

The image shows the exterior of John Jay Middle School. The building features a stone masonry facade and large glass windows. The school's name is mounted on the wall above the windows. The scene is captured during the day with some shadows on the ground.

JOHN JAY MIDDLE SCHOOL

**Middle School
Curriculum Conversations
January 10, 2024**

Tonight's Program

7:00 p.m.

All Families – JJMS Theater

7:20 p.m. – 8:15 p.m.

5th Grade Families –
Stay in Theater

6 - 7th Grade Families –
Head to Cafeteria

Welcome & Introductions

School-Wide Faculty

- **Jeffrey Swiatowicz, Principal**
- **Mike Pompa - Assistant Principal**
- **Catherine Graybosch- Assistant Principal**
- **Annemarie MacSweeney- Counselor**

Welcome & Introductions

Curriculum Leaders

- **Marcia Daley-Savo – Social Studies**
- **Steve DelMoro- Health, PE, Athletics**
- **Amy Geiger - Music**
- **Suzanne Guziec– Science**
- **Holly Kellogg– Art**
- **Kathy O'Neil – English Language Arts**
- **Jesse Weiss – Mathematics**
- **Laura Woelfel – Family + Consumer Science
and Technology**

JJMS Commitments – 2023-2024

As a school, the JJMS priorities are centered on three critical concepts:


- ▶ Upholding our mission to create **safe** learning experiences for all students that are **engaging, relevant**, and take place in an **active learning environment**.
- ▶ Creating an environment which promotes a **sense of community** where each member feels like they **belong**.
- ▶ Working with students so that they can showcase their growth **academically, socially, emotionally**, and **behaviorally**.

Security at JJMS

- ▶ All visitors must enter through the main entrance and speak with our security greeter
- ▶ ID is required for entry into building
- ▶ Badge must be worn while in the building
- ▶ Wait near greeter: expected vs. unexpected

BOND PROJECT- Upcoming

- ▶ Technology
- ▶ Theater – sound and video
- ▶ Family and Consumer Science
- ▶ Playground
- ▶ Security
- ▶ Step Lab



Social-Emotional Wellness

Community-Building Circles - Norms

1. Listen While Others Speak- Use the Talking Piece
2. Speak with Honesty and From the Heart
3. Use words that Respectful and not Offensive
4. While Everyone is Encouraged to Speak, No one is Required to Speak
5. What is said in the circle stays in the circle

Circles Prompts

▶ Q1- Opening

- How are you doing today? (SEL Check-In)

▶ Q2- Tier 1- Community-Building Question Or Academic

- What is your gas station go to food item?

▶ Q3- Closing

- What is one thing you will do to make someone else's day today?

Shout Outs



6th Graders: Total # 84 (10 duplicates)

7th Graders: Total # 13 (1 duplicate)

8th Graders: Total # 18 (2 duplicates)

Faculty: Total # 8 (2 duplicates)

JJMS Commitments – 2023-2024

- ▶ Academic- specific to the subject being taught and student ability in relation to the standards and sets up the appropriate level of challenge;
- ▶ Social- specific to a student's ability to navigate social situations within the classroom or school community;
- ▶ Emotional- specific to a student demonstrating the appropriate emotional reactions to scenarios in the classroom or school community;
- ▶ Behavioral- specific to a student's behavior needs within the set expectations of the classroom or school community.

Clubs and Activities

- ▶ Great way to get to know other students in the building from other grades
- ▶ Find something you're passionate about



JJMS Commitment: We ask ALL Students to...

- ▶ **Give Us Their Best**
- ▶ **Ask Questions and Be Involved**
- ▶ **Make Connections & Stay Connected**
- ▶ **Know (and begin to understand) the Power of Their Words**

Remainder of Night

7:20 p.m. – 8:15 p.m.

5th Grade Families
Stay in the Theater

6 - 7th Grade Families
Moving to the Cafeteria



WELCOME
INCOMING 6TH GRADE PARENTS

John Jay Middle School
January 10, 2024

Introductions

- ❑ CATHERINE GRAYBOSCH,
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL
- ❑ ANNEMARIE MACSWEENEY,
COUNSELOR
- ❑ JEN FRACZEK, BAND TEACHER

Overview of Tonight's Presentation

- ▶ The Team Approach
- ▶ A 6th Grader's Day
- ▶ Music and World Language
- ▶ Counseling Center
- ▶ Course Selection Process
- ▶ Questions and Answers

The Academic Team

□ Academic Teams

□ Core Subjects:

- ELA

- Math

- Social Studies

- Science

□ The Team Approach

- Students travel to academic periods together

- Team events & activities

- Team Teacher Leaders provide parent information & coordinate parent meetings

Typical 6th Grade Schedule

Period	Course
1	Science
2	Social Studies
3	Music/Physical Education
4	Unified Arts- Art, tech, H&C, Health
5	Lunch
6	World Language
7	----- Math
8	
9	

Team Courses

Period	Course
1	Science
2	Social Studies
3	
4	
5	Lunch
6	
7	----- Math
8	
9	

Non-Team Courses

- ▶ Music and Physical Education

Alternate day courses

- ▶ Unified Arts

Includes: Art, Family and Consumer Sciences, Technology, and Health

- ▶ World Language

A three-year commitment

Non-Team Courses

Period	Course
1	
2	
3	Music/Physical Education
4	Unified Arts
5	Lunch
6	World Language
7	<hr/>
8	
9	

Elective Course Selection Options



World Language



Music

World Language Proposed Course Option

- **French**
- **Latin**
- **Spanish**

- *Please note: Courses are scheduled based on the course selection process. It is possible that all languages listed here may not be offered based on the enrollment of the course.*
- *In addition, students who are registered in low enrolled courses may have limited options for music.*

World Language Skills

We support the development of the four skills in learning a world language:

Listening

- Music, conversations, audio comprehension, language lab

Speaking

- Dialogues, partner work

Reading

- Comprehension passages, news articles, authentic texts

Writing

- Start with a sentence and grow to paragraphs, create short books or stories



Students learn about the cultures of the different countries where the target languages are spoken



They study holidays, taste foods, and compare cultures of the US and other countries

JJMS Music

- ▶ Choir
- ▶ Discovering Music
- ▶ Band*
- ▶ Orchestra*

*This course provides students with lessons in addition to the regularly scheduled period.

6th Grade Music Options

Choir

- ☐ For students who love to sing
- ☐ Students sing a variety of musical genres and languages, learn music theory and history, and learn to read music using solfege syllables
- ☐ All Choir students showcase skills in two evening concerts
- ☐ Students are assessed individually on concert music and music notation, every trimester

Discovering Music

- ☐ For students who would like to explore music beyond traditional performance ensembles
- ☐ Students will study piano, ukulele, music history and theory, and computer composition
- ☐ All Discovering Music students showcase skills through composition

6th Grade Music Options

Band

- ❖ For students who wish to continue study on their band instrument
- ❖ Students are assessed individually throughout the year on concert music, etudes, rhythms and scales

Orchestra

- ❖ For students who wish to continue study on their string instrument
- ❖ Students are assessed individually throughout the year on concert music, etudes, rhythms and scales
- ❖ Band and Orchestra develop skills through experience with a variety of musical pieces
- ❖ Band and Orchestra students showcase skills in two evening concerts

We recommend that all Band and Orchestra students remain in the same performance area when transitioning to the middle school.

Lessons

- ❑ Students are assigned 8 lessons in a 12-week trimester. In most cases, students only miss the same class one time per trimester when attending their weekly required lessons. Lessons rotate just like in Elementary School.
- ❑ Lesson make-ups are available every Wednesday after school or by appointment.
- ❑ Lessons offer an opportunity to focus on work that cannot happen in the larger ensemble setting:
 - Students work on individual technique specific to their instrument, one-on-one with the teacher
 - An opportunity for students to meet in sections to work collaboratively on their repertoire
 - Individualized assessment during lessons on scales, rhythms, and repertoire
 - Lessons offer an opportunity for differentiated instruction as students work on skills beyond grade-level repertoire

The Counseling Center

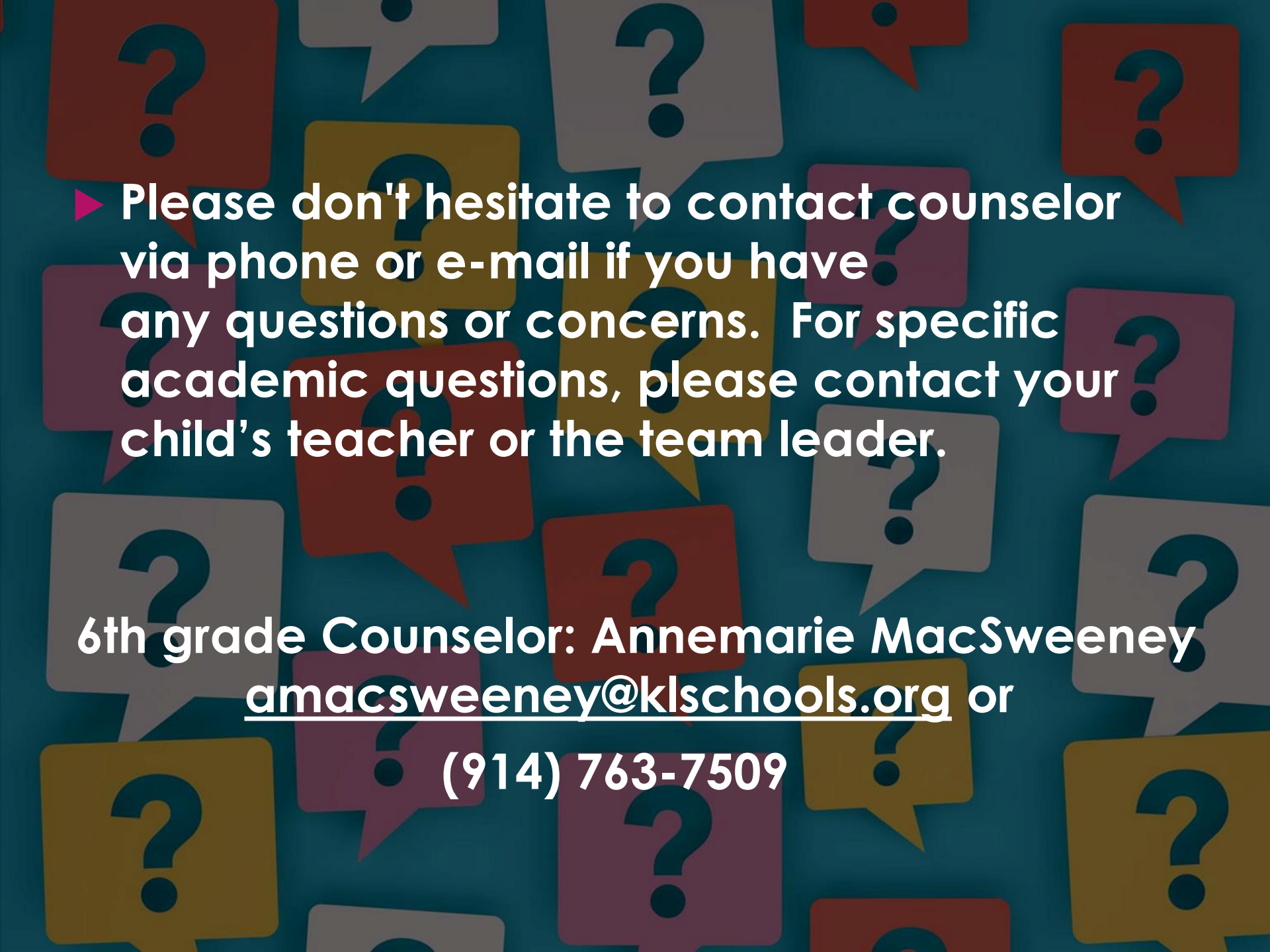
- ✓ Three-year journey of exploration
- ✓ An adventure for you as your child discovers who they are

Counselor's Role

- ✓ Help parent and child navigate the 3 years of middle school
- ✓ Serve as an advocate to support your child academically, socially and emotionally
- ✓ Present lessons in classes throughout the year to help get to know students, assess their transition, and help them understand and learn how to access their character strengths

School Counselors Make a
World of Difference



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- Please don't hesitate to contact counselor via phone or e-mail if you have any questions or concerns. For specific academic questions, please contact your child's teacher or the team leader.

6th grade Counselor: Annemarie MacSweeney
amacsweeney@klschools.org or
(914) 763-7509

Sixth Grade Course Selection Process

Course Selection Using Parent Portal

- ▶ **January 12** – A parent letter will be sent with information about elective course sign-up
- ▶ **January 31 - February 4** - Window for elective sign-up on portal
- ▶ **March 18/19** - Course verification will take place via Parent Portal

Elective Choices

▶ **World Language Selection:**

French Latin Spanish

▶ **Please select a first and second choice**

▶ **Music Selection:**

Band Choir Discovering Music Orchestra

▶ **Please select a first and second choice**

Directions, course reference sheet, and course descriptions will be sent via ConnectEd.

Upcoming Events

- ▶ **April 25th:** 5th Grade Parent Orientation, 7:00 p.m.
- ▶ **June 5th:** 5th Grade Student Orientation at JJMS
- ▶ **Late Summer 2024:** 6th Grade Meet and Greet, 4:00 p.m.

JJMS Family Handbook

Please visit the [JJMS website](#) to view the ABC Family Handbook which contains information about:

- ✓ Afterschool procedures
- ✓ Attendance policies
- ✓ Behavioral expectations
- ✓ Grading Policies
- ✓ Schedules
- ✓ Lockers
- ✓ And more!



Thank you
for coming!