

Jefferson County Public Schools

2009–10 School Year

- First day of school is Thursday, August 13, 2009.
- Projected enrollment is 100,690, an increase of 1,058 over the first month of 08-09.
- 855 buses transport more than 62,000 students.
- JCPS has hired approximately 300 new teachers.

Highlights

- JCPS launches new elementary student magnet programs and schools
- Online Parent Portal helps improve parent involvement and school to home communications
- Every 1 Reads More literacy initiative kicks off
- Changes take effect for Student Code of Conduct
- CARE for Kids expands to teach social responsibility
- High Schools prepare for new career education pathways in 2010-2011
- High Schools introduce new math program
- Close the Deal enters second year preparing seniors for postsecondary training
- Community Schools serve families with free activities
- JCPS names new principals

Important Telephone Numbers

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| FACT Line | 485-3228 |
| Transportation | 485-3470 |
| Parent Assistance Center/Student Assignment | 485-6250 |
| Early Childhood Programs | 485-3919 |
| Health Services | 485-3387 |
| Optional, Magnet, and Advance Programs | 485-3323 |
| Exceptional Child Education | 485-8500 |

Meal prices for 2009–10 are as follows: (No change from last year)

- Breakfast: Elementary \$1.75 Secondary \$1.85 Reduced price \$.30
- Lunch: Elementary \$2.25 Secondary \$2.35 Reduced price \$.40

School Hours (Some schools slightly adjust their hours; confirm times with local school.)

- Elementary: 9:05 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.; Middle and High: 7:40 a.m. to 2:20 p.m.

2009–2010 INITIATIVES

New elementary student assignment plan takes effect

The new elementary student assignment plan takes effect this year with the introduction of 25 magnet schools and programs. A variety of themes has been offered including the performing arts, communications, health and fitness, technology, international studies, environmental studies and leadership. The schools and multiple colleges, companies, and many other community organizations have worked for over a year to develop the magnet offerings.

A complete list and description of the new magnets is enclosed.

- Under the new Elementary Student Assignment Plan, students are assigned to schools based on the geographic area in which they reside.
- All schools, except alternative and special schools, are enrolling between 15 and 50 percent of students from neighborhoods in which income and education levels are below the district average and the number of minority families is above average. The definition of “minority students” has been expanded to include all students who are non-white instead of just African-American students.
- Most of the district’s elementary schools are arranged into six clusters. Each cluster includes 11 to 15 schools. Parents are asked to list four choices of schools.
- Two schools—Lincoln Elementary and Young Elementary—are opening this year as new magnet schools that accept applications from students throughout the district.
- Students enrolled in grades one through four last year were allowed to remain at their schools unless there was a change in their home address.

Online Portal keeps parents current on their child’s progress

In a few weeks, all JCPS parents will receive a letter explaining how to access student information on the Parent Portal, a Web page (www.jcpsky.net/Parent/ParentPortal) that helps parents follow their child’s progress during the new school year. All of the information is secure. Only parents or legal guardians of a JCPS student are allowed access.

Parents/Guardians will be able to monitor the following:

- current information on grades, attendance, and course registrations
- homework due dates, if the teacher uses the portal grade book
- report cards, school announcements, and newsletters

Parents also will be able to interact with teachers via e-mail and get information on all of the children in a family. The information is available in English, Spanish, and Chinese. The portal is a free service to parents, and is expected to save the district money by reducing paperwork and labor costs. The portal will be available to all schools in mid September.

Every 1 Reads More supports reading and writing

The Every 1 Reads More initiative focuses on increasing the numbers of students reading and writing at Proficient and Distinguished levels, while continuing to provide interventions to Novice-level students. It is an expansion of Every 1 Reads (E1R) initiative to include writing. Over 4 years, E1R helped lower the number of JCPS Novice readers from 18.6 percent (18,000 students) in 2003 to 9.4 percent (8,500 students) in 2008.

Based on its success, Greater Louisville Inc. [GLI] adopted a continuation plan to recruit and train approximately 4,000 volunteer tutors and to include some additional fundraising totaling almost \$6,000,000.00. Every 1 Reads More is a partnership between JCPS, Greater Louisville Inc., and Louisville Metro Government to ensure that every JCPS student is reading and writing at or above grade level.

Student Code of Conduct changes take effect

Several changes to the district's Code of Acceptable Behavior and Discipline and the Student Bill of Rights take effect this year. A few important examples of the updated code include:

- After 10 cumulative full-day absences because of illness, parents are required to provide a written statement from a doctor, dentist, psychologist, or other medical professional before additional student absences will be excused.
- Possession of pornography, including electronic possession or distribution, is a behavior violation. Consequences will range from in-school discipline to expulsion. In addition, a new policy for acceptable use of the JCPSNet electronic information system prohibits sending or receiving "materials in violation of the federal or state laws or regulations pertaining to copyrighted, threatening, or obscene materials, including sexually explicit materials."
- If a student's parent or legal guardian is a member of the United States Armed Forces (including a National Guard or Reserve Unit) and is called to Federal active duty, the principal will grant the student an excused absence for 1 day when the parent or guardian is deployed. The student will also receive an excused absence for 1 day when the parent or guardian returns. If a parent or guardian is stationed out of the country and is granted rest and recuperation leave, the student will be allowed up to 10 excused absences.
- Each school may set its own policy to determine the number of days that video game systems, iPods, cell phones, and other personal telecommunications devices may be held by school administrators if they are confiscated from students, but the length of the confiscation period

may not exceed 30 calendar days per violation. (JCPS students are allowed to carry cell phones to and from school, but they aren't allowed to use or even show them on school property during the instructional day. If a device is confiscated, it will be returned only to the student's parent.)

At the beginning of the new school year, all JCPS students will receive a copy of the updated booklet that contains the entire Code and Bill of Rights to take home and read with their parents. Parents are asked to sign and return a detachable form confirming they have read the booklet. CARE for Kids expands to teach social responsibility JCPS is in its second year of implementation with this school culture initiative, increasing the number of participating elementary schools from 28 to 55, and in Middle Schools adding 7th grade classrooms in addition to 6th grade classrooms that launched this program last year and five school wide programs. The Care for Kids initiative helps students in pre-kindergarten through grade 8 to develop social responsibility and positive relationships with both classmates and adults. It embeds proactive strategies that can be incorporated throughout the day in all academic classes.

Each CARE for Kids school promotes social, emotional, ethical, and intellectual development in an inclusive, caring, respectful, and supportive learning community that is physically and emotionally safe for all students and engages them as active participants in the classroom, school, and in the larger community. Pre-kindergarten and elementary components include the following:

- Daily morning meetings designed to set the tone for respectful learning and to establish a climate of trust.
- Regular class meetings to promote a team spirit and encourage students and teachers to get to know each other, to reflect, problem solve, and make group decisions.
- Buddy matches of every older student in the school with a younger student for a series of collaborative learning activities.
- Homeside activities to stimulate conversations between the students and their family members.
- School wide community-building activities
- Developmental discipline that focuses on proactive and intervention strategies with emphasis on relationships, modeling skill development, moving students to self control and responsibility, and includes a hierarchy of responses to behavior.

At the middle school level, CARE for Kids meets four needs that must be fulfilled if young adolescents are to be fully engaged in social or academic learning: building relationships, developing autonomy, experiencing competence, and having fun. It is an approach designed to teach good behavior rather than punishment. Sixth and seventh graders in the 24 schools— and eighth-graders in selected schools—will experience the following:

- Morning meetings called Circle of Power and Respect, and class meetings
- Community-building activities
- Developmental discipline that focuses on proactive and intervention strategies with emphasis on relationships, modeling skill development, moving students to self control and responsibility, and includes a hierarchy of responses to behavior.

High Schools prepare for new career education pathways in 2010-2011

JCPS has redesigned its middle and high school student assignment plan to foster greater choice. For example, the high school component will allow families to choose among five career themes at high schools across the county, enabling students to access advanced, technical, and specialized courses that give them an edge on their future career choices.

Most high schools are grouped into one of three areas. Within the areas, each school offers courses built on a professional career theme developed with the guidance of a School-to-Career Task Force that included many Louisville business and community leaders as well as JCPS teachers and administrators.

Local companies and community organizations partner with the district to support the theme courses which allows schools to provide real-world training. The district's schools also provide rigorous academic coursework and links between technical training and academic studies to help students pursue their professional goals. The themes are outlined below:

Creating Our Social World -Human Services, Education, and International Studies

Students learn communication and leadership skills with courses in the human services fields. For example: education students learn the foundations of teaching and get practical experience working with elementary and middle school students. Students also develop relationships with colleges and universities to continue studies and training after high school. Students interested in international studies develop an in-depth understanding of the global community, and have opportunities to work with local and international organizations and government agencies.

Area 1: Fairdale High Magnet Career Academy

Area 2: Seneca High Magnet Career Academy

Area 3: Atherton High

Districtwide: Central High School Magnet Career Academy

Designing and Building the Future -Engineering (Aeronautics/Architecture/Manufacturing) and Construction

Students learn advanced problem-solving skills, and master a range of tools and technologies—the same tools and technologies that today's professionals use. Engineering students receive a broad introduction to the field by exploring real-world problems. Students also study historical engineering achievements ranging from the Egyptian pyramids to the U.S. highway system to the Ohio River locks and dams. Other course options include aviation, manufacturing, energy transmission, or construction (including environmentally friendly "green" construction). No matter which course students take in this theme, hands-on experiences are a critical piece of their training.

Area 1: Iroquois High Magnet Career Academy

Area 2: Jeffersontown High Magnet Career Academy

Area 3: The Academy at Shawnee

Engaging and Enlightening our Community-Communication, Media, and Arts

Students work in well equipped, state-of-the-art studios. Courses are available in radio and television production, public speaking, stage and costume design, graphic arts, and performing arts. Whether painting murals, acting on stage, creating digital art, editing news articles, anchoring a broadcast, or directing a film, participants receive hands-on, real-world experience combined with rigorous academics.

Area 1: Pleasure Ridge Park High Magnet Career Academy

Area 2: Fern Creek Traditional High

Area 3: Ballard High

Districtwide: DuPont Manual High

Sustaining Ourselves and the Planet-Medicine, Health, and the Environment

Courses introduce students to a range of health care careers and help develop basic skills in each. Students can prepare for both an entry-level medical job and additional study in college. Mentoring, real-world health care environments, job shadowing experiences, and internships show how the pros do it. Some students may even be able to earn a professional health care certification. Environmental study students will investigate the world in the classroom, the lab, and the field, and explore current environmental issues and look for solutions.

Area 1: Valley Traditional High

Area 2: Moore Traditional School

Area 3: Waggener Traditional High

Districtwide: Central High Magnet Career Academy

Cultivating Leadership and Innovation-Business and Information Technology

Students learn how to create and run businesses and how to develop and use technology to manage operations. Courses are available in banking, finance, business applications, marketing and accounting, computer repair, help desk, networking, Web design, geographic information systems, and programming. Many of these courses offer industry certification and college credit.

Area 1: Doss High

Area 2: Southern High

Area 3: Eastern High

Districtwide: Central High School Magnet Career Academy

Under the new middle and high student assignment plan students will be assigned to schools based on the geographic area in which they reside. All schools, except alternative and special schools, will enroll

between 15 and 50 percent of students from designated geographic areas similar to the elementary assignment plan.

Parents will learn more about their choices at the annual Showcase of Schools October 16 and 17. One of those new choices will be a kindergarten through grade 12 magnet at Shawnee. The name of the school has been changed to The Academy at Shawnee to reflect the programming change. The Academy will accept applications from students throughout the district. More information about all the choices will be sent to parents prior to the showcase.

High schools introduce new math material

High school students start the new year with a new math curriculum after an extensive evaluation process. JCPS math teachers selected a program called College Preparatory Mathematics.

Key features include:

- During class, students work on guided investigations similar to working in a math lab learning both concepts and problem-solving skills. Teachers summarize lessons based on individual student needs.
- Students are organized into study teams to solve challenging problems.
- Students solve problems in four major ways: numerically, symbolically, graphically, and verbally.

Because mastery of math occurs over time, the program includes practice of basic skills and major concepts spaced throughout the curriculum. Homework problems include a few examples from current lessons and several problems that help students maintain or deepen understanding of previous skills. More information on the program—information that is written specifically for parents—is available on the College Preparatory Mathematics Web site: <http://www.cpm.org/parents/index.htm>.

Community partners prep students for college

In partnership with Greater Louisville Inc. and Louisville Metro Government, students at Valley Traditional High, Iroquois High Magnet Career Academy, and Fairdale High Magnet Career Academy are getting extra help to prepare for postsecondary education, thanks to the Close the Deal partnership. Community professionals including Mayor Jerry Abramson work to prepare seniors for college admission, financial aid, and college life. Students have access to college representatives, financial aid workshops, preparing essays and applications, etc. Students also participate in campus visits. Last year, Valley High piloted the program and the senior class raised their college going rate. Out of 168 seniors, over 100 applied and were accepted to college or postsecondary training. More than \$200-thousand dollars were awarded to Valley seniors in scholarships and financial aid.

Community Schools offer FREE after-school activities for families

Aerobics, basketball leagues, drama, arts and crafts are just a few of the activities available to families at JCPS Community Schools. Monday through Friday throughout the year, eight schools provide recreational and educational activities for the whole family (including young children and grandparents) from the end of the school day until 9 p.m.

The schools are able to offer a range of programs thanks to partnerships with organizations including Louisville Metro Parks, the Music Box Foundation, Boy and Girl Scouts of Kentuckiana, JCPS Adult and Continuing Education, and the Blue Apple Players. The partnerships allow the Community Schools to offer most activities for free, although a few charge a small fee to cover the cost of supplies.

Each school offers its own assortment of programs based on the demographic being served. For example, the Myers Community School has offered drama workshops and hip-hop dance and fitness as well as worked on many service projects in their community. Another example: The Western Middle Community School offers aerobics, a walking club, an anime movie club, reading programs (through the Teen Outpost Library), GRE test preparation, adult language programs, community gardening, the Rocknettes Dance Crew, Who's Next Basketball (a youth league), and grant-writing workshops.

The eight JCPS Community Schools are:

- Cane Run Elementary (3951 Cane Run Road): 776-5998
- Fairdale High School MCA (1001 Fairdale Road): 485-8248
- Farnsley Middle (3400 Lees Lane): 448-9799
- Frost Middle (13700 Sandray Boulevard): 995-0879
- Iroquois High School MCA (4617 Taylor Boulevard): 485-6601
- Meyzeek Middle School (838 Jackson Street): 584-8603
- Myers Middle School (3741 Pulliam Drive): 485-2316
- Western Middle School (2201 West Main Street): 485-6799

JCPS names new principals

William Allen.....Butler Traditional High School

Tom Knabel.....Churchill Park School

Pending.....Hawthorne Elementary School

Pending..... Shacklette Elementary School

LaMesa Marks-Johns..... Mcferran Preparatory Academy

Pending.....Eastern High School