

JCA After School & Teen Connection Frequently Asked Questions

Please see below for frequently asked questions. If you do not see your question answered here, please feel free to contact our team at any of the following extensions:

Neal Buchholz, JCAmp and Youth Services Director- 237

Evan McInnis, JCAmp and Youth Services Associate Director- 249

Erin Groll-Barrash, Youth Services Assistant Director- 274

Lea Melvin, Youth Services Assistant Director- 245

1. Does the JCA provide snacks for the children?

Yes. Each afternoon, children will receive one kosher snack provided 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. ***Particularly hungry and/or picky individuals should pack an extra snack from home to eat at the JCA.***

2. What is the counselor to student ratio in the After School Program?

We strive to maintain a ratio of 1:10 or better in all areas of our program.

3. Do you have to be Jewish to attend?

No. 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?

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 facilities, 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?

Yes. 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?

Yes! We would love to show you around! Please contact the Youth Services Office to schedule a time to tour before 2:00 pm.

7. What does a typical day of After School look like?

Participants in the After School Program follow a daily schedule that includes snacks, free choice, an elective block, and homework time. Each day from 4:15-5:15 pm we offer students a choice of activities as an elective. Choices range from sports to arts to science and beyond! The elective block offers a structured, engaging environment for children to learn, grow, and play! New elective activities are offered every month. Our schedule is subject to change.

| | |
|-----------|---|
| 2:45-4:15 | Transportation from schools and arrival to JCA. Free choice activities available. Kosher snack provided upon arrival. |
| 4:15-5:15 | Elective Block - Art, Sports, STEM, and more. The Homework Room is open |
| 5:15-5:45 | Wind Down - Field Fun or Inside Games |
| 5:45-6:00 | Clean Up, and Dismissal |

8. Do you pick up on Early Release days?

No. Starting with the 2025-2026 school year, Duval County will not be holding early release days. We will NOT be offering any early release care.

9. Do you offer care when there is no school?

Yes. 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. Care will not be available on those days.

10. What's Teen Connection?

Formerly known as Study Central, Teen Connection is the continuation of After School for middle schoolers. Designed with quality and flexibility in mind for teens and preteens to support socialization, independence, and responsibility in a supervised environment.

11. What are the hours of your program?

The After School Program runs from school release until 6:00 pm.

12. From what schools do you provide transportation?

Currently, the JCA provides transportation from the following local schools with minimum enrollment:

- Beauclerc Elementary
- Duval Charter School at Baymeadows
- Hendricks Avenue Elementary
- LaVilla Middle School
- Loretto Elementary
- Mandarin Oaks Elementary School
- Martin J. Gottlieb Day School
- Seaside Charter Elementary School
- River City Science Academy Innovation Campus
- River City Science Academy at Mandarin

13. My child's school is not on your list. Can we still come?

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.

14. What are the prices for the 2025-2016 school year?

Tuition rates are based on dismissal after 2:30 pm and vary on number of days needed. A discount is also offered to our valued members.

| | After School | | Teen Connection | |
|---------------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| | Guest Fee | Valued Member Fee | Guest Fee | Valued Member Fee |
| Five Days per Week | \$3,342 | \$2,784 | \$1,854 | \$1,545 |
| Four Days per Week | \$3,009 | \$2,508 | \$1,665 | \$1,386 |
| Three Days per Week | \$3,342 | \$2,229 | \$1,485 | \$1,236 |

15. Wow, the JCA has so many classes! Are they included as a part of After School?

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.**