



2017-2018 School Year

Guidance Registration and Scheduling Guide

West Jessamine Middle School

1400 Wilmore Road

Nicholasville, KY 40356

Main Office Number: 859-885-2244

Fax Number: 859-885-8078

Administration:

Mr. Matt Albertson	Principal
Mr. Matt Simpson	Assistant Principal
Mr. Joe Payne	Curriculum Administrator
Ms. Ashley Brown	Instructional Coach
Ms. Kim Roberts	Students Last Name A-K
Ms. Jessica Zeitz	Students Last Name L-Z

Mandatory Enrollment Information for All Students:

Immunization Certificates

- All students must have a new Kentucky Immunization Certificate prior to enrollment. Immunization certificates from another state/country must be converted to Kentucky certificates by your physician or the local Health Department.
- Enrolling students are required to have a T-DAP (Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis) Booster, a 2nd Varicella vaccine and a Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine (MCV) before entry into 6th grade.

Physicals (Medical Examinations)

- Every student must submit a physical, dated within one year prior to entering 6th grade.
- Before students may try out for an athletic team they must have a KHSAA sports physical on file.
- The school physical and sports physical are 2 separate documents. They are not interchangeable.
- The sports physical form is created by KHSAA (Kentucky High Schools Athletic Association) and is available on Beaumont's website and also in our school office.
- The school physical form is available from the Health Department or your physician.

Updated Infinite Campus Parent Portal Information

For the 2017 and 2018 school year you will be able to update your information and student's information online. If you do not already have an account we need you to log on and complete the sign up process for a Parent Portal. If you currently have a Parent Portal, please log on and update any missing information and verify all is correct. If you do not have access to a computer, please contact the school office. Jessamine County School's IC Parent Portal link is

<https://infinitecampus.jessamine.kyschools.us/campus/portal/jessamine.jsp>

All families must have an updated Infinite Campus account before any student can enroll in the 2017-2018 school year.

The West Middle Scheduling Process:

Middle School 101 for Incoming 6th Grade Students and Parents

Prior to the opening of school, West Middle School will hold Middle School 101 as an orientation session for incoming 6th grade students and their parents. Students will attend informational meetings in the morning to become familiar with the West Middle building, teachers, and classmates. During the student session, parents will be invited to an orientation session where they can meet Principals and front office staff and learn about West Middle processes and procedures.

New Parent Orientation

Parents of new 7th and 8th grade students will also be invited to the parent session held during the Middle School 101 event. This session will be for parents only.

Open House

An annual school Open House will be held during the first few weeks of the school year so parents can become more familiar with the school and the teachers. Parents will have an opportunity to visit each class for about ten minutes. Although we have just one official Open House each year, parents are welcome to visit school at any time.

Parent Scheduling Checklist

- Parent obtains a copy of the grade level Schedule Card
- Each student must complete a Schedule Card
- The address needs to be current to receive summer mailings
- A parent/guardian should sign the card; however, counselors will develop schedule after a student has been given ample opportunity to obtain parent/guardian signatures

Scheduling Tips for Parents

Band and Choir

Students signing up for one of these classes make a full-year commitment to the class.

A parent signature is required to sign up for one of these classes; and, under very special circumstances, this course can be dropped with the required a parent signature.

- For band, a student must either own or rent an instrument and purchase music books. Families should plan to spend \$30 - \$50 a month for instrument rental
- These music classes are participatory classes, and students should expect some afterschool performances are held several times a year in the evenings and are mandatory

Exploratory Classes for 6th and 7th Grade Students

It is a school goal that each student who spends three years at West Middle will participate in each of the quarter-long exploratory classes at least once; therefore, students do not choose these classes but are placed by counselors in the widest variety of exploratory classes possible.

World Languages

7th and 8th grade students signing up for these classes make a semester or full-year (8th only) commitment to these classes in order to earn high school credit.

Course Offerings:

All students at West Middle are enrolled in a combination of core content and elective classes. All core subjects for 6th-8th grade offer general and advanced levels. A listing of courses offered at West Middle is below.

Core Subjects: 6th, 7th, 8th (full-year courses)

6 th Grade	7 th Grade	8 th Grade
Science	Science	Science or Integrated Science (9 th Grade)
Social Studies	Social Studies	Social Studies
Language Arts or Advanced Language Arts	Informational Text Studies or Advanced Informational Text Studies	Informational Text Studies or Advanced Informational Text Studies
	Literature Studies or Advanced Literature Studies	Literature Studies or Advanced Literature Studies
6 th Grade Math or Accelerated 6 th Grade Math or Accelerated 7 th Grade Math	7 th Grade Math or Accelerated 7 th Grade Math or Accelerated 8 th Grade Math (Algebra)	8 th Grade Math or Accelerated 8 th Grade Math (Algebra) or Geometry through High School

Exploratory Subjects: (9-week courses for 6th and 7th Grade Students)*

- Art
- Music
- Introduction to Life Skills (Home Ec.)
- Spanish
- Physical Education
- Health
- Library Advocacy (6th grade only)
- Project Lead the Way Pre-Engineering Courses
- Communication
- Career Exploration

Elective Subjects: (full-year commitments)*

- Band
- Chorus
- Spanish- 8th Grade Only

**Course options are subject to change based on staffing.*

Intervention Classes

Math Intervention (6th, 7th, and 8th)
Reading Intervention (6th, 7th, and 8th)

Team Placement:

Each student is placed by the grade level counselor onto one of the three teams at each grade level. Each team has approximately 120-150 students who have the same group of teachers for their core classes.

Team placement at WJMS is an extremely thorough process. The academic and social needs of each individual student are taken into consideration. We work closely with elementary and transfer schools to divide students into teams based on input and recommendations.

A written request for a team change must be submitted to the principal via email to matt.albertson@jessamine.kyschools.us. A formal request must include the following:

1. Student name, parent name, parent email address, parent phone number, and current team placement.
2. Written statement by the parent or guardian indicating specific reasons the current team placement creates an unsafe or restrictive learning environment based on his or her individual needs.
3. Documentation to support the request which must include one of the following:
 - a. Medical statement from a physician indicating specific reasons for a team change. Medical issues will require a signed Jessamine County School District Medical Release Form.
 - b. Legal documentation indicating the specific need for a team change (i.e. Emergency Protective Order)

You will be notified of the principal's decision regarding your request via email.

2017-2018 Course Descriptions

6th Grade Courses

Art

Grade: 6th

Duration: 9 weeks

This course focuses on drawing and painting while covering the same topics as a Creative Art Comprehensive courses. Students produce two-dimensional art works using a variety of media (ink, pencil, chalk, charcoal, watercolor, tempera, oils, acrylics, etc.) Although the focus at all grade levels is on production of art, study of the structures, purposes, humanities, and processes are included. Career opportunities in visual art are also explored.

Beginning Band

Grade: 6th grade

Duration: One year

Students have the option to enroll in beginning band in 6th grade as part of the Instrumental Music program. Throughout the year, students will learn the basics of playing the instrument of their choice (woodwind, brass, percussion); therefore, no previous experience is necessary. Instrumental music continues as part of the middle school and high school music programs, but 6th grade band classes are specifically designed for beginners, making 6th grade the best time to enroll in Instrumental Music.

Career Choices

Grade: 6th

Duration: 9 weeks

Career Choices is a program designed for middle school students and introduces them to a broad range of career opportunities in today's society. It includes assessment of students' aptitudes, abilities, interests, and learning styles in order to assist them in identifying careers and planning a career path.

Chorus

Grade: 6th grade

Duration: One year

Chorus courses provide the opportunity to sing and perform a variety of music styles for all voices, and is designed to develop vocal techniques and abilities. Chorus covers the structures, humanities, purposes, processes, and interrelationships of the arts as they apply to music.

Design & Modeling

Grade: 6th

Duration: 9 weeks

PLTW is a project-based curriculum designed to challenge and engage students' curiosity and imagination. The knowledge students gain, and the skills they acquire from this program, create a strong foundation for further STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) learning in high school and beyond. In this course, students are introduced to and use the design process to solve problems and understand the influence that creative and innovative design has on our lives.

Drama

Grade: 6th

Duration: 9 weeks

Drama is an elective course offered to 6th graders, introducing students to the skills and disciplines needed to be a focused and successful actor. Acting study is based on group games, memorized scene work, monologues, improvisation, and imagination. This course will provide a wonderful opportunity for the students to express themselves creatively in an unthreatening and accepting class environment as students will be free to try and fail, and will be challenged to try again! Some focus topics that students explore include improvisation, pantomime, storytelling, Shakespeare, and selected plays.

General Music

Grade: 6th grade

Duration: 9 weeks

General Music courses include the study of music including the elements of music, music styles, and historical and cultural contexts including study of instrumental music (acoustic and electronic) and vocal music. Although performance is a part of the course, the focus is on learning about music. Public performance may be a part of the learning process.

Health

Grade: 6th grade

Duration: One semester

The middle level health education curriculum emphasizes development of decision-making skills related to the essential areas of self-esteem, peer pressure, physical wellness, nutrition, safety and first aid, disease prevention, exercise, human growth and development, stress management, conflict resolution, substance abuse, group membership, goal setting, mental and emotional wellness, community resources and services, and related consumer choices. This course is paired with Physical Education, where students rotate between the classes every two weeks in gender-isolated groups.

Intro to Life Skills

Grade: 6th grade

Duration: 9 weeks

Declaration of Independence! The students are introduced to the Family and Consumer Science class through the studies of family, friendship, interpersonal communications, nutrition, and food preparation. There are many fun activities and interactions while learning how to be a more prepared person for the future.

Library Advocacy

Grade: 6th grade

Duration: 9 weeks

Students in the 6th grade will have the opportunity to take a media arts elective in which they learn about the skills and necessities of running a school library. In this course, students will gain independence in searching for and locating library materials. They will also participate in a research project, using the materials and resources from the library. And, students will participate in a number of literature circles to engage in writer's notebooks and other analytical conversations about literature.

Physical Education

Grade: 6th grade

Duration: One semester

Middle level physical education assists in the continuing physical, mental, social, and emotional development of students as they make the transition from puberty to adolescence. The physical education program provides students opportunities to learn sportsmanship, cooperation, principles of motor skills, fitness, conditioning, and the physical and social benefits of exercise. The middle level physical education program focuses on fitness activities, techniques, strategies, and rules of games. Sports participation in lifelong activities such as golf, tennis, bowling, archery, running, hiking, swimming, and cycling are also emphasized. Students develop the ability to assess wellness and analyze movement skills. This course is paired with Health, where students rotate between the classes every two weeks in gender-isolated groups.

Spanish 1A Course Description:

Grade: 6th

Duration: 9 weeks

Spanish 1A provides students with a general introduction to the Spanish language: sound system, pronunciation, functional vocabulary related to everyday life, cultural information and basic grammatical structures. Emphasis will be on the acquisition of four skills: listening, speaking, reading and limited writing. There are two main objectives to the course. Foremost is to give the students the ability to carry on a simple conversation. The second is to provide the students with instruction that teaches a basic understanding of Spanish culture, vocabulary, and grammatical concepts.

2017-2018 Course Descriptions

7th Grade Courses

Art

Grade: 7th

Duration: 9 weeks

This course focuses on drawing and painting while covering the same topics as a Creative Art Comprehensive courses. Students produce two-dimensional art works using a variety of media (ink, pencil, chalk, charcoal, watercolor, tempera, oils, acrylics, etc.) Although the focus at all grade levels is on production of art, study of the structures, purposes, humanities, and processes are included. Career opportunities in visual art are also explored.

Art of Communication

Grade: 7th

Duration: 9 weeks

This course is a 9-week course offered to 7th graders. This class will familiarize students with the basics of communication and guide them through the process of writing, delivering, and evaluating speeches. By the end of the course, students will have written, delivered, and evaluated a variety of speeches, and should be more comfortable with both planned and impromptu speaking, as well as speaking in formal and informal situations.

Career Choices

Grade: 7th

Duration: 9 weeks

Career Choices is a program designed for middle school students and introduces them to a broad range of career opportunities in today's society. It includes assessment of students' aptitudes, abilities, interests, and learning styles in order to assist them in identifying careers and planning a career path.

Chorus

Grade: 7th grade

Duration: One year

Chorus courses provide the opportunity to sing and perform a variety of music styles for all voices, and is designed to develop vocal techniques and abilities. Chorus covers the structures, humanities, purposes, processes, and interrelationships of the arts as they apply to music.

Concert Band

Grade: 7th grade

Duration: One year

The 7th Grade Concert Band offers members the opportunity for continued and sequential skill development and large ensemble playing experience. Students learn to play music of various styles and genres and expand their technical facility on their respective instruments. Development of higher-level music cognition and listening skills is also continued. Beginners may also sign up for 7th grade band.

Flight and Space

Grade: 7th

Duration: 9 weeks

PLTW is a project-based curriculum designed to challenge and engage students' curiosity and imagination. The knowledge students gain, and the skills they acquire from this program, create a strong foundation for further STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) learning in high school and beyond. In this course, students explore the science behind aeronautics and use their knowledge to design, build, and test an airfoil.

General Music

Grade: 7th grade

Duration: 9 weeks

General Music courses include the study of music including the elements of music, music styles, and historical and cultural contexts including study of instrumental music (acoustic and electronic) and vocal music. Although performance is a part of the course, the focus is on learning about music. Public performance may be a part of the learning process.

Health

Grade: 7th grade

Duration: One semester

The middle level health education curriculum emphasizes development of decision-making skills related to the essential areas of self-esteem, peer pressure, physical wellness, nutrition, safety and first aid, disease prevention, exercise, human growth and development, stress management, conflict resolution, substance abuse, group membership, goal setting, mental and emotional wellness, community resources and services, and related consumer choices. This course is paired with Physical Education, where students rotate between the classes every two weeks in gender-isolated groups.

Life Skills

Grade: 7th grade

Duration: 9 weeks

Bridging the Gap! As students move from childhood to adulthood, they have to have skills to succeed. We will look at decision making, goal setting, consumerism, and peer relations as tools to help students grow. We also cover personal growth and development through the studies of adolescent development. The class is designed to help students with the transitions they will encounter as young adults.

Physical Education

Grade: 7th grade

Duration: One semester

Middle level physical education assists in the continuing physical, mental, social, and emotional development of students as they make the transition from puberty to adolescence. The physical education program provides students opportunities to learn sportsmanship, cooperation, principles of motor skills, fitness, conditioning, and the physical and social benefits of exercise. The middle level physical education program focuses on fitness activities, techniques, strategies, and rules of games. Sports participation in lifelong activities such as golf, tennis, bowling, archery, running, hiking, swimming, and cycling are also emphasized. Students develop the ability to assess wellness and analyze movement skills. This course is paired with Health, where students rotate between the classes every two weeks in gender-isolated groups.

Spanish 1B Course Description:

Grade: 7th

Duration: One Semester

The objective of this course is to enable students to acquire proficiency in Spanish through a linguistic, communicative, and cultural approach to language learning. Students build upon linguistic knowledge acquired during Spanish 1A the previous year. Emphasis is placed on the development of listening comprehension, speaking, reading and writing skills and on the acquisition of the fundamentals of applied grammar. Cross-cultural understanding is fostered and real-life applications are emphasized throughout the course.

2017-2018 Course Descriptions

8th Grade Courses

Advanced Art

Grade: 8th

Duration: One semester

In Advanced Art, students will experiment with a number of mediums in order to explore and hone artistic skills. In this course, students will study spatial orientation through drawing historical images, painting theory and abstract design, oil painting, sculpture and mold making.

Advanced Physical Education

Grade: 8th

Duration: One semester

Advanced Physical Education will provide learning opportunities for students to further develop skills and knowledge related to fitness, physical competence, cognitive understanding and positive attitudes about physical activity that promote a healthy and physically active lifestyle. Students will acquire knowledge and skills in recreational, athletic and lifetime activities. The emphasis is on active participation, sportsmanship, teamwork, developing organization skills and supporting reading and writing across the curriculum. For units done in general physical education, advanced skills will be assessed; many of the units will differ from general physical education class. Students will also create their own fitness plan that they will then implement individually and collect results. FitnessGram activities will assess students' physical fitness levels and help establish personal goals.

App Creators

Grade: 8th

Duration: One semester

App Creators introduces students to the field of computer science and the concepts of computational thinking through the creation of mobile apps. Students are challenged to be creative and innovative, as they collaboratively design and develop mobile solutions to engaging, authentic problems. Students experience the positive impact of the application of computer science to society as well as other disciplines, particularly biomedical science. The unit provides students opportunities for self-expression. Teams identify a personal or community problem of interest to them that can be solved with a mobile app solution. The problem can address issues such as health and wellness, the environment, school culture, emergency preparedness, education, community service—the options are endless!

Automation and Robotics with Emphasis on Programming

Grade: 8th

Duration: One semester

Automation and Robotics allows students to trace the history, development, and influence of automation and robotics as they learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems. Students will program Spheros to navigate obstacle courses they design and build.

Chorus

Grade: 8th

Duration: One semester

Chorus courses provide the opportunity to sing and perform a variety of music styles for boy's and/or girl's voices, and are designed to develop vocal techniques and abilities. Chorus covers the structures, humanities, purposes, processes, and interrelationships of the arts as they apply to music.

Computer Science Discoveries

Grade: 8th

Duration: One semester

Computer Science Discoveries aims to introduce students to tools and programming languages that are accessible for beginners, but which offer plenty of room to grow and create sophisticated projects. Using our App Lab programming environment, students will be able to transition from blocks to typed code at their own pace while learning JavaScript. New improvements to this tool will enable students to build simple animations, stories, or games as well as apps.

Concert Band

Grade: 8th

Duration: One semester

Concert Band offers members the opportunity for continued and sequential skill development and large ensemble playing experience in preparation for moving on to the high school program. Music performed in the ensemble is typically more demanding than that performed in 7th Grade Band as it requires greater technical faculty, more interdependence of parts and higher-level listening skills to perform.

Early Childhood Development

Grade: 8th

Duration: One semester

This course addresses the concepts related to understanding the areas and stages of human growth and development, recognizing effects of heredity and environment on human growth and development, meeting the needs of exceptional children, promoting optimum growth and development in the prenatal, infancy, toddler, preschool and school-age stages. Careers in child/human development are explored. Leadership development will be provided through the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) student organization.

Employability/Career Exploration

Grade: 8th

Duration: One semester

Employability/Career Exploration will go in-depth with career pathways: what they are, how they differ, and why they are important. It will allow students to take personality, interest, ability, and work values surveys in order to determine which path would be best for them as well as include an in-depth career project. Students will be able to shadow a community member of their choice for one day as an excused absence and then complete a project about their experience. The class would include employability skills, resumes, cover letters, and interview tips and techniques. The ILPs would be used on a regular basis as well as the WJHS course catalog.

FACS Essentials

Grade: 8th

Duration: One semester

Credit: Can earn high school credit if the student earns an A or B as a final grade in the course

In FACS Essentials, students will have the opportunity to receive high-school credit in this semester-long course in FACS Essentials. This course will be under standards-based grading and we will follow the high school standards created for this course by the KY Dept. of Education. The National Standards, KY Academic Standards, and KOSSA Standards. Students will learn specifically about parenting and childhood development, relationship-building, the fundamentals of teaching, nutrition and foods, fashion and interior design, and more!

Health

Grade: 8th

Duration: One semester

Health and well-being is a critical component of having a happy life. This course focuses on exploring health career options, history of health care, ethical and legal responsibilities, leadership development, safety concepts, health care systems and processes, and basic health care industry skills. The course will provide reliable and realistic information about health science careers and will enable the student to make informed decisions about career choices, the workplace, and postsecondary opportunities. Field trips to and/or guest speakers from various healthcare fields will be used to enhance learning.

Instrumental Music

Grade: 8th

Duration: One semester

Instrumental Music will explore music instruction through a variety of instruments, including strings (guitar or ukulele), recorders, percussion, and/or keyboards. Students will explore a range of genres of music through each of these mediums.

International Business

Grade: 8th

Duration: One Semester

Students enrolled in International Business will learn the foundations of foreign business markets. Students also learn about international business structures and strategic operations, as well as political, social, and cultural issues that impact foreign markets based on international business practices. Students will also collaborate with multi-national community partners and university-level professors. This course is designed for students who plan to study politics, government, economics, and/or business.

Introduction to Computer Science

Grade: 8th

Duration: Year-long

Introduction to Computer Science is designed to introduce students to the breadth of the field of computer science through an exploration of engaging and accessible topics. Rather than focusing the entire course on learning particular software tools or programming languages, the course is designed to be focused on the conceptual ideas of computing and help students understand why certain tools or language might be utilized to solve particular problems. Students will also be introduced to topics such as interface design, limits of computers, and societal and ethical issues.

Jazz Band

Grade: 8th

Duration: One semester

In Jazz Band, all students will learn the basics of Jazz; it would enhance student's musical knowledge of everything from swing to rock. This band will include trumpets, trombones, saxophones, percussion, and rhythm section.

Journey into Film

Grade: 8th

Duration: One semester

Journey into Film is a semester-long course in media literacy offered to 8th graders who are interested in analyzing documentaries and then developing one of their own. In this course, students will study documentaries in order to cultivate interest in the world beyond that they already know. Through these films, students will look at how cinematography can be used to educate others, create an appreciation of the arts in human life, and capture important moments in time. After students have fully analyzed documentaries for how a topic is portrayed through the elements of film, they will create a documentary of their own. The culminating project for this course will be the completed documentary and participation in the West Middle Film Festival.

Principles of Animal, Plant, and Environmental Science

Grade: 8th

Duration: One semester

Principles of Animal, Plant, and Environmental Science is an introductory course designed to teach students about the world of agriculture and the pathways of study they may pursue. Student experiences will involve the study of communication, the science of agriculture, plants, animals, and natural resources. While surveying the opportunities available in agriculture and natural resources, students will learn to solve problems, conduct research, analyze data, work in teams, and take responsibility for their work, actions, and learning.

Principles of Business

Grade: 8th

Duration: One semester

Credit: Can receive high school credit if they earn an A or B final grade in the course

Principles of Business will serve the eighth grade students of WJMS well in their future endeavors. The focus of the class would be on business, economics, and entrepreneurship. Students will learn about business plans, complete a course project where they think of an idea for their own business and collaborate through GoogleDocs to create a business plan with their group, and present to the class. Students will compete with their business plans (similar to Shark Tank). Students will also focus on business writing such as resumes, business letters, cover letters, etc.

Spanish 2 Course Description:

Grade: 8th

Duration: Year long

Credit: Can receive high school credit with a passing score on STAMP assessment

In Spanish 2, students will continue to further develop and improve listening, speaking, reading and writing skills, specifically emphasizing the comprehension of Spanish. Additionally, aspects of contemporary Spanish culture will be introduced through the use of media, games, and adapted readings and in small or large group discussions. In addition to written/oral tests and quizzes, students will be assessed using a variety of formats: oral dialogues, presentations, and written compositions. This year long course allows students to develop their linguistic abilities while covering topics such as food, family, Hispanic history, culture, music, art, etc. By the end of this course, students will be able to express themselves in a variety of situations.