

John Yeates Middle School

FAQ

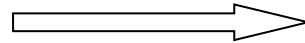
{FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS}

Who's in charge?

Dr. Green is our Principal, and our Assistant Principals are Dr. Patterson, Ms. Looney-Gill, and Ms. VanHosen.

What is our mascot?

*We are the Home of the **Chargers!***



Where's the school?

The school is located at 4901 Bennett's Pasture Road, Suffolk, VA 23435.

How can I contact folks at school?

*You can **call** (757.923.4105) or **fax** (757.538.5416) or go **on-line** (www.sps.k12.va.us/schools/jyms).*

Middle school is an exciting time and sixth grade is when the adventure starts!

To help smooth the transition, here are answers to some

frequently asked questions...

COURSES FOR 6TH GRADE

What classes do 6th graders take?

All 6th graders will take English, Math, Science, History, and P.E. Exploratory classes or Band/Strings will fill out the schedule. Science and History are only semester courses (which means you only take the class for half the year); you will take one each semester. Since these classes are squeezed into a shorter amount of time, the pace will be somewhat quicker and lessons will be more concentrated. 9-week Exploratory classes are Introduction to Keyboarding, Introduction to Technology, Art, Family and Consumer Science (FACS), Music, and Chorus. Year-long Exploratory classes include Band or Strings. (7th and 8th grade Exploratory classes are semester-long.)

- Students who scored 500 or above on their 5th grade SOL assessment and have an A/ B final average are placed in a Math enrichment section. Pre-Algebra is offered for those who meet certain, specific criteria.

SCHEDULES/SCHOOL HOURS

How do I read my schedule? How do I follow it? How will I know where to go?

- You will follow an **EVEN/ODD** day schedule. Each student will go to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd period every day. On Even days, you will go to your 4th period, while on Odd days, you will go to 5th period. Basically, students have periods 1, 2, 3, and 4 on Even days, and 1, 2, 3, and 5 on Odd days. You will have a different Exploratory class each 9-week grading period (Art, FACS, Technology, Keyboarding, Music, Chorus), OR you may choose Band or Strings all year long. These classes will alternate with P.E.
- Any staff member can help you follow your schedule -- it won't take long for you to become familiar with it!

What time does school start and end?

- **TIMES FOR 2017-2018** -- You are allowed in the building at 7:00 a.m. Classes begin at 7:25 a.m. and end at 2:00 p.m.
- Each class is 95 minutes long (whoa!) with the Exploratory/PE classes lasting for 75 minutes.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION (P.E.)

How are my P.E. grades averaged? I heard you have to dress out for P.E. -- is this true? Is P.E. like recess?

- You will be required to change clothes for P.E. The uniform consists of blue or black shorts or sweats, a white or gray t-shirt with sleeves, white socks, and tennis shoes or sneakers with shoelaces. You can buy your P.E. uniform at school at the start of the school year or you can bring your own from home. Gym lockers are available to store your school clothes/personal belongings during P.E. time only. (You must provide your own lock.) Neither the P.E. teacher nor school is responsible for lost or stolen items. It's a smart idea to not bring any valuables to class.



- P.E. grades shown on the report card are averaged like this: 60% for Physical Education, 40% for Health. Physical Education grades are affected if an improper uniform is worn and/or a student chooses not to participate.
- P.E. is not considered recess. The days of recess are behind you now!

LOCKERS

Where is my locker? When can I go to it? How do I open it? What about a locker for P.E.?

Lockers seem to be the cause of lots of stress for new 6th graders, but it doesn't have to be that way. It won't take long to figure out how to open a locker, and besides, no one has ever become a failure in life because he struggled with his middle school locker! You'll be just fine!

- Your locker will be assigned by your homeroom teacher and will be located in the 6th grade part of the building. **The cost for your locker rental is just \$5.00 for the year – that's half of your \$10.00 non-refundable Locker/Agenda Fee paid at the start of the school year.** (Price subject to change)
- The 6th graders will be assigned specific times to go to their lockers, so be sure to listen when those times are explained at the start of school. (You'll get into a regular routine really quickly.)



- You open a lock by turning the dial right-left-right. If your combination were 04-18-08 you would spin the dial to the **right** a couple times to "loosen it up" and then turn to the 4 mark; next you would turn the dial to the **left** and pass 4 to get to 18 – **you always pass the first number to get to the second**; lastly, you would turn **right**, straight to 8 without passing 18 – **you don't pass the second number to get to the third**. Now tug on the lock and it should open. If it doesn't, don't worry; just ask a trusted friend or a staff member to help you.

- A P.E. locker will be available for use during class. You can use a lock that you bring from home. You must take the lock off at the end of class each day.

- **FYI #1:** It's not a smart idea to tell your combination to other people (You know how word gets around!). Also, you shouldn't pre-set your lock so it's ready to open when you pull on it – anyone can pull on it and have access to your stuff.
- **FYI #2:** **All lockers are school property**, which means they should be kept clean and in good condition. This also means that they can be searched at any time by school officials.

TEXTBOOKS

What if I forget to bring one of my textbooks?

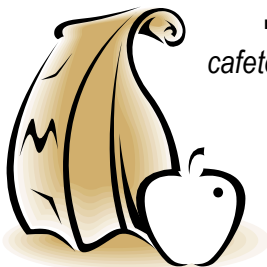
All JYMS 6th grade students are given a set of textbooks to keep at home, and all classrooms have a set of books for each student, so no books need to be kept in the lockers or carried between home and school. No need to lug those heavy things around -- you'll always have your home copy and your class copy!



CAFETERIA

What is there to eat? How much does it cost?

There's such a wide variety of nutritious food offered in the cafeteria that you'll want to check out the monthly menus posted in your homeroom, on the Suffolk Public Schools website, and in the Suffolk Sun.



- **Breakfast** – Breakfast is optional and only those eating it should be in the cafeteria in the morning. The cost is 85¢ (or 30¢ at the reduced rate).
- **Lunch** – Everyone has to go to the cafeteria for lunch which you can buy or bring from home. The cost is \$1.90 (or 40¢ at the reduce rate).
- **Snacks** – You will be allowed one trip through the snack line each day.

(Prices are subject to change)

INTRAMURAL SPORTS PROGRAM & AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS

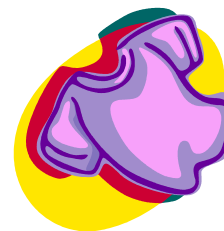
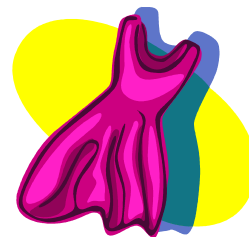
What sports are offered in middle school? Can I play sports as a 6th grader? Are there any clubs I can join?

- Middle school offers intramural sports for boys and girls for **football, field hockey, volleyball, basketball, and soccer**. JYMS competes against the other middle schools in Suffolk. **Intramural sports are only available to 7th and 8th graders**, so start getting in condition for the 2018-2019 season!
- Some of the clubs available to 6th graders are Technology Student Association, Student Council Association, and CHROME.

DRESS CODE & PERSONAL PROPERTY

What am I not allowed to wear? What kind of personal property should I leave at home?

- The way you dress can affect the way you learn, so it's important that your clothes don't cause distractions or safety concerns. **Clothes you shouldn't wear to school include...**
 - Skirts, dresses, and shorts that are too short – if the hem or the top of the slit isn't at your fingertips when you have your hands at your sides, then it's too short
 - Anything associated with drugs, alcohol, gang activity, or any type of offensive remarks or images
 - Anything that shows your midriff (belly button) or your underwear (A plain white t-shirt is considered an undershirt so it should be worn under your clothes.)
 - Anything too tight or too loose
 - Pants/jeans/shorts with rips above the knees, regardless of what is worn under it
 - Slippers, flip-flops, shoes with rollerskates in the soles
 - Wallet chains, spiked jewelry, safety pins on the outside of clothes
 - Hats, bandanas, visors, sweatbands, or other things on your head



- **There is a lot more information about the dress code found in the Suffolk Public Schools Student Handbook, so be sure to read it and follow those simple guidelines.**
- As far as your personal property, there's no reason to bring to school a cell phone (must be approved by School Board Office), sunglasses, trading cards, a whole bunch of money, no electronic devices, etc. Kindles and Nooks may be used for classroom purposes only and must have the teacher's permission. These things can cause distractions, can be broken, and can be stolen – and they can be taken by a staff member for your parent/guardian to pick up. (No one will be happy about that!)
- Obviously, no one should bring tobacco, drugs, alcohol, weapons, or gang-like material.

GRADING/PROMOTION POLICY



How do I pass to the next grade? How are grades averaged? Does homework count?

- 6th grade students must pass English, Math, History, and Science (the 4 core classes) to be promoted. (Completion of Suffolk and Virginia end-of-year assessments in the same courses is also required.) Students failing only one core subject can attend summer school for promotion. Any student who fails the SOL assessment is required to attend summer school or some other form of tutoring/remediation.
- Grades are averaged like this: **Classwork** is worth 30% of the 9-weeks grade, **Homework** = 5%, **Quizzes/SOL assessments** = 30%, and **Tests** = 35%
- Of course homework counts! (You could pass or fail a class because of your homework!)
- Here's the grading scale: A= 100-90, B= 89-80, C= 79-70, D= 69-60, F=below 60
Plus and Minus grades(A-, B+, B-, C+, C-, D+, D-) will also be used.

MAKE-UP WORK POLICY

What if I miss an assignment because I'm absent? How long do I have to make up work?

Work you miss because you were absent is due within **5 school days** after you return to class. It is **your** responsibility to check with your teacher(s) about all missing/make-up assignments.

AGENDA USE

What's an agenda? Do I need to have mine every day? What if I lose my agenda?

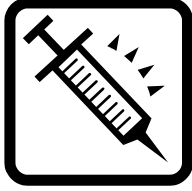
An agenda is a small, notebook-style tool that you can use to keep yourself organized. To help with the transition into 6th grade, you will be given an agenda in the fall for you to keep track of daily homework, tests and quizzes, assignments, and important dates throughout the year. Agendas contain passports/passes that you must use to leave a class or to travel in the hallway.

JYMS students are required to have their agendas with them in the halls and in the classrooms. If you lose your agenda, a replacement can be purchased in the front office.

The cost for your first agenda is just \$5.00 for the year – that's half of your \$10.00 non-refundable Locker/Agenda Fee paid at the start of the school year.



IMMUNIZATIONS (SHOTS!)



What immunizations do I need for middle school? What is the Tdap shot I keep hearing about?

- All immunizations must be up-to-date before a student can enter classes at John Yeates. Most health records are up-to-date while a student is in elementary school.

The **Tdap booster** is given when a child turns 11 years of age; some doctors may give it earlier than 11. (The booster shot is for tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis – and those hurt a lot worse than getting the shot!). If the doctor refuses to give the shot prior to the student's 11th birthday and 6th grade has begun, a letter from the doctor stating that he/she will be giving the immunization once the student turns 11 must be presented before the student can attend classes. (Families will receive this information before the start of middle school.)

- Also needed – **1 dose of the Chicken Pox/Varicella vaccine. SIXTH GRADE STUDENTS WILL NOT BE GIVEN A SCHEDULE OR ALLOWED IN CLASS UNTIL PROOF FROM THE DOCTOR THAT THE TDAP AND VARICELLA HAVE BEEN GIVEN.** If your parents have any questions pertaining to required immunizations, they can call our school nurse.

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE PROGRAM (IB) AND PROJECT LEAD THE WAY PROGRAMS (PLTW) FOR PRE-ENGINEERING AND BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

What are these programs? How do they affect me as a 6th grader?

The IB program is a challenging two-year program of international education for students who are 16-19 years old. Algebra I and Spanish or French are required for any 8th grader who wants to apply in the IB program. Pre-IB courses begin in the 9th grade. The IB program is housed at Kings Fork High School.

The Pre-Engineering program is a rigorous, project-based, hands-on program that teaches elements of engineering careers. A minimum GPA in Algebra I and Science 8 are required for admission. This program is housed at Nansemond River High School.

The Biomedical Science program is housed at Lakeland High School. It provides a curriculum centered in the advanced math and science topics required for higher education in the fields of health care and medicine. The program is geared for those interested in career opportunities in medicine, technology, or science.



DISCIPLINE

What are the school rules? What is an ISS?

- ISS stands for In-School Suspension.** If a student earns an ISS he is suspended from classes but will still come to school and report to the ISS room where he will complete assignments including behavior-related packets and work from teachers. The ISS coordinator will be in charge of the student. If the student does not finish the required work or does not follow the guidelines or does not show up for ISS, an out-of-school suspension (OSS) will be earned.
- Be sure to read the **SPS Student Handbook** pages regarding discipline and come to school ready to be **honest, respectful, courteous and responsible.**

JYMS 6TH GRADE ORIENTATION PICNIC

AUGUST 23, 2017

(Date subject to change)

5:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.

COME OUT AND RECEIVE YOUR SCHEDULE,
BECOME FAMILIAR WITH THE BUILDING,
MEET THE TEACHERS, AND PAY FOR YOUR
AGENDA & LOCKER FEE-\$10

P.E. UNIFORMS WILL ALSO BE SOLD!

\$16 PER SET

(Prices subject to change)

HOT DOGS & DRINKS SERVED!

INFORMATIONAL PROGRAM AT
5:15 P.M. & 6:15 P.M. - AUDITORIUM

*YOU WILL RECEIVE A LETTER IN EARLY
AUGUST TO REMIND YOU ABOUT THE
ORIENTATION PICNIC ☺*