

**JOHN MCGREGOR SECONDARY
SCHOOL
INFORMATION GUIDE FOR
NEW PANTHERS**



AIM TO EXCEL

Updated November 2022

JOHN MCGREGOR SECONDARY SCHOOL

HOME OF THE PANTHERS

Staff and Student Population

At John McGregor Secondary School, there will be approximately 600 students. There will be approximately 120 students in grade nine.

JMSS has approximately 40 teachers and 6 Educational Assistants.

General Information

The school address is:

300 Cecile Drive
Chatham, Ontario
N7M 2C6
Phone: (519) 354-1740
Website: <http://jmss.lkdsb.net>

The school motto is **AIM TO EXCEL.**

Bell Times:

- Opening Exercises 8:05 am - 8:07 am
- Period A 8:07 am - 9:22 am
- Period B 9:32 am - 10:47 am
- **Lunch** **10:47 am - 11:33 am**
- Period 11:33 am - 12:48 pm
- Period D 12:58 pm - 2:13 pm

Stay Connected on Social Media on our **Twitter** feeds:

@JMSS_Tweet

@JMSS_Principal

@JMSS_Library

Our **School Bus Zone** is 8.

The **school colours** are maroon and white and we are the Panthers.

If you are interested in purchasing **Panther SWAG**, we make an online order a couple of times throughout the school year. Please let us know if you are interested in purchasing the latest Panther t-shirts, hoodies, hats, etc.

Registration

All students register at JMSS the last week in August.

Fees Payable at Registration (Subject to change):

Student Activity Fee \$35.00

Gym Uniform \$30.00

Classroom Consumables (varies with subject)

Yearbooks can also be purchased \$45.00

Payments can be made by using School Cash Online or debit

Timetables

When you have paid your registration fees, you will receive only ONE timetable. Please make extra copies or take a picture of your timetable in case you lose the original.

Community Service Hours

Did you know, students must complete 40 hours of community involvement in order to graduate? Students are eligible to begin completing these hours as soon as they officially graduate grade 8. Consider using the summer before Grade 9 starts to find ways to volunteer in our community. We have lots of community events and organizations that could use your help!

[Click here to view the requirements and/or download a tracking form](#) .

School Photographs

Photographs will be taken at the school in mid September. These pictures will be used for both student cards and the yearbook. Copies will be available for students to purchase if they so wish. You can order a yearbook at registration as well!

Lockers

Your locker will be assigned on the day of registration or the first day of school. Locks will be provided by the school. Please leave your lock on your locker and do not share your combination. The school is not responsible for items taken from your locker. Money or other valuables should not be left in your locker. Leave them at home. The locker you are assigned will be yours for the duration of your high school career. Please take care of this locker as you are responsible for its condition. Students are NOT allowed to share lockers. All locker concerns should be directed to the main office.

Student Handbook/Planner

An electronic version of the handbook/planner can be found on the JMSS website. Students should familiarize themselves with the rules and policies outlined in the handbook/planner.

JMSS Student Success Program

Our Student Success Team works with students, parents, and teachers to ensure that a plan is put in place for each student to work toward achieving their credits. Student success strategies may include extra help sessions, alternative workspace, credit recovery or credit rescue initiatives. Students may be approached by members of this team during the course of the school year as a way to receive extra support. Many of the student success strategies are available to all students. Listen to the announcements for more information on these opportunities. Mr. Regan and Mrs. Terry are in charge of Student Success at JMSS.

REC - Resource and Enrichment Centre

The REC is open to all students who require extra assistance in any subject area, or as an alternative space to work. Students with an Individual Education Plan can reach out to Mrs. DeNure, the Resource Teacher, at any time to receive assistance. If you have any questions regarding an IEP, please contact Heather DeNure – heather.denure@lkdsb.com

The Cafeteria

The cafeteria is open before school and at lunch where students may purchase reasonably priced snacks, hot meals, sandwiches, salads etc. They may also bring their own lunches and eat them in the cafeteria. All food and drinks purchased in the cafeteria should be eaten there. There are alternate places that students may eat their lunches and we will work with students to find the place that is right for them. After eating, students spend the rest of lunch walking the square, hanging out in the library or in the gym.

Panther Breakfast Program

Anyone who needs a nutritious snack is welcome to take advantage of our food baskets that are placed in different places around the school. We also started a drop-in breakfast program before school, where you can get a bite to eat, hang out or play a game of ping pong. Everyone is welcome!

Your Student Council

The Student Council usually consists of the following executive officers: Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Secretary and Minister of Finance. There are other Student Council positions which are decided on each year. Each grade also has representation. Their job is to make your concerns known to the Council and assists in a variety of events such as spirit days, talent show, assemblies, homecoming dance, semi-formal etc. Student council also has fundraising events and collections for local charities. You will have the opportunity to elect a grade nine representative in September.

Dress Code

Positive clothing projects a positive image. Our school is a workplace and should be treated as such. Students should appear at school or school functions as neatly and cleanly dressed as possible, promoting a modest businesslike atmosphere. The decision of what to wear is a learning experience, however the final decision on matters of taste and appropriateness rests

with the school administration. Exceptions may be made to accommodate established religious/cultural practices and/or special school events.

Inappropriate attire includes, but is not limited to:

- clothing that depicts vulgarity, sexism, racism, profanity, drugs, alcohol and/or violence;
- clothing that shows undergarments.
- excessively ripped or torn clothing, pajamas.
- backpacks, jackets, and other outdoor gear in the classroom.

Please also keep the following in mind:

- The "No Hood" policy is in effect from arrival until dismissal each school day. This also applies to other head coverings that may be employed to conceal one's identity.
- Appropriate footwear is essential at all times.
- A strict dress code exists when working in specific classes, for safety reasons.
- Those wearing headphones should have one ear free for safety reasons.

Student Athletic Association

The Student Athletic Association consists of students and staff advisors. Its purpose is to assist in the operation of the athletic program and to promote and organize house events throughout the school year. You do not have to be an athlete to join. You just have to be a willing worker.

JMSS House Teams

Our entire school is divided into four house teams: red, blue, green and orange. Throughout the year we have events and friendly competitions between house teams. In coordination with our Student Council and Student Athletic Association we help organize events such as Terry Fox walk, House Volleyball Tournament, House Dodgeball Tournament, March Madness Competitions and Ultimate Frisbee House Tournament. Everyone can join it by participating or wearing your house colour to support your house team!

JMSS Quigley Library

The JMSS Library is a hub for activity. Besides the classroom support that our librarian offers, the library is open to students before school and at lunch. Here students have access to Chromebook to work on their homework, group projects or to just hang out. The library also houses many clubs and activities that are ever changing depending on what the students' interests are.

Physical Education

Physical education students wear a grey T-shirt (Panther insignia) and black shorts (plain) These are sold at registration and through the PE department during the first week of school at a cost of approximately \$30.00 including tax. Clean running shoes with a non-marking sole must be worn during all gym activities. All students must carry a gym bag or backpack for their equipment. ***STUDENTS SHOULD NEVER, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, LEAVE ANY MONEY OR VALUABLES IN THE CHANGE ROOM***

Clubs and Teams

JMSS offers a variety of teams and clubs. In the chart below is a list of recent extracurricular activities that have recently been offered. **This list changes each year as a result of student participation and interest.** If you have an interest in starting a new club, let us know!

Teams	Season	Clubs
Badminton	February - April	Art After Hours
Boys Basketball	November - March	Auto/Tech Club Race Car
Girls Basketball	September - November	Chess Club
Basketball (House)	All Year	Christian Fellowship
Cross Country	September - November	Drama Club
Curling	End November-March	Dungeons and Dragons
Golf	September- October	Gender and Sexuality Alliance (G.S.A.)
Hockey	November-March	Hair/Barbering Club
Girls Soccer	Late March - May	Juggling Club
Boys Soccer	Late March - May	Sewing Club
Tennis	September -October	Social Justice Club
Track and Field	March - June	Student Athletic Association
Girls Volleyball	November - February	Student Council
Boys Volleyball	November-February	Trading Cards and Gaming

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us!

JMSS Student Services

Carrie Carleton
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Chris Knight
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JMSS Principal

Tiffany Cadotte
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JMSS Vice Principals

Derek Quigley
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Todd Wood
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Note: This is a working document subject to change.