

ONE PATH FORWARD



Our Strategic Plan:
2015–2020




The Path to Here

The nature of a progressive school is to keep pushing forward, to never be at rest.

We know that if we simply remain static, resting on our laurels, we do a disservice to our students. Our previous strategic plan focused on ways to improve instruction through the use of technology and the incorporation of additional science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) experiences.

What's next? Reflecting on the achievements of the past five years, our faculty and administration have identified three core ways we can continue to provide students and families the best education possible—one that seeks to inspire every child individually and equip every child holistically to live a life of purpose and significance.

Join us on our One Path Forward. For our children, for our families, for a stronger JA.



“The word ‘excellence’
is a moving target.
We’re never satisfied
with the status quo.
We can always be
better.”



The Path **Forward**

Take a Stand

Initiatives targeting character, ethical, spiritual, and leadership development will support student growth and confidence.

What We'll Do

- 1 **Define standards** for and implementation of formal ethical and character education
- 2 **Develop additional character-building and team-challenge traditions** similar to our rafting and canoe trips so that each grade level and parents can participate
- 3 **Identify service-learning and servant-leadership opportunities** within Jackson, as well as regionally, nationally, and internationally
- 4 **Integrate leadership development**, relationship strengthening, and mentoring across co-curricular offerings
- 5 **Expand our partnership** with the Center for Spiritual and Ethical Education

“We want students to graduate with more than a diploma. We want them to be better citizens and well-rounded people.”



ON THE PATH

Traditions and Transitions

When Ray Higgins joined JA in the 1970s, he shared his love for and the benefits of the great outdoors with our students and families. It's a tradition we intend to continue. Our strategic plan includes expansion of experiential education for every grade level.

Why It Matters

Our economy and society both continue to change rapidly. Cultivating both professional and community leadership requires students to understand the perspectives of others and to overcome adversity. Possessing a strong moral compass as well as confidence and resilience to navigate the unknown are both crucial to thriving whatever the circumstance—while still retaining deeply considered beliefs about what is right and just.

Uplift Each Student

Personalized learning, augmented counseling, and college/career exploration initiatives will help our students achieve their greatest potential.

What We'll Do

- 1 **Offer differentiated instruction** to meet individual student needs
 - 2 **Design a gifted education program** for Lower School students
 - 3 **Enhance the college and career counseling program** to support student exploration of a wider breadth of academic and training possibilities
 - 4 **Create resource spaces** on campus for student support of writing and math
 - 5 **Offer specific intervention programs** for students with learning differences such as dyslexia and math dyscalculia
 - 6 **Coach students** more specifically on the management of time, tasks, and stress
 - 7 **Incorporate appropriate social-emotional learning** opportunities for students and parents across grade levels to support child and family well-being
 - 8 **Modify schedule to offer school-day opportunities** for students to meet with teams and seek individual assistance from teachers
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ON THE PATH

From Center to Central

The Academic Resource Center has traditionally been viewed as the place where students who struggle in the classroom go for assistance. As part of our strategic plan, all teachers will be trained on recognition of learning differences and strategies to keep every student engaged and successful.



Why It Matters

A one-size-fits-all approach to teaching and counseling ignores everything science tells us about the differences in our students' still-developing brains. By integrating learning difference concepts into classrooms and encouraging greater collaboration among teachers and counselors to share their experiences and best practices, we create an educational environment where students are naturally more engaged with their learning. That, in turn, leads to expanded possibilities for each student as they embark on life after JA.

Evolve to Lead

Continuing to both innovate and adopt evidence-based practices in education.

What We'll Do

- 1 **Review and modify current scheduling** to create time for greater collaboration opportunities for student projects and teacher coordination
- 2 **Connect arts and creativity more concretely** to the curriculum in the service of developing well-rounded students who explore all aspects of their talents
- 3 **Continue the expansion of learning assessment** to projects, portfolios, and other alternatives to traditional tests
- 4 **Identify additional applications of technology** that will result in greater student engagement and learning outcomes
- 5 **Explore the benefits of intensive study periods** for Upper School students
- 6 **Strengthen professional development opportunities** for teachers and reward a culture of innovation
- 7 **Improve organizational effectiveness and infrastructure** to better support excellence in teaching and learning



ON THE PATH

Express Yourself

Our Performing Arts Center created a space for our community to gather. Our next step will be to significantly expand our creativity programs. From instrument training to 3-D design, students will be encouraged to explore how craft and performance can uncover hidden talents and lead to new discoveries.

Why It Matters

As world cultural and career trends shift around us, we all must recognize that the most important skill our students can gain at JA is not **what**, but **how** to learn. JA will continue to examine every facet of our school so that we can stay not just competitive, but ahead of the curve. From formalizing professional development plans for teachers to ensuring our revenue stream will afford proven educational technology, JA will evolve to lead.



OUR MISSION

Within our nurturing and spiritual community,
Jackson Academy inspires and equips each student
to lead a life of purpose and significance.