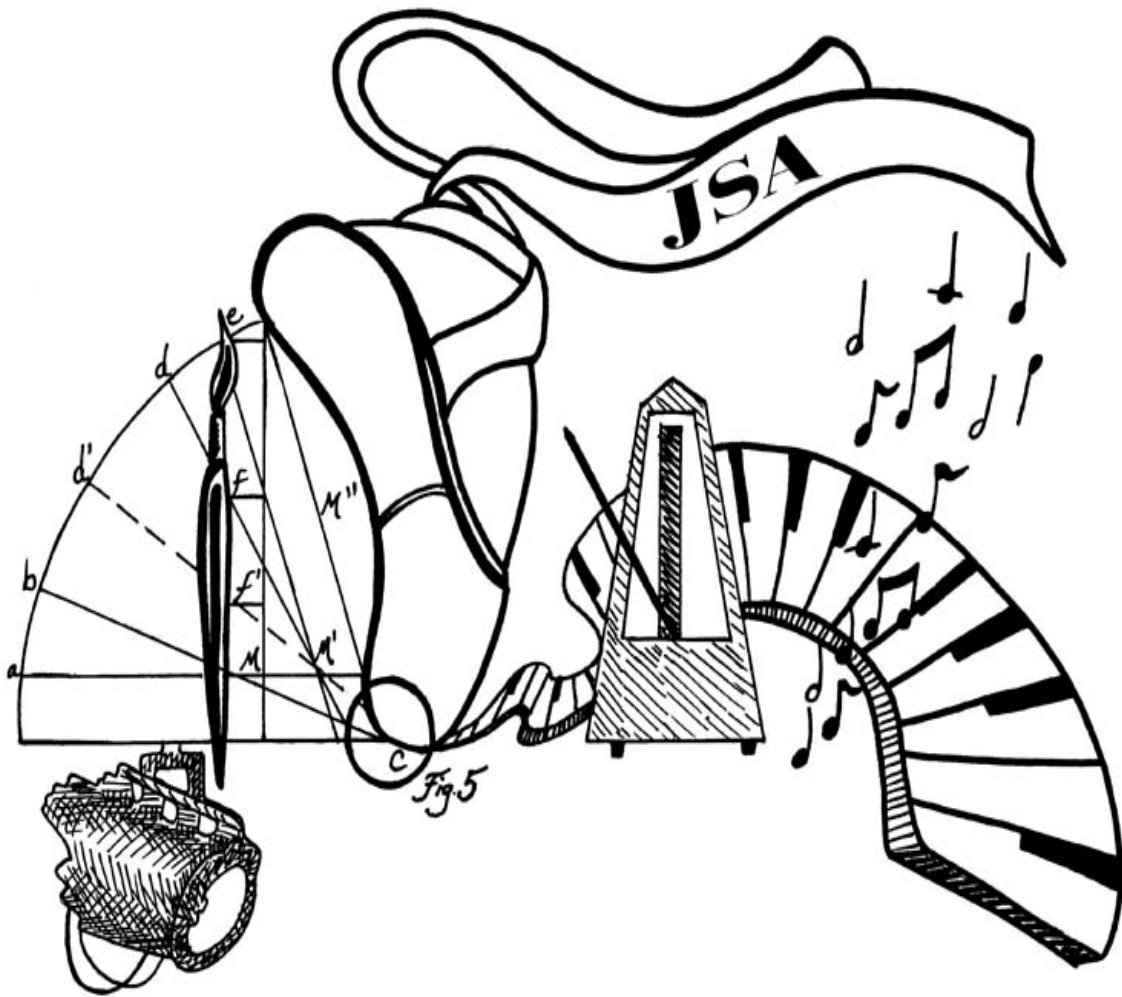


JACKSON SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS



STUDENT HANDBOOK

WELCOME

Welcome to the Jackson School for the Arts (JSA). We are very excited about the opportunity to offer such a diverse program at Jackson High School.

PROGRAM AND FACILITIES

This program consists of a rigorous academic curriculum with an emphasis on the arts. The basic concept of the academic and arts educational experience is a school within a school. Over a four-year period, students will be exposed to all art forms, eventually narrowing their focus to a single area of concentration. The students' diplomas will reflect this concentrated study. Opportunities are available for involvement in school and community productions, private art lessons and juried art shows, private music lessons and special auditions.

THE ABC'S OF JSA

ACADEMIC AND ARTISTIC ACCOUNTABILITY

The JSA stresses achievement in both arts and academics. To this end, students are encouraged to maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0. Should a student's GPA fall below 3.0 a disciplinary course of action will be followed. If a student wishes to drop the program for any other reason, an exit conference must be scheduled with the student's guidance counselor and Mrs. Gardner.

ATTENDANCE

Students enrolled in the JSA program understand that to succeed in arts-based education, and potentially an arts career, dedication is paramount. Jackson High School has a stringent attendance policy and JSA students are expected to make attendance at school a primary goal. This includes limiting tardies to class, late arrivals to school, and excessive attendance concerns during the school day. This is especially critical for zero period classes. Most JSA courses are performance based, which means absences from school mean absences from performance opportunities. In order to grow as a student artist, attendance at school is key. In addition, JSA courses are extremely academic. This means it is crucial for students to be in class daily taking notes and absorbing course content. During the sophomore year, students take English during zero period. This course prepares students for two Ohio Graduation Tests needed to earn a diploma from Jackson High School. Punctual daily attendance is critical. Students and parents are asked to form a partnership with us as we make good attendance a goal this school year. Excessive problems with attendance may mean that JSA is not the right program for you.

CHILDREN'S DAY

In order to provide Theatre III students with additional opportunities to cast, direct, and produce performances, these students host Children's Day each year. Youngsters from throughout the community are invited to attend this exciting event which may include interactive theater and dance performances, songs, puppets, hands-on crafts the children make and take home, and more. The event is typically held in mid-December allowing parents to take advantage of some last minute holiday shopping time while their children enjoy the event.

COLLEGE REQUIREMENTS

To prepare students for any major fine arts college or university, JSA suggests that all students have three years of world language as well as other college preparatory courses. In addition, students are encouraged to take Advanced Placement courses or dual-credit courses.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Susan Gardner, Jackson School for the Arts (JSA)
7600 Fulton Drive NW
Massillon, OH 44646
330-837-3501 Ext. 1420

EXTENDED DAY

The JSA school day begins one period prior to the JHS school day. This is necessary to incorporate all of the arts expectations for the program. This class time is scheduled as zero "0" period.

FUNDRAISING

As in most things in life, funds are needed to help make JSA programs a success and to provide students with the most well-rounded experiences possible. To help accomplish the goals of JSA, there are currently two major fundraisers held each year:

Chicken Barbeque in the Park

This event is typically held in the fall and is structured as carry-out only. Each JSA family is expected to be responsible for selling five tickets for this carry-out dinner. Additionally, parent volunteers are needed to assist the staff and senior interns to assemble and distribute the dinners on the day of the barbeque.

JSA Extravaganza

This is our major fundraiser and is held in February at the high school. Extravaganza encompasses two days with silent and live auctions, instrumental performances, a performance by the Elementary Honors Choir, an art gallery and numerous dance and theatrical performances held on Saturday evening and an encore of the theatrical performances Sunday in the Performing Arts Center. Several committee chair persons are needed to assist the overall Extravaganza chairperson. These chairpersons have committees to help coordinate the various aspects of their respective areas. In many instances meetings and/or work sessions are held prior to this event. In order to make this vast undertaking a success, parents are expected to volunteer for four (4) hours on at least one committee.

PATRONS

A school such as JSA will not continue to thrive without the gracious and generous support of the community. Parents are encouraged to consider becoming a patron for JSA. Patrons are recognized at all of JSA's large performance events. There are many levels of giving and all donations are truly appreciated. A patron form is included in this handbook for your consideration.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

It is suggested that JSA students take at least one physical education requirement during the summer; however, both physical education requirements may be taken in the summer.

PERFORMANCE OUTSIDE JSA

Students are encouraged to participate in outside performance activities if they do not conflict with the schedule of events at JHS or in JSA. Even though outside activities may be time consuming, it is the expectation of the JSA team that students will attend all required school classes. School is the student's primary responsibility. Due to the fact that outside projects may present conflicts, students are required to clear their potential involvement in such projects with the principal and the appropriate arts staff.

THEATRE AND DANCE SHOWCASES

These exciting events are held in the spring of each year and are for the primary purpose of showcasing the talents of JSA students. All students in Theatre and/or Dance courses MUST participate in the JSA Showcases. The dates are provided to students as an attachment to this handbook which is distributed at the beginning of each school year. With this in mind, any student that finds that they have an unavoidable conflict must submit it in writing to Mrs. Gardner by September 15 of the school year. Conflicts do NOT include work, other shows, or other school functions. The Showcases are part of each student's grade for the courses listed above. Further information regarding the JSA Showcases is detailed below:

Showcase Rehearsals

All students involved in the JSA Showcases are expected to attend three weeks of intensive rehearsals prior to the event. Grades are given for performance/participation at Showcase rehearsals. Students are responsible for making all coaches, employers, etc. aware of the rehearsal schedule in advance to avoid conflict. All rehearsal absences require a written notice at least two weeks in advance to all teachers involved.

Showcase – Freshmen, Sophomore and Junior Involvement

Freshmen:

Theatre/Dance students all perform in both Showcases. The number and types of performances by the classes will be determined by the Staff.

Sophomores:

- Theatre II students will participate in the Theatre Showcase.
- Theatre/Dance II students will participate in BOTH the Theatre and Dance Showcases.
- Dance II students will participate in the Dance Showcase.
- All Sophomore students NOT enrolled in Theatre and/or Dance are expected to usher, assist with ticket sales and refreshments at Showcase. Mrs. Fatzinger contacts these students prior to the Showcases.

Juniors:

- Theatre III students will participate in the Theatre Showcase.
- Dance III students will participate in the Dance Showcase. The number and types of dance performed by the classes is determined by the JSA Dance Staff.
- Junior students NOT enrolled in Theatre and/or Dance are expected to usher, assist with ticket sales and refreshments at Showcase. Mrs. Fatzinger contacts these students prior to the Dance Showcase.

STAFF COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Not only does our devoted JSA staff instruct students during their regular class sessions, they are active in helping to insure that the students' talents are showcased, funds are raised and the viability of the program continues. To this end, they devote additional time chairing the following areas:

Extravaganza/Showcase General Chairperson Director – Susie Gardner
Extravaganza/Showcase Set-up and Performance Coordination—Fred Locker
Vocal Performances—Fred Locker, Scott Eversdyke
Theatrical Performances—Stefanie Fatzinger
Dance Performances—Megan Gatts, Mara Schwendiman, Nadeen Green
Instrumental Performances—Tom Holliday, Don Turoso, Michele Monigold,
Amy Sullivan
Student Extravaganza Baskets—Robin Snow, Kathryn Stone, Kaitlyn Dunlap,
Angela Manes
Art Gallery—Debra Tisdale, Russ Suhy, Joe Piotrowski, Sherry Angeloni
Technical/Stage Crew Coordination—Doug Bower
JSA Website – Amy Sullivan

SUMMER THEATRE CAMPS

Two weeks of theatre camps are held each June, one week for elementary students and one week for middle school students. The purpose of these camps is two-fold: first, it increases awareness and interest in the arts for younger children; and second, it provides valuable experience to senior JSA students. Since all senior JSA students must earn internship hours, most students will choose to participate in the JSA Summer Camps. Participation in these camps is a privilege, not a guarantee. Seniors will be assigned specific duties prior to the end of the school year for the summer camps. The expectation is that students will be at the high school during the hours of the camp (and additionally for planning purposes) completing their assigned duties. Students are not permitted to leave during the hours of camp.

TRANSPORTATION

On many occasions students enrolled in JSA are expected to remain after school for rehearsals, stage crew sessions, art studio time etc. This necessitates the need for students to arrange for their own transportation.

VOLUNTEERS

JSA has an active group of parents that helps to insure the success of the program each year. One of the major ways that parents can contribute to this success is by assisting with fundraising efforts or participating in any of our parent committees. Our parents' time is invaluable to the success of JSA and we appreciate our volunteers' dedication to our program. Parents are expected to volunteer for a minimum of four hours on at least one committee. Volunteers are needed to chair committees and /or volunteer to assist on a committee. Listed below are the ways in which parents can become involved.

JSA PARENT COMMITTEES

Event Catering (Chicken Barbeque in the Park and Extravaganza Dinner)

Parents are needed to assist with assembling and delivering dinners to cars and assist with table clearing, cleaning up and possibly serving during the Extravaganza dinner.

Event Chaperones—Parents are needed to serve as room/hallway chaperones to help coordinate the movement of students to and from performance areas during Extravaganza and Showcases as well as monitor students in between their respective performances.

Extravaganza Donation Solicitation—These parents contact local, as well as national, organizations via telephone, mail, e-mail or in person to request donations for our live and silent auctions prior to the Extravaganza. This group also is responsible for seeking out and securing patrons for JSA. This process typically begins in August and continues until the Extravaganza.

Extravaganza Silent/Live Auction Assembly Committee—Parents are needed to organize and assemble donations once they arrive in order to present them in an attractive manner at the Extravaganza Silent Auction. This process usually begins before the end of the calendar year and continues until the event. Volunteers do not need to be present at every scheduled session to be involved.

Flower Sales—Parents are needed to assist with flower sales and distribution immediately prior to and during intermission at the JSA Showcases.

Post Performance Refreshments—Parents are needed to assist with serving refreshments and cleaning up after various JSA performances. Parents are also needed to provide desserts for these events.

Publicity—Parents are needed to help publicize JSA events through flyer distribution, poster distribution, media communication, etc.

Ticket Sales—Parents are needed to assist with ticket sales prior to and during Extravaganza, the Showcases, etc.

Volunteer Coordination—Parents are needed to help seek and coordinate volunteers for various activities and events as needed. This is typically accomplished via telephone and/or e-mail and occurs sporadically throughout the year.

As you can see, there are many, many people that work together to make this program as successful as it is. We are truly delighted that your student has chosen to be with us during this school year and look forward to the adventures that await us all. Additional correspondence will arrive in the near future so check your mailbox and/or e-mail inbox for updates.

We are all here for the betterment of your student and will be happy to assist you in any way we can or answer questions that you may have.

WELCOME TO JSA!