mind, but the whole student. The characteristics that make your Jefferson Middle School such an innovative and successful learning community start with a shared vision on our core purpose. We bring our vision to life with a positive school-wide collaborative team attitude, maintaining a learner’s posture by being professionally reflective and proactive support towards developmental changes of a middle school student, and by offering a variety of core and focused opportunities to enhance your child’s growth and learning. We have included our “Jefferson Middle School At-A-Glance” in this packet to share with you some of these key offerings and opportunities for your child. Our core strengths include strong and caring teachers, encouraged and challenged through the support of a school leadership team and professional learning community who are all committed to student achievement and the belief in every child’s potential for greatness.

JMS begins each year with a School Wide Positive Behavior Support (SWPBS) assembly. This assembly sets the foundation for student expectations and provides a roadmap for their success. We continue with these themes and support then each month at our R.E.A.L recognition and character education assemblies. At our monthly SWPBS assemblies students are recognized by their teachers in the categories of **Academic Achievement, Being R.E.A.L** (Exhibiting Responsibility & Respect, Exploration, Achievement, and Leadership) and **Student of the Month** (Showing our J.A.G.U.A.R behavior expectations of: Jefferson community will **Act** responsibly, **Give** their best effort, **Utilize** their strengths, **Achieve** their academic potential, & **Respect** their community).

Through our **School-Wide Literacy Campaign** teachers model critical thinking skills coupled with teaching the **7 Habits of Effective Readers** to teach students how to be cognitive thinkers and learners. This also leads the students to participate in our **Million Word Campaign** to reach each grade level reading standards and grow as a reader and learner.

The **MATHCOUNTS** program is a national middle school math competition that promotes mathematics achievement through a series of fun and engaging “bee” style contests. Jefferson students have achieved the *Gold Status* within this program. Each year we have teams compete at the State level championships. Our 7th & 8th grade students have the opportunity to participate in **The California Junior Scholarship Federation (CJSF)** which emphasizes high standards of scholarship and community service for middle school students.

As part of our **College and Career Readiness** program, JMS dedicates a week of intense focus across campus where students learn about the steps beginning in middle school through high school to apply for college, and learn about the various university and college programs available. We conclude the week with **Career Day**, inviting our community speak with students about careers and the pathways to reach these positions. To support student career and college pathway learning and goal setting, JMS implemented **Naviance**. In the 8th grade students’ self-assess talents and skills, set goals, and assess college readiness as an effective tool for planning high school classes.

Students achieving and maintaining a 3.9+ (may be subject to change) are invited to attend Leadership camps such as **The Pali Institute** (6th Grade), **Astro Camp** (7th Grade) and **CIMI** (Catalina Island Marine Institute) for our 8th grade students.

GATE - Quarterly JMS and GATE Parent Advisory committee planned activities, events and after-school enrichment classes are in place for our GATE students.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Kara Heinrich, Proud Principal and the JMS Team!

Countdown to **SUCCESS!!!!**

- Learn everything that you can about your child's school. The more you know, the easier your job as a parent will be.
- Get acquainted and show your interest in your child's teachers. Tell them what they need to know about your child. If he/she has special needs, make these known from the beginning.
- Attend school events. Go to sports events, concerts, monthly student celebration assemblies, Back-to School night, Open House, Math Family Night, College Night, etc.
- Get involved –
 - With the parent organizations (PTSA, SSC, ELMAC, councils etc.) If you are unable to attend meetings, review the agenda and minutes from the meeting.
 - By staying on top of our online Student Information System "**Parent Connect**" – Check it *at least* weekly to track **your child's** academic progress, attendance, and behavior. Celebrate successes!
 - Check our School Website for news!
 - Ensure you are receiving our weekly "Paw Print E-Newsletter" emailed out each Monday. Check your Spam Folder or Junk Mail Box!
- Volunteer at your school with supervision, chaperoning at dances, fundraising, or be a parent representative for advisory committees. Yes, Middle School definitely **needs and wants you** to be involved.
- Be prepared to listen as well as talk at parent conferences. It helps to write out questions beforehand and be prepared to take notes during the conference and ask for an explanation if you don't understand something.
- Talk with your child. Talking and listening play major roles in children's school success. Show them that you're interested in what they have to say. When your child talks to you, stop what you're doing and pay attention. Look at them and ask questions to let them know that you've heard what they have said. Occasionally repeat what they say to let them know you're listening closely.
- Let your child know that you think education is important. Create a special place for your child to study. Provide and keep the supplies/resources in that special place. Set a regular time for homework. Monitor homework. Remove distractions by turning off the TV, limiting the noise and social telephone calls. Check their planner everyday.
- Be positive, make positive, helpful suggestions, and communicate high expectations.



JMS JAGUARS

PRAISE and ENCOURAGE. We can do it **TOGETHER** -- Jaguars Roar!



JEFFERSON MIDDLE SCHOOL

21717 Talisman Street
Torrance, CA 90503
310-533-4794
Torrance Unified School District

Dear Jefferson Families,

As we close in on the end of the school year and welcome in our incoming 6th grade class, there is typically talk of class placement and teachers. This is not a matter taken lightly at Jefferson and a lot of thought and time, typically the months between spring and throughout the summer, is put into the process and procedures followed to place students and develop a comprehensive school Master Schedule. A layer of the process in building cohesive, balanced groups of students, and a working Master Schedule involves the intricate structure of classes to ensure each grade level is functioning appropriate at each grade level, across each period, and within the whole school big picture of the Master Schedule. One change of one student within the Master Schedule can cause a large domino effect to many other students and classes. We strive to match the needs and characteristics of the class with the skills of the receiving teaching team where possible.

Due to the impact at the start and end of a school year we reserve the right to not take specific teacher requests, and **do not** hold 'teacher request' meetings. We will accept a written letter written regarding your child's learning style, areas for growth, and talents to assist with placement. While this input is welcome and helpful for our team, understand this letter is one of the many factors we must consider in forming classes. The final decision on class placements resides with the school.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mrs. Kara Heinrich". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "K" and "H".

Mrs. Kara Heinrich, Principal, and
Mrs. Lisa Jones, Assistant Principal

Moving to
Middle School



Jefferson Middle School Calendar for Incoming 6th Grade Students



Tuesday, May 23, 2017 - JMS Open House

- 5:30 p.m. PTSA General Meeting in our School Cafeteria
- 6:00-7:00 p.m. Classroom Visitations
- 6:45 p.m. Incoming 6th Grade Parent-Student Meeting in our School Cafeteria

Wednesday, May 24, 2017 - Victor Students Visit and Tour JMS at 10:15a.m.

Tuesday, May 30, 2017 - Anza Students Visit and Tour JMS at 10:15 a.m.

Tuesday, June 13, 2017 - 6th Grade Elective Choices due to JMS – Information to be shared during Elementary Visit and Tour to JMS on 5/24/17

Friday, June 30, 2017 - Final Day JMS Office will be Open for the summer. The office will close from Monday, July 1 - Monday, August 21

**Monday, July 31 – Friday, August 18, 2017 - TUSD Jump Start Summer Session 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Monday – Friday at Bert Lynn Middle School**

Tuesday, August 22, 2017- Jefferson Middle School Office Opens to the Public for the 16-17 School Year

Thursday, August 24, 2017 - Registration Packet Pick-Up 9am-3pm in the Jefferson Middle School Cafeteria

Wednesday, August 30, 2017 - Camp Jaguar! 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. meet in the School Cafeteria

Thursday, August 31, 2017 - Registration Packet Return – Sixth Grade time slot 11:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.in the School Cafeteria

Monday, September 4, 2017 - Labor Day Holiday

**Wednesday, September 6, 2017 - 1st Period Classes Posted in the front of school, after 4p.m. (Time TBD).
Students receive the remainder of their schedule during their 1st period class on the first day of school.**

Thursday, September 7, 2017 - First Day of School – Welcome Back!

Tuesday, September 26, 2017 - Back-to-School Night (BTSN) – 5:00 p.m.



Jefferson Middle School

At-A-Glance



JMS JAGUARS

Jefferson Middle School has been serving the Torrance community since reopening in 1993. Our school provides a rigorous education for our students, which nurtures and prepares them to be successful at West High School. Our motivated students are high achieving and are able to pursue their interests in sports, music, STEM, journalism, and the arts.

- Currently we have 652 sixth through eighth grade students enrolled in JMS.
- Our most current Academic Performance Index of 858 makes us a competitive middle school within the South Bay.
- JMS Big Awards and Accolades:
 - National Junior Honor Society Charter recognition, 2010
 - 33rd District PTA Honor Roll award, 2010
 - Torrance Council PTA Chairman's Club award, 2010
 - Torrance Council PTA Newsletter award, 2010 and 2011
 - 33rd District PTA "Reach for the Stars" Membership Increase recognition, 2010, 2011, 2012
 - California Distinguished School award, 2011
 - State Assembly Academic Excellence and Achievement award, 2011
 - Senate Academic Excellence and Achievement award, 2011
 - County of Los Angeles 29th Annual State of Education recognition, 2011
 - National Associations of Student Councils Leadership recognition, 2010 and 2011
 - Senate Recognition in Honor of Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce Adopt-A-School Program Partnership, 2010 and 2011
 - MathCounts Gold Level Excellence award, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2015
 - Gold Ribbon School, 2015
 - CA Honor Roll School, 2017
- A TUSD Model Collaborative Professional Learning Community (PLC)
- TUSD CMAST Teacher Leaders in both Mathematics and Science on site
- TUSD D3/A3 ELA and Social Studies Teacher Leaders in 6th, 7th, and 8th grades on site
- Response to Intervention (RTI) Coordinator and Team: Twice a quarter as a whole school team and by grade levels we monitor all of our students progress and data together. We have restructured our SSR period into a Homeroom to offer further support and interventions. In addition to after school tutorials, JMS offers a Tutorial Period each Thursday during the school day to accommodate students for intervention support, enrichment, or have the opportunity to independently work in a Study Hall environment or on their Million Word Campaign milestones.
- Student Council
- iLead Student College Pathways program
- California Junior Scholarship Federation (CJSF) program for 7th and 8th grade students
- Camp Jaguar for Incoming Sixth Graders to assist with transitioning into Middle School
- 8th Grade Service Learning Community Hours Project
- 8th Grade Awards Breakfast and Service Project Showcase
- Principal's Honor Roll recognition
- Honor Roll recognition
- Perfect Attendance recognition
- Bi-Literacy recognition
- Million Word Campaign recognitions
- ALEKS Math Intervention Program
- Achieve 3000 Reading Fluency and Comprehension Intervention Program
- Guided Reading program for English Language Learner support
- School-wide Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS) framework, site Coordinator and Team

- R.E.A.L monthly assemblies and recognitions: R.E.A.L Award, Student of the Month Award, and Academic Achievement Award (AAA)
- Jaguar Paws – positive “caught being good” reinforcement and incentives
- School-wide Million Word Campaign reading incentive program
- First Lego League Robotics Team
- PTLW – Project Lead the Way Engineering Course
- Leadership camps for all three grade levels to further enrich our students’ experience at JMS.
- Elective classes and enrichment activities offered for students to pursue interests such as life management, technology, STEAM, band, chorus, school publications, robotics, and leadership.
- Wednesday after school ‘Run Club’ for interested students and staff
- Noontime sport opportunities and Staff vs Student activities such as baseball, flag football, soccer, volleyball, and/or basketball.
- GATE Parent Advisory Committee
- JMS GATE After-School Enrichment Program
- Trained counselor to assist with academic, social & emotional supports
- Online Parent Connect for parents to easily view their child’s attendance, grades & assignments.
- PE daily, along with the core subjects of math, social studies, science, and language arts.
- Fifteen class sets of Chrome Book carts to provide students with technology access and for teachers to implement technology and key research into lessons.
- Teamed teachers share a common conference period to articulate, hold parent conference, and plan
- We have offer a beginner’s band, concert band, wind ensemble band, and chorus.
- JMS was recently remodeled. To share a few key updates:
 - A new quad area with seating, lightening, and a stage for outdoor assemblies and performances.
 - New front entrance enhanced for safety and beautification
 - Security and surveillance with fencing updates
 - Internal Technological advances to increase bandwidth and efficiency
 - Buildings repainted inside and out
 - Resurfaced and restriped blacktop and parking lot areas
 - Our new gymnasium is under construction as of March 1, 2017

The above information is a small sampling of what JMS offers its students. To learn more information about our outstanding school, please visit our school website at <http://jefferson.tusd.org>

Join The Jefferson Music Program

Hello, my name is Mr. Gelbaum and I am the music teacher at Jefferson Middle School. The Jefferson Middle School Music Program gives students an opportunity to either learn how to play an instrument or learn how to sing. For sixth graders, the students have a choice of beginning band or chorus. Beginning band is for students who want to learn how to play an instrument or have started in elementary school. You do not need to have any music experience to be part of this class. Chorus is for students who enjoy singing and musical theatre. All music classes are for the entire year and will meet every day during the student's elective period.

The Jefferson music program also gives students the opportunity to travel and compete. This year, the student's went to a Forum Music Festival connected to Knott's Berry Farm. Next year the 6th Grade will do a similar trip.

To help make sure that your child picks an instrument that he/she will be most successful at, we will be having an instrument night on Tuesday, June 13 from 7- 8p.m. in room 1. Please see the instrument night flyer for more information.

To be part of this great music program, fill out the form and return it to your school office by Friday, June 9 or bring it to the instrument night. This is only a request. Your students grades and test scores are looked at to determine the proper class. If you have any questions, you can e-mail me at Gelbaum.David@tusd.org or call me at 310-809-9368.



Jefferson Middle School

Summer 2017 Reading Program

Incoming Sixth Graders are to select two of the following titles to read over the summer and be prepared to discuss and speak to the books read in their English class:

The Bubble Wrap Boy Earle, Phil	The Courage Test Preller, James
Dark Water Rising Hale, Marian	Drowned City: Hurricane Katrina and New Orleans Brown, Don
Every Soul a Star Mass, Wendy	Flash Fire Cooney, Caroline
Lost in the Labyrinth Kindl, Patrice	Medusa Hirschmann, Kris
Quicksilver Spinner, Stephanie	Wild Girl Giff, Patricia Reilly

Sixth Grade 2017 Reading List Summary of Books

The Bubble Wrap Boy By: Earle, Phil

Fourteen-year-old social outcast Charlie Han, known as "the short Chinese kid" at school, searches for a talent to improve his popularity, but when he discovers skateboarding, much to the disapproval of his overprotective mother, he also uncovers a huge family secret.

The Courage Test By: Preller, James

Will has no choice. His father drags him along on a wilderness adventure in the footsteps of legendary explorers Lewis and Clark--whether he likes it or not. All the while, Will senses that something about this trip isn't quite right. Along the journey, Will meets fascinating strangers and experiences new thrills, including mountain cliffs, whitewater rapids, and a heart-hammering bear encounter. It is a journey into the soul of America's past, and the meaning of family in the future. In the end, Will must face his own, life-changing test of courage. A father-and-son journey along the Lewis and Clark Trail--from Fort Mandan to the shining sea--offers readers a genre-bending blend of American history, thrilling action, and personal discovery.

Dark Water Rising By: Hale, Marian

While salvaging and rebuilding in the aftermath of the Galveston flood of 1900, sixteen-year-old Seth proves himself in a way that his previous efforts never could, but he still must face his father man-to-man.

Drowned City: Hurricane Katrina and New Orleans By: Brown, Don

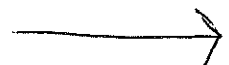
On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina's monstrous winds and surging water overwhelmed the protective levees around low-lying New Orleans, Louisiana. Eighty percent of the city flooded, in some places under twenty feet of water. Property damages across the Gulf Coast topped \$100 billion. One thousand eight hundred and thirty-three people lost their lives. The riveting tale of this historic storm and the drowning of an American city is one of selflessness, heroism, and courage - and also of incompetence, racism, and criminality. Don Brown's kinetic art and as-it-happens narrative capture both the tragedy and triumph of one of the worst natural disasters in American history.

Every Soul a Star By: Mass, Wendy

Ally, Bree, and Jack meet at the one place the Great Eclipse can be seen in totality, each carrying the burden of different personal problems, which become dim when compared to the task they embark upon and the friendship they find.

Flash Fire By: Cooney, Caroline

As fire sweeps through a canyon near Los Angeles, teenagers Danna and Hall Press and other children whose parents are not around must work together to save themselves.



Lost in the Labyrinth By: Kindl, Patrice

Fourteen-year-old Princess Xenodice tries to prevent the death of her half-brother, the Minotaur, at the hands of the Athenian prince, Theseus, who is aided by Icarus, Daedalus and her sister Ariadne.

Medusa By: Hirschmann, Kris

Describes the history of the legend of Medusa, including the ancient Greek myth of Perseus and the Gorgons, representations of Medusa in art, and modern versions of the monster in popular culture.

Quicksilver By: Spinner, Stephanie

Hermes, Prince of Thieves and son of Zeus, relates why the seasonal change, the history of the Trojan War, his friendship with Pegasus, and many more adventures.

Wild Girl By: Giff, Patricia Reilly

When twelve-year-old Lidie leaves Brazil to join her father and brother on a horse ranch in New York, she has a hard time adjusting to her changed circumstances, as does a new horse that has come to the ranch.



Incoming 6th Grade ELECTIVE SELECTION Google Form

To be completed by Tuesday, June 13th at 11:59 p.m.

**Students who do not select an elective by this deadline will have an open elective selected for them.*

Incoming 6th Grade Google Form Link: <https://goo.gl/forms/XjtpmXRfs1Oac1D93>

Elective Course Descriptions Located at: <http://jefferson.tusd.org>

Click on top tab “Academics” and then click on “Incoming 6th Graders”

Courses additionally listed below:

Class Descriptions:

- **Beginning Band** (Yearlong class) – This class is for anyone who has never played an instrument and would like learn. In addition, Beginning Band is for incoming 6th graders who have played an instrument in elementary school. We offer all wind instruments, including but not limited to flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, baritone and tuba, plus all percussion instruments. **You do not have to have any music experience.** Beginning Band will perform 3 times throughout the year, including a trip to Disneyland for a band competition.
- **Chorus** (Yearlong class) – This class is for any student who enjoys singing. Singing or musical experience is not required. The JMS Chorus performs a minimum of 5 times throughout the school year, including a trip to either Disneyland or Knott’s for a competition, and then a concluding performance at the JMS Spring musical.
- **21st Century Journalism, Digital Media & Design and Publication:** (Yearlong class for: 6th/7th/8th) This course is for students with strong writing and technical skills. The course requires an completed application – see either the attached, website, or Google Form. Students from each grade level will be considered to participate in this class, with 8th graders having priority, to create publications, including but not limited to the Jefferson yearbook, Student newspaper, and digital media presentations and publications.
- **Elective Wheel (Class rotates every quarter)** – Classes offered within the elective wheel offer a variety of enrichment for our 6th grade students. Classes this school year include: Leadership, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math), Health, and Technology – Study Skills are incorporated throughout each elective course, each quarter.

Jefferson Middle School
21st Century Journalism, Digital Media & Design and Publication
Application 2017-2018



The **21st Century Journalism, Digital Media & Design and Publication** elective course is seeking talented students with strong writing, technology, and collaboration skills for our school publications. This course is designed to put the talents together of JMS 6th, 7th and 8th grade students, with 8th grade students having priority, for collaborative team of not more than 36 students who are interested in newspaper, yearbook and digital media design, layout and photography. Please return applications to the JMS OFFICE by June 13, 2017. A LIMITED NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Name (1st and last): _____

Circle Incoming Grade for 17-18: 6 7 8

List your English Grades/Marks this year:

Incoming 7th and 8th Grade Students
Quarter 4 _____

Incoming 6th Grade Students
Trimester 3 _____

Please answer the following Questions:

Are you comfortable working with computers? Yes No

If yes, would you consider yourself to be a/an: rookie intermediate user expert

Are you able to spend time after school working on the yearbook to help meet deadlines? Yes No

Are you willing to take photographs as well as work on the composition of the book? Yes No

With 1 being the least appealing and 5 being the most appealing, rank your interest/abilities in the following jobs:

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| • Talking to friends | 1 2 3 4 5 | Creating Layouts | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| • Photography | 1 2 3 4 5 | Interviewing people | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| • Attending School Events | 1 2 3 4 5 | Proofreading | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| • Supervising/teaching others | 1 2 3 4 5 | Designing artwork/drawing | 1 2 3 4 5 |

Parent Section:

_____ Yes, I understand if my child is selected to participate in the **21st Century Journalism, Digital Media & Design and Publication** course at Jefferson Middle School for the academic year 2017-2018 that this course is a yearlong commitment.

Printed (first and last) Name of Student

English Teacher's Signature
(Denoting a Course Recommendation)

Printed (first and last) Name of the Parent

Parent's Signature

Date