



# Frequently Asked Questions

## Curriculum

### 1) What does engineering look like in an elementary school?

Jamerson's students are involved in "hands on, minds on" activities daily. Our vision: Engineering Innovative Thinkers for Global Success, can be seen throughout the school. Students use the Jamerson Design Process when solving problems and making sense of their world. Opportunities are provided for collaborative work and design challenges incorporating technology.

### 2) How is learning connected within the grade and across grades?

Jamerson's curriculum spirals concepts across grade levels. This allows for student knowledge to be built upon as they move through the grades. The curriculum was built around the Florida State Standards and the National Standards of Engineering and Design. Annual Engineering days and schoolwide Expos provide opportunities for families to see how the curriculum connects from one grade to another.

### 3) What does a typical day of instruction look like?

The daily schedule meets District guidelines for each subject area. Within the curriculum, teachers integrate science, math, reading and writing around the engineering focus.

Our students have PE 4 days a week for 40 min. (most schools have 3 days/50min). This provides 10 additional minutes. daily for science instruction. Art is held on 5<sup>th</sup> day of the week in the same block as PE. Music is a different 40 min. block within the week.

### 4) How are art and music integrated?

The specialists at Jamerson (Art, music and PE) integrate engineering into their lessons. For example; force and Motion concepts are taught during PE through sports such as kickball, hockey, etc. The teachers use the vocabulary taught in class and connect to the activity. In music, all sound standards are reinforced throughout the grades. Also, songs and movement are added to teaching science concepts to meet all learners' needs.

### 5) Why would I select your program over others?

Jamerson is a Nationally Certified Magnet school with a diverse population of students. Our curriculum provides opportunities for students to demonstrate understanding in a variety of

ways: hands on, problem solving, problem solving, music, art etc. We believe in teaching the "whole child" and it is our job as educators to find what works best for each child.

### **6) What does the Advanced Academics/Gifted Program look like at Jamerson?**

Students that have meet the eligibility requirements for the Gifted program will attend 1 day a week in the gifted classroom at Jamerson. They will be with grade level peers from other classes and attend PE on that day as well. We have 2 full time teachers on campus and they work together to meet the needs of each student. The curriculum in this program is above and beyond the classroom curriculum and focuses on critical thinking, research skills and problem solving.

### **7) What enrichment opportunities are there?**

Music Ensembles- Band, Jammers drum ensemble, and chorus are offered during school hours and extra band before/after school.

Clubs: Some offerings in the past- Robotics and coding, STEM, Espanolito (Spanish instruction), garden, baking, drama, Sunshine State Readers book club, yoga, etc. are offered before/after school on a rotating basis.

Academic Support: YReads! Reading support for students needing remediation after school. Review instruction in math and reading via computer programs and/or teacher support.

## **General Questions:**

### **1) How many grades/students at each grade?**

Kindergarten- Third Grade: 5 classes each grade with 18 students in each class (90 students total)

Grades 4-5: 4 classes each grade with 22 students in each class (88 students total)

### **2) Do Jamerson students wear uniforms?**

No. We follow Pinellas County Code of Conduct guidelines for clothing. Students are required to have closed-toe shoes for PE.

### **3) Where do Jamerson students go after 5<sup>th</sup> grade?**

5<sup>th</sup> graders have automatic priority to Bay Point Middle's Math and Science magnet or Azalea Middle's Gateway to Technology magnet programs. Applications must be made during the application period and rank one of the schools as your #1 priority.

You may apply to any middle school choice program. Many of our students also attend Thurgood Marshall Fundamental or Gifted Magnet.

## Application Process

### 4) How many people typically apply? What are my chances of being granted a seat?

Kindergarten- 400-500 people apply, approx. 145 rank us as #1

Usually you need to rank us #1 to have an opportunity for a seat. We invite 90 students and can make offers to open seats beginning in March and continuing throughout the school year until March of the following year.

Grades 1-5- range from 100-300 applications

### 5) Do I have to reapply each year?

Once you are a Jamerson student, you do not need to reapply each year.

### 6) Once I am in, are younger children automatically granted a seat when they become school-aged?

Siblings of Jamerson students (must be in attendance for the year the younger sibling attends) receive priority if they apply and rank Jamerson as #1. Incoming Kindergarten students will be moved up in the lottery process and receive a seat.

Grades 1-5 students applying will receive priority and will be offered a seat as one becomes available.

### 7) What if I have multiple children and only one gets in? What happens next?

During the initial lottery process, if one student receives an invitation and another does not, you must accept for one and then contact the magnet coordinator to let them know you have a sibling. There is a week of "Newly Invited Sibling" notification after the initial acceptance period.

### 8) What if I already have one child at Jamerson and miss the application period for my other child?

You will need to file a late application and will lose sibling priority for the incoming student.

### 9) What is the process for applying?

- 1) Secure a Focus Username and Password from a local school.
- 2) Apply online during the enrollment period at [www.reservation.pcsb.org](http://www.reservation.pcsb.org)
- 3) Make up to 5 selections
- 4) Return to enrollment site during acceptance period to claim any offered seat.

### 10) How does Jamerson ensure safety during this time of the Covid-19?

Jamerson follows all Pinellas and Health guidelines set forth by Pinellas County Schools.

- Our classrooms have no more than the maximum students allowed.
- Students sit at individual desks which are distanced to the greatest extent possible.
- Individualized materials and manipulatives are used when possible.
- Social distancing at lunch
- Masks must always be worn (not lunch, PE, etc.)
- Rooms are disinfected nightly.
- Teachers ensure sanitizing is occurring between transitions through hand washing or sanitizer when washing is not feasible.