

ANSON JONES MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMPUS HANDBOOK

ANSON JONES MIDDLE SCHOOL & STEM PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

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Section A Campus Handbook 2024-2025

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WELCOME

Welcome to Anson Jones Middle School! We are “The Pride of Pinn Road!”

At Anson Jones Middle School, you will have the opportunity to be a part of a community that has been around for over 50 years! In this opportunity, we expect you to be proud of your school, be respectful to staff and your fellow students and to represent our campus with dignity. Another expectation is that you learn the skills needed in order to be a successful member of society. Please know that you, the student, play a very big role at Anson Jones Middle School.

Anson Jones Middle School is dedicated to the purpose of training minds and building skills that will be useful and required, now and in the future. Therefore, it is necessary to have certain rules to insure each individual the opportunity to benefit from the program. This handbook outlines some of the basic policies around which your school functions. Frequent reference will keep you informed of guidelines and allow you to take full advantage of all school offerings. Please feel free to contact teachers and administrators when you deem it necessary. The cooperation of school patrons, based upon the knowledge of the school, will result in a more efficient and successful school program.

Conferences may be scheduled by calling the school at the following number, 397-2100.

ANSON JONES

Anson Jones, the thirteenth of fourteen children, was born near Great Barrington, Massachusetts on January 20, 1798. He was the son of a tenant farmer and tanner. He received the early part of his education in the country school taught by his sister, Sarah. He spent many long hours doing farm chores and working in his father’s tannery. In 1820, at the age of twenty-two, he received his license to practice medicine from the Oneida Medical Society. He practiced medicine many years before coming to Texas. In October of 1833, when Captain Jeremiah Brown’s schooner “Sabine” dropped anchor at the mouth of the Brazos River, Dr. Anson Jones received his first glimpse of Texas. Later, he said, “Somehow or other the destiny of Texas was interwoven with my own, that they were indissoluble, and that one was dependent upon the other.”

Destiny had indeed a major role in store for Anson Jones, M.D. Dr. Jones became a private in the Texas Army, doubling as a surgeon. Military duty done, he resumed his medical practice. He became a member of the Second Congress of the Republic of Texas and began a political career that lasted from 1837 to 1846. He served successfully as Congressman, Minister to the United States, Texas Senator, and Secretary of State and was the last President of the Republic of Texas. He was a courageous man whose methodical, analytical, and conscientious mind, aided by native caution and shrewdness, was indispensable to Texas. He died in Houston, Texas on January 9, 1858. He served his country and served it well.

SCHOOL COLORS

BLACK AND GOLD

SCHOOL MASCOT

COUGARS

Mission, Vision and Core Beliefs

Mission - We at Anson Jones Middle and Magnet, empower learners by transforming their learning experience.

Vision - Everyday, every student grows in confidence, curiosity and character.

Core Beliefs - We are committed to:

- Each student deserves a quality education that honors their voice and prepares them to engage, contribute, and succeed.
- Student’s health, safety, engagement and support is directly linked to their academic achievement and future success.
- Meaningful relationships among students, families, educators, and the community are vital to student success.
- Classroom teachers have the most impact on student achievement followed by campus principals, administrators, and counselors.
- Public schools are essential to foster community and develop engaged citizens.

PEOPLE WHO CAN HELP YOU

The Principal

The Principal is responsible to the Superintendent of schools for proper administration of Anson Jones Middle School. It is her duty to organize, supervise, and administer all of the affairs of the school as they affect students, teachers, and patrons. She will be glad to help you with any of your concerns. Conferences can be scheduled by calling 397-2100.

The Associate Principal and Assistant Principal

The Associate Principal and Assistant Principal work directly with the principal in the management and organization of the school. They handle the day-to-day operations of the school and the Associate Principal assumes the responsibility of the Principal in his absence. The Associate Principal and Assistant Principals are also tasked with providing appropriate and progressive consequences for students not abiding by school protocols, procedures, and expectations.

Due to morning duties and responsibilities on campus, administrators are not available for conferences *prior* to 9:00 a.m. Due to afternoon duties, administrators are *not* available for conferences between 3:30pm and 4:30pm. We strongly suggest that if you wish to speak to an administrator, or have a conference with them, that you call 210-397-2100 to schedule an appointment.

The Academic Dean

The Academic Dean works directly with the Principal in the instructional processes of the school to improve student performance at Jones Middle School. The dean is in charge of all campus testing, both at the district and state level. The dean also handles the day to day operations of the school that address academics and may assume the responsibility of the Principal in his absence. If needed, The Academic Dean is also tasked with providing appropriate and progressive consequences for students not abiding by school protocols, procedures, and expectations. Conferences may be scheduled by calling 210-397-2056

STEM Program Director/STEM Program Coordinator

The STEM Program Director and the STEM Program Coordinator work directly with the principal in the management and organization of the STEM Program. They handle the day-by-day operations and recruitment of the STEM Program. The Program Director and Program Coordinator are also tasked with providing appropriate and progressive consequences for students not abiding by school protocols, procedures, and expectations. Conferences may be scheduled by calling 210-397-2243.

The Counselors

All students are assigned a guidance counselor. Your counselor will be happy to assist you with problems concerning both school and your personal life. If you want an appointment with your counselor this can be arranged with the secretary in the guidance office before and after school. Parents can refer their child by contacting the counseling office and students can refer themselves through the online referral system posted in every classroom, hallway, and restroom. If your counselor cannot see you that same day, he/she will make an appointment with you for the next day. Conferences with students receive first consideration of the counselor's time. *The function of the counselor is advisory, not disciplinary, and all information is confidential.*

The Nurse

The school nurse is available to help you at school with medical emergencies and will work closely with your parents and physician in administering prescribed medication. The clinic is located in the main office. Please notify the school nurse of any medical conditions that may be of concern. The school nurse is unable to administer over-the-counter medication to your child and can only administer prescriptions in their original container.

The Police Officer

The Police Officer assists students when needed and helps maintain a safe environment. He/she helps supervise after school events and helps monitor traffic. The SAFE hotline number is 397-7233 or text safe@nisd.net.

GENERAL INFORMATION

After School Activities

All school and U.I.L. rules apply to conduct and dress code for students who attend after-school activities. An admission fee may be required for many events. Transportation to and from school is the responsibility of the parents for these activities; parents/guardians are expected to be in attendance with their child. Students who exhibit inappropriate behaviors will be removed from the activity and all future school events or functions could be denied for the remainder of the year. Formal attire and/or limousine transportation are not appropriate for these events. Any clothing deemed inappropriate or suggestive is not permitted.

Circumstances that restrict students from attending after-school events are the following:

- out of school suspension/in school suspension assigned for the day of the event
- other disciplinary actions that may warrant non-attendance of the event
- absence from school the day of the event
- repeated misconduct at after-school events
- assignment to an alternative educational campus
- withdrawal from Jones Middle School (athletic events may be permitted)

ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES

Parents are charged with the responsibility of ensuring their child comes to school and attends all classes. Students are expected to attend school and be on time to their classes. State law and school policy requires attendance every day that school is in session. Illness, doctor/clinic visits, death in the family, court appearances, religious holidays, and school-sponsored activities are the only excusable reasons for Non-attendance. Absences for reasons other than those stated above will be determined excused or unexcused by the Principal or his designee. Parent/Guardian written health excuses may only be accepted until the fifth absence of the year. Upon the student's sixth absence, a doctor's note must be provided.

The first rule of success for a student is to "show up" on time. Attendance is one of the Principal's top priorities in managing the school's population. Students cannot learn if they are not present in school; teachers cannot teach empty seats.

1. Notes must be turned in to the Attendance Office immediately upon student's return to school. The note must include the following: a) date of note, b) name, id#, grade level of child, c) date(s) of absence(s), d) specific reason for absence(s), e) parent signature, and f) telephone number(s) where parent can be reached. *Third party notes are accepted (i.e., doctor, dental, funeral, family court) and need to meet the same criteria as listed above.

2. Students without a note will be issued an unexcused absence. The student must bring a note within three school days to the attendance secretary for the record to be amended.

3. Students with 3 or more unexcused full or partial day absences, in accordance with state law, will be issued an attendance warning notice (AWN). Students with additional absences after issuance of AWN may be routed to truancy court.

NOTE: Please refer to the District policy on Attendance in Section D of this handbook.

Tardies - Students should be in their classrooms when the tardy bell rings. Four unexcused tardies in any one class or excessive school-wide accumulation of tardies during a grading cycle may result in the student being referred for disciplinary action. This includes tardies to and from the cafeteria for lunch.

It is sometimes necessary for the attendance office to contact the parent/guardian for important information regarding attendance. Please be sure your student's address, telephone number and guardian information are updated when there is a change.

BACKPACKS/BOOK BAGS

Any *appropriate* backpack is acceptable. The administration team has final input on what they consider a safe and appropriate bag.

BREAKFAST AND LUNCH PROCEDURES

All students will enter the cafeteria in an orderly manner. There are specific rules on how students sit in the cafeteria. Students must raise their hand for permission to leave their seat, once they are seated in the cafeteria. Duty teachers will dismiss students and students may not leave the cafeteria before permission is granted. Students are required to keep their area clean. While in the cafeteria line, students are to only touch the food items they intend to buy. If students are planning to eat breakfast, students must immediately get their tray, sit down and eat. Students are not allowed to walk in and out of the cafeteria.

Breakfast/Lunch Money - Go to <https://www.nisd.net> to access your student's cafeteria account and add money as needed. We encourage parents to monitor their student's lunch account online to prevent any problems that deal with your child's purchases.

BUS ASSIGNMENTS AND TRANSPORTATION

Students are required to ride the designated bus assigned to them by transportation. Riding a bus is a privilege, not a right. Students may be assigned a specific seat on their bus. Only a family emergency would warrant assignment to a different bus. (Staying overnight with a friend is not an emergency.) In order to ride a different bus home, and receive an official bus change form, **a note must be sent by a parent/guardian at least one day prior to** and be brought to the vice principal's office for administrative approval. **This approval must be obtained prior to the end of the school day** (these will not be approved after school in the bus loop) for a student to ride a different bus. Students will be given a note from the Associate Principal's office that needs to be given to the bus driver. The number of students assigned to buses and the systemized route system are disrupted when ineligible students ride on alternate routes. All bus routes and assignments of students are done through the district's transportation offices.

CAMPUS OPERATING HOURS

- Classes begin for Anson Jones Middle School students at 8:40 a.m. and end each afternoon at 3:55 p.m. each day, Monday through Friday.
- Supervision begins when doors are opened at 7:45 AM. Parents who allow their children to walk or drop their students off before 7:45am must be aware that adult supervision is not provided until 7:45am. Students who arrive at school before 8:30 a.m. are allowed to quickly eat breakfast (if they choose) and to report to the grade level designated areas.
 - 6th grade holding area main gym
 - 7th grade holding area downstairs back hallway
 - 8th grade holding area in the courtyard
- Front Office Hours are from 7:45AM - 4:30 PM.
- Students will not be allowed to be checked out after 3:30 PM due to dismissal procedures. For special circumstances, please call the front office 210-397-2100.

CAMPUS VISITORS

All Parents and Visitors are required to register in the Front Office with the Principal's secretary regardless of how long they plan to stay on campus, and must indicate the reason for visiting the campus. They are also required to sign-out prior to leaving the campus. Upon sign-in, all Parents and Visitors should receive a Visitor's Pass, and must wear this pass where it can be visible to staff. These precautions are taken to ensure a safe environment for our students and staff. All volunteers and mentors are also required to do a criminal background check before volunteering on campus or field trips. The background check may be done on-line through the NISD website.

DELIVERY OF ITEMS/ OUTSIDE FOOD ITEMS

In an effort to minimize interruptions and maximize instructional time, **we do not deliver items directly to students**. However, we also recognize that students will sometimes forget an item at home. We will deliver glasses, school items (books, assignments, etc), house keys,

and lunch money. For all other items, the student is expected to come by the office BETWEEN classes to retrieve their belongings.

Parents and delivery companies **will not be permitted** to deliver food to a student. This policy is in place to ensure safety and reduce distractions. **Flowers, balloons, birthday presents etc. will not be delivered and will be held in the office until the end of the day when students can pick them up to be taken home.**

Dress for Success

We will not be enforcing a grade level specific shirt but will adhere to the following:

- Pants are to be full length and worn at the waist. Pants with holes bigger than 1 in & above the knee, spandex, sagging and pajama pants are prohibited.
- T Shirts must have sleeves, be an appropriate length and have suitable wording (if any). Strapless shirts, spaghetti straps, crop tops, sleeveless shirts, muscle tees, inappropriate wording or graphic tees are prohibited.
- Appropriate footwear must be worn. Flip Flops, sandals, slides and/or steel toed boots are prohibited.
- Skirts & dresses are allowed if they are no more than 4 inches from the kneecap. Shorts are allowed if they are no more than 4 inches from the kneecap. Any shorts worn must have a belt or drawstring adjusted to a point where they can stay firmly on the waist.
- Body piercings (with the exception of ears), short shorts, skorts, caps, costumes or costume items, hoods, hats and beanies are prohibited.

The district's dress code is implemented (Section D); therefore, students will be expected to follow the guidelines set forth by the district. Dress code standards are extended to extra-curricular activities held on the campus. In an effort to promote a safe and positive school environment which is conducive to learning, students should wear appropriate clothing that will not cause disruptions in learning or safety. Inappropriate, indecent, suggestive or distracting clothing will not be allowed. Changes in dress code, deemed appropriate and necessary by the school principal, may be announced, implemented and enforced during the course of the academic school year.

Students out of compliance with dress code may be removed from the regular school setting until the parent is able to provide appropriate attire. Students will be asked to change into school issued clothing if parents cannot be reached. Book covers, folders, book bags, school property, body parts, and/or personal property or clothing displaying obscenities, alcoholic beverages, narcotics, controlled substances, weapons, gang related materials or any design or inscription that administration determines to be unacceptable are not permitted at Anson Jones. These items will be confiscated and documented, if necessary, in the student's discipline record.

Final determination of acceptable dress, clothing items and grooming rests with the Principal or his/her designees.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES / TECHNOLOGY/PHONES

At the beginning of each school year there are two forms that must be signed and returned to the school before your child will be able to use a networked computer at Jones Middle School or have their work published on the Anson Jones website.

To function effectively in a digital environment, students must assume personal responsibility to behave ethically, even when technology provides them the freedom to do other- wise. The use of the Northside network and the Internet is a privilege, not a right, which may be revoked at any time for inappropriate behavior. Users assume responsibility for understanding the Acceptable Use Policy and guidelines as a condition of using the Northside network and the Internet. Use of the Northside network or the Internet that is inconsistent with this policy may result in loss of access as well as other disciplinary or legal action.

The following are Rules & Expectations for electronic devices on campus grounds:

1. Phones, earbuds and any other personal electronic devices must be **off and away (unseen) for the instructional day.** Personal electronic devices can only be used during lunch, before and after school. No social media while on school grounds.
2. Teachers have the right to confiscate devices if needed.
3. Pictures & videos of other students or teachers are prohibited.
4. Personal devices should not be used to cyberbully, harass or invade others privacy.

5. Assume responsibility for the security of the device.
6. If a student has persistent electronic device violations, AJMS has the right to not release the device back to the student until a parent conference has been held in person.
7. Administration has the right to restrict a student from possessing a personal device on school grounds.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Anson Jones Middle School ***strongly*** recommends that parents do not allow their children to have any social media accounts. The reason for this recommendation is due to the high rate of conflict arising or escalating from social media encounters with other students. Please note that there are circumstances where AJMS administration may not be able to consequence students for conflict that is engaged through social media. *If* you do allow your student to have social media, we remind you to monitor these accounts daily.

GRADE REPORTING THROUGH HOME ACCESS CENTER (HAC)

Parents are encouraged to regularly monitor their student's progress throughout the year by utilizing NISD's on-line Parent Portal, the Home Access Center (HAC). Students and parents can access the progress report in the middle of each nine weeks grading period. The progress reports are designed to inform parents and students of current classroom performance and grades. If the teacher deems necessary, you may be contacted by phone to make sure you received the report. This is especially true if the progress of your child is not acceptable or if the grades or conduct are below average.

Report cards will be issued and available on HAC at the end of each grading period. They provide the student's academic grades, citizenship grades, plus other pertinent information. We urge you to check your child's report card every nine weeks. If a parent cannot access their child's report card, please contact the counselor's office for assistance. If a parent/guardian has any questions or concerns regarding your child's education, please start by contacting the teacher, then if the question or concern is not answered/solved, contact the counselors' office and administration.

The Home Access Center (HAC) is another method of increasing collaboration and communication between teachers and parents. Parents and students have real-time, on-line access to your student's daily grades and attendance records. Teachers will update grades weekly. Please be aware that some projects and papers may take longer to grade.

Please use the following process to access your student's information:

1. Go to the following website, <https://hac.nisd.net/>.
2. Your user name is the email address where you received your temporary password. Your temporary password will need to be reset when you sign in.
3. The first time you log-on to HAC you will be automatically directed to the MY ACCOUNT page.
 - a. It is important that you create a new password that only you know and will remember.
 - b. The password must be 8 - 15 characters.
 - c. The password may contain letters, numbers, and symbols.
 - d. Select CHANGE PASSWORD when finished.
 - e. Create three challenge questions to help secure your account.
 - f. You may enter any three questions and answers.
 - g. The questions and answers cannot be the same word or phrase.
 - h. The three questions cannot be the same.
 - i. The three answers cannot be the same.
4. Select CONTINUE TO HOME ACCESS CENTER when finished.

LOCKERS

Anson Jones Middle School does not use lockers. However, students will be assigned a locker in the gym for use during their PE class and students must provide their own lock. Students should not share lockers or give their combinations to anyone.

LOST AND FOUND

IF YOU FIND ANY ARTICLE OF VALUE, PLEASE TURN IT IN TO THE OFFICE IMMEDIATELY.

As the school assumes no responsibility for lost articles, students are encouraged to take every precaution to protect their possessions. Students should not bring expensive or valuable items to school. Students should carefully label each article, such as clothing, books, and supplies for easy identification. If you are in possession of an item that does not belong to you, you will be subject to disciplinary measures. Lost and found items collected and not claimed by the end of each grading period will be donated to charity.

NUISANCE ITEMS

Items that cause a distraction from the school's academic atmosphere are not permitted. The school cannot be held responsible for any of these lost or stolen items. Confiscated items will be returned to the parent only. Students who bring these items to school are subject to disciplinary action.

Updated Parent/Guardian Contact Information

Parents are responsible for ensuring that their contact information is updated at all times. If a parent cannot be reached, a student may be suspended until a conference with an administrator is held to ensure updated contact information is provided.

REGISTRATION/WITHDRAWAL FROM SCHOOL

Registrations - To register your student, please go to <https://www.nisd.net/schools/registration> and complete the pre-registration. A counselor will contact you and schedule an appointment to complete the registration process.

Withdraw of Student - When it is known that a student is going to withdraw, the parents or guardians should notify the Counseling Office at least one day in advance, if possible. All textbooks and library books must be returned. Any fines owed the school need to be paid before records may be released. On the day of withdrawal, the student should report to the Counselor's office and pick up a check-out form which must be signed by each teacher.. Textbooks must be returned to the Textbook administrator. The check-out form must be returned to the Counselor's Office before a final clearance can be granted. NO records will be released until all obligations (textbooks, fines, release forms, etc.) have been fulfilled. A parent signature will be required for final clearance to be given.

TECHNOLOGY ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

Please refer to Section B of Northside's Student and Parent Agreement for the Acceptable Use of the District's Electronic Communication System policy.