Dear Jefferson Families,

We can’t believe that we are halfway through the school year! We are making great strides with student achievement thus far. This semester will go by fast as we continue to work on curriculum and learning while preparing students for our state and end-of-year assessments. We want to keep that momentum going and are counting on you, our parents, to partner with us.

A few events I want to bring to your attention that will take place during 3rd quarter include:

March 2—Dr. Seuss Day
March 10—Texas Roadhouse Fundraiser
March 17 – PTO Meeting 3:15
March 20—Rock Your Socks & $1 Gold Fish Fundraiser
March 25 & 26—ELA Testing
April 3—13 Spring Break
April 20 & 22 Math Testing

We also offer After School Tutoring for grades 3-6 every Monday-Thursday from 3:00 – 4:00 pm, transportation is provided. This is a great time to build ELA and Math skills.

In order for your student to get all that they can out of their education, they need to be in the classroom each day learning. When it comes to your student’s education, every day matters. Many studies suggest that students with less than eight absences, on average, grew academically 23% in reading and 19% more in math than students with eight or more absences.

Jefferson Elementary School is a great place to be. Our staff works hard to make sure your student is getting a quality education and a wonderful elementary school experience. If you have concerns or want to visit, my email is vrejrat@uticaschools.org or stop by! Thank you for all you do for JES and “Jefferson Jaguars”.

Vanessa F. Rejrat
Principal
Kindergarten

The Kindergarten team has continued to be hard at work. We have been learning new sight words, blending beginning, middle, and ending sounds to form words, focusing on measuring and capacity, as well as continuing to work on our sentence writing. All of the kindergarten classes have been working with their literacy buddies on the concept of character traits. Mrs. Bonfardeci’s and Ms. Mazzara’s classes worked on identifying the traits of the characters from the book Charlotte’s Web. Together they created graphic organizers and wrote a few sentences describing all of the main characters. Please continue to work with your child daily on counting forward and backward from 0-20, writing the numbers correctly, identifying things that are taller/shorter, and which things would hold more or less. Also, review sight words daily, letters and sounds, rhyming words, and writing first and last names correctly.

1st Grade

The first graders have started Unit 3 in ELA and Module 3 in Math and are learning some fantastic new things. In ELA our big question for the unit is “What can happen over time?” We are discussing how things change and grow over a day, to a month, to a year. They are also learning about the long vowel sounds and how that “sneaky e” helps a letter say it name. We are also learning how to write more complex sentences. Use those nouns and verbs, don’t forget your punctuation! In math we are learning how to measure and graph information. As always, keep practicing your high frequency words and math facts every day. Read with your child every night.

2nd Grade

Happy New Year from Grade 2! As February 2020 commences, Grade 2 students are busy preparing for end of year assessments in ELA and Mathematics. In English Language Arts, Gr. 2 students are studying Wonders Unit 3 “Live and Learn,” integrating Science and Social Studies non-fiction reading and concepts. In Mathematics, Grade 2 students are focusing on Eureka Math Module 4 with Addition and Subtraction within 200 and solving word problems to 100. Please monitor your child’s school and homework and continue to encourage independent reading at home to support your student’s continuing academic growth and achievement!
3rd Grade

The third graders have had a very busy start to 2020! In ELA we continue to read a variety of texts and look for strong evidence to support our thinking on a daily basis. Comprehension skills that we are focusing on include main idea, cause and effect and sequencing. One of our goals for the new year is to improve our writing. We are using the RACES strategy (Restate, Answer, Cite Text Evidence, Explain, Summarize) and the Stoplight organizer to add more detail and structure to our writing.

In Math, the third graders have completed Module 4: Multiplication and Area, and are moving on to Module 5: Fractions as Numbers on the Number Line. We are learning how important it is to choose a good strategy and show work when solving math word problems.

In Science we have been working on animal research projects, which is really exciting! Please continue to encourage your third grader to read at home daily and to work on multiplication facts for mastery!

4th Grade

Our 4th grade students are currently being introduced to fractions. Parents can help foster their understanding by discussing with their children how fractions are relevant in their daily lives. In writing, the students are using the RACES strategy and the Stoplight paragraph format to explain the central idea of a passage. The students use at least two details from the text to support their response. To help at home, please encourage your child to read and practice multiplication/division facts every day. Remember to sign your child's agenda daily, and feel free to use it as a communication tool.

5th Grade

Reading: Our students are continuing to utilize their reading strategies during ELA. We are working on constructing higher level written responses to literature. We are also developing strategies to read fictional and nonfictional texts. We continue to use our respective read alouds as an opportunity to instruct skills good readers use while also engaging in talk-worthy discussions. Please encourage your child to read at least 20 minutes every day. As your child grows, daily reading will help the brain make connections between the written and spoken word, widening vocabulary in the process. It enables the reader to familiarize themselves with how other people see the world, acquire skills, improve communication abilities and much more.

Math: Our students are learning the most difficult topics in math this year: fractions, decimals, and percentages. These concepts are made easier when the students have a solid foundation and quick recall of their multiplication facts. You can help at home by encouraging your child to practice math facts daily.
Our sixth grade students have been very busy working on ELA and Math Interim 2 as well as i-Ready diagnostic 2. We are very eager to see the progress they have made since September! Please remember to have your child continue to practice math facts and read nightly. It is the foundation for the skills they are learning in class and we cannot stress enough how important that is. We are pleased to let you know that the 6th grade class will be fundraising for their end of the year trip! Also, information on graduation will be sent home to you shortly so be on the lookout. We are asking parents to submit their favorite baby picture to be included in the yearbook. If you would like to submit a baby picture, please put one in an envelope with your child and teacher names written on the envelope. Pictures will be scanned and returned to you.

During the month of January, the Jefferson School community demonstrated the Life Skills of compassion, generosity, cooperation and caring by raising money for the Stevens-Swan Humane Society. Thank you to everyone who donated $1.00 toward our “KISSES FOR A CAUSE” sale. Also, thanks to all of you who donated your pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters to support this worthy cause! Together, Jefferson School raised $400.00 for the Stevens-Swan Humane Society!

Way to go, Jefferson Jaguars!
Barnes and Noble Book Fair

Jefferson School's PTO sponsored a Book Fair fundraiser on Sunday, December 8, 2019 at Barnes and Noble in New Hartford, NY. Barnes and Noble contributed a portion of every sale made during our Book Fair to Jefferson. It was a fun filled day with many activities including; story time, arts and crafts, caricature drawings, performances by our string students, Sunday morning yoga with Mrs. Siciliano, complimentary gift wrapping, a student art display and the opportunity to win a Nook or Barnes and Noble gift card. A special thank you to all our students, staff and their families for helping make this event so successful.

Jefferson School Superheroes

Thomas Jefferson Elementary School held a food drive for Feed Our Vets in honor of Veteran’s Day and Thanksgiving. We collected over 280 pounds of non-perishable food items and donated $200 which was used to assist local veterans. Teachers and staff also held a “Flannel Friday” with optional cash donations given to this organization. Any student or staff member that made a contribution to Feed Our Vets was invited to wear a Superhero shirt on Tuesday, November 26, 2019. All collected food and cash contributions benefit the Utica Chapter of Feed Our Vets.

Thank you to all those who participated!

American Education Week

November 18-22nd, Jefferson Elementary celebrated American Education Week with a variety of activities. Students wrote thank you notes to staff members showing their appreciation. They also discussed the quote “Your wings already exist, all you have to do is fly!” In culmination, Jefferson students and parents were asked to decorate a butterfly together to create a beautiful display for all to see. The next time you visit…check it out!
Self-advocacy is a critical skill for all students and it is never too early to help students develop the skills they need to advocate for themselves. First, they need to understand what they need. Next, they need to know where they can seek help. Lastly, to communicate to a trusted adult. Some of the benefits of teaching children to advocate for themselves is increased independence, self-confidence, self-awareness of their strengths and weakness, and critical thinking skills. Therefore, it can benefit the child at home and in the classroom. Some easy strategies to incorporate in your everyday routine are: allowing your child to order food at a restaurant, have them write down a question they may have for a teacher/coach, praise them for their input, allow them to problem solve before you intervene, or role plays of scenarios to build their social understanding.

www.understood.org

Please check out our website for more information!
WHEN IS SICK TOO SICK FOR SCHOOL?

Send me to school if...
- I have a runny nose or just a little cough, but no other symptoms.
- I haven’t taken any fever reducing medicine for 24 hours, and I haven’t had a fever during that time.
- I haven’t thrown up or had any diarrhea for 24 hours.

Keep me at home if...
- I have a temperature higher than 100 degrees even after taking medicine.
- I’m throwing up or have diarrhea.
- My eyes are pink and crusty.

Call the doctor if...
- I have a temperature higher than 100 degrees for more than two days.
- I’ve been throwing up or have diarrhea for more than two days.
- I’ve had the sniffles for more than a week, and they aren’t getting better.
- I still have asthma symptoms after using my asthma medicine (and call 911 if I’m having trouble breathing after using an inhaler).
November Paw Pride Winners

December Paw Pride Winners
January Paw Pride Winners

November Student of the Month

Grade K-3 Students

Grade 4-6 Students
December Student of the Month

Grade K-3 Students

Grade 4-6 Students

January Student of the Month

Grade K-3 Students

Grade 4-6 Students
The yearbook order forms have been sent home!

Reminder: This year in the yearbook we are dedicating a few pages for 6th grade students’ baby pictures. We are asking parents to submit their favorite baby picture to be included in the yearbook. If you would like to submit a baby picture, please put one in an envelope with your child and teacher names written on the envelope. Pictures will be scanned and returned you. Please also have pictures in by March 27th.
Thank You

Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Bruce J. Karam

UCSD Board of Education
Mr. Louis D. LaPolla, President
Mrs. Evon M. Ervin, Vice-President
Mr. Robert Cardillo
Mr. Donald Dawes
Mr. Joseph Hobika Jr.
Mr. Anthony LaPolla
Mr. Christopher J. Salatino

Administrative Director of Curriculum and Instruction
Mr. Steven A. Falchi

Utica City School District
Mission Statement

The Utica School District will ensure accountability and continuous improvement in the education of our students by:

- Providing a quality education for a diverse student population in a safe and orderly environment;
- Developing essential academic and responsible citizenship skills;
- Graduating students ready to pursue continuing education, become gainfully employed or enlist in military service;
- Ensuring quality and equity in the distribution of resources including well-maintained facilities and emerging technology.