

# THE JEFFERSON JOURNAL

☆☆★ News from Jefferson Elementary School ☆☆☆

*Land Acknowledgement: We acknowledge that we are on the unceded lands of the Spokane Tribe. The Spokane people shared this place with other tribes through their relations, resources, history, trade, and ceremony. We thank the caretakers of this land, who lived, and continue to live here since Time Immemorial. This land holds the knowledge, culture, and spirit of "The People of the River."*



## PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Greetings Jefferson Community,

What a great start to the school year! These first few days have been exceptional! Our young scholars are excited to be back, their teachers are ready to lead them in their learning and the entire community exudes a sense of hope that this will be a school year second-to-none.



Last week, I shared some of the impacts on a scholar's academic well-being if they miss just 10% of the school year (roughly two days per month). Those include impaired academic progress, lower test scores and higher retention rates. In fact, according to a US Department of Education report ([Chronic Absenteeism in the Nation's Schools: A Hidden Educational Crisis](#)) irregular attendance can be a better predictor of whether students will drop out of school before graduation than test scores.

Further, [one study](#) found that absenteeism in the first month of school can predict poor attendance throughout the school year. In that study, nearly half of students who missed 2-4 days in September went on to be chronically absent for the year, with 88% of students who missed more than four days being chronically absent over the entirety of the year.

Let's partner together to get all of our shared scholars to school each day in September. This will help them get in the habit of school, be present for great instruction from our teachers, and not miss out on developing relationships and friendships with peers that can further incentivize their continued attendance.

If you are having any challenges getting your child up and to school each day, please reach out. Your child's teacher, one of our counselors, or any other trusted adult in your child's school life is here for you both.

In partnership,  
Brent

Brent A. Perdue (he, his, him)  
Principal [brentp@spokaneschools.org](mailto:brentp@spokaneschools.org)

## CALENDAR

### September 12

Kindergarten (Group B)  
Late Start 9:30 am For All  
Students

### September 13

All Kindergarteners Attend

### September 19

Late Start 9:30 am

### Bus Loop Restrictions

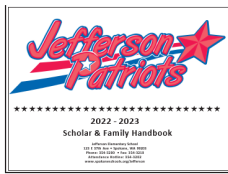
The bus loop is restricted to buses and vehicles with special permission before and after school. This allows for the efficient and safe pick up and drop off of scholars each school day. Other scholars can be dropped off on 37th Ave in front of the school or along Manito Blvd in the back.



SEPTEMBER 12TH, 2022

## Bicycles, Scooters, Skateboards (Page 5)

Scholars who ride bikes and scooters to school should be governed by the following:



1. Parents make the decision as to whether their child may or may not ride a bike to school. It is the recommendation of the school that students in grades K-2 not ride to school unless accompanied by an adult.
2. All bicycles and scooters must be parked in the racks provided and locked. They should not be locked together.
3. The school does not accept responsibility for damaged or stolen bikes or scooters.
4. Bikes and scooters must be "walked" across patrolled crossings, and on school grounds when coming to or leaving school.
5. Skateboards are not permitted at school.
6. Helmets are required. An ordinance enacted by the Spokane City Council requires all people to wear a helmet when riding their bikes, or scooters, etc. on streets, sidewalks, and other public property. Students attending schools located within the city must therefore wear a helmet when riding their bikes or scooters to and from school.
7. Many children in the Spokane area are treated each year for bicycle-related injuries that are sometimes critical or cause life-long brain damage. The goal of the city ordinance is to help reduce the number of head injuries among young people by requiring helmet use.



## THE PTG SCOOP

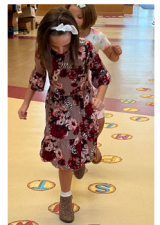
- We will need MANY volunteers throughout the school year. To be able to volunteer, you will need to be cleared by the district. Find more information on that [here](#). Don't wait to get your volunteer clearance in Volunteer forms can take two weeks to clear!
- To find out what some of those opportunities might be, sign up for our email list! [Click here](#) to receive updates from PTG about events, volunteer opportunities and PTG meetings!
- 5th and 6th Grade Parents: You likely got info about the memory book at your student's Launch Conference. (If not, please reach out to PTG for a new copy!) ALL 5th / 6th Grade parents need to submit permission & pictures for their child, so please look it over and reach out to PTG with questions. The timelines for submissions are very different this year and coming up soon!
- Did you know the PTG is an option for AmazonSmile? You can donate to the PTG whenever you shop by choosing us (Jefferson School Parent-Teacher Group, Spokane WA) in your Amazon app as your AmazonSmile charity!
- Don't forget to follow our social media pages: Facebook: Jefferson PTG, Instagram: @jeffersonpatriotspg, for all the latest updates!
- The first PTG meeting of the school year is tomorrow- TUESDAY, September 13th, on Zoom! Watch for the link. See you there, Patriots Families!

### Launch Conferences Take Off as School Year

Jefferson began the school year in a new way this fall, seeing parent-teacher conferences beginning before scholars arrived for the first day of school. Launch conferences saw each scholar and their family sit down with their teacher to kick off a partnership between home and school that will provide a strong foundation from which a solid school year will be built.

Families then completed a scavenger hunt around the school that saw them visiting various locations and staff members, while also looking to locate the hidden Patriot Puppies.

Many also tried out Jefferson's new Sensory Path in the front hallway, funded by a generous grant from Mountain West Bank, before ending their hunt with a fun treat from Jefferson's PTG.



### Playground Closed for One Hour After School

The Jefferson playground is closed for 60 minutes after school lets out each day. The playground is reserved for after-school activities and for Jefferson's Express Childcare program. Families are asked to remind their scholars that they are to go straight home after school. Families picking up students are also asked to help by having their children stay off the equipment until after 4pm.

