

Welcome to

Lorne Akins Jr. High





Welcome to Lorne Akins Junior High

Dear Future Gator Families,

“Welcome Home, You Belong Here!” is not just our motto, but something we live everyday!

Junior High is an **EXCITING** time in your child’s educational journey! A new school year, a new building, and different experiences around every corner. Students further mold their identity and learn independence. It is our job here at the **SWAMP** to create engaging opportunities and guide our students as they make decisions.

Jr. High is an amazing place to be, but we do recognize that at times, there can be challenges that need help to overcome. We are here to help! We focus heavily on mental support for our **GATORS** and their families. We have a school counsellor in the building full time and dedicates an incredible amount of time to our students. We also have a very active SOGI group that provides a place and space for 2SLGBTQ+ to enable students with diverse sexual orientations, gender identities and gender expressions to have full, safe and equitable participation in all aspects of Lorne Akins. In addition, we have dedicated literacy and numeracy support within the building to support those that require it.

We understand the importance of **connecting** students with one another during the school day. Lorne Akins offers intramurals, multiple clubs, as well as a variety of athletic teams, musical opportunities and fine arts experiences for students to engage with each other.

There is a lot to think about, and many things for our students and their families to learn as they **transition** into a new building. In this document, we hope to answer some of those questions before you find yourself at the end of summer, and at the beginning of the school year!

In between today and the next few months, please feel free to reach out to our front office to have any of your questions answered or visit our website, as you may find some of your answers there.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Mr. Herman
Principal

lorneakins.spschools.org

780.460.3728

la@spschools.org



Supplies

School supply lists operate differently at the Jr. High level. Unlike elementary school you will not receive a grade specific list. Instead, each teacher likes to explain to their students what is needed for each specific subject. This means that you will not know what your child will need until after the first couple days of school.

So... in the meantime having a binder, paper and pencils will suffice for that first day. Having a lock would be beneficial as well.

Also, please keep in mind that we are a **Bring Your Own Device** school, so if you have access to a device please send it with your child. If you do not have access, please know that we can supply your child with one.

Communication

Communication between teachers and families varies greatly from the elementary level to the Jr. High grades.

Building **independence** is the focus throughout the next three years. Your child(ren) will be experiencing numerous teachers, navigating expectations and due dates in 4 core subjects. As you can imagine, this requires a certain level of organization. Not to mention participating in 3 option classes. In many cases, students will be informed of due dates in class. Numerous reminders are given, with usually a week's notice for larger assessments.

Daily and weekly **communication** from each individual teacher is not always possible. Gator teachers care deeply about their students, as you should expect, and offer numerous reminders and opportunities to stay organized, and on top of what is coming up for your child. With that said, students are expected to find an organization strategy that works well for them.

Google Classroom

All core subjects will have a **Google Classroom** attached to them. Teachers will provide assignments and news pertaining to their class. Students will be expected to check this regularly, as instructed by the teacher. Parents usually do not use Google Classroom as this is a student tool.

One useful benefit of using Google Classroom is that digital textbooks can be placed on the sites which means that students do not have to cart their textbooks to and from school. It also helps reduce the amount of materials students have to organize.

PowerSchool

In addition to Google Classroom, all students and parents will have access to POWERSCHOOL. PowerSchool is a **communication** tool that allows both students and parents to see their current marks, assignments handed in or missing. PowerSchool is also used for reporting and for handling school fees.

Email

Anytime you need to get in touch with our staff, teachers or administrators you can always email us. Our emails can be found on our website: [lornekins.spschools.org](mailto:lorne@lornekins.spschools.org)

Using email to connect with teachers is an efficient and effective way to clear up any confusion, update or get clarification on questions you may have.

Cell Phones

Cell phones are permitted within the school, but students are not allowed to have them on their person during instructional time. Students will have access to their phone before class, during morning break, lunch, and after school.

So, if you are needing to communicate with your child during instructional time, please call the front office and we will locate your child for you.

**See school agenda for policy reference on cell phones.*

As you can see, there are a number of avenues we use to communicate with Gator families.

Due Dates and Assignments

As mentioned prior, one of the biggest challenges Jr. High students face is the **organization** surrounding assignments, tests and due dates. At the Jr. High level assignments and their completion matter. Due dates will be given to the students by the teacher and expectations will differ with each teacher.

Parents can follow up with their child(ren) by using **PowerSchool** to check on assignments and current marks for each subject area. In addition, parents can remind their child to consistently check Google Classroom for any upcoming assignments or messages.

Having a conversation with your child(ren) about strategies to stay organized would be beneficial. To aid with organization, students will be provided with a student agenda should they request it.



Bell Schedule

**We have a 2 day cycle: odd and even day.*

Time	Day One	Day Two
8:17 am	Welcome Bell	Welcome Bell
8:20 – 8:24 am	TA (homeroom)	TA (homeroom)
8:27 – 9:17 am	Pd. 1	Pd. 1
9:20 – 10:10 am	Pd. 2	Pd. 2
10:10 – 10:20 am	AM Break	AM Break
10:23 – 11:13 am	Pd. 3	Pd. 3
11:16 – 12:06 pm	Pd. 4	Pd. 4
12:06 – 12:26 pm	Lunch	Lunch
12:26 – 12:49 pm	PM Break	PM Break
12:49 – 1:15 pm	ER (homeroom)	ER (homeroom)
1:18 – 2:08 pm	Pd. 5	Pd. 5
2:11 – 3:00pm	Pd. 6	Pd. 6

** All subjects are 50 minutes in length. Students will have two options and 4 core subjects per day. We operate on a Day 1 and Day 2 schedule.

Prior to the beginning of the year, students will choose 3 options for the year as these are **full year options**. Your child will be placed into options, and will have Phys. Ed added as it is mandatory at the Jr. High level.

We have found that we can offer a more robust option program by having them full year. Additionally, we have learned that students are primarily drawn towards choosing 3 options vs 6 options.

TA's, Clubs and Events

At the Swamp, we aim to have all students **connected** in some way to other Gators.

Teacher Advisories (aka TA's) are homerooms comprised of students from grade 7, 8 and 9. Not only do they meet for morning and afternoon attendance, but they also spend time together for topical group discussions as they arise throughout the year. Another great way to build community is during the monthly TA challenges where the 20 TA's in the school **engage** in friendly competition with one another. Gator Clubs are an excellent way to make connections with other students who have similar interests! Various clubs are offered throughout the week soon after the school year begins.

Clubs Offered: Intramurals, SOGI, Fitness, Video Game, Computers, Sewing, Math Help, Gator Catch Up, Climbing, Band, Jazz, Chess Club, Book Club, GatorSKI and many more.



Events are a great way for us to connect the entire school body. Our TA Challenges, Terry Fox Run, Halloween Activities, Remembrance Day Ceremony, Gator Day Out, Marmot Ski Trip, Track Day and Gr. 9 Farewell/Day Out are excellent examples of large group and whole group **activities** within our school.

Options

One of the most **exciting** things about entering Junior High is **OPTIONS!** Students have the opportunity to choose from a list of options!

- All students will choose three full year options for the year (with PE counting as their fourth option).
- Sports for Life will be a double option block, meaning you will only need to choose 1 more option
- Remember, we have a 2 day cycle, with 6 periods per day. Meaning, you will have your four core classes, plus 2 option classes per day.

See the option list below:

Gr. 7	Cost	Gr. 8	Cost	Gr. 9	Cost
Art 7	\$25.00	Art 8	\$25.00	Art 9	\$25.00
Computers and Technology 7	\$20.00	Computers and Technology 8	\$20.00	Computers and Technology 9	\$20.00
Concert Band 7	\$50.00 (if renting)	Concert Band 8	\$50.00 (if renting)	Concert Band 9	\$50.00 (if renting)
Drama 7	\$0	Drama 8	\$0	Drama 9	\$0
Fitness & Well-Being 7	\$0	Fashion & Textile Crafts 8	\$50.00	Fashion & Textile Crafts 9	\$50.00
French 7	\$0	Film Studies 8	\$0	Film Studies 9	\$0
Gator Learning Support 7	\$0	Fitness & Well-Being 8	\$0	Fitness & Well-Being 9	\$0
Guitar 7	\$20.00	Foods 8	\$100.00	Foods 9	\$100.00
IA/Foods and Fashion 7	\$100.00	French 8	\$0	Industrial Arts 9	\$100.00
Outdoor Education 7	\$30.00 + optional field trips	Guitar 8	\$20.00	Outdoor Education 9	\$30.00 + optional field trips
STEAM 7	\$20.00	Industrial Arts 8	\$100.00	Photography and Photo Manipulation 9	\$30.00
**Sports For Life 7	\$300.00	Outdoor Education 8	\$30.00 + optional field trips	Pop & Rock 9	\$20.00
		**Sports For Life 8	\$300.00	**Sports For Life 9	\$300.00
		STEAM 8	\$20.00	STEAM 9	\$20.00

Option Descriptions

Art 7, 8, 9

Art is a course designed to give students a broad exposure to the medium of art. The students will experience how to express themselves in visual forms. The areas of art to be covered include: design, drawing with pencil, oil pastels, chalks, charcoal, ink and other media, painting (using different paint media such as water colours, poster paint and acrylics), sculpture (soap stone carving, paper mache, plasticine, recycled goods, etc.), cartooning, claymation and printmaking. Art is the creation or study of the beautiful or the meaningful through natural forms, man-made forms, cultural traditions and social activities as sources of imagery through time and across cultures. Students will learn about different styles of art. They will learn about the use of colour to create different moods and feelings. Ultimately, students will understand that art reflects and affects cultural character. Art 7 is designed to expose students to various art forms. The students will learn the principles of drawing, painting and sculpting while developing a portfolio. Art 8 highlights include brain drawings, clay sculpture and a gallery walk through downtown Edmonton. Art 9 prepares students for more sophisticated artistic ventures in high school and to foster an appreciation for the visual arts outside of the school environment.

Computers & Technology 7 (Introductory)

Computer Science is designed to appeal to students who seek knowledge, skill and enrichment beyond regular classroom work. The course will focus specifically on computers, computational thinking, coding, as well as interactive and innovative technologies.

Computers & Technology 8 (Intermediate)

The course will focus specifically on computer skills, computational thinking, coding, as well as interactive and innovative technologies. No prior experience is required, however, it would be beneficial.

Computers & Technology 9 (Advanced)

The course will focus specifically on computer skills, computational thinking, coding, as well as interactive and innovative technologies. No prior experience is required, however, it would be beneficial.

Concert Band 7

Students will experience the trials and triumphs that go along with learning to play a musical instrument. Instrument choices include flute, clarinet, saxophone, oboe, bassoon, trumpet, French horn, trombone, baritone, tuba, bass guitar and percussion. The students will perform in several concerts throughout the year including a Christmas concert and a spring concert at the Arden Theatre. The students will be invited to take part in a music tour, which can range from two to five days with destinations in Alberta or British Columbia. Tour events have included concerts, workshops and/or festival performances as well as recreational activities.

Concert Band 8

Band 8 serves as a natural step-up and progression from Band 7. Students will hone their fundamental theory and playing skills while tackling more diverse musical compositions developed to showcase their performance skills at several concerts performed at the Arden Theatre and in various venues around town. In addition, opportunities for tours, workshops and performances in Alberta and British Columbia have proven to be very enjoyable for the students in past years. Tours include performance and festival work while still leaving time for recreational activities. Approval of the band teacher or the pre-requisite of Band 7 is needed for eligibility into Band 8.

Concert Band 9

This is a continuation of Band 8. Students will continue to develop their skills and perform several concerts throughout the year including a Christmas concert and spring concert at the Arden Theatre. The students will be invited to take part in a music tour, which can range from two to five days with destinations in Alberta or British Columbia. Tour activities can include concerts, workshops and/or festival performances and will include many recreational activities. Band 8 is a pre-requisite for the course; however, students without the pre-requisite may take the course with approval from the band teacher.

Drama 7

This course is aimed at introducing the basic concepts of drama including character, voice, movement, blocking, set design, props, and costume. Students will also have an opportunity to write and perform scripts. This high energy course is designed to help students build skills and demonstrate confidence in performing.

Drama 8

This course is an introduction to more advanced theatre skills. By participating in short solo and group scenes, students will build a better understanding in acting, directing, and playwriting. They will also learn about set design, lighting, and stage management. Self-confidence is an asset for students who enjoy performing in front of an audience, and building it is also a goal of the course. If these activities and ideas meet your interests and curiosity, then Drama 8 is the right option for you!

Drama 9

This course is designed to further develop all of the concepts learned in previous drama classes and apply them to larger productions with the intent of giving public performances. It will give students experience in the major areas of production and playwriting, preparing students for the high school drama and theatre arts courses.

Fashions & Textile Crafts 8 & 9

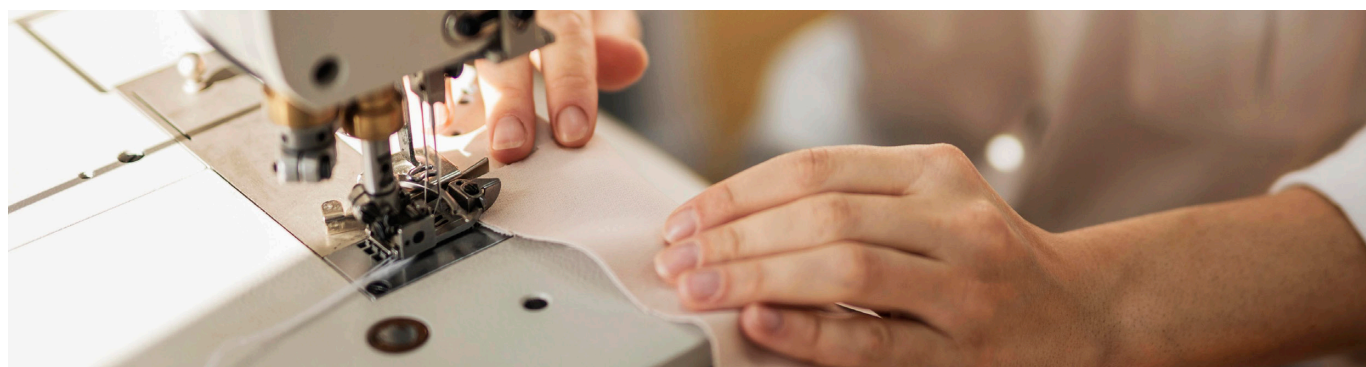
This course is offered to students who would like to try Sewing, Textile Crafts and embroidery. Students will learn about proper layout for fabric, how to properly pin and cut out patterns, and tips and techniques for sewing a professional looking finished garment. In this class you will learn how to operate and work a sewing machine. For Textile crafts, students will make a felt banner, decorative accessories, sachets with aromatherapy, fabric journal and book cover and learn about cross stitch and embroidery stitches.

Film Studies 8 and 9: Introduction to Film and Television

In this class, students will view a wide variety of age appropriate genres in an effort to learn how to appreciate and analyze what they are watching. They will accomplish this by learning how to do such things as: interpreting theme, understanding character development, story structure, and narrative technique through the medium of film, cinema, television series, animation and other forms of media.

Fitness & Well-Being 7, 8, 9

Using the fitness room as a base, students will set personalized goals, create customized meal and workout plans and track their nutrition and fitness progress. Technique will be a focus, ensuring proper use of exercise equipment and safety.



Foods 8

This course is offered to students who are interested in learning about and making different types of Foods. Students will learn through theory and practical methods how to make different foods (through worksheets, lectures and labs). Students will learn about safety and sanitation and food borne illnesses, how to make personalized food choices for healthier eating, knife and cutting skills, making snacks & appetizers, the scone & biscuit method and finish the semester with making a lasagna, garlic bread and caesar salad meal. Some of the foods that you will make are: homemade pizza, pretzel bites, twice-baked potatoes, nachos, bruschetta, no-yeast cinnamon buns, cream puffs, Bannock, homemade tortillas, Red Lobster biscuits, and a variety of delicious sweet and savory scones such as chocolate chip scones.

Foods 9

This CTF course is offered to students who are interested in learning about and making different types of Foods. Students will learn through theory and practical methods how to make different foods (through worksheets, lectures and labs). One of the highlights of the Foods component in the Fall Semester is a Food Truck Module that has students design and present a Food Truck Model, including themed menu and an on-site field trip with students engaging and participating with Local Food Truck businesses. In the Winter semester students will learn about and participate in an International Cooking module where they will experience tasting different world foods. Students will learn about the creaming method, science of pastry making, how to make a choux pastry dough, how to make a roux for soup & stock, safety and sanitation and food borne illnesses, and learn about personalized food choices for healthy eating. In the rest of the course students will make Breakfast recipes such as pancakes, egg breakfast sandwiches, french toast, and egg/ham cups, homemade pizza, fried rice, cream puffs, tortillas & salsa, Bannock, S'more Cookie cups, Potato & Corn Chowder, Minestrone & pasta soups and homemade perogies.

French 7

Salut, mon ami! The French 7 Program has gone to new heights. Our French program is based on the AIM Language Learning Method. This program allows students to gain fluency, build up their confidence and truly enjoy learning the French language. This method is much different than the FSL classrooms of the past where the greater focus was on memorizing verbs. Students are often up moving around, conversing with classmates, and creating a meaningful learning environment where the emphasis is on communication rather than just memorization. All levels and abilities are welcome as students do catch on quickly with the AIM program.

French 8

Allons-y! The French 8 Program continues to build on the solid foundation laid in French 7. Our students excel as they continue with the AIM Language Learning Method. Students explore the French language further using the play "Veux-tu danser" where students work together on this fantastic AIM Play. Using the AIM method allows students to improve their fluency and confidence. All of this is accomplished in a meaningful learning environment where the emphasis is on communication and culture. All levels and abilities are welcome as students do catch on quickly with the AIM program.

French 9

Bienvenue! The French 9 Program focuses on topics around the community. Students are engaged in many activities, teaching classmates new sports and designing a dream home. This course is designed to prepare students for High School French. An emphasis on communication and written French is essential in providing students with the skills necessary to succeed in using French inside and even outside the classroom. The AIM Language Learning Program is again used to push students beyond curriculum expectations and to enjoy learning another language. All levels and abilities are welcome as students do catch on quickly with the AIM program.

Gator Learning Support 7

This option provides skills that are of value to all students. It offers students the chance to learn important skills such as organization, note taking, scheduling of projects and learning to prioritize as well as test taking and study skills. They will develop a better understanding of their learning styles which can lead to an increase in academic performance and self-confidence. Students will also be given the tools to manage stress and anxiety and recognize when they need to ask for help.

Gator Pop & Rock 9

This option is a continuation of the Guitar 8 option, however, **new students are welcome.** Students will form their own music groups and spend class time preparing for a variety of performances including an outdoor concert at the end of the year. Students are given the opportunity in Pop and Rock to explore vocals and additional instruments such as piano, drums, and bass guitar. Students who work hard and develop their skills will be given the opportunity to audition for the spring music tour. Guitar students are expected to provide their own guitar for the course. Please be aware that bus students will not be allowed to take their guitars on the bus. Please see Mr. Demuynck if this presents a problem.

Guitar 7

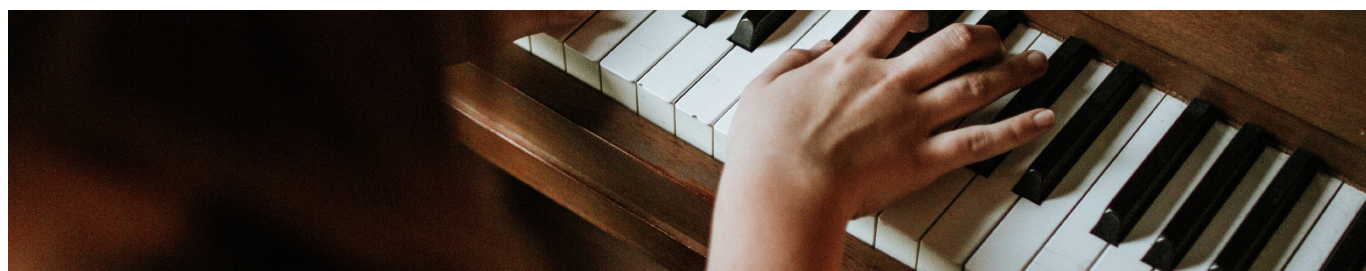
Learn to play the guitar! This is an introductory course designed to teach young musicians to play this popular instrument. There is no experience required. Students will learn basic note reading and rhythm skills, learn to read tab notation, and perform a wide variety of chords. Students will be allowed to choose their own songs as well as pick their own groups to perform with. Concerts take place several times throughout the year including a year-end outdoor concert and they will also be given an opportunity to audition for the annual music tour. Students are required to provide their own acoustic guitar for the course. Please be aware that bus students will not be allowed to take their guitars on the bus. Please see Mr. Demuynck if this presents a problem. Students will learn to read music, play melodies and learn a variety of chords.

Guitar 8

Learn to play the guitar! This course is a continuation of Grade 7 guitar, however, **new students are welcome.** Students will form their own music groups and spend class time preparing for a variety of performances including an outdoor concert at the end of the year. Students are encouraged to add vocals to their performance pieces. In addition, they will learn to read music, play melodies and learn a variety of chords. Students who work hard and develop their skills will be given the opportunity to audition for the spring music tour. Students are expected to provide their own guitar for the course. Please be aware that bus students will not be allowed to take their guitars on the bus. Please see Mr. Demuynck if this presents a problem.

Industrial Arts/Foods and Fashion 7

This CTF course provides grade 7 students with the opportunity to spend a half-year in Foods & Fashions and a half-year in Industrial Arts. In Foods & Fashion, students will complete one module in Foods and one module in Sewing. Students will be making a variety of cookies such as the Ultimate Chocolate Chip cookie, Double Butterscotch chip cookies, Gingersnaps, Sugar Cookies, Christmas cookies, mini-donut muffins, French Toast Muffins, Banana chocolate chip muffins, fluffy pancakes, as well as hand sewing a stuffy or pillow of your choice. The course fee covers the cost of materials for Foods. Students will be required to purchase their sewing project(s) for a nominal fee. In Industrial Arts, students will complete modules in drafting and safety, then choose from modules in woodwork, metalwork, pottery, pinhole photography, leatherwork, graphics and aeronautics. The course fee covers the cost of materials. I.A. students who wish to complete large projects or ones that require specialized materials may incur a supplemental fee for supplies.



Industrial Arts 8 & 9

In Industrial Arts, students will first complete a module in safety before moving into the areas of our lab: woods, metals, ceramics, design and digital technology. In the woods and metals area, students will learn to use various machines and tools to create projects, with a constant emphasis on the safe operation and handling of each tool. In the design area, students will have an opportunity to create something in areas such as, wood burning, buttons, and silk screens. In the digital technology area, students will have an opportunity to learn the basics of coding and 3D printing, and carving with the CNC machine. Students who have taken the course before are encouraged to do advanced projects in the above areas and are expected to use previously-learned skills in the design process and creation of their projects.

Outdoor Education 7

This option offers a wide range of opportunities for students interested in outdoor activities and environmental pursuits. Some of the topics include a five week mountain biking unit, camping skills, survival, outdoor equipment, archery, environmental studies, outdoor clothing, orienteering, cross-country skiing, fire safety, as well as different types of recreational games. There will be several field trips during the 2020-2021 school year. Students have the opportunity to take part in a day-camp and overnight camp.

Outdoor Education 8

This option offers a wide range of opportunities for students interested in outdoor activities and environmental pursuits. Some of the topics include a five week mountain biking unit, camping and winter survival skills, archery, orienteering, knot tying, cross-country skiing, small craft safety, canoeing and outdoor Games. Students will have the opportunity to take part in an overnight canoe trip.

Outdoor Education 9

This option is geared towards the lifelong pursuit of outdoor activities. Students should be interested in the outdoors and environmental issues associated with the outdoors. Some of the topics covered during the year include a five week mountain biking unit. Other topics covered include camping and survival skills, wildlife studies, first aid, orienteering, cross-country skiing, outdoor games and various other activities. Students have the option to join an overnight Mountain Biking trail ride in Canmore. This overnight trip features the thrill of biking on some of Canada's most scenic trails. There will be some one-day field trips plus an optional trip to H.E.L.A. Adventure Camp where students can paddle the upper reaches of the North Saskatchewan River.



Photography & Photo Manipulation 9

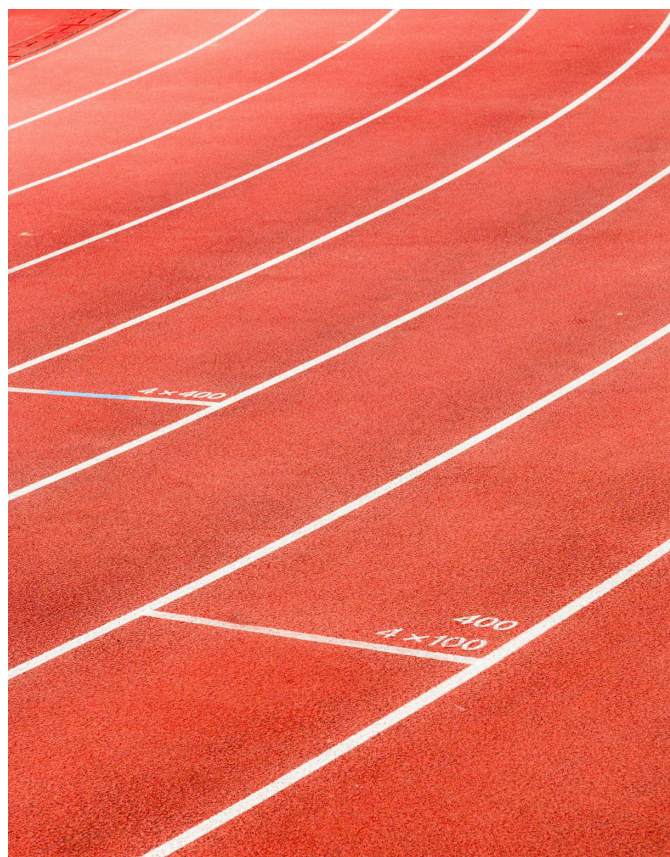
Students will be working with digital media to create their own original pieces using DSLR cameras to shoot and Adobe Lightroom for post capture adjustments. Moving from the creation of digital pieces, we will turn to online photo editing tools for the manipulation of images. Students will learn the importance of composition and the incredible power of images. Access to a DSLR camera of your own is highly recommended. This course is designed to train students to capture, create, and alter digital images to demonstrate a clear knowledge of the fundamentals of photography including composition and storytelling while exposing them to various editing “apps” and the appropriate use of social media outlets for photo sharing. Students must have access to their own mobile device for this option

Sports For Life 7,8 & 9

Sports For Life is a unique option designed to encourage students to develop a lifelong interest, and active involvement in creating and maintaining a healthy lifestyle. experience actively pursuing to improve their skills and knowledge in school or extracurricular sports. It is primarily operated off school property to provide students with as much alternate indoor experiences as possible. A majority of these opportunities will be, but not limited to; volleyball, basketball, soccer, badminton, pickleball and the occasional unique field trip.

STEAM 7,8 & 9

This STEAM option supports students in learning with a focus on science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics. Students will learn to research and solve real-world problems in innovative ways, and gain a deeper understanding of each of the STEAM fields and how they work together. This option will use creativity and ingenuity to tackle and solve the complicated problems that are or will face their generation in the future.





p: 780.460.3728
f: 780.459.2707
w: lajh.spschools.org



Floor plan of the second floor of the Bruyere School. The plan shows a central atrium (Below) with stairs leading up and down. To the left of the atrium are Room 209 (Science), Room 208 (Science), and Room 207 (Science). To the right of the atrium are Room 210 (Science), Room 206 (Science), Room 205, Room 204, and Room 203 (Home Economics). At the bottom of the plan are Room 201 (BRUYER), Room 202, and Room 203. Restrooms are located near Room 209 and Room 201. A mechanical room (209.2) is located near Room 210. A janitor's room (203.2) is located near Room 201. A science prep room (207.1) is located near Room 207. A storage room (202.2) is located near Room 201. A storage room (203.1) is located near Room 203.





LORNE AKINS

JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

lorneakins.spschools.org

780.460.3728

la@spschools.org