



**JOHN REX**

CHARTER SCHOOL

TM



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

#wechoosejohnrex

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, Inc., 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 became the home of John Rex's middle grades 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 occupy the lower-level classrooms located beneath 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.

## **EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY: THE 3 R's** **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 collaborative '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 enrichment opportunities that 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 supports metacognition, processing, and reflection of new learning

## **RIGOR**

John Rex believes that rigor is more about the quality of thinking, rather than the quantity of 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

# ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CURRICULUM APPROACH

John Rex 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 problem-solving opportunities and hands-on experiences. The second component is social-emotional learning. This approach is guided by methodologies 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 STE[+a]M 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, and gifted and talented programs. Our goal is to motivate every student to participate fully in their own educational journey and 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. Assessments and grading practices focus on mastery of academic standards. Progress reports and report cards track developmental milestones, current achievement, learner behaviors, and mastery of standards.

## EXPANDED OPPORTUNITIES

The substantial amenities in downtown OKC afford us the ability to create programming that extends learning beyond the walls of school and offers expanded learning opportunities with our downtown partners. We are proud to partner with the Arts Council of Oklahoma City, Myriad Botanical Gardens, Downtown Metropolitan Library, Oklahoma City Museum of Art, Oklahoma City Riversport & OKC Boathouse Foundation, Oklahoma City Ballet, Oklahoma Youth Orchestra, Energy FC, Police Athletic League, Historic Film Row District, Lyric Theatre, and 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.

## STE[+A]M

Thanks to Enable Midstream's "First Down & Stem" initiative with OU and OSU athletics, John Rex was the recipient of a \$25,000 gift to create and equip the Enable Innovation Space with a large variety of STE[+a]M materials and activities. An additional gift of \$5,000 from Continental Resources allowed us to purchase additional items such as virtual reality equipment.



InnovationSpace



## ENRICHMENT AND EXTENSION

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 complies with all state and federal laws related to the education of children with disabilities. JRCS is committed to evaluating, placing, and providing services to students in the least restrictive environment so that each student may receive a high-quality, free appropriate public education. In accordance with IDEA, the student's IEP team establishes the identification, evaluation, placement, and appropriate services. 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.

# MIDDLE GRADES CURRICULUM APPROACH

## SUMMIT LEARNING PLATFORM

Grades 5, 6 & 7 utilize Summit Learning's platform to personalize learning and to empower students to harness their inner drive for success. Developed in partnership with nationally-acclaimed learning scientists and researchers, our instructional approach inspires students and prepares them for life after graduation. By concentrating on the personal needs and abilities of individual students, we have been able to create an environment that fosters success. Students at John Rex start to understand what they are truly capable of, untap their hidden drive for learning, and develop the skills they need to choose their own path in school and in life. Students prepare for life by honing the skills, habits, and knowledge they'll need in the real world by working at their own pace until they have a deep understanding of skills and subject matter.

When it comes to learning and instruction, the Summit Learning approach has three main components. These interconnected components are necessary to ensure that students are ready to live their best life after graduation. Our school builds these components into our weekly schedule.

- ▶ **Mentoring:** Ensures that each student is known and supported by a caring adult through weekly 1:1 check-ins
- ▶ **Projects:** Equips students with life skills that they will apply to real-world scenarios in college and career
- ▶ **Self-Direction:** Helps students develop the ability to set and follow through on short- and long-term goals



## ASSESSMENTS & ACCOUNTABILITY

John Rex School participates in the Oklahoma School Testing Program and administers all state-mandated summative assessments, as required. Formative benchmark 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.

Periodic Report Cards focus on the most recent mastery of standards; progress along several learner continuums and stages of development; and skills checklists-- rather than assigning a letter grade derived from the averaging of practice assignments.

"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.



**MIDDLE SCHOOL STAFF**

### CAREERS AT JOHN REX

John Rex School recruits and hires highly qualified, state-certified classroom teachers. Our base salary is nearly \$10,000 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 \$46,250 in base salary. Faculty and staff benefits include paid health insurance and participation in Oklahoma Teacher Retirement.

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.

### PARENT INVOLVEMENT

The John Rex PTA is a very active and diverse 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.



**VOTED 2019 "BEST CHARTER"**  
MetroFamily Magazine

# BY THE NUMBERS

2018-19

ATTENDANCE RATE

96%

GIFTED & TALENTED

22%

SPECIAL EDUCATION

10%

ENGLISH LEARNERS

9%

ECONOMIC DISADVANTAGED

31%

ENROLLMENT ON OCT. 1

606

RESIDE IN OKCPS DISTRICT

83%

AVERAGE CLASS SIZE

20

OUT-OF-DISTRICT TRANSFERS

17%

PARENT-TEACHER CONF.

94%

OPEN HOUSE PARTICIPATION

88%

PTA MEMBERSHIP

278

NUMBER OF CERTIFIED STAFF

40

AVERAGE YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

9

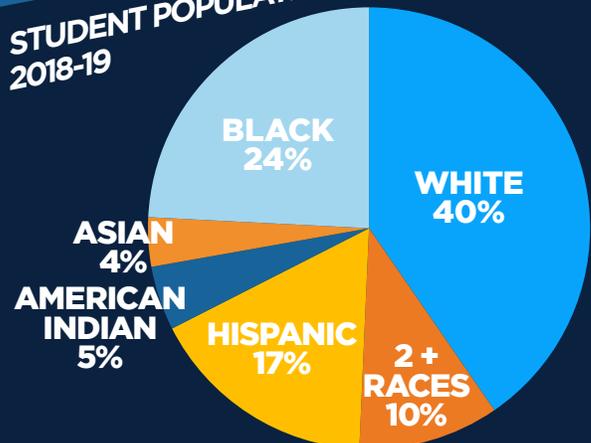
STAFF WITH MASTER'S DEGREE+

33%

STAFF ATTENDANCE

97%

STUDENT POPULATION  
2018-19



## SCHOOL HOURS & CALENDAR

John Rex School creates a school calendar based upon hours of instruction not merely a prescribed number of days per year. 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.

### 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 GRADES AT THE MYRIAD GARDENS HOURS

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

## BEFORE & AFTER CARE GRADES K-5

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.

## AFTER CARE GRADES 6-7

Our middle level grades also offer a fee-based after school care program in partnership with AmeriCorps on site at the Myriad Botanical Gardens.

## THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS & SPONSORS

# INASMUCH FOUNDATION

