



**St. Johns Middle School**  
St. Johns Public Schools

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[www.sjredwings.org/middleschool](http://www.sjredwings.org/middleschool)

April 2022

5th grade families,

On behalf of the faculty and staff here at St. Johns Middle School (SJMS), it is our pleasure to welcome you to the SJMS family! We are excited about all we will accomplish together. Our school motto is, "Working as a TEAM to build the future." We firmly believe that the academic, social, and emotional success of our students depends on the *TEAM* effort of families, teachers, support staff, coaches and the students themselves.

***To start our new SJMS Redwings off on the right foot, we are hosting an event called Transition Day. It will be held during your child's regular school day on April 27th, 2022. Please ensure your child will be on time to their elementary school so they are on time for the bus to the middle school!***

After arriving at SJMS by bus from the elementary school, all 5th graders from around the district will assemble for a welcome meeting in the Auditoria. Our school counselors, Mrs. Katie Goff and Mr. Luke Smith, will present course overviews and enrollment information to students, their teachers, and their principals in a large group setting. Students will learn about required courses and elective offerings for 6th graders.

After that, your student will eat lunch at the SJMS just like middle schoolers eat. Fifth graders will go through the lunch lines and select foods of their choice (without pre-ordering as they do in elementary school). All school lunches are free of charge this year. Students may choose to bring their own lunch as well. Students will then sit and eat in the Auditoria and enjoy their lunches.

Your child should wear normal school clothes and comfortable shoes. Students will not have access to a place to drop off a jacket or sweatshirt and will need to carry it throughout the day. The afternoon will be on the go. SJMS Student Council members will lead tours of the school with small groups of students (and their teachers). Students will practice opening lockers with combo locks (with help, if needed). They will also participate in rotating sections through presentations of programs offered through the SJMS Music Department.

Finally, students will meet in the Auditoria for a final farewell of the day before boarding the buses and heading back to their elementary schools to go home in their usual manner.

Students will receive information from Mrs. Goff and Mr. Smith (the school counselors) about your middle school classes and how to enroll. A Course Selection Form will be coming home, but here is also how you can also view the course selection guide:

- Next, go to <https://www.sjredwings.org/middleschool/scheduling/>.
- Scroll down to the section entitled, "Current 5th Graders."
- FIRST, view the 6th Grade Course Selection Form to see which choices you are trying to make.
- If you need more information, read the "Course Description Guide" for details on those courses.
- Our music department will be providing additional information to help you consider which music program will be just right for you, and have a parent meeting in the Middle School Auditoria on April 28th at 7:00 pm.

As students transition from elementary to middle school, we offer several programs to support them and their families. Please also watch for information regarding these events:

**Student Orientation** (August - days before the students' first day of class, during the day)


- Get your schedule and locker assignment.
- Purchase your Physical Education T-Shirt.
- Find your classrooms.
- Practice your locker combination.
- Have your student portraits taken.

**Parent Open House** (September - a few days into the school year, in the evening)

- Meet your child's teachers.
- Listen to presentations about course expectations, curriculum, and resources.

The SJMS staff looks forward to working together with you to support your student's budding independence, academic efforts, and personal discovery throughout the coming year. Feel free to contact us to provide input, ask questions, or get involved. This is going to be a great year.

Yours in service,



Mr. James W. Matice,  
Interim Principal



Mrs. Katie Goff,  
School Counselor (A-L)



Mr. Luke Smith,  
School Counselor (M-Z)

