

# Admissions FAQs



## > **How many students per grade will JLA admit?**

Our grades are capped at 45 students per grade, with an average class size of 15 students.

## > **What are the application deadlines?**

The application online portal goes live on September 6th, 2022 and all materials must be submitted by January 9th, 2023. Please refer to the flowchart and to the application checklist on the website for a list of materials due.

## > **What happens if I miss the application deadline?**

We have purposely provided a long application period in order to allow families enough time to complete the application. If you missed the deadline, please contact [admissions@jlamiami.org](mailto:admissions@jlamiami.org), however we cannot guarantee that your application will be considered.

## > **Are there any application fees?**

There is a \$100 non-refundable application fee per applicant, which can be paid online when you submit your application.

## > **How do I schedule a meeting with the admissions team?**

Once you have completed your application, a member of our admissions team will contact you to schedule parent and student interviews with our leadership team.

## > **What does JLA look for in its applicants?**

A JLA student will possess exemplary character traits, high academic ability, a genuine interest in learning, and a passion for knowledge. In addition, they will demonstrate the potential for leadership and a genuine desire to grow Jewishly. Moreover, the family of a JLA student must be supportive of the school's mission and excited to join the JLA community as positive, contributing members.

## > **My child is very strong in some academic areas, but weak in others. Should we apply?**

Your child should apply. Every child has strengths and weaknesses and we fully understand that at JLA. Though every class at JLA will be taught at an honors level and above, there will be a Learning Specialist on staff to support students with learning differences and every student will have the opportunity to work with their teachers during afternoon tutorial should that be a need in some academic areas.

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## > **Can my child still be a candidate for admission if they have a psycho-ed evaluation?**

Absolutely. These evaluations can be very helpful to the JLA admissions team and provide us with pertinent information required to assist your child and determine their learning needs.

## > **I need to revise my application but have already submitted it. What should I do?**

Please contact [admissions@jlamiami.org](mailto:admissions@jlamiami.org).

## > **I need technical support with my application. Who should I contact?**

Please contact [admissions@jlamiami.org](mailto:admissions@jlamiami.org).

## > **What is the portfolio and is it required?**

We want to know as much as we can about all of our prospective applicants. The portfolio, though not required, is an opportunity for a student to showcase their talents and passions. Students can be creative with their portfolio, but they must be able to submit it to us digitally.

## > **My child's school doesn't issue a traditional transcript reflecting grades. What should I do?**

We welcome anecdotal reports, mastery, and competency based progress reports. Please ask the school to send us whatever progress report they use to measure student growth.

## > **My transcript is in a language other than English. Do I need to provide it in the original language in addition to a translated copy?**

Yes, we can only accept transcripts in English.

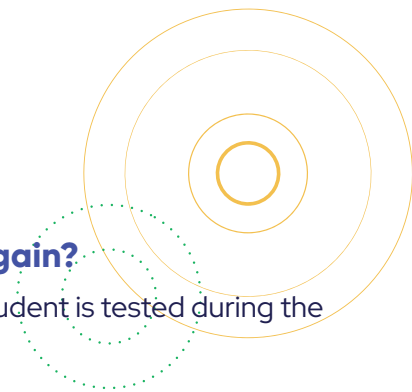
## > **What is the MAP test and how long does it take?**

The MAP assessment is a one hour long adaptive standardized test which will automatically adjust the questions to a student's ability so as to provide a more accurate representation of their current level and ability.

## > **I have other standardized test scores. Do I have to take the MAP test assessment?**

The MAP test is a crucial component of our admissions process, as it ensures an even playing field amongst all applicants. It is therefore mandatory.

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## > **My child's school gives the MAP Test, do they need to take it again?**

We want to see your child's most current results. As such, we prefer that the student is tested during the application process at JLA.

## > **What is the CSA Character Skills Snapshot?**

The Character Skills Snapshot is an assessment tool developed by the makers of the SSAT to measure critical qualities such as empathy, integrity, agreeableness and grit. For more information please visit <https://www.admission.org/services/character-skills-snapshot>.

## > **How can my child best prepare for the assessments?**

There is no preparation required for any of the assessments we will be conducting. Our best advice is to encourage your child to relax, be themselves, and have fun.

## > **What should students expect of the Activity Day?**

The Activity Day will be a fun day of group challenges and activities that will allow JLA to observe applicants in a more natural and relaxed environment. In addition to small group activities, students will also have individual time during which they will be asked to do some writing in response to an interesting prompt and to fill out the Character Skills Snapshot.

## > **Is there a minimum GPA requirement for admission?**

No. Admission to JLA is based on a holistic assessment of every student and the school's assessment of their likelihood to succeed in our program. Academically, JLA is looking for students who demonstrate that they can succeed in Honors level courses across all disciplines.

## > **What if English is my child's second language?**

Many academically able and ambitious students have proven that they can succeed in an Honors level English Course even if English is their second language. The twice-weekly tutorial during Option 9 will provide such students with the opportunity to get feedback on their writing and help with their reading if such is necessary.

## > **Do you accept any state scholarships?**

JLA will be accepting FTC, FES-EO and FES-UA scholarships, administered through either Step Up for Students or AAA Scholarship. Please visit <https://teachcoalition.org/fl-scholarship> for more information, or contact the business office at 305-306-2660 ext. 102 or [jsharp@jlamiami.org](mailto:jsharp@jlamiami.org).

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## > Can I apply for financial aid?

Families who can afford to fully fund their investment will be required to do so. However, we do not believe that ability to pay should be a criteria in the admissions process, and we are committed to enrolling every student that is accepted into the school, regardless of their financial means. The admissions process will therefore be **“need blind”** and JLA is dedicated to fully integrating mission appropriate students from all socio-economic backgrounds into the fabric of school life.

Applications for our Indexed Tuition Program are confidentially administered through a 3rd party and will be available in the fall of 2022.

In order to facilitate transparency between JLA and prospective families, we’ve created a tuition estimator to give a sense of what their Indexed Tuition tier may be. While a final determination can only be made after a review of your completed Indexed Tuition application, this tool will help to provide an estimate based solely on the parameters shared with us below. Please visit <https://jlamiami.org/tuition> to access the Indexed Tuition Calculator.

## > What grades are you starting with?

Our campus will open its doors to welcome 6th, 7th, 9th, and 10th grade in the Fall of 2023.

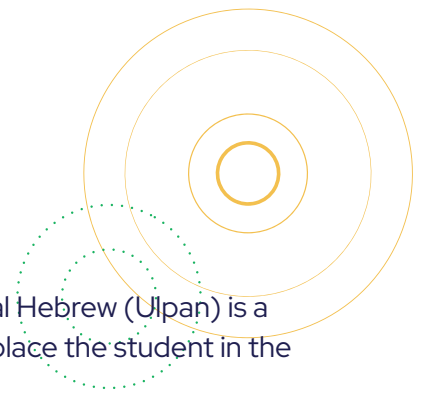
## > Why aren’t you having an 8th grade in the first year?

Our decision is based on our feeling that students benefit greatly from having their 8th grade experience in the school that they’ve been attending for the previous three, eight, or even ten years. Furthermore, our experience is such that 8th graders are often focused on what comes next for them by midway through their 8th grade year, while we want our inaugural classes to be fully focused and vested on creating and building the culture in their respective divisions of JLA. Our 7th graders in 23-24 will become our first 8th grade in 24-25.

## > Do you have to be in a Jewish Day School currently to get into JLA?

No. JLA is committed to accepting mission appropriate students who seek to grow in their understanding of and appreciation for Judaism, irrespective of any prior experience with Jewish learning and irrespective of their or their family’s personal level of observance. Students whose mother is Jewish or who have had an Orthodox conversion, regardless of current affiliation, observance or prior knowledge will be welcome at JLA. For the purposes of kashrut, tefillah, and other areas of Jewish law, JLA will operate in accordance with a Modern Orthodox approach.

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## > **Is knowledge of Hebrew a prerequisite for acceptance?**

Prior knowledge of Hebrew is not a prerequisite for acceptance. Conversational Hebrew (Ulpan) is a mandatory class for all JLA students and an assessment will be conducted to place the student in the appropriate level.

## > **Is there a minimum number of students you need in order to open?**

There is no minimum.

## > **If one child in a family is accepted to JLA does that mean their siblings are likely to be accepted as well?**

We consider each student individually regardless of sibling acceptance. It is critical to the success of our program that all students accepted to JLA be mission appropriate.