

Welcome to Juanita High School

Transition Tool Kit for
High School Families



WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW: INDEX

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FROM MIDDLE TO HIGH SCHOOL: WHAT IS DIFFERENT?

- **Curriculum:** grades, course selection, and rigor start to inform your student's post-graduation path, especially if college is the goal. You can help track work; however, your student(s) should become comfortable taking charge of their learning. Parents/Guardians sign off on their student's course selections.
- **Communication:** It is helpful for students to form a connection with teachers, and their school counselor. This is also useful later for letters of recommendation.
- **Extra-curricular:** Student involvement in clubs and/or sports is more targeted, and highly recommended for all students, but especially for those on a path to college. Colleges like to see balance, and students are expected to seek out activities and engage on their own. They can even start their own club. In addition to electives, ASB, and leadership, High School also has Booster Clubs.

PARENT TO SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

- **Curriculum Night:** plan to attend! It is an opportunity to meet each of your student's teachers and visit the classroom. This event is usually held in September.
- **Communication with teachers:** teachers appreciate students advocating for themselves before a parent/guardian steps in. E-mail is a great way to reach teachers.
- **Communication with the Principal:** our Principal sends out email newsletters.
- **General Communication:** the JHS PTSA sends out a monthly newsletter. The [Juanita High School website](#) and the [JHS PTSA website](#) are valuable sources of information. The JHS PTSA also has a public Facebook page.

PARENT TO SCHOOL COMMUNICATION: KEY CONTACTS

JHS.LWSD.ORG has a [JHS Staff Directory](#) with e-mail information

Administrative Team:

Principal: Kelly Clapp

Associate Principals: Kelly Konicki, Christine McMillan, Stacey Zachau

Dean of Students: Breck Ivy

Athletic Director: Jason Thurston

Activities Coordinator: Travis Salmi (ASB, clubs, student leadership)

Absence/Late Arrival/Early Dismissal: call 425-936-1607 or
email JHS-Attendance@lwsd.org

PARENT TO SCHOOL COMMUNICATION: OTHER CONTACTS

JHS.LWSD.ORG has a [JHS Staff Directory](#) with e-mail information

- **Counseling Office:** students assigned by last name. Also includes school psychologists.
- **Librarian:** Michael Fleming 425-936-1600 Ext. 61632
- **School Bus Route Info:** [LWSD Transportation Services](#)
- **Office Staff:** Alice Wheeler, office manager. Main office: 425-936-1680
- **Bookkeeper:** Lynn Granger 425-936-1617

KEEPING TRACK OF STUDENT WORK, GRADES, & FEES

- Microsoft Teams – a learning management system and gradebook used staff, students, and families. Students can see their assignments, and link to their work in OneNote. LWSD has helpful [Teams support videos on their website](#).
- [The Counseling Office](#) information about class choice and graduation planning, including pathways to graduation.
- High School and Beyond Plan (Zello) – students are required to complete, they explore their interests, potential future careers, and research post-secondary education options.
- Fees typically include: ASB fee (\$50, for students participating in sports or an ASB club), yearbook (optional), class fees, parking, test fees, graduation regalia. Financial assistance is usually available – contact the counseling office.
- Social event tickets (dances etc) and Raven Gear are frequently sold on campus.

[LWSD Students & Families Website](#) has links to important sites, including:

- Skyward Family Access – shows student grades, attendance record, online forms, emergency contact info etc.
- Online Payments – for fees, fines, & athletics
- MySchoolBucks – school lunch accounts
- Final Forms – athletics registration

COUNSELING OFFICE SERVICES

The Counseling Office offers a whole host of services, and your student will want to know who her/his counselor is (determined alphabetically). Encourage your student to meet with their counselor. Students can team up with their counselor to map out their High School and Beyond Plan. Among the services they provide are:

- Course registration and scheduling
- Monitoring of student academic credits and on time graduation plans
- Academic, personal/social and career advising
- Coordination of referrals for community resources
- Comprehensive guidance programming delivered in classroom or other settings
- Guidance for post-secondary planning and application requirements
- Counseling Office Contacts: <https://jhs.lwsd.org/counseling>
- New to the country? Here are some reasons you or your student might connect with a counselor: requesting special accommodations (physical or mental) for your student, questions about graduation requirements, emotional health support, etc.
- The Counseling Office website also includes resources for youth mental health support, in partnership with Evergreen Health and Youth Eastside Services.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- JHS ASB offers about 30 [clubs](#) which generally meet during lunch or after school. Students are also welcome to form new clubs. Options include Honor Society, Astronomy, Chess, DECA, Earth Corps, GSA, Key Club and many more.
- JHS also has a robust Performing Arts program, including [drama](#), and [music](#) (band, choir, & orchestra)
- [Student Leadership](#) includes ASB & Student Council. Elected and Appointed positions who run the student government, manage finances, plan events.

SPORTS AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

[JHS Athletics](#) has information and FAQs for student athletes. Physical forms are required every 2 years.

- Fall Sports – register in August (forms online, final clearance in-person during summer office hours); teams may practice all summer, try-outs prior to the start of school. Registration often opens as early as February of the previous school year. Fall sport coach information is on the athletics website, if incoming 9th graders/new students wish to contact them about Fall sports prior to the school year.
- Winter Sports – register in November (forms online, final clearance in-person during lunch and after school)
- Spring Sports – register in February (forms online, final clearance in-person during lunch and after school)
- A school's ASB funds athletic programs (athletic budgets are approved by ASB and financed with ASB funds).
- [JHS Booster Club](#) helps support athletics and some additional programs through separate non-student fundraising (and follow specific guidelines).

School Dances – Homecoming (October) and Spring dance (March) – open to all students (others need a signed pass from their school); Senior Prom (June)

School musicals, plays and music concerts – watch for information in newsletters and on the reader board

Other Student Run Events (Leadership) – consider following JHS ASB on Instagram

PARENT VOLUNTEERING

- Parents have many opportunities to volunteer in schools. Be on the look-out in the PTSA newsletter (Town Crier) for information on how to sign up. Or sign up with the LWSD Volunteer Coordinator. Parent volunteers are often needed for laptop roll-out and roll-in (beginning and end of school year), and picture day.
- All volunteers must be pre-approved by the district – access application [here](#). *New for 2021 - LWSD volunteers must provide proof of COVID-19 Vaccination*
- Some classes offer opportunities to parents with specific interests or skill sets to participate. Also, music class trips always need parents to join in.
- There are also many roles and specific PTSA events that count on parent support all year long: staff appreciation, school beautification, staff appreciation, and many PTSA support roles that can be done from home on your own time (website administration, newsletter editor etc).
- Booster clubs – these are parent run clubs that support sports, music, robotics and other programs; if your student is in a sport or music class and you have time, become involved.

PTSA IS YOUR PARENT TOOL

- JHS PTSA supports the school, students, and families. The PTSA [website](#) and [Facebook](#) page are great resources for finding out what is going on at the school and in the Lake Washington School District.
- PTSA provides programs such as the Reflections art contest, Fear Free test prep (SAT/ACT), emergency preparation, support for the Counseling Office, classroom grants, staff appreciation, parent education events, sustainability, and student scholarships.
- Becoming a [member](#) is an easy way to support our school community.
- General Meetings held in September, January, March, May, and June.

GLOSSARY

- ASB - The Lake Washington High School Associated Student Body (ASB) is made up of both elected and appointed officials who run the student government. Students in this group manage the student body finances, plan all events such as prom and Homecoming, and work on building positivity in the school. ASB also refers to a student's school ID card. [Link](#)
- ASB Card – Required for sports and other activities such as orchestra and band. A way to think about it is that ASB funds cultural, athletic, recreational and social. Any activity where a student receives a grade from a teacher is not eligible for ASB funding (because grades are academic). students who wish to participate in an after-school sport or ASB club need to pay an ASB fee (\$50 at the high school). [Link](#)
- Booster Clubs – These non-profit organizations are parent-run and support and raise money for sports, music, robotics and other clubs in schools. They help to support competitions and trips that PTA, schools, and ASB are not allowed to fund. [Link](#)
- CTE Dual Credit Courses - Through a partnership with community and technical colleges in the state, certain CTE courses provide students with the opportunity to earn both high school and college credit for the course, if they complete the course with a grade of “B” or better. If a course qualifies for CTE Dual Credit, it will be noted in the course description, and teachers will provide students with information about how to register for CTE Dual Credit. <https://www.lwsd.org/programs-and-services/college-and-career-readiness>

GLOSSARY CONTINUED

- PTA – The parent–teacher association (PTA) or parent–teacher–student association (PTSA) is a formal organization composed of parents, teachers and staff that supports students and teachers, provides information to parents, is a community resource etc. insert your PTSA link and mission here
- Running Start – Running Start is a program in which juniors and seniors who qualify may enroll in college level courses at Bellevue College, CWU Sammamish, Cascadia College, or Lake Washington Institute of Technology and earn high school and college credit concurrently. <https://www.lwsd.org/schools/high-school/high-school-guide/more-ways-to-graduation>
- WANIC (Washington Network for Innovative Careers) – A skill center program, courses offered through WANIC often introduce students to specific career paths. Many skill centered classes have AP attached, students can also earn industry certifications. Some classes include culinary, nursing, emergency response services, computer science, etc. <https://www.lwsd.org/search-results?q=wanic>

DISTRICT-WIDE INFORMATION RESOURCES

- Welcome New Families PTSA Council/LWSD event: held each September– this is a great way to meet district administrators, learn about the school system, network with other parents and community organizations and more; www.lwptsa.net
- Parent Education Events – planned by the PTSA Council in conjunction with the LWSD; professional guests speak on topics of parenting as well as screenings of documentaries such as Screenagers www.lwptsa.net
- Lake Washington School District (LWSD) – is another great source of information as headquarters to all the schools in the district; check out their website on back to school, COVID-19 updates and much more at www.lwsd.org. Have a question? Go to <https://www.lwsd.org/help/lets-talk>

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- This Tool Kit was created by parents for parents, in partnership with schools. It was inspired by conversations with the LWSD administration in the fall of 2019.
- The original idea came from parents as part of a parent focus group initiative brought about by National PTA's Transformative Family Engagement and Whole Child Learning Grant that was awarded to the LWPTSA Council.
- We are pleased to provide local school PTSA's with this tool to be shared with parents so that they can better support their children through the big transitions to middle and high school.
- For questions, contact President@lwptsa.net or EngagementGrant@lwptsa.net
- Grant Co-Chairs: Swarnima Aswinkumar and Irene Neumann
- Grant Committee (2019-2020): Mindy Lincicome, Brandi Comstock, Melissa Stone and Danit Erlich

