



August 7, 2018

Dear Johnson STEAM Academy Families,

I hope this finds all of you doing well and winding down after a great summer. I have had the opportunity to run into many of you over the summer and know that we all feel that it flew by quickly this year. I continue to be amazed by the passion, kindness, and sense of community at Johnson STEAM Academy (JSA). I am fortunate to be a part of Johnson and am always excited for the start of a new school year. I have a firm belief in the power of positive relationships, so will continue to work hard to establish those with the families, students, staff, and neighbors of JSA.

It is so hard to believe we have wrapped up our third year as Johnson STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) Academy. We are proud of the work that we have done together with students, families, and community members as the first magnet school in Cedar Rapids. While we have so much to celebrate, we always know that there is work to be done.

The staff at JSA has been busy all summer long in preparation for the new school year. Teachers have been participating in days of professional development and planning around project-based learning, integrating content and technology, and providing top-notch hands-on experiences blended with direct instruction of critical skills. We are excited about the 18-19 school year and taking the educational experiences that we design for our amazing students to the next level.

We have had a busy summer at JSA, as we hosted students from Arthur, Garfield, Grant Wood and Johnson for Kids on Course University summer programming. Our custodial staff has been hard at work to make JSA sparkle and be a place that we are all proud of. The JSA staff is committed to continuously looking at ways to make JSA the absolute best it can be!

All of our children deserve the best we can give them and the beginning of each year is a perfect time to make that commitment again to each of our students. The idea of holding high expectations for ourselves and our children is not new at Johnson, but as we begin a new school year at Johnson STEAM Academy our anticipation for success for all is at a high. Our goals and dreams for the future all come into play when we think about working together to help our students become the best that they can be.

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Success comes in many forms at school: through learning, creativity, perseverance, kindness, respect, academic achievement, good attendance, responsibility, and being a good citizen of Johnson STEAM Academy by living The JSA Way. Any building can be a school, but it takes a special mix of committed family, staff, neighbors, and students to make an outstanding learning community like we have at JSA!

Important Dates and Reminders:

- **E-Registration**
 - Log into www.cr.k12.ia.us and go to the PowerSchool link to create an account or log into your existing account. Please feel free to stop in to Johnson if you are having difficulty and we will have computers available and staff to assist in the process. ***It is important that all families have logged into PowerSchool and completed information for e-registration prior to the first day of school.***

- **Tuesday, August 21st from 9:00-11:00 AM: Kindergarten Jump Start**
 - All incoming K students are invited to come in from 9:00-11:00 to meet their teachers, get familiar with the classroom, the school, and routines.
 - While children are with their teachers, parents will have a tour of the school, finalize paperwork, have the opportunity to talk with other parents, hear about the life of a K student at JSA, and learn about Johnson STEAM Academy.

- **Tuesday, August 21st from 3:00-5:00 PM: Open House**
 - Turn in any forms to the office
 - Stop into the Health Clinic to discuss any medical concerns for your child
 - Talk with Johnson STEAM Academy staff
 - Meet your child's teacher, see the classroom, and drop off school supplies
 - Pick up a school calendar for your family (currently available on our website www.johnson.cr.k12.ia.us)
 - Free neighborhood meal hosted by First Congregational Church on the Johnson playground. Please plan to stop out on the playground when you come to school for Open House.



- **Thursday, August 23: First Day of School**

- Please join us if you are able for the Johnson STEAM Academy Welcome Back Ceremony at 10:00
- Early dismissal at 2:20

In This Mailing You Will Find:

- School supply list
- One page school calendar
- JSA Magnet Standards
- E-Registration Parent Login Information

School Hours

The regular school day will begin at 8:50 a.m. and end at 3:50 p.m. Students will be marked tardy if they arrive after 8:55 a.m. We begin supervising students at 8:15 with breakfast served from 8:15-8:40 a.m. Teachers pick up their students from the common areas each morning at 8:40 a.m. On early dismissal days, school ends at 2:20 p.m. with both breakfast and lunch served. It is very important for student safety that they do not arrive at school before 8:15 when supervision is provided.

Everybody, Every Day! Good Attendance Matters

Good school attendance is critical to student success. Any time a student misses school, it can affect student performance. Please ensure that your child gets to school by the official school start time at 8:50. Students will be considered tardy after 8:55 a.m. Tardiness interrupts morning learning and getting the day off to a good start. If your child must be away from school or is going to be late, please contact the main office at 558-2174.

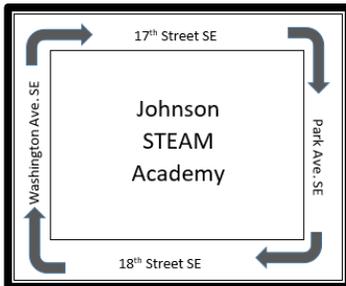
Dropping Off / Picking Up Your Child(ren)

All children students should enter the school through the front doors. The parking areas directly in front of the school should not be parked in and need to be left clear for the school busses and for handicap parking.

All students in 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades will dismiss with their teachers from the Park Ave. doors beginning at 3:50 p.m. and can be picked up on the playground. All 1st and 2nd grade students will exit with their teachers from the playground doors directly onto the playground at 3:50 p.m. Kindergarten students are dismissed from the small front door nearest to Washington Avenue and can be picked up from that exit at 3:50 PM.



Traffic Flow Before and After School



We all know that traffic around the school at drop-off and pick-up times can be frustrating at times. Most of us remain patient with our main priority being safety of our children, each other, and our vehicles.

We ask our families to travel clockwise around the square until you have dropped off or picked up your student(s) at which time you can leave the school traffic on one of the side streets. The clockwise flow around the building ensures that no child has to cross the street in heavy traffic in order to get to their ride.

I am honored to be a part of the JSA community and look forward to meeting our new families and continuing to work with those of you I already know. I am grateful that you share your children with us as we work with you to help ignite passion, cultivate character, and achieve dreams. Together we can provide the opportunities and support to help them become the best students and citizens that they can be. I am looking forward to another terrific school year and can't wait to get started.

Please don't hesitate to contact the school if you have any questions or concerns. We will be happy to help in any way that we can.

Thank you and see you at Open House!

Candace Lynch, Principal
Johnson STEAM Academy