



John Rex Charter School (JRCS) opened its doors in August 2014. It utilizes the best elements of a public-private educational partnership to provide an exemplary learning environment for students. It offers a one-of-a-kind, quality education to an economically and racially diverse group of students.

JRCS has a 17-member Board of Directors, including six members appointed by the Oklahoma City Public Schools District, six appointed by Oklahoma City Quality Schools, three appointed by these 12 directors, and two appointed by the University of Oklahoma, the charter sponsor. The JRCS board of directors are responsible for all aspects of planning, governance, and operation of the school.

This unique public charter school places students in the heart of the city for daily exposure to the culturally rich amenities that are only available in downtown OKC.

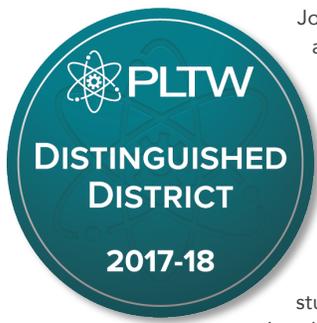
Expanded opportunities abound within walking distance of the campuses. Downtown neighbors include: multiple performing and arts organizations, city and county government offices, many corporate partners, access to most of OKC's distinct districts, plus numerous cultural and sports-related resources.

In August 2018, the Myriad Botanical Gardens will be the home of John Rex's middle school expansion. Support from the Myriad Botanical Gardens and Inasmuch Foundation made the expansion possible. A \$1 million gift from Inasmuch Foundation provided the funds to hire a site administrator, provide furniture and technology, and cover other expenses related to the school's launch. The middle school classes will use the lower-level classrooms located below the Crystal Bridge. The classrooms have large windows providing ample lighting and views of the gardens.

Inasmuch Foundation President and CEO Bob Ross said the grant exemplifies the foundation's support of high-quality education opportunities, as well as community enhancement projects. "A major catalyst for the school's early success was its partnership with the downtown community. On any given day you can see Rex Rockets walking to the downtown library, Oklahoma City Museum of Art, or Film Row. The partnership with Myriad Botanical Gardens will further John Rex's roots in the community and continue a truly unique urban education." Ross said.

www.johnrexschool.org
#wechoosejohnrex





John Rex Charter School was recognized as a Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Distinguished District for providing transformative learning opportunities for students through PLTW Launch. JRCS is the only PLTW Distinguished District in Oklahoma City and one of two in the state for the 2016-2017 school year.

The PLTW Launch curriculum empowers students to think critically through activities and problems relating to the world around them.

The science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) lessons include interactive projects like creating a video game, designing a seatbelt and building a robot.

"It is a great honor to recognize John Rex Charter Elementary School for its commitment to students," said Vince Bertram, president and CEO of PLTW. "John Rex School is a model for what school should look like, and the faculty and staff should be very proud of ensuring students have the knowledge and skills to be career-ready and successful on any career path they choose." JRCS is one of approximately 30 districts across the U.S. to receive this honor.

EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

Relationships: Dr. James Comer said, "No significant learning can occur without a significant relationship." John Rex School builds positive relationships by:

- Guiding positive and nurturing learning relationships between students, teachers, city leaders, and parents
- Creating 'learning launcher' spaces that accommodate all students in a grade level or team
- Bringing the City into the school to catalyze the downtown community

Relevance: Students are able to address authentic learning situations using problem-solving and critical thinking skills in unpredictable real-world situations. JRCS creates relevant learning experiences by:

- Utilizing the entire downtown landscape as the learning environment
- Capturing the city's downtown art, cultural, civic, governmental, medical, and business resources
- Creating project-based units of inquiry that will also engage the community as "adjunct faculty"
- Incorporating modern technology skills utilizing 1-to-1 devices
- Scheduling weekly job-embedded time for teachers to work and plan collaboratively
- Offering a safe-haven that will support metacognition, processing, and reflection of new learning
- Connecting students by encouraging them to share their learning stories with others

Rigor: John Rex School believes that rigor is more about the quality of the thinking, rather than the quantity of the work. JRCS engages learners to master Oklahoma Academic Standards and prepares them to be college and career-ready by:

- Understanding that learning is non-linear and must allow for flex and flow between various learning modalities, developmental milestones, and the extra time or support needed to develop mastery of learning
- Personalizing learning and demonstrating that schooling is not merely a "widget factory" in which one size fits all
- Building a solid foundation in enduring learning concepts so that all students will be grounded in the essential skills needed to compete successfully in a global economy

CURRICULUM APPROACH

John Rex School offers an innovative curriculum that integrates project-based learning with balanced literacy (the workshop approach to reading and writing). The focus of our curriculum is two-fold. The first component is the foundational academic knowledge emphasizing authentic, relevant educational experiences. This approach integrates learning from textbooks, problem-solving opportunities, and hands-on experiences. The second, yet equally important, component is social-emotional learning. This approach is guided by strategies integrated from Responsive Classroom, Great Expectations, and Conscious Discipline.

Students are involved in learning activities that integrate Oklahoma Academic Standards and require them to apply skills learned in all subject areas. Projects include topics of student interest as well as STEM activities. Further, we are committed to providing an educational program to meet the diverse needs of our students. Our teachers have experience with special education, inclusion, differentiation of instruction, and gifted and talented programs. Our goal is to motivate every student to participate fully in their own educational journey and to achieve high standards.

Differentiation & Personalization

Differentiated yet personalized instruction is a core value at John Rex. If a student exhibits an academic weakness, instruction is targeted for intervention. Academic strengths are extended by offering personalized application through extension projects and activities.

Assessments and grading practices focus on mastery of the skills and standards. Progress reports and report cards track developmental milestones, current achievement, and mastery of standards.



Literacy

John Rex School uses a Balanced Literacy framework that follows the model articulated by Fountas and Pinnell in their books (Guiding Readers and Writers, Word Matters, Guided Reading and Interactive Writers) and Lucy Calkins and the work of the Teachers College Reading and Writing Project. Students have a daily Literacy Block so that they can develop the core competencies of reading and writing. The Literacy Block consists of Interactive Read Aloud, Shared Reading, Guided Reading, Independent Reading, Word Study, and Writing Workshop.

Numeracy

John Rex School uses Bridges Math, a comprehensive elementary curriculum that equips teachers to fully implement math skills and standards in a manner that is rigorous, coherent, engaging, and accessible to all learners.

Bridges Math focuses on developing a deep understanding of math concepts, proficiency with key skills, and the ability to solve new and complex problems. Learning activities tap into the intelligence and strengths all students have by presenting mathematically powerful material alive with language, pictures, and movement. Students talk about math, describe observations, explain methods, and ask questions. They are encouraged to find multiple ways to solve problems and show different ways of thinking. This is a vital step to help students build more flexible and efficient ways to solve increasingly complex problems.

Hands-on activities engage them in exploring, developing, testing, discussing, and applying mathematical concepts.



Expanded Opportunities

The substantial amenities in downtown OKC afford us the ability to create programming that extends learning opportunities into our downtown location. We are proud to partner with the Arts Council of Oklahoma City, Myriad Botanical Gardens, the Downtown Metropolitan Library, the Oklahoma City Museum of Art, the Oklahoma City Riversport & OKC Boathouse Foundation, Oklahoma City Ballet, Oklahoma Youth Orchestra, Energy FC, Police Athletic League, Historic Film Row District, and many more! These and other downtown organizations create the context for limitless urban learning opportunities.

Specialty Classes

Students at John Rex are encouraged to explore and enjoy a variety of co-curricular subjects. Students are provided Spanish, music, visual art, and physical/health instruction throughout the entire school year. We are able to provide these specialty classes with funding assistance from the Oklahoma City Arts Council and the John Rex PTA.

Enrichment and Extension



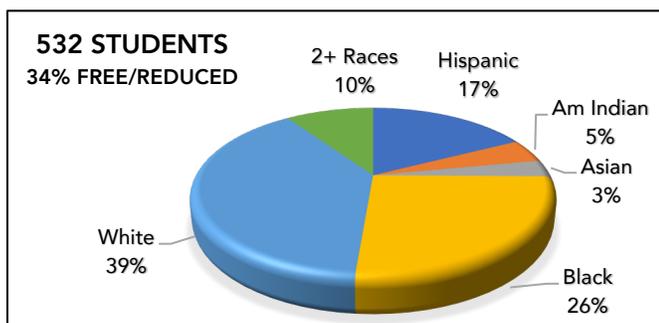
We believe that all children have gifts and talents! John Rex School has developed a Schoolwide Enrichment Model (SEM) that offers periodic short-term interest-based sessions focused on students' specific talents or interests. This offers all children the opportunity to enrich their learning and experiences by applying, deepening, and extending learning while utilizing their interests, talents, and learning or expression styles.

Exceptional Learners

John Rex School complies with all state and federal laws related to the education of children with disabilities. In accordance with IDEA, the student's IEP team will determine identification, evaluation, placement, and services. JRCS is committed to evaluating, placing, and providing proper services to students in the least restrictive environment so that each student may receive a high-quality, free appropriate public education. Full inclusion in the general curriculum is the goal at JRCS. If a student's IEP team determines that another placement other than JRCS is necessary, the school will collaborate with OKCPS to determine the appropriate placement and facilitate a transfer to one of the district's other school sites.

JRCS complies with state laws related to the identification and reporting of gifted/talented students. Identified students will be exposed to the general curriculum in addition to other enrichment programming and possibilities outlined in the school's state approved Gifted and Talented Education Plan.

STUDENT POPULATION: 2017-18



ENROLLMENT

John Rex School has a four-tiered priority admission system:

- First**, any child residing within the JRCS attendance boundaries
- Second**, a child who resides outside the JRCS attendance boundaries but within the boundaries of OKC Public Schools.
- Third**, a child who resides outside the boundaries of OKC Public Schools and whose parent, guardian, or other person with legal custody is employed within the boundaries.
- Fourth**, a child who resides outside the boundaries of OKC Public Schools and whose parent, guardian, or other person with legal custody is not employed within the JRCS attendance boundaries.

After Tier 1, enrollment priority is given to currently enrolled students, a legal sibling of a child currently enrolled in the School, and a child of a person directly providing educational services for the school (i.e. children of faculty/staff members employed by JRCS). Within Tier 2, additional priority will be given to applications for admission whose parent, guardian, or other person with legal custody is employed within the JRCS attendance boundaries.

If, at any time, the number of eligible students applying for admission exceeds the capacity of the school/grade level, the Head of School will conduct a lottery, which shall be held within the priority level and/or grade level that is oversubscribed, to select the student(s) that may be admitted to JRCS. Enrollment and admission decisions will be based on school capacity limitations, class/grade capacity limitations, program availability, and/or educational needs of the student.

BY THE NUMBERS

...a launchpad for learning & discovery

Based on 2017-18 data . . .

96%

ATTENDANCE RATE

GIFTED & TALENTED

22%

👥

SPECIAL EDUCATION

11%

🏫

BILINGUAL

12%

🌐

RESIDE IN OKCPS DISTRICT

85%

🏠

RESIDE IN ATTENDANCE ZONE

29%

🏢

OUT-OF-DISTRICT TRANSFERS

15%

📦

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

95%

👨👩👦

ENROLLMENT RETENTION RATE

96%

✅

OPEN HOUSE PARTICIPATION

87%

👥

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#WECHOOSEJOHNREX

ASSESSMENTS & ACCOUNTABILITY

John Rex School participates in the Oklahoma School Testing Program and administers all state-mandated summative assessments, as required by law. Formative assessments from NWEA Measures of Academic Progress are periodically administered to students throughout the school year. Additionally, teachers personally assess students using various informal literacy and math assessments.

Parents need valid information about their child's achievement and how they can help them. Students set goals, and track progress in multiple ways. Periodic Report Cards focus on the most recent mastery of skills; progress along several learner continuums and stages of development; and skills checklists-- rather than assigning a letter grade derived from the averaging of assignments.

John Rex Charter School's *Learning Behaviors for Success* are the observable behaviors that contribute to a student's success in school, work, and life. These characteristics include: Community Contributor; Complex Thinker; Quality Producer; Effective Communicator; and Effective/Ethical User of Technology. These are important qualities in our social curriculum that are periodically reported to parents. They do not exist in isolation; but, should be an integral part of the school culture as demonstrated in daily classroom learning and assessment.

CAREERS AT JOHN REX

John Rex School recruits and hires highly qualified, state-certified classroom teachers. Our base salary is \$8,400 higher than the state minimum salary requirement and is significantly higher than all other school districts. A beginning teacher with a Bachelor's degree can earn \$45,000 in base salary. Faculty and staff benefits include paid health insurance and participation in Oklahoma Teacher Retirement. Employees also receive sick and personal leave benefits, priority enrollment for their children; paid parking, and job-embedded collaboration/professional development.



Unlike traditional schools, teacher salaries are determined by more than just years of teaching experience and professional development credits.

JRCS provides additional compensation to teachers that assume additional roles and responsibilities, or demonstrate merit based on achievements and reflections of their contributions to achieving school goals. All teachers are eligible for financial awards such as bonuses and merit pay.

BEFORE & AFTER CARE



JRCS partners with the Downtown YMCA to provide fee-based before and after care programs. The program is held on site at the school and is available from 7AM until school begins and again when school dismisses until 6PM. The YMCA also offers other additional programs during breaks as well as summer camps. Please contact the Downtown YMCA for information.



PARENT INVOLVEMENT

The John Rex PTA is a very active, caring, and engaged group of parents, guardians, grandparents, teachers, staff, and community members dedicated to the success of the school. The PTA aims to promote the education and well-being of all JRCS students through collaborative programs and efforts between the school, the families, and the community; inclusivity; advocacy; and various other forms of support and volunteerism. Learn how to get involved at www.johnrepta.org



CHILD NUTRITION

Food management services are provided through a contract with Keystone Food Services. The current breakfast meal price for students is \$1.75 and lunch is \$3.25. Parents may set up an online account to pay for meals or may apply for the free/reduced meal program. Parents are also welcome to join their child for breakfast or lunch any day. Adult guest meal prices are \$2.50 for breakfast and \$4.00 for lunch.



SCHOOL HOURS & CALENDAR

John Rex School creates the school calendar based upon hours of instruction not merely days per year. The JRCS creates its own school calendar and is not identical to the OKCPS calendar. The school calendar has nearly 1,200 total instructional hours. This significantly exceeds the state's minimum requirement of 1,080 hours. To subscribe to or download the calendar go to <https://johnrepschool.org/calendar/>

Pre-K & Kindergarten Hours

8:00am-3:00pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday
8:00am-2:00pm Wednesdays

1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th & 5th Grade Hours

8:00am-3:30pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday
8:00am-2:00pm Wednesdays

Middle School at the Myriad Gardens Hours

7:45am-3:15pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday
7:45am-1:45pm Wednesdays