

JCA After School Frequently Asked Questions

Updated 04/06/2021

Please see below for frequently asked questions. Click on each question to view the answer.

If you don't see your question answered here, please feel free to contact our Youth Services Director, Amanda Collins, at (904) 730-2100 ext. 245 or at amanda.collins@jcajax.org.

1. Does the JCA provide snacks to the children?
 - a. Each afternoon, children will receive a kosher snack provide by the JCA. On Fridays, children are offered challah bread as we celebrate Shabbat, the Jewish Sabbath. Additionally, all food served by the JCA is Kosher.
2. What is the counselor to student ratio in the After School Program?
 - a. We strive to maintain a ratio of 1:10 in all areas of our program.
3. Do you have to be Jewish to attend?
 - a. No. We celebrate diversity and welcome children of all faiths. We believe that Jewish values are universal values. We promote fun and meaningful relationships and positive identity building through participation in Jewish cultural activities and practices.
4. Do you have to be a JCA member to attend?
 - a. No. Anyone can participate in the JCA After School Program. JCA members do pay less for our programs and have priority in program registration. In addition to being able to use our wonderful facility, membership may also provide significant savings when participating in JCA programs. If you would like more information, we would be happy to put you in contact with our membership team.
5. Do you offer homework assistance?
 - a. The JCA is happy to offer After School participants access to our homework room which includes a quiet space, computer access, and a staff person who is available to answer questions and provide guidance. Private tutoring is offered for an additional fee.
6. Can I visit the After School Program at the JCA?
 - a. We would love to show you around! However, at this time, parents are not allowed to enter the childcare areas while there are children present in the program. Please contact the Youth Services Director to schedule a time to tour before 2:00 pm.
7. What does a typical day of After School look like?
 - a. Participants in the After School Program follow a daily schedule that includes snack, free choice, Power Hour, and homework time. Each day from 4:15-5:15 pm we offer students a choice of activity during Power Hour. Choices range from sports to arts to science and beyond! Power Hour offers a structured, enriching environment for children to learn, grow, and play! New Power Hours are offered every month. Our schedule is subject to change.

2:45-3:45	Transportation from schools and arrival to JCA. Free choice activities available. Homework room available.
3:45-4:15	Snack Time
4:15-5:15	Power Hour
5:15-5:45	Field Fun or Inside Games
5:45-6:00	Wind down, clean up, and dismissal.

8. Do you pick up on Early Release days?
 - a. Early Release days are included in After School registration. The JCA will follow your school's schedule for Early Release.
9. Do you offer care when there is no school?
 - a. When school is out, every day is a JCAtion at the JCA! JCAtion Days are offered for an additional fee throughout the year. We typically follow Duval County Schools' calendar. The Youth Services Department is closed on Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, the Day after Thanksgiving, Christmas Day, New Year's Day, and Memorial Day.
10. What are the hours of your program?
 - a. The After School Program at the JCA runs from the time school releases until 6:00 pm.
11. From what schools do you provide transportation?
 - a. Currently, the JCA provides transportation from the following local schools:
 - Duval Charter School at Baymeadows
 - Duval Charter School at Mandarin
 - Hendricks Avenue Elementary
 - Loretto Elementary
 - Mandarin Oaks Elementary School
 - Martin J. Gottlieb Day School
 - San Jose Catholic School
 - San Jose Episcopal Day School
 - Seaside Charter Elementary School
 - River City Science Academy at Mandarin
12. My child's school is not on your list? Can we still come?
 - a. If you do not see your child's school on the list, please reach out to a member of the Youth Services team. Schools are chosen on an as-needed basis with a minimum number of registrations required from each school. Each school's dismissal time is also taken into consideration before being accepted.
13. Wow, the JCA has so many classes! Are they included as a part of After School?
 - a. The JCA offers a wide array of optional enrichment classes during the year. Class offerings include but are not limited to dance, theatre, music lessons, sports, yoga, art, STEM, swimming, cooking, and much more. Enrichment classes often take place during the afternoon hours and typically require an additional fee. Registration begins as soon as the information is distributed via Program Guides or posted online at www.jcajax.org. Typically, the instructor for the enrichment class comes to your child's group in After School and brings him/her to the enrichment class. If you prefer to bring your child yourself, you must notify the office of your choice as well as the enrichment instructor. It is the parent's responsibility to notify the Youth Services Department of your child's involvement in an enrichment class.
14. What are your COVID protocols?
 - a. Our procedures and policies may look slightly different than previous years in order to keep everyone safe and healthy. Our programs will change as we implement health and safety guidelines in accordance with the CDC. The situation is fluid; updates and changes to these policies may occur. We will continue our frequent disinfecting, hand washing, and pre-screening protocols. At the present, all employees and children in youth services programs are required to wear face masks. We will continue to follow local health and CDC guidelines.