

JACKSON JOURNAL

Andrew Jackson Language Academy
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Dear AJLA Students and Families,

As you and your children prepare for the 2014-2015 school year, I encourage you to incorporate the 7 Habits into your daily routines. The 7 Habits instill responsibility and working with others which are key in helping students prepare for college and career. Here are some examples on how to utilize the 7 Habits.

Habit #1: Be proactive. Don't forget to review and practice key grade level skills. Visit www.corestandards.org for more information.

Habit #2: Begin with the end in mind. Create a family mission statement. Please bring your mission statement to school to be displayed in our atrium.

Habit #3: Put first things first. Mark your calendars and take note of special school events. Visit www.ajlachicago.com for more information.

Habit #4: Think win-win. Create a "bucket filler" or a list of ideas on how to resolve conflict and solve problems.

Habit #5: Seek first to understand, then be understood. Have dinner conversations, ask questions, and listen to one another speak.

Habit #6: Synergize. Create opportunities such as building something or painting a room which allow family members to work together.

Habit #7: Sharpen the saw. Remember that balance feels best. Enjoy the rest of summer with your family!

Best,

Mathew Ditto

Principal



Mathew Ditto

Principal

Marilou Rebolledo

Resident Principal



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Dear AJLA Students and Parents,

Greetings everyone! I hope you are "sharpening the saw" and having a fun summer. In this publication of the Jackson Journal, you will find important information to help you "begin with the end in mind" as you prepare for the school year 2014-2015. I am excited about the new school year as I begin my Principal Residency in AJLA. I look forward to working with all of you throughout the school year. Have a safe and wonderful summer.

Best regards,

Marilou Rebolledo

Resident Principal/Editor

Items Not To Be Brought to School

Students should only bring the materials necessary to do their schoolwork. **Toys, cards, inappropriate pictures or magazines, radios, CD players, iPods, video games, or any other electronic devices do not belong in school or on the school bus.** Parents please make sure that your children do not bring these items to school.

The items listed above distract students from the reason they are coming to school—to learn as much as possible in the school day. **Neither the school nor the teacher can assume responsibility for such personal items if they are misplaced or stolen.** If such items are brought to school, they will be confiscated by the teacher. The parent will need to come to the school to collect the item.

Rule of thumb: Only bring items that support your school day.

Cell Phones

Board policy requires parents to complete an authorization form in order for their child to bring a cell phone to school. **Phones must be turned off while in school, on the school bus, and/or on school property.** The safe keeping of the phone is the student's responsibility. The school is not responsible for lost or stolen phones.

Cell phones that are misused or ring during the school day will be confiscated and kept in the office until the parent can come to school. The principal may turn down a student's request to bring a cell phone to school.

Internet

When properly used, the Internet is a wonderful educational tool. When it is misused, it is disruptive to the learning process and many times individual's feelings are hurt. Parents, please monitor the time and content of your child's Internet usage. Pay particular attention to MySpace, Facebook, and any blogs in which they participate. Make sure you have their password so you can check on the content of these or similar sites at any time. Use of the Internet that creates a problem in school will result in disciplinary actions.

eBook Reader

Please be aware that smart/data phones (iPhone, etc.) are not allowed to be used as eBook Readers at school. As with a printed book, eBook Readers are only to be used as a tool for reading during times deemed appropriate by the teacher. Students are not permitted to use the Internet portion of the eBook Reader while at school. AJLA is not financially responsible for damage, theft, or loss of the eBook Reader. Neither

the school nor any staff member will be responsible for the safe keeping of the eBook Reader. Disciplinary action will be taken if this policy is violated. If confiscated, parents must come in to school and retrieve the eBook Reader and the principal will review and may revoke authorization.

Money

Students only need to bring money for lunch which should be paid to the lunchroom supervisor in the lunchroom before school. Money brought in for field trips or book orders should be given to the teacher in a sealed envelope with the student's name, teacher's name, the amount, and for what purpose the money is intended. Please do not allow students to bring money to school other than for the reasons stated above. **The school cannot assume responsibility for misplaced or stolen money.**

Board Policies

The **Student Code of Conduct** provides guidelines for students and parents to create a safe and respectful learning environment. Our philosophy and process at AJLA is to work with our students and to help them become leaders. We work with our students and their families to have a break-through when there is a break-down. We encourage our families to be proactive by discussing behavior expectations prior to the start of school year utilizing the 7 Habits and reviewing the Student Code of Conduct at www.cps.edu/Pages/StudentResourcesCodeofConduct.aspx or refer to a copy given to each student the first week of school.

The Board of Education's Student Code of Conduct stipulates that certain items are not allowed in public schools and having them can result in serious disciplinary actions. **Paging devices, laser pointers, knives, weapons, and illegal substances are not permitted in the city's schools or on school buses.** Students should not accept or hold any contraband items for a friend. It is important to stress this with your children so they are aware of the serious nature of this misconduct.

Individuals found with such items are subject to the disciplinary actions in the Board of Education's Student Code of Conduct which may result in police action. The Board of Education has authorized that random searches occur within the schools. These searches may occur as people enter the building or as students move about the building during the school day.



A Safe and Orderly School

The best way to have a safe and orderly school is by adhering to the school rules. **Parents, please discuss this page of the newsletter with your children so they are aware of the rules and your expectations of following them.** By working together, we will ensure a safe and orderly school for your children.



Attendance

In order to maintain the high academic achievement of AJLA, it is absolutely necessary that our students are in school for the entire school day. Arriving to school late or leaving school early has a negative impact on student learning. It is also disruptive to the staff and other students. The full school day begins at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 3:30 p.m. Please schedule your family appointments when possible after school so your children will receive the benefit of a full day of instruction.

AJLA Grading Scale

90-100	A - Substantially exceeding the standard.
80-89	B - Exceeding the standard.
70-79	C - Meeting the standard.
60-69	D - Less than acceptable progress on standard.
Below 60	F - Does not meet the standard.
/ - Indicates an area not to be graded at this time.	

Breakfast and Lunch Prices

CPS through the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) program will be able to provide students with breakfast and lunch at no cost for the 2014-2015 school year. In order to qualify for this opportunity, all parents have to complete an application. More information will follow. We will notify you if any changes occur prior to the first day of school.



Student Fees

Student fees are \$75 per student for the 2014-2015 school year with a cap of \$225 per family. The student fees are due on September 5, 2014 and will be collected in the form of cash or money order payable to Andrew Jackson Language Academy. **No personal checks will be accepted.** Ms. Kempster, our school clerk, will be collecting fees in the office prior to the first week of school. You may pay your fees at school beginning August 20 from 8:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.

AJLA Dress Code

This dress code is to promote safety throughout the building during our busy and active days. Please read this together with your children so everyone is aware of the policy. If it is determined that a child is not complying with the dress code, parents will be called to come pick up their child or bring appropriate clothing. Your cooperation in helping our students focus on learning is appreciated. The following is a list of what students may NOT wear during the instructional day at AJLA:

1. Due to the active nature of our school day (recess, physical education, and going up and down stairs multiple times a day), students should not wear flip-flops or other open heel or toe shoes.
2. Proper gym attire and gym shoes (rubber bottoms, shoe laces or Velcro) are required on gym days. Shoes not allowed include sandals, crocks, boots, dress shoes of any kind, cleats, and costume footwear.
3. Tee shirts displaying profane, suggestive, or inappropriate statements/pictures are not allowed.
4. Halter, tank, midriff tops or shirts with revealing necklines are not permitted.
5. Leotards or leggings under shorts unless covered by a long shirt or skirt are not permitted.
6. Students are not allowed to wear short shorts, short skirts, or low-rise jeans to school at any time. Fingertips should touch the hemline of the skirt or shorts.
7. Underwear (including undershirts) worn as outer garments are not allowed. Underwear should not be seen.
8. Hats or bandanas in the school building are prohibited unless a student has a medical problem.
9. Students shall not wear excessive make-up.
10. Students will be asked to remove noisy jewelry (bangles, bells, etc.). Teachers cannot be held responsible for misplaced jewelry.
11. Any form of dress and grooming that can be interpreted as a gang symbol or is disruptive to the instructional process is not allowed (such as earrings worn by boys, different colored shoe strings, pants rolled up on one side, bandanas hanging from back pockets).

The school reserves the right to determine what is acceptable or not acceptable. Thank you for your cooperation in helping us to keep our focus on academics.

**We encourage our students to order Spirit wear which will be available during Open House and First Day of School.*



Medical and Dental Exams

The State of Illinois requires that all incoming **kindergarten, 6th, and 9th graders** have physical examinations prior to the beginning of school. The law requires that all children be up-to-date with their immunizations. Illinois also requires that all incoming **kindergarten, 2nd, and 6th grade** students have oral hygiene examinations. All kindergarten students are required to complete vision screening. All **6th, 7th, and 8th grade** students are required to show proof of receiving one dose of the Tdap (whooping cough) vaccine.

A detailed explanation of the health requirements and forms can be found at: www.cps.edu/Programs/Wellness_and_transportation/School_health_services/MinHealthReq/Pages/MinimumHealthRequirements.aspx. You can also call the CPS office of Special Education and Supports at 773-553-1800.

Right at School

We are pleased to announce our partnership with Right at School. Right at School *Right Club* is available for 1st-8th graders every day that school is in session until 5:30pm. After snacks and supervised physical fitness, students engage in Homework Zone and enriched units. Online Registration opens on August 1, 2014. For questions please contact Kelly Christiel at kelly.christiel@rightatschool.com.



Supply Lists

Please note that the 2014-2015 Supply List for each grade level and World Language can be found on our school's website, www.ajlachicago.com, under the parent link. Supply list will also be available at Target Chicago locations (1101 W. Jackson, 1154 S. Clark Street, 2656 N. Elston, and 1940 W. 33rd Street) during their Back to School seasonal sale.

You may also order your supplies online via the Write-Stuff. If interested, go to www.write-stuff.com/storefront/AJLA. All orders placed before August 1 at midnight will be shipped to school. Standard shipping charges apply if ordering after August 1. If you have questions, please contact The Write-Stuff at 1-800-871-8546 or email at contact@write-stuff.com.

Full School Day Hours

Please note that our start time is 8:30 a.m. and end time will be 3:30 p.m. Breakfast will be served for students from 8:15 -8:30 a.m. Please note that there is no supervision for students prior to 8:15 a.m. Thank you for your support and keeping our children safe.

2014-2015 Calendar

The following list of important dates including **student non-attendance** is to help you coordinate your schedule along with your children's school schedule. Please refer to this as you plan your family's vacations. **Remember the first day of school is Tuesday, September 2, 2014. This is a full day of attendance.**

August 27	Supply drop-off 12-1:30 P.M. and homeroom notification	
August 28	Supply drop-off 8:30 -10 A.M. and homeroom notification	
	Kindergarten Orientation 5:00- 6:00 p.m.	
September 1	Labor Day Holiday	
October 13	Columbus Day	
November 7	School Improvement Day—No student attendance	
November 11	Veterans Day -No School	
November 12	Report Card Pick Up /Parent-Teacher Conferences	
November 27-28	No School—Thanksgiving Holiday	
Dec. 22 - Jan. 2	Winter Vacation— School resumes Jan. 5, 2015	
January 19	No School -Dr. Martin Luther King's Day	
January 30	School Improvement Day—No student attendance	
February 16	No School—President's Day	
April 3	School Improvement Day—No student attendance	
April 6-10	Spring Vacation—School resumes April 13, 2014	
April 16	Report Card Pick Up /Parent-Teacher Conference	
May 25	No School -Memorial Day	
June 16	Last day of School—Full day of attendance	

Visit our school on the web:
www.ajlachicago.com