

# YOU ASK, “Why Jackson?”

## WE ANSWER:

### Awards and Recognition

- **International Baccalaureate (IB) World School Distinction:** An achievement that every school works several years to attain, the Primary Years Programme of IB focuses on the total growth of the child encompassing academic, social, emotional and cultural needs. Few schools in the U.S. have earned this coveted status. In fact, North Atlanta High School was one of the first IB schools in Georgia, and, now, Sutton Middle School has joined the ranks. That means a continuous IB education in our public education sector can be experienced in grades K-12.
- **National Blue Ribbon School Distinction:** Bestowed by the US Department of Education, this federal honor is only granted to schools that have already been awarded on a state level. The Blue Ribbon award then recognizes a school based on high achievement scores in various areas.
- **Georgia School of Excellence Distinction:** Awarded by the Georgia Department of Education, this achievement is based on a school attaining superior test scores covering a variety of subjects. Jackson received this honor first in 2001, then again in 2010.
- **Platinum Designation from the Governor’s Office of Student Achievement:** Jackson has consistently won this designation more than any other area school.
- **Alliance for a Healthier Generation Bronze Distinction:** Jackson is one of only two APS schools to achieve this national status for implementing innovative changes to create a healthier school environment.

### Campus and Teachers

- **School Structure, Upkeep and Location:** Jackson comprises two campuses -- our Primary Center (K-1st) and our Main Campus (2nd-5th). Each site provides an expansive interior and is located on acres of lush, forested grounds. Our campuses are refreshed year-round in a variety of ways, from remodeling and painting to in-class equipment upgrades to landscape enhancements and the like.
- **Layout:** Grade levels on the main campus are divided into neatly kept Suites, which contain appropriately scaled restrooms and furniture. In addition, a Teacher Workroom is also maintained (per Suite) that includes a supply area for shared learning materials.
- **School Size:** Currently, there are approximately 825 students in grades K-5.
- **Teaching Style:** In addition to incorporating the character education of IB within everyday curriculum, Jackson instructors are trained to utilize a teaching style for each child’s way of learning: seeing, hearing and doing. Our teachers are well prepared to adapt to different modes of teaching in a public school environment, following Georgia Common Core Standards with a diverse and challenging curriculum.
- **Technology:** Jackson Main campus has 1 computer mac lab and 2 PC labs as well as an iPad cart and a Mac laptop cart. The Primary campus has a computer lab and an iPad cart for teachers’ use. Each classroom has between 3-5 computers available for research and learning activities with Internet access. Every classroom also contains an interactive whiteboard designed to bring the world directly into the classroom.

- **Science is Important:** PTA supplements the science curriculum with High Touch/High Tech at every grade. We have indoor and outdoor science areas set aside at each campus. Second and third graders have Science Lab as a rotating special. We are exploring the concept of acquiring STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) certification as we enhance STEM instruction throughout the school.
- **Dedication:** At Jackson, we care about our community and always look for ways to give back. We've made a tradition of providing avid support to many charities and other non-profit groups. To date, we've given tens of thousands of dollars to causes ranging from the American Heart Association, Juvenile Diabetes, March of Dimes and Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. We also organize yearly drives for the needy, including books for schools less fortunate, new hats and mittens for the homeless during the holidays, and donations for animal shelters, to name a few.

## Academics

- **Reading:** Jackson integrates literature into our intensive phonics program throughout the reading instructional block. We focus on phonics (Orton Gillingham) and integrate reading, writing and spelling in the primary grades and shift our emphasis to comprehension through literacy circles and book clubs in the upper grades. All of our kindergarten through second grade teachers are Orton Gillingham certified, which provides for specialized reading instruction where indicated. Reading instruction is integrated throughout the curriculum, beginning with fiction and increased emphasis on non-fiction as students matriculate through the grades.
- **The Accelerated Reading Program (AR):** Our media center is headquarters for this fun, year-long incentive that encourages reading for all grades. This reading program is customized to the child's reading level and encourages individual growth. Children read AR books at their level and receive points for completing comprehension tests. Parents receive regular progress reports tailored to their children.
- **Math:** Mathematics instruction is a vibrant part of the day at Jackson. Our students rely on a variety of resources, including the Houghton Mifflin program, to master the Common Core Standards of Georgia. We are not textbook dependent, but rather standards based on problem solving and logic. Our goal is to help students develop the tools to understand and apply mathematics in their everyday lives. Relevance is the key to mastery. Accelerated math is provided in 2-5<sup>th</sup> grades with a formal advanced math class starting in 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades.
- **French:** Children are taught French beginning in 1st grade, 3 days a week, by certified French teachers. 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades have French 4 days a week.
- **Specials:** Each week, students participate in a full range of Special classes including Art, Music, Drama, P.E., Computer Lab and Science Lab all instructed by highly qualified teachers.
- **Challenge:** Our Challenge (Gifted) Program provides differentiated learning opportunities for identified children in grades 1-5.
- **Special Needs:** We offer a licensed speech pathologist and full-time certified instructors for students with specific learning disabilities. We also have special classes for students with Autism.

## Programs and Activities

- **Roots & Shoots:** Jackson was the first Atlanta school to join this internationally acclaimed program, founded by Dr. Jane Goodall. Membership is open to all students to participate in grade-specific, community service clubs where students develop and carry out projects and events to help animals, the environment and those in need. To date, countless non-profits have benefitted from our students philanthropic integrity, which was recognized in March of 2010 with an historic visit from Dr. Goodall herself - a day no Jaguar will ever forget!
- **Jackson's GreenThink:** Jackson is the only area elementary school to have developed this school-wide environmental program. Its purpose is to help Jackson become a healthier place for our children, and

positively impact our world. With on-going activities that promote reducing, reusing and recycling (along with the use of natural alternatives), GreenThink helps children understand the importance of ecological solutions and how every student can affect significant change.

- **Jackson's Outdoor Classroom:** A remarkable PTA initiative where students not only experience learning surrounded by nature...they also create and maintain these outdoor areas as well. JOC comprises three organic kitchen gardens, a pollinator garden, a bird-watching reserve, a science garden and a woodland nature trail with platform stage and seating area.
- **Cultural Arts:** This Jackson program includes trips to the Alliance Theatre, the Atlanta Ballet, the Center for Puppetry Arts, the Fernbank Museum, the High Museum, and much more. In addition, Jackson offers a host of other intriguing on-site events, such as visits from authors and illustrators, storytellers and other interesting visual and performing artists.
- **Orchestra/Chorus:** Beginning in fourth grade, students may choose to add Orchestra and/or chorus to their curriculum.
- **Graduation Trip:** Jackson 5th graders share an overnight outdoor learning experience at locations such as: Rock Eagle or Blue Ridge.
- **Let's Do Lunch:** As a parent, you're welcome to have lunch with your child any day you'd like!
- **PTA:** Jackson has an outstanding PTA, providing everything from extra funding to extra time, energy and talent to get the job done! No doubt, these dedicated parents help make our school the remarkable place it is. Our PTA pays for a lot of the "extras" here, including things like the Computer Lab and Promethean boards for each classroom, just to name a few. Yearly PTA-sponsored school events include: Fall Festival, Parents Fall Party and/or Auction, Fathers & Friends Breakfasts, Bingo Night, Family Movie Night, Grandparents Day, Read-a-Thon and the Jaguar Robotics team.
- **Jackson After School:** A dynamic after-school program directed by certified teachers who offer guidance in areas of academics and creative arts. This licensed program offers: Mad Science, chess, drama, violin, gymnastics/cheer/dance, private tutoring, Kidzart, karate, piano - even snacks and quality homework time.

## School After Jackson

- With a Jackson education, students graduate prepared to matriculate at any middle school. In fact, 99% of Jackson students who apply to private schools are accepted to a school of their choice. Currently, about 60% of our students go on to Sutton, with many families enthusiastically choosing this option instead of "going private."

***With all it offers, maybe the question should be: Why not Jackson? As one of Buckhead's premier elementary schools, your child will receive a unique, and exceptionally rewarding, elementary years experience.***

***Given its emphasis on progressive learning, impressive test scores, diversity, and striking a balance where students learn as seriously as they play, there's truly something for everyone at Jackson. And the value simply can't be beat.***

School Tours are available Fridays at 9:30 a.m. Visit [www.wtjackson.org](http://www.wtjackson.org) for the full schedule and please call ahead to reserve a space.

Main Campus (2nd - 5th grades)  
1325 Mt. Paran Road; 30327. (404.802.8800)

Primary Campus (K - 1st grade)  
4191 Northside Drive; 30342. (404.802.8810)