THE UPPER GRADES AT JOHN MUIR MAGNET SCHOOL
We get kids outside, we educate through experience, and nurture through nature

JMMS Tenets

Constructivist Philosophy
- Students learn new concepts in relationship to previous knowledge and experience
- The construction of knowledge by the student leads to comprehensive authentic learning

Natural Science
- Interaction with the natural world supports academic growth
- Students build deep relationships with the natural world through continuous interaction with purposefully selected outdoor sites
- By empowering students through on-going, holistic experiences with an outdoor campus, they develop a sense of their place in the natural world
- Stewardship becomes a part of each student’s lifelong relationship with nature

Community
- Positive social relationships are essential to a successful learning community
- Small schools enhance student comfort and learning
- The behavior of students indicates their emotional comfort and the community’s health

Restorative Justice
- Focus on positive redirection and ownership of one’s actions rather than punitive consequences
- Community-based and focused on repairing harm and restoring relationships as natural conflict occurs
- Empowers students to communicate their emotional needs through honest dialogue
- Creates a safe space for open classroom discussions

Contact Us:
John Muir Magnet School
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Email: Rebecca.Gyarmathy@Ashland.k12.or.us

Oregon Department of Education
STATE REPORT CARD RATING
2013-2014
5* (OUTSTANDING)
MODEL SCHOOL DESIGNATION
2012-2013
5* (OUTSTANDING)
MODEL SCHOOL DESIGNATION
2011-2012: OUTSTANDING*
2010-2011: OUTSTANDING*
2009-2010: OUTSTANDING*
* highest possible

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Academics at JMMS

The teaching staff at John Muir plan and base integrated units on the Common Core and Next Generation Science Standards. Math at JMMS in the middle grades is taught in small grade-level groups using the same curriculum as all other middle school grades in the district.

School-Wide Units of Study

During Professional Learning Community (PLC) time, staff collaborate in aligning school-wide units and formative assessments to guide teaching and student learning.

At any given time, all students at John Muir will be learning about the same general theme at varying levels of rigor. Teachers plan K-8 articulated curriculum and assessments, cross-age work, content reading buddies, cross-aged field trips, and older/younger research projects. Examples of school-wide units include: Ecosystems, Water, Geology, Physics, Social Justice and Life/Earth Cycles.

JMMS Might Be Right for You if You Value:

- Small communities
- Outdoor education
- Experience-based learning
- Contextual curriculum
- Collaborative learning
- Music and art
- Hiking and exploring
- Qualitative assessment

Field Study Venues and Outdoor Education Trips

Outdoor studies connect us to our local community, while strengthening our students’ self-confidence, adding depth to our academic studies, and providing students with the opportunity to establish a sense of place and a deep connection to nature.

Students are outside the classroom almost every Friday in support of our units of study and local stewardship projects. Through this experience, students are gaining hands-on application of classroom concepts and valuable life-long outdoor skills such as preparedness, safety and group awareness.

Our partnership with local organizations and extended outdoor opportunities include: EarthTeach Forest Park, North Mountain Park, Rogue River Keepers, TouVelle State Park, SOU Outdoor Adventure Leadership Program, Lomakatsi Restoration Project, Mt. Ashland, Deer Creek Outdoor School, Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, KS Wild, Oregon Department of Forestry, United States Fish and Wildlife, and many others.

Middle School Music at JMMS

Our entire school gets together for Community Music one morning per week. It is a time to gather together and sing, accompanied by upper-grade students playing instruments in the school band. Music is geared towards songs that span a variety of genres and eras. The school band practices one afternoon each week under the supervision of well-known local artist, Sage Meadows, who is also our school music teacher. Students attend music one hour per week as a class.

Middle School Art Focus at JMMS

The arts are integrated throughout the academic curriculum, units of study and outdoor education curriculum. Drawing and painting are among the art forms used to support and express learning experiences. The year is broken into three trimesters, two of which are focused on formal art instruction and technique through contracts with local professional artists who are funded by our parent collective. The third trimester is elective-based and volunteer-run, giving students a diversity of choices and opportunities to explore a variety of art mediums, life skills, and hands-on projects.

Rites of Passage and Leadership at JMMS

Rites of Passage and leadership opportunities are thoughtfully incorporated into each grade level to honor student developmental needs and personal growth. These include:

- Backpacking Trips
- 8th Grade River Float
- Downhill and Cross-Country Skiing
- Annual Unit Studies Overnight Trips
- Leadership of All-School Events
- Classroom Assistance with Younger Students
- Weekly “Book Buddy” Reading with Younger Students
- Eighth Grade Capstone Projects
- Menu Planning, Cooking and Camp Duties on Outdoor Trips