

Jackson Academy

Head of Middle School

As one of the premier independent schools in Mississippi, Jackson Academy educates more than 1,250 students in grades Preschool (age two) through 12th grade. Located in Northeast Jackson, JA draws students from across the metro area. The school's rigorous academic program, combined with vibrant offerings in athletics, the arts, and outdoor education, provides a strong foundation for lifelong learning and success. At every level, JA is committed to developing students of character, confidence, and purpose.

Jackson Academy seeks an experienced and dynamic Head of Middle School to lead and steward the educational experience for students in grades 6 through 8. This leader will oversee the planning, implementation, and continuous improvement of all aspects of the Middle School program while cultivating a student-centered environment rooted in excellence and care. In alignment with Jackson Academy's mission, this leader will use our nurturing and spiritual community to help inspire and equip each student to lead a life of purpose and significance. The Head of Middle School will foster strong, collaborative partnerships among students, faculty, and families, and provide strategic leadership and daily support to teachers, counselors, and staff.

Reporting directly to the Head of School, the Head of Middle School serves as the chief advocate and architect of the Middle School experience and as a vital ambassador of Jackson Academy's mission. This leader will cultivate a culture that is nurturing, faith-informed, and academically ambitious, where students are both challenged and known. Through intentional relationship-building and visible leadership, the Head will inspire faculty to innovate and collaborate while empowering students to stretch beyond perceived limitations and discover their unique strengths and purpose.

As a key member of the Academic Leadership Team, the Head of Middle School works alongside the Heads of Preschool, Lower School, and Upper School. The Head of Middle School plays an integral role in shaping schoolwide strategy and advancing programmatic excellence. The position partners closely with the Middle and Upper School Director of Learning Diversity, Athletic Director, Director of Admission, and the Director of the Performing Arts to ensure a cohesive and holistic student experience.

Successful candidates will bring substantial leadership experience in education, including experience in independent schools and/or at the Middle School level, with a demonstrated record of impact. Senior-level leadership experience and an advanced degree are preferred. The ideal candidate is an exceptional communicator and team builder who combines warmth with high expectations. They are well-versed in current educational best practices, embrace diverse learning styles, and model visionary, mission-driven leadership. Above all, they are deeply committed to cultivating excellence across academics, athletics, the arts, and the distinctive programs that define Jackson Academy.

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Key Responsibilities

I. Leadership & Administration

- Lead Middle School faculty and staff
- Support the mission of Jackson Academy among all constituents
- Oversee Middle School faculty recruitment, hiring, retention, evaluation, and professional development
- Collaborate with other division directors to ensure seamless and compelling processes from preschool through upper school
- Develop and manage Middle School academic and student life budgets in collaboration with school leadership
- Help guide new enrollment and re-enrollment decision-making for the Middle School
- Develop the division's annual calendar and ensure its weekly fulfillment
- Foster a culture of continuous improvement and professional growth

II. Presence & Community Engagement

- Maintain visible, relational leadership
- Engage regularly with students, families, and faculty
- Visit classrooms, events, and practices to support teaching and learning
- Lead and participate in faculty and student life meetings
- Guide social and emotional learning within the Middle School alongside the counseling team
- Ensure student accountability to the student handbook throughout the Middle School
- Support Middle School academic teams, fine arts performances, and athletic programs
- Serve as a responsive and supportive point of contact for families, maintaining strong partnerships between school and home
- Participate actively in admissions events, open houses, and tours, helping prospective families understand the Middle School experience