

THE JUNIOR SCHOOL

ALAMO HEIGHTS ISD



RICH
CURRICULUM
+
STUDENT
ENGAGEMENT
=
PROFOUND
LEARNING



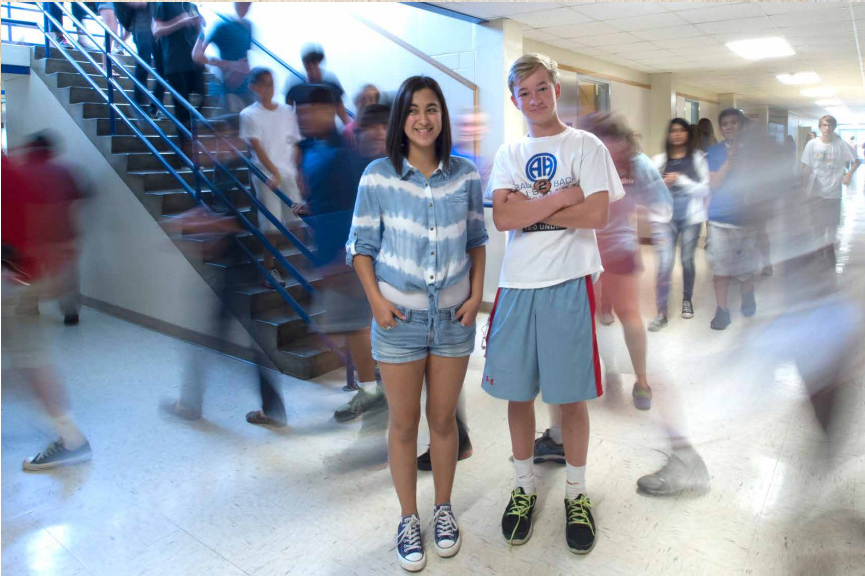


"YOUR 3 YEARS AT THE JUNIOR SCHOOL
WILL BE GREAT ONES!"

WE STRIVE TO:

- DESIGN A PERSONALLY CHALLENGING CURRICULUM FOR EVERY STUDENT;
- CREATE A NURTURING ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL STUDENTS TO THRIVE;
- "GET" THE ADOLESCENT LEARNER
- WE LOVE THIS AGE!
- HIRE OUTSTANDING TEACHERS COMMITTED TO STUDENT SUCCESS;
- PROMOTE A WELL-ROUNDED EDUCATION, COMMITTED TO THE FINE-ARTS AND EXTRA-CURRICULARS;
- DEVELOP THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS."

- Laura Ancira, Principal



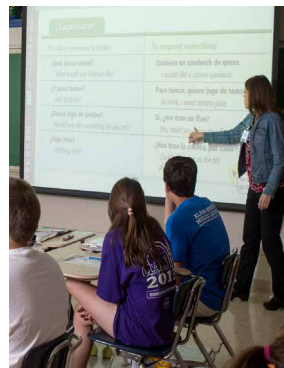
"It is important in middle school to
feel like you belong. The children say
it all the time; they are a family."

- Lili Kaufmann, Parent

ABOUT THE JUNIOR SCHOOL

The Alamo Heights Junior School is home to approximately 1,150 students and 100 staff. Together, we create the ultimate learning environment for all students by actively engaging students in a personally challenging curriculum. Additionally, we recognize the uniqueness of the middle school age student. We pride ourselves for deeply understanding this age and helping all students to thrive.

In addition to a strong, comprehensive academic program, AHJS believes in developing well-rounded students. Our fine arts, athletic and extra-curricular opportunities are unparalleled. Also embedded in the AHJS years is an outstanding character education program that helps guide students through challenges that arise during the adolescent years.



EXCELLENT FACULTY & STAFF: AHJS prides itself in having an outstanding staff. Not only one that truly “gets” the adolescent child from a developmental and emotional perspective, but also one that is grounded in “best practice” instructional delivery to ensure that all students thrive academically. Teachers are trained in meeting the needs of our Gifted and Talented students, as well as those with learning challenges. To help align with the advanced AHHS curriculum, teachers attend Pre-AP Institutes over the summer.

In order to help students achieve deep and profound learning, teachers collaborate with their peers frequently to design engaging lessons, to share innovative practices and to observe each other in the classroom.

55% TEACHERS WITH
ADVANCED DEGREES
100% CERTIFIED AND HIGHLY
QUALIFIED TEACHERS
14.5 AVERAGE YEARS
OF EXPERIENCE

“Through collaborative learning, the teachers are leveraging each other’s strengths; using those strengths to help make every lesson as good as it can be! This model allows one teacher’s strength to be shared across all classrooms.”

– Bonnie Giddens, Parent & Member, AHISD Board of Trustees

"I'VE BEEN VERY IMPRESSED WITH THE QUALITY OF THE TEACHERS; TEACHERS THAT REALLY CARE AND THAT WANT TO CONNECT. THEY SHARE JUST HOW MUCH THEY CARE BY GETTING TO KNOW THE CHILDREN, FINDING AND MEETING THEIR UNIQUE AND INDIVIDUALIZED NEEDS, EVEN ATTENDING THEIR ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE OF THE CLASSROOM, IN AN EFFORT TO MAKE A CONNECTION AND BUILD RELATIONSHIPS."

– Dana Hawkes, Parent

BUILDING STRONG RELATIONSHIPS

The AHJS understands that the student-teacher relationship is paramount to student learning and self-esteem. Teachers make it a daily practice to get to know students on an individual basis.

PERSEVERING IN

LEARNING: When students are comfortable with their teachers/peers and feel safe, then they are more apt to ask questions in class, take risks in their learning, and persevere when

learning gets difficult. Teachers work diligently to create the ultimate learning environment for their students.



"The classroom is designed so that students have a feeling of being safe. A student who feels comfortable attempting challenging content builds confidence, allowing them to find their personal direction in their learning."

– Robert Haak, Assistant Principal

OUTSTANDING ACADEMICS

The core business of the AHJS is to provide an amazing curriculum taught through engaging experiences for our students. Teachers collaborate with one another as they design engaging lessons that promote deep and profound learning, while differentiating for student interest, readiness, and profile.

AHJS students routinely receive academic recognition via the Duke Talent Identification Program, academic UIL competitions, national foreign language exams, and state assessments.

PRE-ADVANCED PLACEMENT (PRE-AP):

Students choosing Pre-AP courses accelerate and align their curriculum in preparation for the Advance Placement curriculum at AHHS.

GIFTED AND TALENTED (GT): GT courses are offered in all core content areas (English, Science, Math and Social Studies) and are structured for the unique needs of GT students.

SECOND LANGUAGE ACQUISITION:

Students gain a competitive global advantage by studying Spanish, French and Latin. Pre-AP options are available in all three languages. Students who began the Spanish Immersion program in elementary school continue their second language learning via core content classes in Spanish.

TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION:

Students and teachers use the latest technology to enhance student learning. In addition to an ever-evolving technology platform, students are encouraged to “bring your own device” so that resources and information are readily available.

SPECIAL EDUCATION: Students’ wide variety of learning needs are met via our SST, Resource and Co-Teach settings. Additionally, 100% of the AHJS staff is trained to work with students with Autism.



“WHEN WORK FOR STUDENTS IS DESIGNED WELL,
THEY GET EXCITED ABOUT THEIR LEARNING
AND I HAVE THE LUXURY OF FACILITATING THE
LEARNING VERSUS PROVIDING THE LEARNING.”

– Dr. Susan Frey, Teacher

"WORKING WITH YOUNGER STUDENTS THROUGH THE TOP PROGRAM ALLOWS ME TO SHARE WHAT I AM LEARNING WITH OTHERS IN A FUN AND INTERACTIVE WAY! MY TOP STUDENT BUDDY AND I LOOK FORWARD TO SPENDING TIME TOGETHER EVERY OTHER WEEK! IT DOES NOT FEEL LIKE TUTORING, MORE LIKE LEARNING FROM EACH OTHER!"

— Josie Nash, Student, "TOP" Program Volunteer

BUILDING CHARACTER

Having a strong, healthy, thriving campus requires a community of learners who have a sense of ownership. The AHJS believes in the importance of developing and modeling strong character as a way of building a campus in which students wake up each day excited about coming to school. Character is enhanced when students realize that they can positively impact the world through their actions.

CHARACTER EDUCATION - THE 8 KEYS:

The AHJS focuses on the "8 Keys of Excellence" - "Integrity, Failure Leads to Success, Speak with Good Purpose, This is It, Commitment, Ownership, Flexibility, and Balance" is reinforced throughout all aspects of AHJS Character Education.

JUNIOR SCHOOL AMBASSADORS (JSA): The JSA program is comprised of students in grades 6, 7, and 8. These students serve as mentors to new students, sit on the character education committee, and promote a safe and accepting environment for all students.

ANNUAL 6TH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES MARKET DAY PROJECT AND DONATION: Students create, design and develop a marketable product based on research. They market and sell their products, raising funds which students then donate to a local charity.

PEER TUTORS: 8th grade students form lasting and positive relationships with their peers with disabilities by supporting their academic and social needs.

TUTOR OUTREACH PROGRAM (TOP): 6th, 7th, & 8th graders travel to a neighboring district to tutor elementary students in the areas of math, reading and science, through interactive games and reading in an after-school setting. Utilizing and reinforcing skills acquired in the classroom, students gain valuable mentoring skills.

6TH GRADE GIRLS SERVICE CLUB: 6th grade girls meet regularly to learn about collaboration, team-work, and supporting local charitable organizations.

ART CLUB AUCTION: Advanced art students design jewelry to showcase their skills and creativity. These items are then raffled off with all proceeds benefiting local charities.



FINE ARTS, ATHLETICS & CLUBS

A strong academic foundation, combined with extracurricular options in athletics, fine arts and community service, provide students with a well-rounded school experience. We believe students learn life-long lessons and skills, become more engaged in school, and create lasting memories through extracurricular activities.



ATHLETICS

Boys (Football, Basketball, Tennis and Track)
Girls (Volleyball, Basketball, Tennis and Track)

FINE ARTS

Art, Band, Choir, Strings & Theater Arts

CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| A Capella | Golf |
| Alpha Charity League | Guitar |
| Art | Lacrosse |
| Astronomy | Latin |
| Big History Project | Library Book Club |
| Cross Country | National Junior Honor Society |
| Destination Imagination | Radio Emitting Machines |
| Drama and Musical | Robotics |
| Dr. Who | Six Grade Girls Service |
| Earth Day | Soccer |
| Glee | Tutor Outreach Program |



ACADEMIC UIL

- Calculator Applications
- Editorial Writing
- Ready Writing
- Dictionary Skills
- History
- Impromptu Speaking
- Maps, Graphs, and Charts
- Math
- Modern Oratory
- Numbers Sense
- Prose and Poetry
- Science
- Spelling
- Science Olympiad
- Science Bowl

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT IS KEY TO STUDENT SUCCESS: AHJS is fortunate to have amazing parental involvement that places a high value on education.

PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION (PTO): The PTO maintains a long-standing tradition of providing an enriching and nurturing learning environment and outstanding junior school experience for all children. Throughout the school year, the AHJS PTO sponsors numerous events and activities for all students, staff and community. The PTO raises money to fund teacher grants to enhance the curriculum.

ALAMO HEIGHTS SCHOOL FOUNDATION (AHSF): The AHSF raises money to support academic excellence in the Alamo Heights School District. The funds raised by AHSF help ensure that AHISD remains one of the best school districts in the state. AHSF provides academic support through innovative grants to teachers that allow them to have the resources they need to design engaging work for students.



THE JUNIOR SCHOOL AT ALAMO HEIGHTS

7607 North New Braunfels, San Antonio, Texas 78209

visit: 8:15 am - 3:15 pm

call: 210-824-3231 **fax:** 210-832-5825

surf: www.ahisd.net/campuses/ahjs

tweet: @AlamoHeightsJS

learn more: www.WeGoPublic.com

Interested in learning more, contact the school
to visit a great place for children.