

Welcome to the
6th Grade
Catalyst Team

2020-2021

Thomas Jefferson Middle School

The Catalyst Team Teachers

Mr. Howard, Social Studies

Mrs. McCutchen, ELA Reading

Mrs. Ruether, Science

Mrs. Sprenger, ELA Writing

Mrs. White, Math

Catalyst Team



[Catalyst Webpage Link](#)

Schedule

Homeroom	8:20 to 8:50
1st Hour (Core)	8:50 to 9:46
2nd Hour (Core)	9:50 to 10:44
3rd Hour (Core)	10:48 to 11:42
4th Hour (Core)	11:46 to 1:01
LUNCH (ELA)	12:20 to 12:41
LUNCH (Sci/Math/SS)	12:22 to 12:43
5th Hour (Core)	1:05 to 1:59
6th Hour (Encore)	2:04 to 2:56
7th Hour (Encore)	2:59 to 3:51

Mr. Howard

Social Studies, Room 610

Room 610 573.691.6922

trevor.howard@jcschools.us



In social studies we will be covering a wide range of topics; starting with the 5 themes of Geography and moving into areas like Early man and Mesopotamia, Ancient Egypt, Rome and Greece, the Middle Ages, and lastly the Aztec, Inca, Maya and African Civilizations. We will be focusing on major elements of these time periods, and how they have influenced our world today.

Mrs. McCutchen, Reading

amanda.mccutchen@jcschools.us

Room 107 573.691.6866

Plan Time: 2:10 - 3:51 p.m.



In reading, we cover five units: Getting Started, Informational, Narrative, Argumentative and Poetry. Students will be expected to have an independent reading book at all times (of their choice). We read for part of the class everyday and many times have assignments linked to that book.

Mrs. Ruether, Science

teresa.ruether@jcschools.us

Room 612

573.691.6924

6th-grade science focuses on the Earth Sciences. We will work our way from Earth's interior to outer space. Please see the [science curriculum](#) on the school webpage for the list of science standards. We will utilize McGraw-Hill ConnectEd, which can be accessed online from the district's [website](#).



Mrs. Sprenger, Writing

amy.sprenger@jcschools.us

Room 106

573.659.4558



Sixth grade writing consists of five units: Getting Started (an introduction to the writing process), Informative, Narrative, Argumentative, and Poetry. We will go through the writing process in each of the units. It is important that each student comes to writing class with a willingness to put their thoughts on paper. I can help with all other parts of the writing process, but the initial writing has to be theirs.

Mrs. White, Math

tamika.white@jcschools.us

Room 611

573.691.6923

Sixth grade math consists of seven units. The units are Statistics, Rational Numbers, Number Operations, Ratios and Proportions, Expressions, Equations, and Geometry.



Contacting the Team

The best time to contact any team teacher would be between 2:15 and 3:50. Teachers will attempt to return calls and emails at their earliest convenience. Please note that teachers are asked to sub during this time as well and may not be able to return calls or emails right away.

Note: Email or ClassTag is the easiest way to communicate.

TJ Tour

We know students are concerned about never being in our building, please let them know that:

1. There will be many adults at both entrances directing students where to go on the first day.
2. We will tour the building as a homeroom to locate their classes at the beginning of the first day.

[Virtual Tour](#)

Parent Portal

In sixth grade, it is important that parents are able to access the Infinite Campus Parent Portal to check their child's grades and missing assignments. If you have not logged into Parent Portal please email portalhelp@jcschools.us.

Covid Expectations

- Students must wear mask when social distancing is not possible. This will be in most classrooms.
- Students must gel in and gel out of class with hand sanitizer.
- If eating breakfast at school, students will pick up their food as they enter the wing on their way to homeroom. Both breakfast and lunch will be eaten in the classroom
- Water fountains will be turned off, please bring clear water bottle. Water bottles can be refilled at bottle fillers throughout the day.

Chromebook

Important things to remember

- Students must follow the [CB agreement](#).
- CB will go home with students each night and must return **charged** for the next day.
- Lost chargers are \$25 to replace.
- Chromebook Insurance:
 - [One2OneRisk](#)
 - Standard insurance is \$30; Free and Reduced Families will have a reduced rate. The rate is automatically calculated when you login.

Supplies

Backpack- students will carry backpacks instead of using lockers. **Because of this students will not need a large binder but will use folders instead.**

Please make sure students have:

- 3 composition notebooks
- 2 pocket folders with brads
- pencils
- scissors
- glue stick
- colored pencils and/or markers
- Earbuds (no bluetooth/airbuds)
- Clear plastic water bottle (Water fountains off but a filling station is available)
- Encore supplies from Supply list

Planners

- Students will be given a free planner.
- Students will be required to write assignments daily for each class.
- Students will use the planner as a hallway pass.
- If a student loses their planner there is a \$5 replacement fee.

Cell Phone Policy

It is strongly recommended that students and parents carefully weigh the choice of whether or not to bring personal cell phones, music players, cameras, and other electronic devices to school. These items can be disruptive to the learning environment, often create discipline problems, and are frequently damaged, lost, or stolen. Parents are reminded that in case of an emergency, the main office is the appropriate point of contact to ensure that your child is quickly reached and assisted. If students do bring cell phones and/or other electronic devices to school, they will need to be **turned off during the school day and stored in their backpacks** or assigned lockers. Students who bring cell phones or other devices to school are responsible for the safety and security of those devices. Headphones or earbuds will need to be stored securely and should not be worn during school unless the teacher has approved an activity that requires listening on chrome books or school provided media. The school accepts no responsibility for cell phones or other electronic devices that are lost, damaged, or stolen at school or while traveling to and from school. Cell phones and personal electronic devices will not be used during any part of the school day, therefore, should not be visible during the school day.

Important Dates

Classes Resume—Aug. 24

Picture Day—Aug. 25 (order online)

NO School (Labor Day)—Sept. 7

Early Dismissal—Sept. 16

NO School for Students—Oct. 12

Early Dismissal—Oct. 16

End of Quarter 1—Oct. 23

STUDENT-LED CONFERENCES

September 24

[Jefferson City Schools 20-21 Calendar](#)

Important Links

[Student District Resources](#)

[TJMS Student Handbook](#)

[Thomas Jefferson Middle School Website](#)

[Parent's Guide to Google Classroom](#)

ClassTag

www.classtag.com

- Stay connected with us through ClassTag.
- Please accept our request to join when you receive it through email.
- Teachers post a weekly announcement with assignments.

We are very excited to have your child on our team this year.

Please do not hesitate to contact your child's homeroom teacher if you have any questions.

Let's have a super year!!

"Catalysts Spark the Future"

#TheTJWay