

The Oquirrh Mountain Junior High Experience:

- Scholarship, citizenship, moral excellence
- Small class sizes – access to teachers, counselor, etc.
- Enrichment opportunities (Friday enrichment classes)
- Greater personal attention by teacher (one on one help)
- Positive culture among students
- MAP test for guiding student instruction (language, math & science)
- Extra-curricular opportunity (accompanied by study hall with teacher support)
- Parent teacher communication
- Teacher quality – two teachers taught honors courses previously and teach the same way here.
- High expectations (honors level classes) with support to achieve. Teachers give time before school, after school and during prep time to help students.
- Students empowered and engaged in a climate of creativity, inquiry and teamwork.
- Developing – this is our third year and the program will continue to evolve and improve.

Skills Students Will Acquire:

- Computer literacy
- Media awareness
- Information management
- Leadership
- Moral Excellence
- Accountability
- Personal productivity
- People skills
- Social responsibility
- Self-direction
- Critical thinking
- Problem solving
- Communication
- Creativity
- Collaboration

Comments about the junior high experience:

“This is the best thing that ever happened to me! This has been the best school year of my life.” --- a junior high student.

“I was nervous and almost pulled my seventh grader. Didn’t get a variance so remained. Love it. My child bounds out of bed every morning. I don’t regret it at all.” - --- a mother

“I love to have our team play Oquirrh Mountain. Their athletes are so respectful.” – a coach.

9th grade students were talking about how high school teachers "give up" on students after the first week. A student then said, in a very depressed tone, "Mr. Walter doesn't give up and it's so annoying!"

The Oquirrh Mountain Junior High Experience (bullet points expanded):

- Scholarship, citizenship, moral excellence – this is what we are striving to accomplish and achieve to fulfill the vision of the school.
- Small class sizes – students have greater access to teachers, the counselor, etc.
- Enrichment opportunities – an enrichment class is offered on Friday for students. It is a program that is being continually reviewed as we look to enhance, refine, and improve different and special learning opportunities for students. The time has also been used for a school wide opportunity for students who are behind in their homework/class work to catch up. (This is an area that will continue to be reviewed. Teachers want to provide time within the day to provide teacher assistance and guidance to students so they will be successful but we do not want that time to be only that. We want all students to have access to exciting enrichment opportunities.)
- Greater personal attention by teacher - one on one help.
- Positive culture among students – the culture within the junior high is very positive. One student remarked that “This is the best thing that ever happened to me.” The mother of a seventh grade student stated that her child bounds out of bed each morning eager to go to school. She had attempted to get her student into another junior high but did not receive a waiver. She says she does not regret one bit having the student here. In fact she loves it. A coach from another school states he loves playing against Oquirrh Mountain because the team is so respectful.
- MAP test for guiding student instruction – this is wonderful information for students, teachers and parents which is not offered by other schools in the area. It provides a growth model showing the increase in student understanding of language, math & science. Teachers are able to use the data to identify and then fill holes in student understanding and knowledge.
- Extra-curricular opportunity – students who would not have an opportunity to participate in sports have that opportunity here. They learn teamwork, sports fundamentals and experience the challenges associated with competitive sports. And the coaches (teachers) provide a study hall with teacher support to help the athletes maintain their academic eligibility but more importantly succeed in mastering a challenging and rigorous curriculum.
- Parent teacher communication – due to our small size and the commitment teachers have to student success, teachers contact and work more closely with parents for student achievement.
- Teacher quality – two teachers taught honors courses previously and teach the same way here. One teacher concurrently teaches college level (one evening a week.) Oquirrh Mountain’s curriculum is advanced. Teachers explain that the content of our courses often exceeds even that of traditional public school honors courses. At a minimum the content of most courses is on par with local district level honors courses.
- High expectations with support to achieve. Teachers give time before school, after school and during prep time to help students. The expectations are high since the curriculum rivals or exceeds that of traditional honors and AP courses. Ninth grade students will have the opportunity to take AP exams for courses that have end of course exams in the traditional schools. Students who pass those exams will have the class designated as AP on their transcripts.
- Students empowered and engaged in a climate of creativity, inquiry and teamwork. Some of the unique opportunities used by teachers to instruct in the junior high include: students produce a promotional video in Utah studies; learn and make a toga in Latin; 7th graders will have hands-on experience designing, building and testing a mystery object (Manhattan type project where each group has an assignment that is a small part of a whole but one group doesn’t know what the others are doing nor the ultimate end of what they are doing); 9th graders are competing in English Quest (WSU); 9th graders engage in a yearlong final service-based project which includes research, organization, writing, preparation and realization; all students participate in group and individual presentations using a wide variety of mediums such as PowerPoint, speeches, and visual displays; due to the school’s emphasis on American History students study historical concepts and events in greater depth, e.g. the Russian Revolution is generally

taught in one day, however because Russian history is so important to American history during the 20th Century it is studied for three weeks; Saxon is more challenging than other math programs so students gain greater depth and leave knowing more math; math is taught until students understand - not covered and moved on; heavy emphasis on identifying weaknesses in understanding and overcoming them; 8th grade US History in conjunction with their Creative Writing class will present a spring "We the People" program which will include student original writing along with historical writings regarding our country; students engage in dramatic presentations of history in the fall and Lincoln-Douglas style debate in the spring; students will now engage in online dissection in science so they can understand biological systems more fully by more frequent and diverse opportunities than can be provided by way of very limited and non-repeatable actual dissections; and students exam one primary document each week from the time period they study in history rather than just reading what others say about what happened.

- The junior high is a developing program – this is our third year and the program will continue to evolve and improve.