



St. Johns Middle School
St. Johns Public Schools

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www.sjredwings.org/middleschool

January 2024

Dear St. Johns 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 team! 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 that will be held during your child's regular school day on Wednesday, May 1st, 2024. 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 welcome students, their teachers, and their principals in a large group setting. Students will listen to members of our Student Council talk about life at the middle school, and have an opportunity to ask questions.

After that, your student will eat lunch at the SJMS just like our middle schoolers. Fifth graders will go through the lunch lines and select foods of their choice (without pre-ordering as they do in elementary school). School lunches are free this year; they can also bring money with them for Ala Carte options that are an additional cost to the standard school lunch. This will most likely be very exciting for students! Students may choose to bring their own lunch as well. Students will then sit and eat in the Auditoria and enjoy their lunches and conversation with peers.

Lunch Menu for Wednesday, May 1st

<https://sjredwings.nutrislice.com/menu/middle-school>

Ala Carte Prices

(additional to school lunch, anyone can purchase these items)

Chips .85	Granola Bars .75	Izze Drinks \$1.25
Cookies .50	Fruit Snacks \$1.00	Apple Juice \$1.25
Rice Krispy Treats \$1.00	Parfaits \$2.00	Water \$1.00
Grahams .50	PBJ \$1.50	Juice Box .50

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 on Wednesday, April 24th in their 5th grade classrooms. 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.
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- 5th Grade parents are invited to join our music department, principal, and school counselors on **Wednesday, May 1st at 7:00 pm in the Middle School Auditoria**. Teachers from the music department will be providing additional information to help you consider which music program will be just right for your child, and have an opportunity to meet the principal and school counselors.

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 and Open House (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
- Meet your teachers

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!

We look forward to working with you and your child!

Mrs. Andrea Hallead
Principal

Mr. James W. Matice
Assistant Principal

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

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

