



WHY Andersen Junior High School?



We know that parents have a variety of schools to choose from and that you want the “best” education for your child. Here are just a few examples of why we believe AJHS is the right school for your child.

- AJHS was awarded the A+ School of Excellence from the Arizona Education Foundation in 2008. AJHS was the first junior high in CUSD to be awarded this since 1992, and one of only a few junior highs in the entire East Valley to receive this recognition.
- Only junior high in CUSD implementing the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program. AJHS and Chandler High School are IB World Schools and have developed a partnership in this program so that all AJHS students have an easy transition into Chandler High School’s IB program. IB is the most reputable advanced placement program and benefits high school students in college admissions.
- Only junior high school in the Arizona to offer both single gender and mixed gender classes. Parents can choose to have their child placed in single gender or mixed gender core curriculum classes. Over the past several years we have documented results that show many AJHS students focus better and experience greater achievement when they are in single gender classes. Principal Anderson has presented the results of our single gender classes at three national education conferences.
- Outstanding master level teachers. Sixty-six percent of our teachers have master’s degrees. Our teachers have weekly curriculum meetings where they develop common lessons and assessments to ensure that ALL students receive quality instruction and a superior educational experience.
- Academic Enrichment (AE) is a program created to help failing students get extra help and raise their grades. AE is held Monday – Thursday after school from 3:40-4:20. Students who are failing a class are required to attend AE until they have brought their grade up and are passing all their classes.
- Responsible Thinking Process is the school wide discipline program. Implemented fifteen years ago, it ensures consistent and fair handling of classroom disruptions. If students disrupt a class, they report to the Responsible Thinking Classroom (RTC) where they reflect on their behavior and develop a plan to change their behavior and successfully return to class. It Works!! Eighty-five percent of our students never visit RTC once and very few return to RTC multiple times.
- Outstanding music and athletic programs. Our music groups participate in regional and state festivals and always receive “superior” and “excellent” ratings. AJHS has more 1st place finishes in the East Valley Athletic Conference the past 12 years than any other junior high school in CUSD.

If you have any questions please contact our office at 480-883-5300 or visit our website at www.cusd80.com/ajhs



What is the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program and how will it better prepare my child for high school?

Andersen Junior High is the only junior high in CUSD to offer the IB Middle Years Program. The IB Middle Years Program, for students in grades 6-10, provides a framework of academic challenge that encourages students to embrace and understand the connections between traditional subjects and the real world, and become critical and reflective thinkers.

The program encourages **international-mindedness**. AJHS is a school with a very diverse student body. We believe our diversity is a strength and we feature lessons and presentations designed to enlighten our students and to be accepting of people of different cultures and beliefs.

There is academic rigor in the IB Middle Years Program. Many of our assessments use the IB MYP rubrics that are used by other IB MYP schools around the world. AJHS student work is evaluated on the same writing, math, humanities, and science rubrics as students in other countries. Therefore, we are able to compare the academic performance of AJHS students to students in other countries.

The AJHS curriculums are structured to highlight the five **areas of interactions** of the IB Middle Years Program:

Approaches to learning is concerned with developing the intellectual discipline, attitudes, strategies and skills in our students that will result in critical, coherent and independent thought and the capacity for problem solving and decision making.

Community and service starts in the classroom and extends beyond it, requiring students to participate in the communities in which they live. The emphasis is on developing community awareness and concern, a sense of responsibility, and the skills and attitudes needed to make an effective contribution to society.

Human ingenuity allows students to focus on the evolution, and the processes and products of human creativity. Students learn to appreciate the human capacity to influence, transform, enjoy and improve the quality of life.

Environments aims to make students aware of their interdependence with the environment so that they become aware of their responsibility and may take positive, responsible action for maintaining an environment fit for the future.

Health and social education prepares students for a physically and mentally healthy life, aware of potential hazards and able to make informed choices. It develops in students a sense of responsibility for their own well-being and for the physical and social environments.

Because the IB Middle Years Program is for students in grades 6-10, the staffs of AJHS and CHS work collaboratively and cooperatively in following a common vision of the program. This results in consistent delivery of quality instruction and making for an easier transition for AJHS students to CHS.

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