

## 2010–11: Our School At a Glance

### School Administration

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Principal: Ben Kolb                      Counseling Staff: Meredith Yowell, M. Ed.  
Administrative Assistant: Sarah Belden                      Advisory Staff: Catherine Bode

### Community

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#### Our History

**Jackson Hole Connections Academy (JHCA)** is an accredited, public school serving students in grades K–12 from across the state. Our students come from urban, suburban, and rural communities. The school was founded during the 2009–10 school year as a K–12 school.

#### Our Mission

Jackson Hole Connections Academy's mission is to help each student maximize his or her potential and meet the highest performance standards through a uniquely individualized learning program.

#### Our Wyoming Program

Jackson Hole Connections Academy includes a four-year comprehensive high school program with an enrollment of 43 students. Here are some important facts about the Wyoming program:

- The school uses Connections Academy's program, which is accredited by AdvancEd.
- Jackson Hole Connections Academy has 5 certified/licensed professional staff. Of those, 2 have earned advanced degrees.
- School is in session 180 days between the months of September and June.
- Students are able to earn up to 7 credits during the school year.
- Students attending Jackson Hole Connections Academy will be administered the Wyoming State Assessment Program (PAWS), as required by the state of Wyoming. Students in grades 3–8 and 11 will be administered tests in reading, writing, and math. Additionally, students in grades 4, 8, and 11 will be administered a science test. Travel will be required to the assigned test site for testing. If a student does not test on the assigned test date, he/she will be required to attend make-up testing, which will take place at the JHCA office in Jackson, WY. If a student fails to attend make-up testing, he/she will not be allowed to enroll at JHCA the following school year.
- Students in grade 11 must take the SAT or ACT college admissions test or the WorkKeys test.
- **Hathaway Scholarships** – The State of Wyoming provides the opportunity for Wyoming students to earn scholarship money based on their G.P.A. and ACT scores, pending legislation of the success curriculum. Students are strongly encouraged to take coursework that will best prepare them to be awarded the maximum amount of money available. Starting with the class of 2011, students will need to be on track with the Success Curriculum to earn a Hathaway Scholarship. Additional information can be found at: <http://www.k12.wy.us/hathaway.asp>. **All students pursuing the Hathaway scholarship must take the ACT exam.**

## Programs of Study

Jackson Hole Connections Academy offers a diverse and comprehensive curriculum, with courses in a wide range of disciplines. The core curriculum is geared toward preparing students for college and beyond. All science courses include hands-on laboratory units. Students have access to AP, Honors, College Preparatory, and Basic programs. Students also have the opportunity to participate in the Post-Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) program, whereby they can earn dual high school and college credit by attending post-secondary institutions.

- **AP course offerings** include: Art History, Biology, Calculus BC, English Language, Environmental Science B, Macroeconomics, Microeconomics, Psychology, Statistics, U.S. Government, and World History. These courses are available through our National Connections Academy for a fee to the family.
- **Honors course offerings** include: Algebra I and II, American Government, Biology, Chemistry, Earth Science, English 9–12, Geometry, Physical Science, Pre-calculus, U.S. History, and World History.

Jackson Hole Connections Academy operates on a semester system utilizing Carnegie units. One semester class equals one-half of a high school credit. Students who have taken high school level courses while in middle school may have been granted high school credit. The required course load is seven classes per semester.

## Graduation Requirements and Grade Reporting

All students must pass all state-mandated tests in order to graduate. Students attending Jackson Hole Connections Academy under a declined MOU must meet the graduation requirements set by our partner, Teton County School District No. 1. Students attending Jackson Hole Connections Academy on an approved MOU must meet the graduation requirements of their resident school district. While we will make every effort to align student placement with that of the resident district, final approval of that placement is the responsibility of the resident district, which will review the Distance Learning Plan (DLP) issued by Jackson Hole Connections Academy.

**Teton County School District No. 1 Graduation Requirements:** Twenty-three-and-a-half (23.5) Carnegie units of credits are required for graduation (TCSD No. 1 policy IKF). The specific **minimum** requirements, which are necessary for state approval as defined by Wyoming State Statute 21-9-101, are outlined below. (Note: These requirements may not meet those necessary for admission to all colleges and post-high school programs.)

| <b>Subject</b>                             | <b>Credits</b> |
|--|----------------|
| English                                    | 4.0            |
| Math                                       | 3.0            |
| Social Studies                             | 3.0            |
| Science                                    | 3.0            |
| Speech                                     | 0.5            |
| Health                                     | 0.5            |
| Physical Education                         | 1.0            |
| Humanities, Fine Arts, or Foreign Language | 1.0            |
| Career or Vocational                       | 1.0            |
| Electives                                  | 6.5            |
| <b>Total</b>                               | <b>23.5</b>    |

## Grading Scale

High school students will be awarded credit only for courses in which they have earned a grade of 60% (D) or better. This applies both to courses taken at Connections Academy and at other schools. Previous courses taken at other schools in which the student earned a grade below a 60% (D) will not be awarded with transfer credit, but will appear on student records and will be included in a student's grade point average (G.P.A.). Courses required for graduation will need to be re-taken by the student if a grade of 60% (D) or higher was not earned, and re-taking such courses may delay the student's graduation. Semester and year-end G.P.A. calculations will follow a four point scale (below). Grade point averages will only include graded courses; pass/fail courses will not be averaged into a student's G.P.A.

All JHCA courses use the following standard grading scale:

| Grade | Grade % | Passing? | Grade Points |
|-------|---------|----------|--------------|
| A     | 90-100  | Yes      | 4            |
| B     | 80-89   | Yes      | 3            |
| C     | 70-79   | Yes      | 2            |
| D     | 60-69   | Yes      | 1            |
| F     | < 60    | No       | 0            |

## Class Rank Policy

JHCA does not calculate and document class rank, but the school does provide individual rank.

## High School Virtual Visitation

College and University representatives are cordially invited to connect with our students through web-conferencing technology. A two-week advanced notice is greatly appreciated so that we have time to notify students. For more information about setting up a web-conference session, please contact **Meredith Yowell at 800-382-6010 ext. 2167** or [myowell@connectionsacademy.com](mailto:myowell@connectionsacademy.com).