

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

The last few years have been a challenge for us all. The pandemic impacted everything from regular everyday interactions, like handshakes and high fives, to how kids are allowed to play and interact with their peers. This says nothing of the academic impacts that virtual school and quarantines have had on our young scholars. To help make up for the learning loss stemming from this disruption to normal schooling, it will be important that we strive to make attendance a priority for each young scholar going forward.



As you experienced at your scholar's Launch Conference, Jefferson kicked off an **Every Day Matters** attendance campaign to improve our attendance numbers. In the coming weeks, I will be visiting this topic to help families understand the impacts of even just a few missed days of school and the cumulative impacts of regularly arriving late or being picked up early from school.

According to **Attendance Matters**, a non-profit working to reduce chronic absence across America, many of our youngest learners miss 10 percent of the school year, or about 18 days. While this is only about 2 days per month, scholars who miss this much are deemed "chronically absent" because of the deleterious effects that this level of absence has on their future success. In fact, chronic absenteeism in kindergarten, and even preK, is associated with lower test scores, poor attendance and higher retention rates in later grades. This is especially true if the chronic absences persist for more than one year.

Jefferson's attendance numbers last year saw approximately 1/3 of students having regular attendance (missing less than 5% of days), 1/3 being considered at risk (missing more than 5% but less than 10%) and 1/3 missing more than 10% of school days which saw them land in the chronically absent category.

It is important to note that we are not advocating for scholars to come to school when ill (defined as having a fever or are contagious). As a parent myself, I know it can be hard to navigate when a child should go to school and when they should stay home. This is why we have included some guidance in the **Jefferson Scholar & Family Handbook** which is posted on the **Jefferson Website** in the Students drop down menu. **The Illnesses: When to Keep Your Child Home from School** section on page 13 is a great resource to keep in mind when your scholar wakes up feeling a little under the weather.

Your partner in attendance,

Brent A. Perdue (he, his, him)

Principal brentp@spokaneschools.org

CALENDAR

September 5th

First Day of School-Grades 1-5

September 6th

First Day of School
Kindergarten Group A

September 7th

First Day of School
Kindergarten Group B

September 8th

Kindergarten Group A

September 11th

Kindergarten Group B
Late Start for Staff Collaboration,
school begins at 9:30am

September 12th

Kindergarten-
All Students Attend
Cross Country Practice - 7:30am

September 13th

Cross Country Practice - 7:30am

September 15th

Cross Country Practice - 7:30am

September 18th

Late Start for Staff Collaboration,
school begins at 9:30am

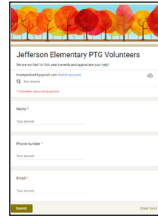
September 25th

Late Start for Staff Collaboration,
school begins at 9:30am

SEPTEMBER 31ST, 2023

THE PTG SCOOP...

- Follow Jefferson PTG on Social Media
 - Learn about upcoming PTG events by following Jefferson PTG on Instagram and Facebook!
 - Facebook: [Jefferson PTG / Facebook](#)
 - Instagram: [Jefferson Elementary \(@jeffersonpatriotsptg\)](#)
- Jefferson Elementary PTG Volunteer Form
 - Get involved! [Sign up](#) to receive updates from PTG on events, volunteer opportunities, and PTG meetings.
- Jefferson Family Directory
 - Follow the link below if you would like to be included in this year's family directory. If you were in last year's directory please still enter your child's name to be included this year.



<https://forms.gle/Qe8tS7zTi9fXm1qAA>

SHARE YOUR PASSIONS!

Do you have any hobbies, interests or talents that you'd like to share with Jefferson students? Want to earn a little cash and make it your side hustle? This could take the form of athletics, arts and crafts, STEM, or pretty much anything else you might dream up that you know students would enjoy. We are hoping to have a robust offering of extracurricular activities for our students this year and would love to invite any parents that are interested in leading a class or activity to connect with Kim Gage, our assistant principal, to talk possibilities! She can be reached at KimG@spokaneschools.org or at (509)354-3165.

WE ARE HIRING.....
 NOW ACCEPTING
 APPLICATIONS FOR
 CROSSING GUARDS AND
 NOON SUPERVISION FOR
 THE 23-24 SCHOOL YEAR

Jefferson is now accepting applications for the 2023-2024 school year to serve as morning and afternoon crossing patrol guards, as well as for the lunchroom and playground supervision during the noon hour. Even if you only have 2 or 3 days per week of availability, consider applying. If you know a neighbor or friend who might be interested, please encourage them to apply as well.

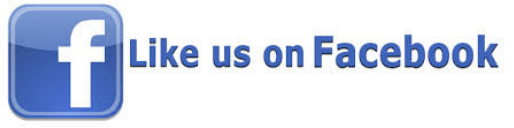


The wage for these positions is \$16.24 per hour. It is a great way to get outdoors, interact with students and become more involved in the school that your child or children attend. For more information, please stop by the office or call 354-3200 between the hours of 7:30am and 4 pm.



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK, FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM

Family and community members are encouraged to like Jefferson on [Facebook](#) and follow Jefferson on [Instagram](#) to keep up on the latest happenings and to see many more pictures of events than can fit in an issue of The Jefferson Journal.



Spokane Public Schools complies with all federal and state rules and regulations and does not discriminate in the admission, treatment, employment, or access to its programs or activities on the basis of age, sex, marital status, race, color, creed, national origin, the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability, to the use of a trained guide or service animal by a person with a disability, sexual orientation including gender expression or gender identity, or honorably discharged veteran or military status. This holds true for all students who are interested in participating in educational programs and/or extracurricular school activities, and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Inquiries regarding compliance and/or grievance procedures may be directed to the school district's Title IX/Staff Civil Rights Officer, ADA Officer, Harassment, Intimidation, Bullying (HIB)/Student Civil Rights Officer and/or 504 Compliance Officer. The following Civil Rights Compliance Coordinators have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination:
 •Civil Rights Coordinator and Title IX Coordinator: Jodi Harmon, 509.354.7344
 •Section 504 Coordinator: Melanie Smith, 509.354.7284



**Attendance
Works**

Get ready for one of the biggest adventures of your child's life!

Habit Time!

Set a standard bed and wake up time a few weeks in advance

- Let children choose what clothes they'd like to wear the next day.
- Routines make everyone feel in control, and that's a good feeling.



Good Health Time!

Make sure your child has the right shots to attend school

- Ask your child's teacher about health and safety procedures.
- Ask questions about any concerns you have related to Covid-19.
- Schedule non-Covid-19 medical appointments and extended trips when school is not in session.



Preschool through first grade establishes the foundation for relationship building and life-long learning. Help your child gain comfort, self-confidence and delight in these milestone events.

Revised October 2021

Visit Attendance Works www.attendanceworks.org for strategies and resources