



## John Rex Middle School FAQs

### Where will middle school classes be held?

The John Rex board of directors recently approved a three-year lease agreement for the lower-level classrooms located inside the Crystal Bridge at the [Myriad Botanical Gardens' Dean A. McGee Center](#). This unique location will provide students with a multitude of extended science and outdoor learning experiences beyond the classroom walls along with the potential of enriching activities hosted by the professional staff at Myriad Botanical Gardens.

### Which grades will be housed at the Myriad Botanical Gardens?

- Sixth grade only in 2018-19: approximately 80 students
- Sixth and seventh grade in 2019-20
- Sixth, seventh, and eighth grade in 2020-21



### How will John Rex Charter Elementary School choose students for middle school?

Current fifth-grade students will automatically be offered a seat in sixth grade for the 2018-19 school year. Current students wishing to enroll for sixth grade must fill out the Intent to Re-Enroll form and submit it ***no later than Friday, December 15th***.

The current John Rex [attendance boundary zone](#) and four-tiered priority enrollment system will extend to the middle school. This policy allows students living within the school's attendance boundaries to be automatically admitted, like other traditional neighborhood schools. Visit [www.johnrexschool.org](http://www.johnrexschool.org) for more information.

New students residing outside the attendance zone may apply for enrollment anytime between February 5 - 12, 2018. There will be some open seats available to new students, but the number of seats available will depend on how many of our current fifth grade students commit to re-enroll.

### Who is helping to fund the John Rex Middle School expansion?

In a public-private partnership with the JRCES, the Inasmuch Foundation and Myriad Gardens made this expansion possible. The school received a \$1 million grant from the Inasmuch Foundation to provide the additional funds necessary to hire a school leader and the first team of teachers. The grant will also provide funding for furniture, technology, and a multitude of other expenses required to launch a new school. Myriad Gardens Foundation was the recipient of another Inasmuch Foundation grant for capital improvements up to \$700,000 that includes enhancements to the gardens as well as our leased educational spaces.

### What type of enhancements will be made to the facility?

Improvements to the facility will include adding security cameras and hardware; creating a secure, controlled-access entry on the lower level; upgrades to the kitchen area; and improving air circulation. Construction is expected to begin in the spring of 2018 and be completed by July 2018.

### Who will oversee and operate the middle school?

The current John Rex Charter Elementary School (JRCES) board of directors will govern and operate both the elementary and middle schools. Dr. Joe Pierce will remain as the Head of School(s) and will eventually transition into a superintendent of schools role to oversee both the elementary and middle school. While he will remain actively involved at both sites, each site will have an on site administrator (Assistant Head of School) that will report directly to Dr. Pierce. In addition to our current Assistant Head of School, Mrs. Molly Goldsworthy, we are searching for an additional administrator to join our leadership team in the near future.



### **When will the middle school teachers be hired?**

The recruitment and hiring of teachers will begin following the placement of the new assistant head of school. Job vacancy postings for teaching positions will be made after the first of the year. We will hire a team of exceptional middle school teachers by spring 2018.

### **Are John Rex parents involved in providing input for the middle school?**

A middle school parent “task force” is currently meeting with Dr. Pierce to gather feedback and explore next steps on the following topics: elective options, childcare, traffic flow, athletic opportunities, fundraising, and programming. The task force will collaborate closely with the future middle school administrator. Take our first parent input survey about electives & sports at <https://goo.gl/forms/GMfCKSUN1VPzph3R2> or click on the QR code on the left.

### **What type of curriculum will be used at the middle school?**

Summit Learning has been selected as the curriculum framework for the middle school. This personalized and blended approach to schooling is on the forefront of current best practices. It closely aligns with and extends JRCES’ educational philosophy. To learn more about the curriculum, go to [www.summitlearning.org](http://www.summitlearning.org)

### **Will food service be available at the middle school?**

Yes, John Rex School’s current vendor, Keystone Foodservices, will prepare food in our current location’s kitchen and then deliver meals each day to the middle school.

### **Will students have a playground or space to congregate?**

Our lease agreement with the Myriad Gardens was written so that our students, under school supervision, may utilize many of the phenomenal outdoor spaces in the botanical gardens.

### **How will start/end times and drop-off/pick-up work?**

We anticipate that the times will mimic the elementary school hours, but may be staggered to accommodate parents with children at both school sites. We will work closely with the Myriad Gardens, the City of Oklahoma City and Oklahoma City Police Department to finalize traffic flow plans before school starts. The school will not provide transportation, so the circle drive at the entrance to the Crystal Bridge will be very helpful as we develop our traffic flow plans.

### **Will the school calendar be the same?**

Classes at the middle school will begin concurrently with the elementary school in August 2018. The new school calendar will be published in early 2018. We do not follow the same calendar as OKCPS; however, we anticipate that it will closely resemble the pattern of the current John Rex Elementary school calendar.

### **Will before- or after-school childcare be available at the middle school?**

Yes, the Downtown YMCA leadership is extremely interested and eager to think outside the box with us in order to offer innovative programming unique to the needs and interests of our pre-adolescents. Again, details will be ironed out following the placement of the new assistant head of school and with input from the parent task force.

[www.johnrexschool.org](http://www.johnrexschool.org) @JohnRexSchool

#MiddleSchoolattheMyriad #WeChooseJohnRex