



**Middle School
Student / Parent
Handbook
2011 – 2012**

USJ Nondiscriminatory Policy

University School of Jackson 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 policies, admissions policies, scholarship and financial aid programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.

Welcome From the Head of School

Welcome to the 2011-2012 school year at USJ! The faculty and staff of University School of Jackson are proud to be a part of your educational experience for the coming year.

The USJ Student Handbook is a very important document that contains important policies and procedures that will guide us through a successful school year. An understanding of the school calendar, activities, and policies will ensure a productive and effective year. Please take time to familiarize yourself with the contents of this book.

On behalf of the USJ faculty and staff family, I welcome you to the 2011-2012 school year. I look forward to getting to know each of you.

Sincerely,
Clay Lilienstern
Head of School

This handbook is intended to be a guide to the policies and rules of the Middle School of the University School of Jackson. All decisions regarding admission, academic progress, grade level and classroom placement, discipline and participation in programs or activities are at the sole discretion of the school's administration. Reviewed annually, this handbook may be modified only by USJ administration, faculty and staff.

Table of Contents

Guiding Principles	6
Mission Statement.....	6
Identity Statement.....	6
Values and Operating Principles.....	6
Administration, Faculty and Staff of USJ's Middle School Division	7
History	8
Accreditation and Memberships	8
Academic Life	9
Daily Schedule.....	9
Exams.....	10
Grading Periods.....	10
Grading System.....	10
Homework Policy and Make-up Work.....	11
Re-enrollment.....	11
Summer School or Summer Tutoring.....	11
Textbooks.....	11
Tutorials.....	12
Academic Warning and Probation.....	12
Attendance	12
Early Dismissal and Return.....	13
Excused and Unexcused Absences.....	13
Excessive Absences.....	13
Pre-arranged Absence.....	14
Tardy to class/school.....	14
Conduct	15
Code of Conduct.....	15
Commendable Conduct.....	15
Displeasing Conduct.....	15
Cell Phone.....	15
Gum.....	16
Hands -Off Policy.....	16
Honesty.....	16
Locker Policies.....	16
Tobacco, Alcohol and Drug Policies.....	16
Weapons and/or Threats of Violence.....	17
Daily Operations	17
After School/Carpool.....	17
Early Arrival to School.....	17
First Aid and Medication.....	17
Food Service and Lunch Cards.....	17
Forgotten Items.....	18
Illness.....	18
Lost and Found.....	18

Messages.....	18
School Closings – Inclement Weather.....	18
Telephone Policy.....	19
Visitors/Guests.....	19
Disciplinary Procedures	19
Consequences for Misconduct.....	19
Consequences for Dishonesty.....	20
Dress Code	21
General Guidelines.....	21
Shoe Guidelines.....	22
Physical Education Dress.....	22
Extracurricular Activities / Opportunities	22
Honors and Awards	23
Publications and Communication	24
Whom to Call	24

Guiding Principles

Mission Statement

The University School of Jackson, a distinctive college preparatory school, seeks to instill a passion for academic excellence and lifelong learning so each student will reach his/her maximum potential.

Identity Statement

USJ is a non-denominational, nonsectarian, college preparatory school dedicated to academic excellence and to our founding principles of faith, service, and scholarship. Based on a heritage founded in Judeo-Christian values, we provide an educational environment where students of all ethnic, cultural, and religious backgrounds are valued and respected. The faculty, administration, and students are empowered to nurture and embrace the Judeo-Christian values and our operating principles. Through the fulfillment of our mission and adherence to these core principles and values, we prepare our graduates to be responsible and informed world citizens.

Values and Operating Principles

1. Integrity

- A. We are firm and compassionate as we build strong character.
- B. We create an environment based on moral values and principles.
- C. We are fair and consistent with the discipline and ethical development of each student.

2. Honesty

- A. We are truthful in all dealings.
- B. We honor and keep our commitments.
- C. We use facts as a basis for decision-making and problem solving.

3. Respect

- A. We respect others and value each person's self-worth.
- B. We respect authority, the property of others, and the environment.
- C. We value the diversity of our student body.

4. Responsibility

- A. We accept responsibility for our own actions and give credit to others for their accomplishments.
- B. We develop good work habits by striving for academic excellence.
- C. We encourage confidence and independence.

5. Excellence

- A. We hire and retain the best available faculty, consistent with our mission.
- B. We set high standards and cultivate an environment of excellence.
- C. We evaluate and pursue all alternatives for enhancing the academic strength of the school.

2011-2012 Administration, Faculty and Staff

Head of School -	Clay Lilienstern
Middle School Director -	Courtney Burnette
Administrative Assistant -	Edgar Willis
Dean of Students -	Jim Hardegree
Middle School Secretary -	Terrie Kirby
Athletic Director -	Jody Evans
Athletic Coordinator -	Mickey Marley
Athletic Coordinator -	David Rohm
Computer -	Linda Truex
English Department -	Marillyn Boggs Ruth Ann Morrison Rob Platt
Fine Arts Department -	Dian Eddleman, music Dr. Tammy Grant, musicals Tom Grant , band & music Anna McPeake, art
Foreign Language Department -	Mike Baskin Chris Leonardi
Library and Media Center -	Beth Vise
MS/ US Counselor -	Debra Anton
Mathematics Department -	Janice Baldwin Christie Thomson Shay Young
Physical Education -	Brian Dunn Jody Evans Chris Leonardi
Science Department -	Brad Dyer Marcia Moss Mary Ellen Vaughn
Social Studies Department -	Shonda Vargason Ryan Wernquist Edgar Willis

History

Officially founded on July 1, 1987, University School of Jackson was established through the consolidation of two independent schools, Episcopal Day School and Old Hickory Academy. With a rich heritage from both schools, USJ has doubled its years of experience and tradition to become the educational pacesetter for West Tennessee.

Accreditation and Memberships

University School of Jackson is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) and is recognized by the Tennessee Association of Independent Schools (TAIS) and the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS). The school holds memberships in the following organizations:

- The American Library Association
- The College Board
- The Educational Record Bureau
- The Jackson Area Chamber of Commerce
- The National Association of College Admission Counselors
- The National Association of Secondary School Principals
- The Tennessee Library Association
- The Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association (TSSAA)
- The Tennessee Teachers of Foreign Languages

Academic Life

Daily Schedule

Middle School Bell Schedule

Rotation by Weeks

Period	Time	B WEEK	R WEEK	U WEEK	I WEEK	N WEEK
1 st	8:00-8:50	A	B	A	B	A
Break/ Advisory	8:55 – 9:10 (assembly Fri 9:45)					
2 nd	9:10 – 10:00	B	A	B	A	B
3 rd	10:05-10:55	C	G	F	E	D
4 th	11:00 – 11:50	D	C	G	F	E
Lunch	11:50 – 12:20					
5 th	12:25 – 1:15	E	D	C	G	F
6 th	1:20-2:10	F	E	D	C	G
7 th	2:15-3:05	G	F	E	D	C
Lab/ Tutorial	3:05-3:30					

Exams

Exam dates are posted on the school calendar and schedules are announced well in advance. Middle School students have 90-minute cumulative exams in all academic classes. The 6th grade exams will count as a test grade, while the exams for all other students will count as 1/7 of the semester grade. Students absent due to illness should obtain an excuse from a doctor. Students absent due to extenuating circumstances must meet with the Middle School Director to determine procedures to make up the exams. Students who have an unexcused absence for an exam may face severe consequences, with the possibility of a grade of zero on the exam.

Grading Periods

- 1st Quarter - August 5 – October 6
- 2nd Quarter - October 7 - December 15
- 1st Semester Exams - December 12 - 15
- 3rd Quarter - January 3 - March 9
- 4th Quarter - March 19 - May 18
- 2nd Semester Exams - May 15 - 18

Grading Scale

A+ 99 – 100	B+ 91 – 92	C+ 82 – 84	D+ 74	
A 95 – 98	B 87 – 90	C 78 – 81	D 71 – 73	
A- 93 – 94	B- 85 – 86	C- 75 – 77	D- 70	F 0 - 69

- A – indicates excellence, substantially above usual expectations
B – indicates good quality work above usual expectations
C – indicates satisfactory work as a basis for further learning
D – indicates less than satisfactory work and is a warning against failure
F – indicates failing work
I – indicates unfinished work due to illness or other excused circumstances

Homework Policy and Make-up Work

USJ maintains high academic standards and homework plays an integral part in those standards. While teachers will strive to ensure that assignments are moderate in length and constructive in quality, Middle School students can expect an average of two (2) hours of homework on most nights. Parents may assist with selected assignments, particularly if memorization is involved; however the completion of assignments is the student's responsibility. It is the responsibility of the student to master the materials covered during an absence from school. When a student has an excused absence, he or she will have one (1) day for each day absent to make-up all missed work for full credit. **After this time period, the possibility exists that missing assignments 10 will become zeros.** Tests, announced in advance, should be taken the day after the student returns to school. However, long-term assignments which have been announced in advance, such as research papers and major projects, must be turned in on their original due dates if full credit is to be considered. Students missing classes for school-sponsored activities, including sports events, are responsible for getting their assignments before they leave and will not receive additional time to complete the work. If students in this category have tests scheduled, they are responsible for making arrangements with the teacher(s) to make up the test.

Re-enrollment

Re-enrollment at University School of Jackson is not automatic. Students are expected to earn their place in the USJ academic community. Students who continue to have academic difficulty and/or whose behavior is deemed unacceptable may accordingly be denied re-enrollment.

Summer School or Summer Tutoring

The Middle School Director may require summer school, summer review or tutoring for students earning grades in the D range or below. USJ teachers will provide review materials/suggestions and a written report from the tutor will be required. All review assignments must be returned to the Middle School Director at least one week prior to the beginning of the new school year. Re-enrollment for these students will depend on satisfactory completion of the summer work. Because the nature of learning in mathematics is sequential and cumulative, a student must demonstrate an adequate mastery of the prior course work before advancing to the next sequential course. A returning student who receives a final grade of F (69 or below) in a mathematics course will be required to attend summer school at USJ. In order to be promoted to the subsequent mathematics course, the student must demonstrate mastery of the material presented in the summer program.

Textbooks

Textbooks are loaned to students by the school. Students are expected to care for the textbooks by keeping them covered at all times and by not marking in them. Parents will be charged for lost or damaged books. Report cards and final records will not be issued until lost or damaged books are paid for or returned.

Tutorials, Voluntary and Required

- The Middle School teachers will be available for tutorials until 3:30 p.m. each day. Teachers and coaches with after-school responsibilities will make alternate arrangements for students to receive tutorial assistance.
- Students may voluntarily schedule appointments in advance to discuss their academic progress, the clarification of assignments, the make-up of missed work and tests, etc.

Students earning a C- or below in a specific class are required to attend tutorials at the teacher's request. Required tutorials preempt extracurricular activities. Tardiness or absence from a tutorial shall be treated as tardiness or an absence from a class. Students requiring ongoing tutorials may be referred for outside tutoring.

Academic Warning and Probation

At the end of every quarter, the Director will review each student's progress. If a student's grades are alarmingly low, the student may be placed on academic warning or probation. The student and his parents may be asked to attend a conference with teachers and the Director in order to discuss problems and solutions for the student's improvement.

When a student's academic progress is not satisfactory, the student may be placed on academic probation and his/her parents will be informed in writing. Academic deficiencies must be seriously addressed and corrected in order for the student to remain at USJ.

Attendance

USJ recognizes that education requires continual instruction, classroom participation, learning experiences, and diligent study for students to reach their maximum potential. Tardiness and absenteeism are detrimental to academic achievement. Research has shown that there is a direct relationship between poor attendance and unsatisfactory scholastic performance. Students with good attendance records have a better chance to achieve higher grades, enjoy school, and learn the responsibility necessary for independence and success in later life.

Realistic distinctions should be made between legitimate and illegitimate absences. Therefore, USJ has established the following categories to encompass the majority of situations. All questions regarding attendance requirements should be directed to the Middle School Director. In the event of communication problems or differences of opinion between home and school, the school reserves the right to determine in which category a particular absence belongs.

A parent must notify the Middle School secretary between 7:45 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. on any day that a student is to be absent from school.

All students returning to school following an absence, regardless of the category, must report to the Middle School office with a note signed by a parent or guardian, stating the reason for the absence.

Early Dismissal and Return

Students may not leave campus or return to campus during the school day for any reason without permission of school officials. The following procedures must be followed when leaving and/or returning to campus:

- When a student has a scheduled appointment, parents should contact the Middle School office before 8:30 a.m. with the intended time of dismissal, so teachers can be notified through morning announcements.
- Parents should pick up students in the Middle School office. Parents or other visitors should never interrupt a class.
- Students leaving campus during school hours must **sign out** in the Middle School office.
- Upon return to school after an appointment during school hours, students must **sign in** with the Middle School secretary.
- Students will not be readmitted to class without an *admit slip* from the Middle School office.

Excused Absence

The following are considered reasons for excused absences:

- Personal illness
- Serious illness or death in the immediate family
- Severe weather or road conditions
- Medical or dental appointments
- School sponsored activities
- Other circumstances as determine by the Middle School Director
- Two (2) Family Days per school year

Unexcused Absence

Students, who are absent for the following reasons, will **not** be given an excused absence. The student will not receive credit for work missed. Under mitigating circumstances and at the faculty member's discretion, the student might be allowed to make up a major test, with one letter-grade penalty.

Excessive Absences

In the event that a student's absences are excessive or are jeopardizing his/her academic success, the school reserves the right to require a doctor's excuse in order for the missed days to be deemed excused.

In accordance with Tennessee state law (49-6-3007) which applies to all independent schools in the state of Tennessee, when a student accrues five (5) unexcused absences from school, written notice will be given to the student's parent or guardian and disciplinary action will be taken. If the parent or guardian fails to rectify the absenteeism, the USJ administration is required by law to report said absenteeism to the appropriate local governmental authorities.

Pre-arranged Absence

The school's vacations are generous in both number and length, and therefore, USJ expects parents and students to observe the dates specified on the school calendar. Exceptions, which are requested in advance, will be considered. By submitting a *Pre-Arranged Absence Form*, in advance, the following absences may be excused for students in good academic standing:

- School sponsored activities which require the student to be absent from school for the entire day
- Two (2) personal days/family days

The *Pre-Arranged Absence Form* may be obtained from the Middle School office. **The form must be approved first by the Division Director no less than one week (5 days) prior to the trip. The student should then present the approved form to each teacher for his/ her signature, request all assignments from the teachers, and make arrangements to make up any missed tests or quizzes.**

Failure to submit the form as outlined above may result in unexcused absences or zero grades for the days missed. If a student's academic standing is in jeopardy, a pre-arranged absence may not be granted.

Tardy to School /Class

Recognizing the school's responsibility to help adolescents through the maturation process, we encourage punctuality, considering it to be a virtue in one's personal and professional life.

- Students not in their classrooms at the appointed times will be considered tardy.
- Students may accumulate a total of five (5) tardies per quarter without penalty.
- Excessive tardies may result in detention and possible suspension or Saturday school.

Students who arrive late to school or late to class must report to the Middle School office for an admission slip. All tardies will be considered unexcused unless excused by the Director.

Conduct

Code of Conduct

Administration and faculty hold high, yet reasonable, expectations for USJ students regarding behavior. Students are expected to accept responsibility for their behavior and treat all members of the school community with courtesy, respect and kindness. In like manner, parents are expected to support the school's policies.

Commendable Conduct

- Be on time for classes, assemblies, and school functions.
- Show respect toward others, in word and deed.
- Comply with the dress code.
- Take part in maintaining a clean, safe campus.
- Be a productive and responsible member of the school community.
- Cooperate immediately with the directions of any member of the USJ administration, faculty or staff.

Displeasing Conduct

- *Chronic tardiness or absenteeism
- Vulgarity in any form, by word or deed
- Public displays of affection
- Physical, emotional or sexual harassment
- Physical abuse in any form, such as fighting or hitting
- Playing too roughly, including pushing, wrestling, running indoors
- Gum chewing
- Abuse, theft or violation of personal or school property
 - Misuse of school technology
 - Disrespect toward another person, by word or deed
 - Possession of anything that could be used as a weapon
 - Use of cell phones, pagers, personal stereos, computer games, or any other electronic devices during normal school hours

Cell phones

Cell phones and pagers disrupt the academic environment; therefore, USJ prohibits the use of cell phones and other telecommunication devices during the instructional school day. Such devices will be confiscated and parents will be contacted. The Dean of Students will only return the item(s) to the parents. Parents, PLEASE avoid using cell phones to communicate with students during normal school hours. (8:00 a.m.-3:05 p.m.)

Failure to follow the above guidelines will result in the following:

- First offense: The device will be held by the Dean of Students and must be retrieved by a parent.
- Second offense: The cell phone is held for one week by the Dean of Students, the student is assigned a detention, and the phone must be retrieved by a parent.
- Third offense: The cell phone is held for two weeks by an administrator, the student is assigned an in-school suspension, and the phone must be retrieved by a parent.

Further violations of this policy will result in a conference and more severe disciplinary action.

This policy is cumulative for all three years of middle school. That is, the enumeration of offenses does not start over each academic year.

The chewing of gum is not allowed at any time on the school premises.

Hands Off Policy

Inappropriate touching that could be interpreted as sexual harassment or contact that is physically abusive will not be tolerated. It is the responsibility of students and faculty to report such infractions.

Honesty

USJ attempts to provide an environment where students develop intellectually, as well as socially and emotionally. In order to accomplish our goals, values are taught, learned and practiced on a daily basis.

- Homework assignments are to be prepared independently unless a student is given permission by a faculty member to work with others.
- Tests and quizzes are to be taken independently, without seeking or giving assistance.
- Plagiarism (use of another person's ideas, thoughts, etc., without giving credit to the source), cheating on homework, tests, or quizzes, and lying are considered to be serious behavior infractions, with serious consequences.
- If a student questions whether his/her work might be considered plagiarism, a faculty member should be consulted for advice immediately, not after a work has been submitted.

Locker Policies

Lockers are provided to students as a privilege and should be treated as such.

- Students should never open or remove items from another student's locker without permission.
- Locks are not provided by the Middle School. However, if a student chooses to use a lock, the locker combination or extra key must be kept on file in the Middle School office.
- Lockers must be kept clean, inside and out.
- No food or drink is to be left inside the locker after the end of the school day.
- Students may only use the locker to which they have been assigned.
- Students are cautioned not to keep valuables or money in the lockers.
- All lockers and their contents are subject to inspection by school authorities for any reason at any time.

Tobacco, Alcohol, and Illegal Substance Policy

The possession or use of tobacco (in any form) will not be tolerated on the USJ campus or at any school events held on or off campus. The possession or use of alcohol or illegal substances on campus, at school events held on or off campus, or at any off-campus location may result in severe disciplinary consequences, including expulsion from USJ.

Weapons and/or Threats of Violence

Guns, knives, clubs, and any other item, which could be reasonably considered a weapon, are prohibited on the USJ campus or at any school sponsored event held on or off campus. (Law enforcement officers or those legally authorized by the state are the only exceptions to this policy.) Students found to be in possession of a weapon will be subject to immediate suspension or expulsion.

Students found to have made threats of violence or harm against school property, students, employees or others will be subject to strict disciplinary action, including expulsion, and will be referred to appropriate community agencies, including law enforcement and mental health services.

Daily Operations

After-School Carpool Procedures

Carpool procedures for dismissal will begin at 3:05 p.m. For the safety and security of the students, all students should be picked up **no later** than 3:30 p.m. Any students remaining in the carpool area after 3:30 p.m. will be moved to the front lobby of the building to wait for parents. Parents with extenuating circumstances should contact the Middle School Secretary or Director as soon as possible to make us aware of a late pick up time. There will be one (1) carpool lane available. The lane closest to the building is intended for loading students ONLY. The outside lane will be used for exiting. No students are to load in the outside lane.

If the student is not ready for pick up, the parent needs to move to the end of the concrete area outside the cafeteria. If necessary, please circle around again.

Early Arrival to School

Middle School students arriving at school prior to 7:50 a.m. should report to the cafeteria. Students are not permitted in the classrooms or locker room areas before 7:50 a.m. The only exception to this policy would be if a teacher grants a student permission to meet him/her for early morning tutorials.

First Aid and Medication

Minor illnesses and injuries will be treated in the Middle School secretary's office. All students must have a Medical and Emergency Information Release form on file in the Middle School office. If it becomes necessary for a student to take any form of medication during school or school activity hours, a signed note from the parent must be presented to the Director. All medications will be kept or dispensed through the Middle School secretary's office.

No aspirin or stomach distress medication containing aspirin will be administered. The school has available acetaminophen tablets, ibuprofen tablets, and Emetrol, a non-aspirin stomach buffer. These will be dispensed by permission through the Medical Release form, required to be signed by a parent.

Any student receiving an injury at USJ should report the injury to the supervising faculty member immediately. Any student requiring assistance, other than initial first aid, will be taken to the clinic or hospital by local ambulance or school personnel. ***Every effort will be made to reach a parent or guardian in the event of an emergency.***

Food Service and Lunch Cards

Hot and cold breakfast items are served on the Middle School/Upper School campus, beginning at 7:15 a.m. each day. Snacks may also be purchased from the cafeteria during the days that the Middle School students have break. The cafeteria serves a variety of hot and cold items for lunch. There is no fixed lunch plate; all menu items are a la carte. Also, please know that all or part of your child's lunch may be brought from home. Microwave ovens are available for student use.

USJ operates a cashless meal program. All students must make their cafeteria purchases with a debit card. To deposit money onto the cafeteria debit card, send cash or a check made out to "USJ Cafeteria". Deposits may be made in a minimum amount of \$25.00. It is possible to request a daily money limit for a cafeteria debit card. If a card is lost or damaged beyond use, a replacement card costs \$5.00. If purchases by a student result in a negative balance, the cafeteria clerk will immediately collect the student's cafeteria debit card. Only one (1) lunch pass will be issued to the student until a positive balance has been restored.

Forgotten Items

USJ Middle School strongly encourages the development of student responsibility. Parents are discouraged from bringing forgotten assignments, projects or athletic equipment to school. If it is absolutely necessary to bring items to school, please know that NO items (books, homework, projects, etc.) will be delivered to students while classes are in session. Items will be available for pickup in the middle school office between classes.

Illness

Parents should not send an ill child to school. In many cases, simply removing the risk of exposure best alleviates the spread of disease. Any student who becomes ill at school should report to the Middle School office so that his/her parents may be notified. A student should never dismiss himself or herself from school, and should sign out upon leaving school with a parent.

Lost and Found

Students are encouraged to be responsible in keeping up with their books, clothing, and other belongings. All materials brought to school should be labeled with the student's name. Report lost articles to the Middle School secretary and turn in found articles to the lost and found area in the Middle School office. Articles remaining unclaimed by the end of each quarter will be given to a charitable organization.

Messages

Only emergency messages will be delivered to students during the school day. Please make all necessary transportation arrangements ahead of time, rather than relying upon messages.

School Closings – Inclement Weather

If inclement weather conditions or emergencies make it necessary to close school, parents will be notified by our telephone notification system, SchoolReach, radio and/or television as soon as possible. You may also check our school website at www.usjbruins.org. During a tornado alert period, the school monitors the countywide warning system. The following stations are sources for USJ announcements:

Radio Television

1310 AM (WDXI) 101.5 FM (WNWS)
1390 AM (WTJS) Q102 FM (WZDQ) WBBJ (Channel 7)
1460 AM (WJAK) 103.1 FM (WMXX)
88.7 FM (WIGH) 104.1 FM (WTNV)
92.3 FM (WYNU) 105 FM (WLSZ)
95.3 FM (WTBG) 106.9 FM (WWYN)
KIX 96 FM (WFKX) 107.7 FM (WHHM)

Telephone Policy

Telephones are available for student use in the Middle School office and at the reception area in the front of the school. **Use of the Middle School office telephone is restricted to emergency use only.** Students may not be dismissed from class to use the telephone, except in the case of an emergency and with the permission of the Middle School secretary or Director. If it is necessary for a student to contact someone in a long distance area code, the student must have a long-distance calling card.

Visitors / Guests

Providing a safe environment for our school family is our first and foremost priority; therefore, student visits will be limited to family members only. The Middle School Director must approve any exceptions to this rule. **All visitors** must report to the front reception area to receive a pass before being allowed to enter the Middle School area. Visitors are to check in at the Middle School office upon arrival and again when leaving.

Guest visits will not be permitted during semester exams.

Disciplinary Procedures

USJ reserves the right to reprimand or dismiss a student for conduct on or off campus that is detrimental to the reputation or best interests of the school or its students or to USJ's standards of honor and respect. The Head of School will be the ultimate authority and final decision-maker as to the meaning, interpretation and application of discipline. Mitigating or aggravating circumstances may influence a disciplinary decision. Factors considered may include, but are not limited to, seriousness of the offense, prior offenses, intent, provocation, and attitude.

The administration will report all major disciplinary problems to the parents.

The Head of School will be the ultimate authority and final decision-maker as to the meaning, interpretation and application of discipline. Occasionally mitigating or aggravating circumstances may influence a disciplinary decision. Factors that may be considered include, but are not limited to, seriousness of the offense, prior offenses, intent, provocation and attitude.

Middle School students have a special obligation to meet the high standards of personal conduct at University School of Jackson. Disciplinary procedures have been established to provide guidance and training or to enforce consequences for inappropriate behavior. These procedures support USJ's goals: to maintain a positive learning environment that is physically and emotionally safe for all, to teach students that their actions have consequences, and to help students learn from mistakes.

Consequences for Misconduct

Minor disciplinary issues will be handled at the student/teacher level whenever possible. Students who persist in inappropriate behavior will be referred to the Dean of Students, the Middle School Director or the Head of School. Misconduct may result in one or more of the following consequences:

Detention

A detention serves as a concrete consequence for the violation of school rules. Detention is held on Tuesdays and Thursdays at a time determined by the Dean of Students. The student serving detention will be assigned specific duties, such as cleaning or yard work. If a student fails to appear, a double detention will be assigned.

In-school suspension

There are times when the administration determines that a student must be suspended temporarily from the normal daily routine of school life. A suspension may last from one to five days. The student will be required to attend school, but will be isolated from the student body for the term of the suspension. The student will work on regular assignments and be expected to complete assigned tests. Credit for such work will be determined by the nature of the offense.

Off-campus suspension

A student assigned off-campus suspension is not allowed to enter the campus during the term of the suspension. All assigned work must be completed before the student returns to the classroom. A student serving an off-campus suspension will receive zeros for all assignments.

Expulsion

In all matters of behavior and conduct, the Head of School has the authority to remove a student from USJ if the student is in violation of school rules and policies and the student's conduct is detrimental to fellow students, teachers, and the school community.

Consequences for Dishonesty

Students at USJ need to understand that academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to:

- Copying someone else's homework
- Giving homework to someone, so that it can be copied
- Plagiarizing – using another person's work, ideas, or a quotation, as if it were one's own
- Using unauthorized notes (i.e. a "cheat sheet" of any kind)
- Giving or receiving help on a test by: talking to another person or showing work to another person during the test or talking about the test after it has been taken to someone who has not yet taken the test.

It is the responsibility of each student in the USJ community to make sure his or her behavior is above reproach. In all cases of cheating, both the student who copies and the student who knowingly allows work to be copied will face disciplinary action.

Consequences for acts of academic dishonesty may vary depending upon the details of the offense. Students need to be aware that two or more acts of academic dishonesty could result in expulsion or a decision to not allow a student to return to USJ.

Dress Code

USJ believes that standards of neatness and appropriateness in clothing encourage an atmosphere conducive to learning, work and discipline. We expect all students to dress in accordance with the Uniform Guidelines on a daily basis. Any faculty member may question whether a student's attire is acceptable, but appropriateness of dress will be decided by the administration.

Dress Code (contd)

USJ's policy on school uniforms is based on the principle that school uniforms:

- Promote a sense of pride in the school.
- Engender a sense of community and belonging towards the school.
- Are practical and smart.
- Prevent students from coming to school in fashion clothes that could be distracting in class.
- Make students feel equal to their peers in terms of appearance.

All USJ parents are expected to support the school uniform policy. Parents have the ultimate responsibility for ensuring that their children come to school properly dressed and ready for their daily school work. It is the responsibility of parents to ensure that their child has the correct uniform and that it is clean and in good repair.

General guidelines concerning daily attire/appearance:

- All USJ dress code items must be purchased from Parker School Uniforms, Inc.
- All clothing items should be worn properly and should be size-appropriate.
- Shirrtails must be tucked in at all times. The only exceptions are the girl's oxford over-blouse and the girls, fitted, "fashion knit" polo.
- Skirts must be no shorter than 3 inches above the top of the knee. Skirts must have hems.
- A black or brown belt must be worn with pants or shorts designed with belt loops.
- Non-USJ outerwear may be worn outdoors, but should be placed in the student's locker upon arrival at school.
- Students may not wear hats, bandanas, scarves or other headwear inside the building.
- Socks, knee socks, tights, and leggings must be a solid color - navy, white, brown, black, red, grey, or flesh tone ONLY. Lace on leggings is not allowed. Patterned tights or leggings are not allowed.
- Boys must be clean-shaven daily, and hair should not be worn below the collar or below the eyebrows.
- Piercings of any kind are not permitted for males.
- Piercings for females, other than the ear lobes, are not permitted. Ear piercings deemed by the administration to be excessive in number are also not permitted.
- Undershirt sleeves must be shorter than the uniform shirtsleeves. All undershirts must be white in color.
- Accessories, such as watches, bracelets, necklaces and earrings, should be appropriate and non-distracting.
- Tattoos are not permitted.
- All hairstyles should be in good taste and neatly groomed. Unnatural coloring of hair is prohibited.
- All dress code guidelines apply to USJ students until they have formally graduated from USJ.

Shoe Guidelines:

- Shoes must be clean and in good repair.
- Athletic shoes in white, gray, or black may be worn.
- Appropriate dress or leather sandals will be allowed.
- Flip flops are not permitted.
- Sport sandals, such as Tevas or Chacos, are permitted, but they must have a strap around the back of the sandal.
- Closed toe shoes are allowed in the following solid colors: brown, navy, black, burgundy, or red.
- Casual style boots, such as hiking or cowboy boots, may be worn only with pants. No boots may be worn with skirts, shorts, or skorts.

The Division Director may declare spirit days and allow students to wear school spirit shirts, or dress up days, or allow students to wear other uniforms such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, band, chorus, or athletic teams. Questions concerning uniforms should be directed to the Head of School or the Division Director.

Physical Education Dress

All Middle School students will be required to dress out for Physical Education class. The clothing required for P.E. class is a T-shirt (in accordance with the dress code), shorts, socks, and tennis shoes. Any additional requirements will be at the discretion of the Physical Education teacher.

Extracurricular Activities / Opportunities

All extra-curricular activities, including athletics, fine arts performances, dances, Middle School chorale, and Student Council activities will adhere to the following policies:

Eligibility

Because USJ exists primarily to provide an excellent college preparatory education, academic requirements must take precedence over extra-curricular activities. In order to participate in an athletic or fine arts activity, students are expected to:

- Successfully complete the academic requirements in 5 subjects.
- Abide by USJ's high citizenship standards.
- Satisfy any additional requirements imposed by the sponsor, director or coach.

If a student's academic performance reflects deficiencies in two or more subject areas, the student may be removed from athletic and fine arts practices, games, and performances until the student's academic average in those subject areas has improved to a C- or above grade.

A student must be present for at least three class periods to be permitted to participate in any extra-curricular activity, practice, game or performance.

Guidelines for Athletes, Cheerleaders, and Performers

- Students will be expected to attend all practices, performances and games, or notify the coach/director in advance if unable to attend.
- If a student misses a practice, game, or performance without notifying and obtaining permission from the coach/director, appropriate disciplinary action will be administered.
- Students must be punctual for practices, games, and performances. Tardiness will not be tolerated.
- A student should conduct himself/herself in a courteous and respectful manner at all times.
- When traveling to and from activities in school transportation, students should behave in such a manner that the safety of another person is not endangered. Personal headsets may be used, provided they do not interfere with the privacy of others.
- Students must always remember that they represent USJ and their behavior must reflect positively on the school.
- Abusive or profane language is not permitted at any time for any reason.
- A student will not use tobacco, alcohol, or illegal or unauthorized drugs while representing USJ.
- The proper dress for travel or participation will be at the discretion of the coach/director.
- Upon the completion of games/performances, students will not be allowed to leave the area without the approval of the coach/director.
- If a student misses class due to a school-sponsored activity, it is the student's responsibility to make up all missed assignments and tests.
- Students are expected to follow all policies established in the student/parent handbook.
- Any student returning from a school-sponsored event before 11:30 p.m. MUST attend classes the next day. If a student does not adhere to this policy, he/she will be given an unexcused absence.

Honors and Awards

Middle School students at University School of Jackson are recognized for outstanding accomplishments during special ceremonies at the close of each academic year. Honors and awards are given to those students who, through their effort and ability, choose to meet and exceed the challenges offered in the USJ programs. Selections are based on criteria established by faculty, sponsoring organizations, and administrative committees. New students must be enrolled for the full second semester in order to be eligible for an academic award.

The following is an incomplete list of the awards presented each year:

Subject Certificate Top Students in Academic Subjects

Duke Talent Search – for 7th grade students who scored at the 95th percentile or higher on 6th grade ERB tests in selected categories or who scored a 125 or higher on the OLSAT test (5th grade).

President's Award 8th Graders with high academic honors, outstanding Leadership qualities - teacher recommendation required

Youth Character Awards Students who demonstrate admirable character traits such as respect, responsibility and concern for others

Head of School Scholar Students earning all A's

USJ Scholar Students earning all B's or better

Student Council Officers and class representatives

Math Teams Outstanding Participants

Middle School Chorale Outstanding Participants

Physical Education Outstanding Participants

Art Outstanding Participants

Music Outstanding Participants

Computer Outstanding Participants

Publications and Communications

Monthly Calendar

Students and parents should check the USJ website frequently for updated information on the monthly calendar.

NetClassroom

NetClassroom is a convenient, secure and effective way for parents and students to instantly be informed of assignments and grades from home. For new families, a personal user ID and password may be obtained from the division office.

USJ Website (www.usjbruins.org)

The website for USJ is an excellent resource for all students and parents.

Weekly Walkhome

The **Weekly Walkhome** may be accessed from the USJ website each Friday afternoon. This publication contains pertinent information pertaining to announcements and events concerning the Middle School. The weekly test calendar is included in this publication.

Whom to Call

The Middle School office is staffed from 7:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. on a daily basis. It is impossible to provide an exact chain of command of whom to call for every situation. A general rule of thumb should be to begin at the level closest to a particular problem or situation.

Absences (call by 8:30 a.m.), emergency messages for students, assignments for a sick child:
Terrie Kirby, Middle School Secretary (731) 660-2110

Athletic Jody Evans, Athletic Director (731) 664-0812 ext. 43
Mickey Marley, Athletic Coordinator (731) 664-0812
David Rohm, Athletic Coordinator (731) 664-0812

Cafeteria accounts Tammy Smith, Cafeteria Student Accounts Clerk , (731) 664-0812 ext. 42

Academic concerns Academic teacher (731) 664-0812

Disciplinary issues Jim Hardegree, Dean of Students (731) 664-0812 ext. 34 or
Middle School Director, Courtney Burnette (731) 664-0812 ext. 15

Field Trips Edgar Willis, Trip Coordinator (731) 664-0812

General/Personal Courtney Burnette, Director (731) 664-0812 ext.15

Other Concerns Debra Anton, MS/ US Counselor (731) 664-0812 ext.23

