



Excellence for All: Special Course and Program Offerings

Superintendent's Report

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January 21, 2020



Objectives

- Provide an overview of special course offerings and programs in the Jackson Public School District
- Discuss efforts to improve and/or sustain quality courses and programs in alignment with the District's Strategic Plan





Strategic Commitments

#1 – A Strong Start

#2 – Innovative Teaching and Learning

#3 – Talented and Empowered Teams

#4 – Joyful Learning Environments

Special Course Offerings

Open Doors-Gifted Education Program

Foreign Languages

Strings in Schools

Career Development Center (CDC)

Advanced Placement (AP) Program

JROTC

Dual Enrollment and Dual Credit

High School Academies

Special Course Offerings

Commitment #2 – Innovative Teaching and Learning

- **The Open Doors-Gifted Education Program**

- Identifies and serves gifted students in a uniquely qualitatively differentiated program not available in the regular classroom
- Encourages and nurtures inquiry, flexibility, decision making, thinking skills, self evaluation, and divergent thinking
- Serves intellectually gifted students in grades 2-8

- **Strings in Schools**

- Continued collaboration with the MS Symphony Orchestra
- Impacts over 3,000 students in grades K-12 through ensemble visits, informances, full orchestra educational concerts, and string instrument instruction



Special Course Offerings (cont.)

Commitment #2 – Innovative Teaching and Learning

Commitment #3 – Talented and Empowered Teams

- **Advanced Placement (AP[®])**
 - Expands access to higher education
 - Allows students who pass AP exams an opportunity to earn college credit and placement
 - Aligns with our strategic commitment to equitable preparation and access for all
 - ***Dual Enrollment and Dual Credit**
 - Offers structured opportunities for qualified high school students to simultaneously enroll in college courses at Mississippi (public) Institutions of Higher Learning or Mississippi Community or Junior Colleges
 - Provides pathways leading to academic or career technical postsecondary credit
- *JPS currently has agreements with Hinds Community College, Tougaloo College, and Jackson State University.



Special Course Offerings (cont.)

Commitment #2 – Innovative Teaching and Learning

Commitment #3 – Talented and Empowered Teams

- **Foreign Language**

- French, Latin, and Spanish currently offered
- AP® courses and Dual Credit courses in foreign languages are also available

- **Career Development Center (CDC)**

- Offers Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses focused on state and national standards, skills that lead scholars to innovation, creativity, problem solving, and critical thinking
- Allows students to earn four to five Carnegie units upon completion of a two-year program
- Earned credits can be counted as electives



Special Course Offerings (cont.)

Commitment #2 – Innovative Teaching and Learning

Commitment #3 – Talented and Empowered Teams

- **Army Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps Program (JROTC)**
 - Focuses on the development of better citizens through the development of skills in Citizenship; Leadership Theory and Application; Science; and, American History
- **Academies of Jackson**
 - Ensure every student has the foundation of knowledge, skills and character necessary to excel in higher education, career and life by providing innovative options that prepare them to make critical post-secondary decisions about their educational and career paths
 - Housed at Lanier, Callaway, Provine, and Wingfield High Schools



Special Programs

Pre-Kindergarten

Montessori Program

Whole School Initiative: Arts Access
Program

Academics and Performing Arts Complex

International Baccalaureate Program

Michelle Obama Early College High
School

Pre-Kindergarten Program

Commitment #1 – A Strong Start

JPS currently has 29 Title I Pre-K classrooms at 22 sites with a maximum enrollment of 580 students.

Goals:

- Develop rich oral language and a robust vocabulary
- Acquire knowledge of skills and concepts taught in each subject area
- Develop social skills and emotional control
- Transition smoothly through daily routines to learning centers and to other environments independently





Montessori Program

McWillie Montessori Elementary School

Commitment #2 – Innovative Teaching and Learning

- Montessori education offers multi-aged classrooms with a strong emphasis on interactive, self-directed learning for pre-school and elementary children.
- The McWillie Montessori Program has 3-6, 6-9, and 9-12-year-old classrooms.
- The McWillie site serves 300 children throughout the school district.



Whole School Initiative: Arts Access Program

Casey Elementary School (K-5th Grade)



Commitment #2 – Innovative Teaching and Learning

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| 1. Arts Integration | To provide learning opportunities to improve student academic achievement through the integration of the arts into the core curriculum. |
| 2. Arts Discipline | To increase students' and teachers' skills, knowledge, awareness, and experiences in all arts disciplines. |
| 3. Professional Learning | To build a school culture with sustainable systems that support arts integration as an approach to teaching. |
| 4. Community Involvement | To increase family and community engagement and understanding of the arts |



Academic and Performing Arts Complex (APAC)

Commitment #2 –

Innovative Teaching and Learning

Commitment #4 –

Joyful Learning Environments

The Academic and Performing Arts Complex (APAC) is open to students who are strong academic achievers and who show an aptitude for one or more of the visual or performing arts.

- Academics Division
- Visual and Performing Arts Division (theatre, visual, dance performance, & music)

Grade Band	Location
4 th -5 th Grade	Power APAC Elementary School
6 th -8 th Grade	Bailey APAC Middle School
9 th -12 th Grade	Forest Hill High School
9 th -12 th Grade	Murrah High School

Power APAC provides academic and visual/performing arts opportunities to 482 students grades 4-12.



International Baccalaureate® Program (IB)

*Commitment #2 –
Innovative Teaching and Learning*

Objectives:

- Provide students with a balanced education;
- Facilitate geographic and cultural mobility; and,
- Promote international understanding through shared academic experiences.

Program	Grade Band	Location
Primary Years Program (PYP)	Kindergarten-5 th Grade	Barack Obama IB Elementary School
Middle Years Program (MYP)	6 th -8 th Grade	Northwest Jackson IB Middle School
	9 th -10 th Grade	Jim Hill High School
Diploma Program (DP)	11 th -12 th Grade	Jim Hill High School

Michelle Obama Early College High School (MOECHS)

*Commitment #2 –
Innovative Teaching and Learning*

*Commitment #4 –
Joyful Learning Environments*



The MOECHS Program was established to help first-generation college students and other underrepresented students earn college credits while in high school.



Students in the program complete Mississippi graduation requirements for high school while working on college coursework.



Students may earn an Associate's Degree or up to two years of credits towards a Bachelor's Degree.

Next Steps and Sustainability

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- **Special Courses**

- Expand teacher recruitment efforts
- Assist teachers with acquiring special certifications
- Increase the variety of course offerings
- Increase accessibility to Edgenuity courses
- Provide ongoing professional development

- **Special Programs**

- Monitor effectiveness and alignment to program objectives
- Provide on-site support through program consultants and District supports
- Consistently update resources
- Strengthen collaborations with like schools/programs





Question/Answer Session