



Head of School Search

July 2021

Jackson Academy

4908 Ridgewood Road

Jackson, MS 39211

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www.jacksonacademy.org



**The
Education
Group**



OVERVIEW

One of the premier independent schools in Mississippi, Jackson Academy was founded in 1959. JA educates more than 1,100 students in grades Preschool (age 3) to twelve. Located in Northeast Jackson, JA attracts students from the entire Metro Jackson area. JA's strong academic program establishes a foundation for success throughout a student's journey at JA and beyond. Graduates attend a prestigious list of colleges and universities.





OVERVIEW



A nondenominational school with Christian values, JA emphasizes faith development. The school's mission states:

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

“Family” and “community” are descriptors shared by students, parents, faculty and alumni. There is deep loyalty and love for the school, and a significant number of students are children of graduates. JA designs programs and activities that bring together students from across the Pre-K to 12th grade spectrum. High reenrollment rates are testament to the positive feelings that families have for the school.

Jackson Academy is accredited by the Southern Association of Independent Schools (SAIS) and AdvancEd and holds memberships in the National Association of Independent Schools, The College Board, the Midsouth Association of Independent Schools, and the Cum Laude Society. JA is also proud to be one of only four Apple Distinguished Schools in Mississippi and the only such school in the Jackson metro area. JA offers a full program of extracurricular activities including varsity and junior varsity sports, instrumental and choral music, theater arts.

The school's facilities are on two campuses, the main campus and Raider Park, the athletic facility. Spacious, well furnished buildings on the main campus provide each division with age-appropriate learning environments. A beautiful 800-seat Performing Arts Center provides a venue for the school's music, dance, and theater programs, and a large, attractive gymnasium and football field support the extensive athletic programs. Raider Park includes four athletic fields for baseball, softball, soccer, a track and field facility, and a tennis complex.

Jackson Academy's most recent strategic plan has largely been implemented. The plan, entitled “**The Path Forward,**” included three planks:

Take a Stand: developing courage, character, ethical, spiritual, leadership development – service learning, character building

Uplift Each Student: personalized learning; counseling; college/career exploration; differentiated instruction; intervention; change daily schedule

Evolve to Lead: offer the most progressive student-centered teaching and learning environment

The new Head of School will have the opportunity to engage with the Board to develop and implement the next strategic plan.

SPIRITUAL LIFE

Jackson Academy explores life's most important questions through a Christian perspective, rooted in the belief that true learning comes from nurturing and developing minds, bodies, and souls. It sees faith, learning, and life as inextricably linked. To participate in life at JA is to accept an invitation to live out Christian values in every action taken — in the classroom, the chapel, and through service to those in the community. Students of all faiths are welcome at JA, and they are encouraged to deepen their faith through discussion and exploration, volunteer service and service learning and spiritual discovery. Preschool and Lower School students have daily Bible readings and/or devotions and a prayer. Middle- and Upper-Schoolers attend mandatory chapel four times a year, with optional chapels every other week. A Chaplain is on the staff and leads the religious life program.





At Jackson Academy, no one goes it alone. Here, you are surrounded by a community of supporters – all dedicated to helping you identify your greatest talents, develop your particular gifts, and live with a strong sense of faith and purpose. All of us, all behind you, with all our hearts.

ALL FOR ONE. That's the JA way.

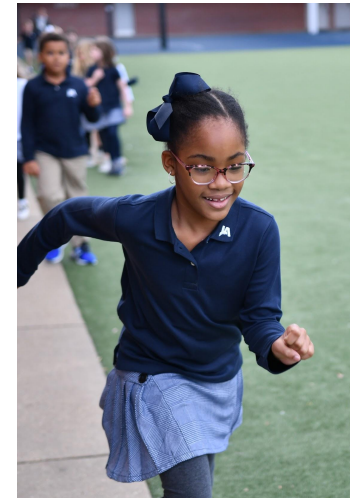


ALL FOR ONE

DIVERSITY

We stand together in rejecting racism, rejecting violence, and supporting one another in achieving equality and justice. We stand All for One.

**ALL
FOR
ONE**
JACKSON ACADEMY



Jackson Academy Fast Facts



SCHOOL



Established: 1959
Grades: PreK(3) - 12th
Pre-school (K3 to K4): 177
Lower School (K5-4th): 222
Middle School (5th-8th): 330
Upper School (9th-12th): 389
Student:Teacher Ratio: 10:1
Total Enrollment (May 2020): 1118

TUITION



K3: \$5,760
K4 (Full-day): \$8,760
K5 (Full-day): \$9,840
Grades 1-4: \$11,760
Grades 5-8: \$14,196
Grades 9-12: \$16,380
Multiple child discounts
are offered to families
with 3 or more children

FINANCIAL INFORMATION



\$1,000,000 Endowment
\$15 Million Operating Budget
Annual Fund: \$460,561

FACULTY



Faculty & Staff
Full Time: 186
Part Time: 14
With Advanced Degrees: 68

The Position

In seeking its next Head of School, Jackson Academy seeks an innovative thinker who possesses strong communication skills and the ability to inspire those around him/her. “Vision” and “connectivity” are traits sought by every constituency at JA. The faculty and administration are looking for a strong leader who can develop and articulate a strong plan for moving JA forward. Parents want a Head who will quickly grow to love and value the school and its culture.





THE POSITION



The candidate must have a warm, approachable personality and be passionate about PreK-12 education. The next Head must be able to inspire faculty and staff; manage a large, complex school; and promote Jackson Academy. Priorities for the next Head include recruiting and retaining students to increase enrollment and marketing the school to the community at large. The next Head will play a key role in the support of an anticipated capital campaign.

The Head of School is the sole employee of the Board of Trustees, a group of 11 dedicated volunteer leaders. The school is about to embark on its next strategic plan; the new Head of School will have the opportunity to work with the Board to develop and implement the plan. The Head, while honoring the school's mission, will have the opportunity to build on the current school culture. A capital campaign feasibility study launched just before the COVID pandemic occurred and will be resumed this fall. Depending on the feasibility study results, a capital campaign may be launched as early as summer 2021, and the new Head will take a leadership role in the campaign.





Qualities and Qualifications

PERSONAL QUALITIES

This warm, close-knit community at Jackson Academy expects a leader who:

- is a warm, personable, and aspirational leader
- possesses a passion for education
- is comfortable making fair and firm decisions
- communicates clearly and effectively
- thinks creatively and in an innovative manner

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

The successful candidate will:

- be able to effectively promote the school
- possess strong management skills
- skillfully lead and coach the faculty
- possess effective and strategic vision planning skills
- be comfortable leading in a Christian environment

Challenges and Opportunities:

The new head of schools will be expected to:



Increase enrollment through effective marketing of new students and strategic retention of current students.



Uphold JA's standards of excellence and ensuring competitiveness with other independent schools in the area.



Continue JA's strategic planning through **visionary** leadership.



Honor the school's mission and maintaining a strong sense of community.



Work collaboratively with the Board to develop the next **strategic** plan.



How to Apply

Prospective candidates should send the following materials in a single PDF document to the search consultants:

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- Letter of interest specifically addressing this position and school
 - Resume (education and work experience)
 - Statement of educational philosophy
 - List of five professional references with contact information
 - Letters of reference, if available, but not required



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Jackson Academy admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational, employment or admissions policies, its scholarships, athletic, or other school-administered programs.

Program Features





ACADEMICS

The school-wide academic program has four emphases: Collaboration, Communication, Creativity, and Critical Thinking. The school is organized into four divisions: Preschool (K3-K4); Lower School (K5-4); Middle School (5-8); and Upper School (9-12).

These divisions – almost like schools within the larger school – make customized learning experiences for different age ranges possible. In particular, JA believes that students in the Middle School years benefit by being grouped with students at a similar stage of pre-adolescence. Even though they may pass from division to division, all students can still rely on the familiar faces of previous teachers, who remain available to them throughout their years at JA.

Preschool emphasizes academic exploration and play in an environment where children feel cared for and safe. JA seeks to instill in children the foundation for a lifelong love of learning. Through personal attention and a thoughtful academic curriculum, JA is committed to the intellectual, creative, social, emotional, and physical growth of each child. Through hands-on activities, children develop perceptual motor skills, strengthening the link between moving and learning. Preschool students begin each day with a Bible story,

the Pledge of Allegiance, and prayer. They explore science concepts through hands-on learning and gain exposure to the idea of language and phonemic awareness. Students develop creative expression through art, music, and library. They enjoy snacks and socializing during snack time and playbreak and channel natural energy into the refinement of perception and coordination abilities through physical education.

The Lower School curriculum emphasizes the basics of reading, writing, grammar, mathematics, social studies, and science. Art, music, Spanish, and library enrichment classes rotate through once each week. Physical education days vary by grade level. Students begin each day with an uplifting message from the dean, followed by classroom devotions, prayer, and the Pledge of Allegiance, and they attend Chapel to develop a deeper understanding of spirituality. Lower Schoolers learn the fundamentals of Spanish conversation, vocabulary, and culture from a native Spanish speaker. JA's Lower School builds on a strong reading core and immerses children in exploration with math manipulatives, STEM lab, digital presentations, and field trips. At the end of Lower School, students will have the confidence and independence to take on the greater responsibilities of Middle School.



PROGRAM FEATURES



In Middle School, students are introduced to a departmentalized approach which provides focused instruction in the core subjects and an opportunity to explore various world languages. An increasing number of electives are available each year such as photojournalism and comparative politics offered by Upper School teachers. Middle School teachers build upon the work of the Lower School, helping children discover and flourish with their gifts, talents, and passions. Through the fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth grades, students have the opportunity to explore extracurricular activities such as student government or community involvement, to feel better prepared to enter Upper School with confidence. Students work on their own take-home iPads, developing podcasts and iMovies to demonstrate mastery of a topic and the ability to communicate clearly as well as increase keyboarding skills. JA participates in the Duke University Talent Identification Program (TIP). Chapel service held every other week engage students' spiritual life. The Upper School program is designed to prepare students for success in college and life. Each student brings important, different academic interests, talents, and abilities to the JA community, and JA considers it the school's mission to equip each student for a life of purpose and significance.

JA works intentionally to bring about academic achievement within a nurturing and spiritual community. The curriculum includes multiple levels in each department including Advanced Placement courses. Some departments offer multiple APs. A variety of electives such as sports broadcasting, Theatre Tech, Latin, and financial management (among many, many others) helps students engage with particular interests and career opportunities. JA's Apple One-to-One program continues with the use of iPads in the Upper School. Jackson Academy has a dual enrollment program in language arts and math through Belhaven University which allows JA seniors, as well as some juniors, to take college classes for credit. A strong guidance- counseling program keeps students on track with the ACT testing, college admissions, and financial aid processes. Counselors alert students to scholarship possibilities, ways to strengthen their applications, and more. Upper School students explore spirituality and faith during four required chapel services each year. Additional chapel attendance is voluntary and encouraged. Upper School students take great pride in serving as leaders within the JA community, as part of Raider Night, Book Buddies, Big Sisters/Brothers, and other mentorship programs.



STUDENT SUPPORT

Through the Academic Resource Center program, a well-designed and fully staffed support program, JA offers several tiers of instructional support to qualifying students. A Director and ten facilitators work closely with the faculty at each grade level to ensure success for all students. The purpose of the tiered support is to meet the students where they are currently functioning, supporting the whole child on their educational journey.

Jackson Academy employs a team approach in meeting students' needs. The team consists of the student, parents, teachers, support personnel, and outside professionals as indicated.

This team provides:

- diagnostic testing,
- resource classes for remediation and reinforcement,
- study skills and brain-based learning activities, educational counseling,
- group guidance activities geared toward healthy choices.

HONOR CODE

The student-governed Honor Code at JA expresses the values of the school community and helps students and adults strive toward personal honor

and integrity in all dimensions of school life. Upper School students in grades nine through twelve sign a pledge indicating their intent to follow the Honor Code. Also, students apply for the chance and responsibility to serve on the Honor Council.

Honor Code and Pledge:

As members of the Jackson Academy community, we will maintain the highest standards of integrity and respect while striving to achieve excellence in and out of the classroom. As such, on my honor, I will not lie, cheat, steal, or tolerate those who do.

ATHLETICS

Over twenty varsity sports and sixteen junior varsity sports comprise the athletic program at JA. The Raiders compete in the Midsouth Association of Independent Schools in most sports. Spacious and attractive fields and courts provide the venues for the Raiders' competitions. "The Brickyard," JA's football stadium features artificial turf and a Jumbotron. A baseball diamond, a softball field, a track and soccer field, and new tennis courts complete the outdoor facilities. The "Raider Dome" hosts basketball and volleyball contests. A spacious and well-equipped weight room houses up to 100 athletes at once.



PROGRAM FEATURES



ARTS

An extensive program of visual and performing arts is available to students. The instrumental music program and support organizations involve both Middle and Upper School students and include Marching Band, Concert Band, Jazz Band, Sixth Grade Band, Drumline, and Color Guard. Middle and Upper School singers have multiple opportunities including award-winning show choirs, concert choirs, and an a cappella group, the Unaccompanied Minors. Dramatic arts are represented both with classroom offerings and performances. A fall production, one-act play competition, and spring play are presented. The visual arts are represented in each division and culminate in the upper school with courses in drawing, two-dimensional and three-dimensional design, and AP Studio Art. A school newspaper, yearbook, and sports broadcasting complete the arts offerings.

BROADCASTING PROGRAM

Jackson Academy students have a unique opportunity to learn and participate in professional level broadcasting through Raider Network. Patterned on ESPN's video production, Raider Network is a professional-level production company and on-demand video resource that broadcasts athletic and other school events. Working with state-of-the-art video and production equipment and working alongside

professional broadcasters, JA students learn all aspects of creating and producing high quality videos. The Raider Network team has produced live broadcasts of NCAA men's basketball games for ESPN.

ALPHA-OMEGA-PROGRAM

Community and a family feeling are hallmarks of a JA experience. The Alpha-Omega program pairs seniors with kindergartners. The pairs share many experiences throughout the school year, establishing relationships that ensure connections across the student age span.





LOCATION



JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

The capital and most populous city of Mississippi, “the city with soul” is home to over 150,000 people. The population of the metropolitan Jackson area is over a half-million.

Situated on the Pearl River, the City of Jackson is known for its warm, welcoming atmosphere, Southern food, and music including blues, gospel, folk, and jazz. The Mississippi Blues Trail details the history of Jackson in the development of this uniquely American musical style.

The city had a prominent role in the Civil Rights Movement, and the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum is featured on the U.S. Civil Rights Trail.

Jackson is served by Jackson-Evers International Airport with nonstop service to eight cities. Major cities such as Dallas, Atlanta, and New Orleans are within a day’s drive.

Numerous colleges and universities call Jackson home including Millsaps College, Mississippi College, Belhaven University, Jackson State University, and Tougaloo College. The University of Mississippi’s Medical Center and Mississippi College Law School are also located in Jackson.

Cultural attractions include numerous museums, several dance companies, and the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra.





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For inquiries and
more information,
contact:

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