

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

## CALENDAR

### September 11th

Kindergarten Group B  
Late Start for Staff Collaboration,  
school begins at 9:30am  
Unicycle Club 3-4pm

### September 12th

Kindergarten-  
All Students Attend  
PTG Meeting 6:30pm, Library  
Cross Country Practice - 7:30am

### September 13th

Cross Country Practice - 7:30am  
Unicycle Club 3-4pm

### September 15th

Cross Country Practice - 7:30am

### September 18th

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

SEPTEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup>, 2023

## PLAYGROUND CLOSED FOR ONE HOUR AFTER SCHOOL EACH DAY

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.



## 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 street in front of the school or along Manito Boulevard in the back.



# THE PTG SCOOP...

- **First PTG Meeting**

PTG meetings will be held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm in the Jefferson library and on Zoom. Please join us tomorrow, Tuesday 9/12 for our first PTG meeting of the year. Come learn about upcoming events, share your opinions and build our Jefferson community. We hope to see you there!

Below is the Zoom link for all PTG meetings:

[Click Here](#)

- **Student Directory**

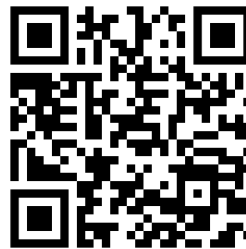
We are hoping to have a student directory emailed to Jefferson families by the end of the month. If you would like your phone number and/or email address included in the directory, please click the following link or scan the QR code below:

[Click Here](#)

To make things easier for everyone, we have made the following changes:

1. If your information is the same as last year, you just need to check a box saying so.
2. If you have multiple children, you only need to submit one form.

**Please submit your forms by Friday, Sept 15 if you wish to be included.**



## CROSS COUNTRY AND HOOPTOWN REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

Both programs' registration links have been added to your school's activity page. Please see the "[Everything You Need To Know](#)" FAQ sheet for more information on cross country. For HYL, please note that families needing financial assistance can reach out to [HYL@spokaneschools.org](mailto:HYL@spokaneschools.org) for more information.





## FROM YOUR

### Jefferson Scholar & Family Handbook

(located on the Jefferson Website in the "Students" dropdown menu or click [here](#))

#### 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.



#### Uniting the LC Tiger Community

"From Cubs to Tigers, It Takes Us All"

##### Why:

Our goal is to unite the community of students, staff, and families in our zone from elementary to Lewis and Clark High School. We aim to create a festive fun-filled event where everyone feels connected, a part of the Tiger family, and sees themselves in the journey from cubs to tigers. Together we celebrate the pride and connection that makes us one.

##### What:

Get ready for an exciting evening! The Lewis and Clark community is uniting for a pre-homecoming kick-off event that promises fun games, food, and a strong sense of community pride while admiring the beautiful backdrop of the new Sacajawea Middle School – it's an event you won't want to miss! After our pre-homecoming festivities, we'll meet at our new SPS stadium to join in cheering on the LC Tigers for their homecoming football game while also recognizing and celebrating each school that feeds into Lewis and Clark.

##### When & Where:

- October 6<sup>th</sup>
- **Pre-Homecoming Event:** Sacajawea @ 5:30-6:30 pm
- **Homecoming Game:** One Spokane Stadium @ 7:30 pm



## SHARE YOUR PASSIONS!

Do you have any hobbies, interests or talents that you'd like to share with

**SHARE  
YOUR  
PASSION**

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](mailto:KimG@spokaneschools.org) or at (509)354-3165.



## PTG WELCOMES FAMILIES BACK TO SCHOOL!

On Wednesday,  
August 30,  
Jefferson's  
Parent Teacher  
Group (PTG)  
invited families



to an evening  
back-to-school social. Friends  
reconnected and energy was  
palpable! Find more pictures  
from the event on Jefferson's  
[Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages.  
And while there, go ahead and like  
and subscribe!

