



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.**

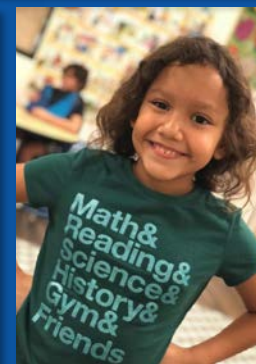
- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>2</b> Foundations Classrooms (1st/2nd)</li><li>● <b>3</b> Lower School Classrooms (3rd-5th)</li><li>● <b>5</b> Middle School Classrooms (6th-8th)</li><li>● <b>7</b> High School Classrooms (9th-12th)</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● MakerSpace/Art Studio</li><li>● Student Union</li><li>● <b>3</b> Playgrounds</li><li>● Field &amp; Basketball Court</li></ul> |
|---|---|



# 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



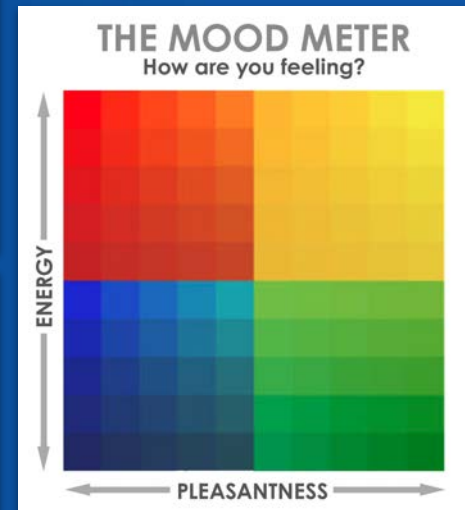
- **Whole child** approach
  - Academic, social, and emotional focus
- **Strengths-based** approach to education
  - Focus on the positive!
- **Best practices** instructional model
  - Highly qualified, dedicated teachers
  - Play-based programming in Foundations
  - Multisensory (hands-on) instruction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

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



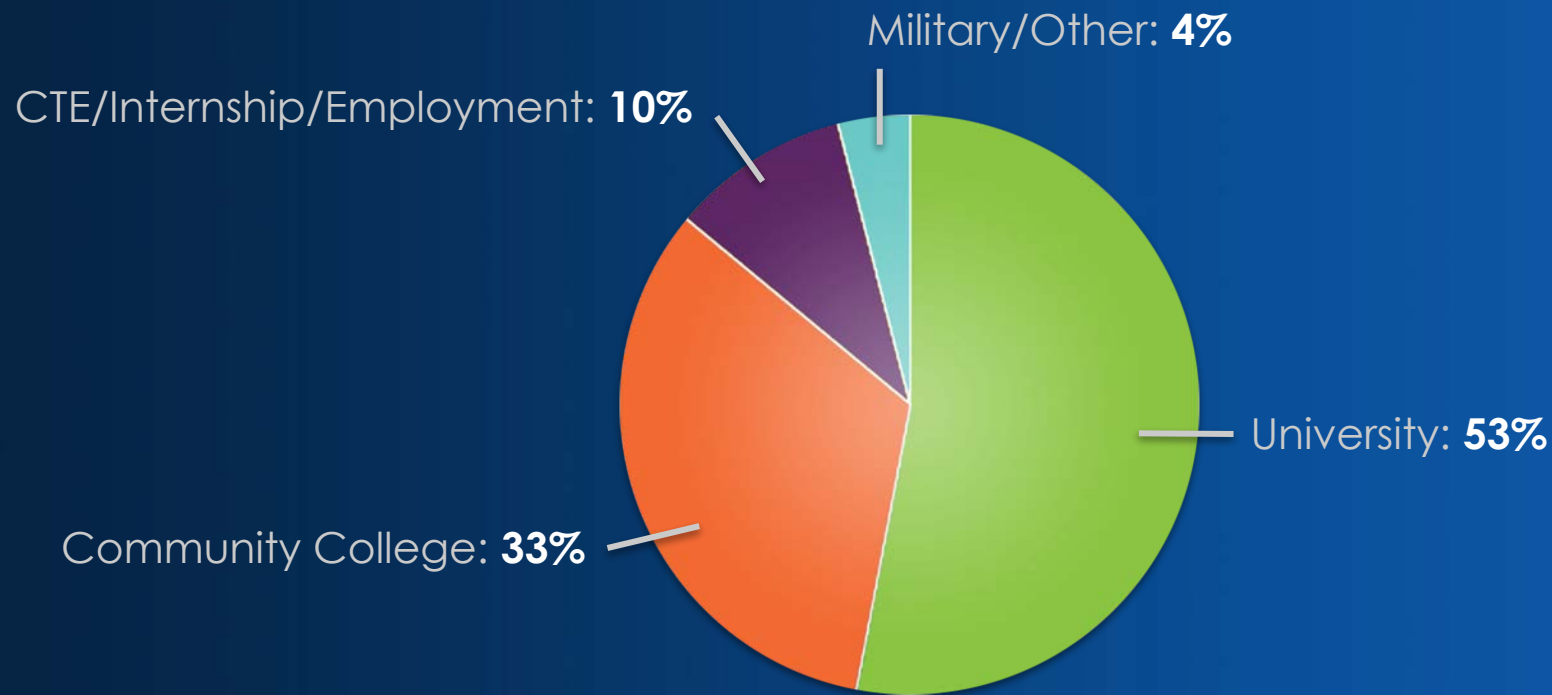


# High School **Discovery Weeks**



- **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** ( $Q1 \rightarrow Q2 \rightarrow Q3 \rightarrow Q4$ )
- **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!***



Cultivating **strengths.**

Transforming **lives.**