

## Rationale for Academic Programs at JDHS 2010-11

As we think about the core values of JDHS, it is fundamental that Next Generation belief statements and principles are incorporated into our academic program proposal. The academic program proposal for JDHS must insure that students continue to enjoy equity, personalization, and choice.

As our academic program was developed, these Next Generation belief statements were central to our planning:

1. We must create a learning environment that fosters success for all students.
2. All members of our learning community deserve choices that ensure equity, challenges, and engagement in a personal, caring environment.
3. Collaborative environments are necessary to support the process of continuous learning for staff and students.
4. Its essential to attain best practices in teaching through ongoing professional development.
5. Our graduates will be confident, responsible, and resilient and prepared with 21<sup>st</sup> century skills for careers and/or educational opportunities in Alaska and beyond.

Some of the key components that grew out of these belief statements formed the foundation for our academic program.

1. 9<sup>th</sup> grade learning communities
2. Learning communities based on themes
3. Advisory program for all
4. Flexibility to move among themed communities
5. Core content/state standards in all communities
6. Post secondary preparation for all students
7. Enrollment based on choice and equity

As you study the JDHS Academic Program, we hope you observe several key understandings:

1. In-depth focus, areas of specialization
2. Permeability with each in-depth focus area
3. Alignment with 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills
4. Alignment with UAS focus
5. Maintains a tradition of college prep
6. Provides opportunities for all students to be engaged and successful
7. Challenges all students to achieve
8. Supports a high quality of educational experiences regardless of the endorsement
9. Engages our faculty in collaboration
10. Creates links across disciplines and endorsements
11. Grew out of faculty interests and ownership
12. Will be a sustainable academic program

13. Reflects the interests of the community
14. Connects with the goals of our workforce consortium and advisory boards
15. Aligns career-tech with workforce development
16. Provides for a comprehensive education, students have options to experience variety of courses and learn new skills, and challenges students in new and advanced areas.
17. Looks to the future by offering culminating experiences for seniors, applies the theory of the classroom to the next step
18. Incorporates our strengths - math, science, LA, and social sciences
19. Provides for the next steps – project based learning, integrated instruction, enhanced connections with core content

Our academic program proposal maintains these qualities with enhancements:

1. Small Learning Communities designed around the need for weekly planning times and continued staff development to plan instruction, analyze the results of teaching, and engage students in monitoring their own learning
2. Early Scholars program – culturally rich program of study and endorsement preparing students for post-secondary education
3. Special Education
4. CHOICE – needs will be similar to those listed in SLCs above
5. Extended Learning – an honor program with enhanced connections to academic program
6. Interdisciplinary program endorsements

What's new?

1. Fifteen endorsements
  - a. A<sup>2</sup>CE (4)- Architecture, Construction, Engineering, Auto Mechanics
  - b. Jobs and Docs (2) – Health Sciences, Fitness & Recreation
  - c. Fine Arts (4) – Theater, Vocal Performance, Instrumental Performance, Visual Arts
  - d. Business (2) – Marketing, Finance
  - e. Humanities (1) – World Language, English, Social Studies, Fine Arts
  - f. Early Scholars (1)- Southeast Alaska Integrated Studies
  - g. Media Communication (1)
  - h. Culinary Arts (1)
  - i. Honors program (1)
2. Encourages students to explore, learn/reach their potential, be active learners
3. Integrated thematic instruction – integrating knowledge in varied disciplines
4. Culminating experiences – A<sup>2</sup>CE, Jobs and Docs, SE Alaska Integrated Studies
5. Connections to core content
6. Connections to other endorsements – Theater to Construction; Visual Arts to Media Communication, A<sup>2</sup>CE, and Health Sciences; Media Communications to Marketing; Culinary Arts to Marketing; Finance to Marketing; Humanities to Fine Arts; SE Alaska Integrated Studies to Science, Math, & World Languages.