



to

The Jones-Gordon School

A transformative educational experience

The JGS Story



Founder & Head of School, **Dana Herzberg, M.Ed.**

On-Track Tutoring (1999)

On-Track Academy (2009)

The Jones-Gordon School (re-named in 2015)

→ Non-Profit School (2021)

We've built our reputation by employing only **outstanding educators** and using **state-of-the-art, research-validated curriculum**. JGS parents have high standards and expect proven outcomes for their children, and **we deliver**.

Our Mission



...is to provide an **unparalleled, individualized** education with a “whole child” approach. JGS’s progressive program successfully fosters **academic, social,** and **emotional growth**. We help students shape their **strengths and talents** into *advantages* uniquely suited for problem-solving and critical thinking in the 21st century.

We accomplish our goal of making academic success attainable through **differentiated instruction, multisensory methods,** and **experiential curriculum**. To cultivate each student’s love of learning, our academic environment is nurturing and constructive and is supported by an extensive, knowledgeable team of collaborative professionals who are **teachers and mentors**.

Our Core Values



Have
a **vision**

BE CREATIVE

Aspire
to **learn**

BE CURIOUS

Lean into
struggle

BE RESILIENT

Understand
your **journey**

BE COURAGEOUS

Stop and
think

BE MINDFUL

Own our
culture

BE KIND



YOU CAN DO HARD THINGS!
—Ms. Tesla



Fast Facts

Total Enrollment, 2020-2021: **154** Students (Grades 1-12)

Faculty & Staff: **47**

Student-Teacher Ratio: **1:12, 1:15+** (classroom), **1:4** (schoolwide)

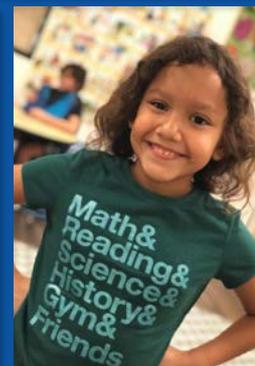
Campus Property: **+/- 22,000 sq.ft.**

- **2** Foundations Classrooms (1st/2nd)
- **3** Lower School Classrooms (3rd-5th)
- **5** Middle School Classrooms (6th-8th)
- **7** High School Classrooms (9th-12th)
- MakerSpace/Art Studio
- Student Union
- **3** Playgrounds
- Field & Basketball Court

Our Campus



Our Amazing Students!



We thrive with **KIDS!**

- **Average to gifted** cognition
- No conduct problems
- Thrives in **structure**
- Enjoys **collaboration**
- **College/career** bound
- Traditional learners who simply do better with **smaller classes, challenging opportunities, and more attention**
- Current demographics:
 - **ADHD**
 - **Gifted**
 - **Learning Difference (Dyslexia)**
 - **Anxiety Disorders**



Our Approach

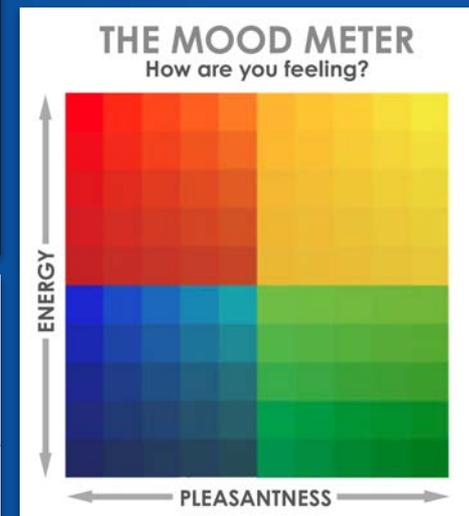
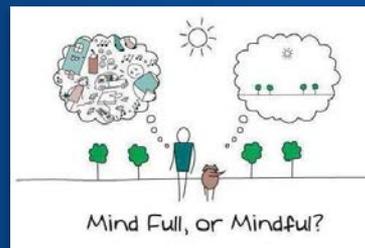
- **Whole child** approach
 - Academic, social, and emotional focus
- **Strengths-based** approach to education
 - Focus on the positive!
- **Best practices** instructional model
 - Highly qualified, dedicated teachers
 - Play-based programming in Foundations
 - Multisensory (hands-on) instruction
 - Differentiated, high-interest curriculum



The Cornerstones of JGS



- Campus of **Kindness**
- **FLEX** Program
- **Executive Function**
 - *Every student, every class, every day!*
- **Social-Emotional Learning**
 - RULER
 - Mindfulness
- **Small class sizes**



Administrative Team



Dana Stempil Herzberg, M.Ed.

1999-Present

Founder, Head of School



Jessica Wilhelmsen, BA

2012-Present

*Chief of Finance,
Director of School Operations*



Kim Hogan

2015-Present

*Office Manager,
Human Resources Director*



Dana Alonso, BAE

2020-Present

Director of Communication & Outreach



Tracie Glover Hawxhurst, BA

2017-Present

Director of Admissions, Enrichment Programming, & COVID-19 Task Force



Shari Schwartz, BFA

2006-Present

Chief of Marketing, Director of Community Service & Givebacks, LS Art



Tara Prewitt

2018-Present

Facilities Management, Campus Beautification & Queen of Organization



Jeff Pedler

2019-Present

Facilities & Custodial Services

School Directorship



Dana Stempil Herzberg, M.Ed.

1999-Present

Founder, Head of School



Monica Yaeger, M.Ed., BCBA, LBA

2013-Present

Director of Foundations & Lower School



Kris Shen, BS, M.Ed.

2017-Present

Director of Middle School, Athletic Director



Samantha De Palo, BA, M.Ed.

2012-Present

High School Director



Michaela Sands, BSW, MSW

2015-Present

Specials & Support Director, Social Skills & RULER Education Director



Renee Taylor, BS, M.Ed.

2018-Present

FLEX Program Director

Director's Roles

- **Test administration**
- Create the **Master Schedule** (annually)
- Development of **individualized programming** through data analysis and direct observation
- **Collaborate with outside providers**
- Create **accommodation & modifications plans** (w/ teachers)
- **Problem-Solver** Extraordinaires
- **Communicate** with parents
- **Regular contact** with students

The Support Team



**Michaela Sands, BSW,
MSW**

2015-Present

*Specials & Support
Director, Social Skills &
RULER Education
Director*



**Mike DeLaet,
BA, MS**

2019-Present

*AIM & Mindfulness
Programming,
Schoolwide
Support, Precision
Teaching*



Shawna DeLaura

2013-Present

*Study Skills & Support,
Cooking & Lower
School Art*



Marcus Shaw, RBT

2017-Present

*HS Support,
Electives*



**Barb Burgess, BSW,
M.Ed.**

2015-Present

School Psychologist



**Jeanine
deRozieres, AAS**

2015-Present

Health Services



Reid Blakey

2020-Present

*Recreation
Coordinator*

The Support Team's **Role**

- Facilitation of **RULER & Mindfulness** in classrooms
- Schoolwide activities & events to promote our **Culture of Kindness**
- **Parent Education Series**
- **Social Groups:** “You Go Girl,” High School Girls Group

The FLEX Team



**Renee Taylor,
BS, M.Ed**

2018-Present
FLEX Program
Director



**Sandee
Levine, BS, MA**

2015-Present
Assistive Tech.
Director, Wilson®
Reading Therapist,
MS Math Teacher



Deb Bello, BAE

2014-Present
Wilson® Level II
Certified Instructor,
Linguistics
Specialist, IDA
Dyslexia Therapist



**Melissa
Wiegand, M.Ed.,
CDT, CALT**

2014-Present
Wilson® Program
Director, Wilson®
Credentialed
Trainer, Wilson®
Level II Reading
Specialist, IDA
Dyslexia Therapist



**Deborah
Weiner, BA,
M.Ed.**

2020-Present
FLEX Teacher



Gina Holt, BSW

2019-Present
FLEX Teacher,
Wilson®
Reading System



**Samantha
Clark, BS**

2020-Present
Reading
Interventionist,
Wilson® Reading
System



**Lauren Nolan,
M.Ed.**

2014-Present
Wilson® Level I
Reading Specialist



**Amanda
Burke, BAE**

2008-Present
FLEX Generalist
& Wilson® Level
II Reading
Specialist

The FLEX Program



- The JGS Intervention Program
- 1:1 - 1:3 “Tutoring” during the school day
- Included in programming, 1st thru 8th, optional in HS
- **Wilson Reading System**
- JustWords
- Math Intervention
- Writing Support
- Executive Function
- Speech/Language
- Occupational Therapy (OT)



Wilson Reading System®

- Wilson **Partner School**
- Certified **In-House Trainer**
- **Certified Wilson Instructors**
 - Level I & Level II
- **IDA-endorsed Reading Intervention program** for students with dyslexia.
- **Multisensory, research-based approach** to reading and spelling.
- Wilson Reading System is a **mastery program**
 - Requires students to meet mastery level w/ fidelity in order to move ahead.
 - Can take 3-6 years for completion.
- *JustWords* is an **abbreviated, less intensive option** for students in MS through HS.



FLEX Alternatives



- STEM Education
- Executive Function & Study Hall
- Visual Arts & Creative Writing

Course options change annually



The Specials Team



Shawna DeLaura

2013-Present

*Cooking & Lower
School Art, Study Skills
& Support*



Shari Schwartz, BFA

2006-Present

*Lower School Art, Chief
of Marketing, Director of
Community Service &
Givebacks*



Cady Maharaj, BS

2018-Present

Physical Education



Reid Blakey

2020-Present

*Recreation
Coordinator*



**Jennifer Lind
Schutsky, BFA**

2018-Present

Art Education

Speech & Occupational Therapy (OT)



On-site services:

- **Kid Speech Therapy, LLC:** Kim/Erin
- **Pediatric Therapy Solutions, PLLC:** Joann/Shae/Angela/Carly



The JGS Critter Team



Director of Foundations & Lower School



Monica Yaeger, M.Ed., BCBA, LBA

- Master's degree in Special Education, Consultation, and Collaboration
- Board Certified Behavior Analyst
- Former elementary school teacher with SUSD; specialized in working with students with autism & ADHD
- Considerable experience working with students of all abilities & in all subjects, grades K through 8
- Travels extensively around the world; organizes all of the JGS student travel opportunities!

The Foundations Team



Vickie Shen, BAE

2020-Present

Foundations Teacher



Kate Wilkes, B.Ed.

2017-Present

*Foundations Lead
Teacher*



**Sarah Carawan,
BS, SLPA**

2018-Present

*Foundations/Lower
School Social Skills
Support & FLEX Team*



Ashley Cunningham

2018-Present

*Virtual Teacher/Coach
for Foundations
& Lower School*



**Michaela Sands, BSW,
MSW**

2015-Present

*Specials & Support
Director, Social Skills &
RULER Education
Director*



Cady Maharaj, BS

2018-Present

Physical Education



Foundations (1st & 2nd Grade) Fast Facts

- **Play-based Education Model**
- Phonological Awareness & Phonics
- Reading & Writing
- Multisensory Math Instruction
- Science & STEM
- Project-Based Learning
- Social Skills via Social Thinking®
- Art, PE, *Cooking, Mindfulness
- *Field Studies

*non-COVID years

School Day: 8:30A–3:15P

Ratio: 10:1

School Director:
Monica Yaeger

Teachers:
Kate Wilkes & Vickie Shen

Classroom Support:
Ashley Cunningham

Speech & Language:
Sarah Carawan

Foundations: Play-Based Education



- Play is used as a **context for learning**

- Exploration
- Experimentation
- Discovery
- Problem-solving

- Student-initiated and teacher-guided play **develops social skills**

- Cooperation
- Sharing
- Responding to ideas
- Negotiating
- Resolving conflicts



Foundations: **Play-Based Education**



- Play promotes **positive attitudes toward learning**

- Imagination
- Curiosity
- Enthusiasm
- Persistence

- Play develops key **executive function skills**

- Planning (generating ideas)
- Organizing (materials, people, etc.)
- Working Memory (remembering the rules of play)
- Inhibitory control (following the rules)



The Lower School Team



Caylin Kacmarcik, M.Ed.

2017-Present

*Lower School
Special Education
Teacher*



Adrienne Springfield, BA

2017-Present

*Lower School
Teacher*



**Jennifer Roscoe,
BS, M.Ed.**

2017-Present

*Lower School
Teacher*



Cady Maharaj, BS

2018-Present

*Physical
Education*



**Shari Schwartz,
BFA**

2006-Present

*Lower School Art,
Chief of Marketing,
Director of
Community Service
& Givebacks*



Shawna DeLaura

2013-Present

*Cooking & Lower
School Art, Study
Skills & Support*



**Mike DeLaet,
BA, MS**

2019-Present

*AIM & Mindfulness
Programming,
Schoolwide
Support, Precision
Teaching*



**Michaela Sands,
BSW, MSW**

2015-Present

*Specials & Support
Director, Social Skills
& RULER Education
Director*



Lower School (3rd - 5th Grade) Fast Facts

- Phonological Awareness & Phonics
- Reading & Writing
- Grammar & Vocabulary
- Multisensory Math Instruction
- **Project-Based Learning**
- Science & STEM
- RULER, Mindfulness & Social Skills
- Art, PE, *Cooking, Mindfulness
- Flexible seating
- *Field Studies

*non-COVID years

School Day: 8:30A–3:15P

Ratio: 12:1

School Director:

Monica Yaeger

Teachers:

Caylin Kacmarcik (3rd/4th)

Jennifer Roscoe (4th/5th)

Adrienne Springfield (4th/5th)

Lower School Showcases

Project-Based Learning:

- Requires **active learning** while fostering **deeper dive into content**
- Allows for **creativity & artistic expression**
- Presentation is **unique to each child**
- Interactive presentations promote **higher levels of engagement** for all students
- **Students** become the teachers
- Highlights individual **student strengths**



Director of **Middle School** & Athletics



Kris Shen, BS, M.Ed.

- Originally pursued Fire Science degree; while waiting for an EMT opening, worked as a paraprofessional in a self-contained classroom
- Found his passion & changed course to become an educator
- Bachelor's degree in education; master's in educational leadership
- First joined JGS as a part of the Support Team
- Became Athletic Director—loves seeing students' self-esteem soar & their social skills thrive while being a part of a team
- Stepped into his role as the Director of Middle School in 2019

The Middle School Team



Maggie Roberts,
M.Ed.

2020-Present

*Humanities, High School
English & The Arts*



Lorraine Schoen, BA,
M.Ed.

2018-Present

Math & Humanities



Skylar Schutsky, BS

2019-Present

Science & STEM



Karen Turner, BS

2014-Present

Math & Humanities



Elizabeth Westerfield,
BA, MS, Ed.D.

2014-Present

Math & Science



Middle School (6th - 8th Grade) Fast Facts

- Thematic instruction
- Project-based learning
- Humanities: Reading, Writing, History & the Arts
- Grammar & Vocabulary
- Multisensory math instruction
- Science (hands-on, lab-based)
- STEM
- **Electives (Exploration Courses)**
- Specials: Art, PE
- Field Studies (in non-Covid years)

School Day: 8:45A–3:30P

Ratio: 12:1

School Director: Kris Shen

Teachers:

Dr. Liz Westerfield (Science/Math)

Karen Turner (Humanities/Math)

Maggie Roberts (Humanities)

Skylar Schutsky (STEM)

Sandee Levine (Math)

Renee Taylor (Math)

Middle School Electives

- Quarterly choices, rotates every year
- Exploration of a variety of topics
 - **Fitness & Sports**
(Science of Exercise, History of Sports)
 - **Music**
(Drumming, Guitar, Music Exploration)
 - **Art**
(Film Studies, Art History, 3D Design, Woodshop)
 - **STEM**
(Robotics, Coding)
 - **Print Media**
(Newspaper, Yearbook, Journalism, Books)



Middle School Showcases



- **Strengths-based** education practice
- Students “showcase” what they know **in their own unique way**
- Encourages a “**deeper dive**” into **content of interest**
- **Student-driven, teacher supported**

Director of High School



Samantha De Palo, BA, M.Ed.

- M.Ed. in Secondary Education (Mathematics)
- B.A. degrees in English Literature & Spanish Linguistics
- Fulbright Scholar; taught in Mexico
- Teach For America alumna
- Barrett Honors College Alumni Council member & Campaign Cabinet member
- Celebrating her 5th year at JGS & 10th with Dana!

The High School Team



**Josh Murray, BA,
M.Ed.**

2017-Present
English, Mandarin



**Mike DeLaura,
BA, MA**

2006-Present
*History,
Weight Training*



**Jennifer
Nimlo-Edmonds, BA**

1999-Present
Spanish, Electives



**Leigh Stapinski,
BS, MA**

2011-Present
Mathematics



**Tesla Theroryn, BS,
M.Ed.**

2017-Present
*Science,
College Counseling*



**Barry Boulanger,
BS**

2016-Present
CTE, STEM



Marcus Shaw, RBT

2017-Present
*HS Support,
Electives*



High School (9th - 12th Grade) Fast Facts

- College-Prep Track
- Community College or CTE Track
- FLEX Options
- Honors/AP Courses including **AP Capstone**
- Dual Enrollment Opportunities
- **Discovery Weeks** & Showcases
- Field Studies & College tours
- Self-Advocacy & Awareness Development

School Day: 9A–3:40P

Ratio: 16:1

School Director:

Samantha DePalo

Teachers:

Josh Murray (English/Mandarin)

Leigh Stapinski (Mathematics)

Tesla Theoryn (Science)

Mike DeLaura (History)

Jen Nimlo-Edmonds (Spanish)

Barry Boulanger (CTE, STEM)

AP Capstone Program Through College Board



- JGS is **1 of 1,800 schools** (worldwide!) to offer AP Capstone™
- **Goals** of the program:
 - Develop independent research skills and experience
 - Engage in collaborative teamwork
 - Enhance oral and written communication skills
 - Real-world college prep
- **AP Seminar** (10th-11th grade)
 - Introduction to college-level discussion, research, and presentation skills
- **AP Research** (11th-12th grade)
 - Design, plan, and conduct a year-long research-based investigation on a topic that interests you

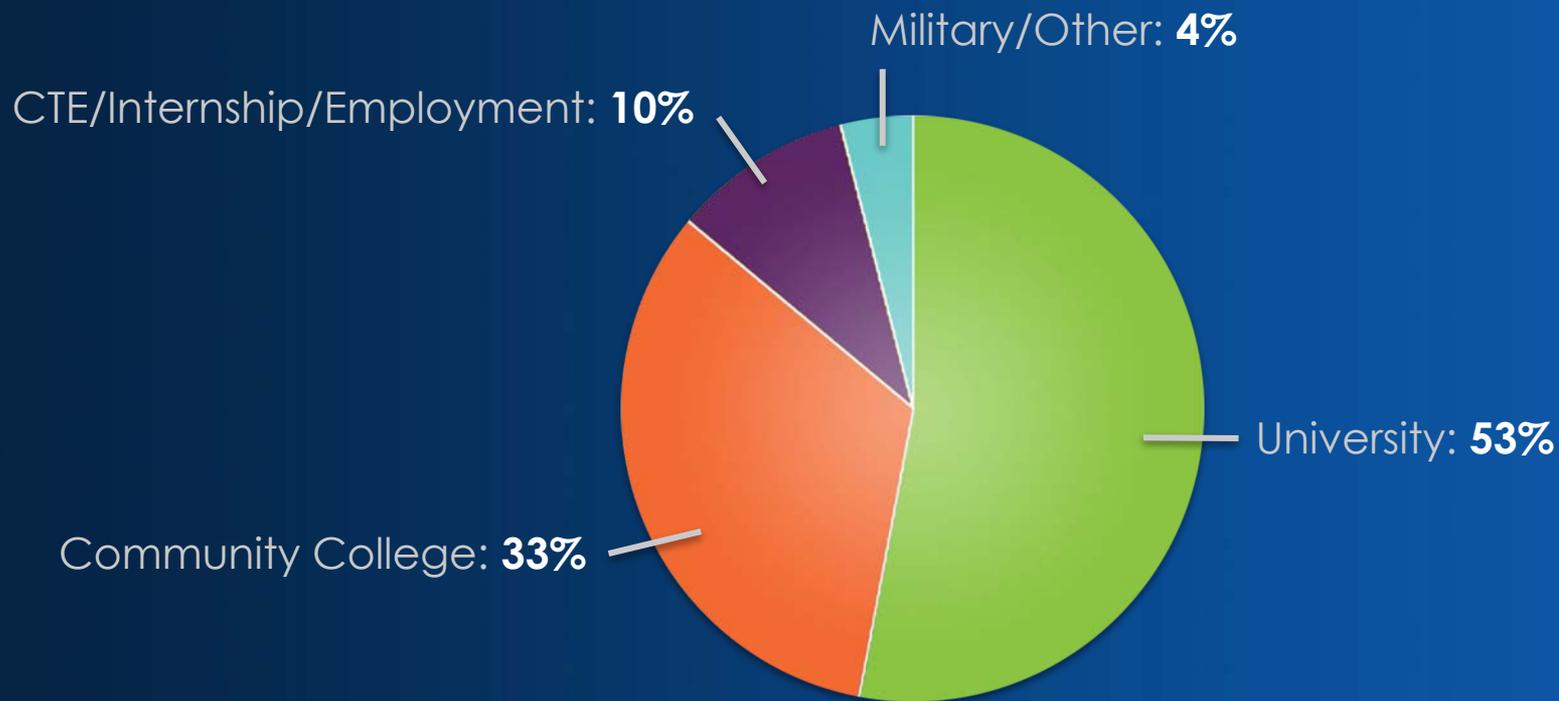


High School **Discovery Weeks**



- **A new type of learning experience**
 - “Normal” school stops for 1 week each Fall and Spring
 - Deep exploration beyond the traditional classroom
- **Theme chosen based on current events**
 - Individual sessions driven by teacher passions & student interests
- **Field trips, project-based learning, inquiry**
- ***What if climate change, resource depletion, etc. make Earth uninhabitable?***
 - “Hello from the Children of Planet Earth”
 - Model UN
 - Chopped: Sustainability Edition
 - Homo Sapiens and Beyond - The Future of Our Species
 - Spaceship Earth

JGS Graduate Outcomes (2016-2020)



Homework @ The Jones-Gordon School



- **Ramp-up model** (Q1 → Q2 → Q3 → Q4)
- **Valuable & Achievable**
- **Independent but supported by *teachers***
- Opportunity for corrections → **learn from our mistakes!**

Athletics at JGS



The Jones-Gordon School

Our Athletics program develops the interest of all athletes wanting to participate while maintaining academic success & growth. Regardless of experience or skill level, our program is designed to benefit each individual student-athlete's understanding of **sportsmanship, teamwork, competitive balance** and **what it means to be truly successful in the game as well as in life.**

Athletics in Middle School



Flag Football

Basketball

Track & Field

Swimming

Tennis



Athletics in High School



Cross Country

Flag Football

Basketball

Track & Field

E-Sports

Swimming

Tennis



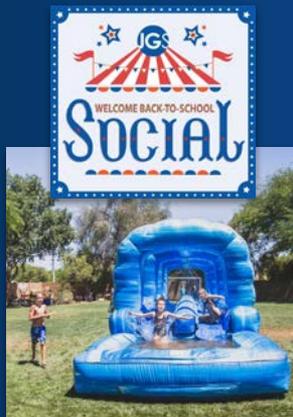
After School Clubs



- Different clubs offered each quarter
- Age-appropriate, high-interest
- Led by JGS teachers
- Popular clubs include **cooking, yoga, LEGOs, crafts, outdoor games, and E-Sports**



Community Events



- Welcome Back Social
- Trunk-or-Treat
- Fall Festival
- Talent Showcase
- School Dances (Middle & High School)
- Parent Education Series
- Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser
- Global Play Day
- Monthly First Friday BBQs
- Summer Send-Off
- JGPO-Sponsored Events

Annual Talent Showcase Project



JGS students participate in **project-based learning** throughout the school year. They're inspired to explore **thought-provoking areas of thematic study**, investigate **real-world problems**, and collaboratively **solve a variety of challenges**. Culminating in the spring, their creative ideas and inventions come to life during our academic event of the year: **The Annual Talent Showcase**. This annual event highlights our **strengths-based approach** to education and creates *memories to last a lifetime!*



Travel Opportunities



- **Experiential** learning (Middle & High School)
- Partnership with ***Education First***
- **Thematic** travel
 - **STEM:** Silicon Valley
 - **American History:** Washington DC & New York City
 - **World Cultures:** Italy, France, & Spain
 - **Biology:** Catalina Island

JGPO (The Jones-Gordon Parent Organization)



Current Co-Presidents: Nicole Bahu & Emily Dietz



- Book Fairs
- All-School Family Skate Night
- Movie Night
- School-Specific Social Gatherings

Events & gatherings held only in non-COVID years





Admissions Process

1. **Submit and Online Inquiry Form** and **Attend Admissions Preview**
2. **Complete the Online Application along with \$150 application fee**
3. **Application Review Process**
 - a. Records Release sent to the current school - *required prior to scheduling shadow day*
 - b. Teacher Recs sent to the current school - *required prior to scheduling shadow day*
4. **After reviewing all records, Division Director or Head of School will contact parents to discuss thoughts, ideas and recommendations**
 - a. If JGS is not the right school, we will provide you with recommendations
 - b. If we believe that JGS *is* the right school, we will schedule Shadow Days
5. **Shadow Day Experience**
 - a. Day 1: ½ Day
 - b. Day 2: Full Day
 - c. Day 3: Possible Full Day

If we say *no...*

- **Most importantly:** No child is successful without the right “fit!”
 - **Socially**
 - **Emotionally**
 - **Academically**
- If it ends up being the *wrong* fit → harder for them to leave
- Referral to educational consultant or advocate is provided

We truly want the best for every child, whether it's with JGS or elsewhere!

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Cultivating **strengths.**

Transforming **lives.**

