

THOMAS JEFFERSON ELEMENTARY

Responsible Citizens ~ Lifelong Learners

Jefferson Vision

We at Jefferson, are committed to meeting and exceeding state and national academic standards. Additionally, we will encourage our students to strive to become kind, caring, and compassionate, and productive members of society.

Jefferson Families,

It is difficult to believe that February is already here! The school year is moving along quickly and what a great year we have had so far. We have enjoyed continuing the fun traditions at Jefferson and adding a few of our own. Some highlights so far have been the Kindergarten Thanksgiving Feast, ENL Parent Nights, Math Family Fun Night, our Barnes & Noble Event, the Winter Concert and Snowman Literacy Night.

I have also enjoyed seeing the great things happening in the classrooms. Our students and teachers are amazing and are doing incredible things. I am very thankful for the collective talent and energy of our students and staff. I am also thankful for the contributions of our parents and our community. Jefferson School continues to be a great place to work and learn.

As we come back to school from Winter Break, we will begin a new semester. Quarterly Learning Conferences or student/parent/teacher conferences are scheduled for February 10th and will include collaborative conversations around student progress and goal-setting so please bring your children. Contact the office if you need to reschedule your time or you don't know your time to meet with your teacher.

Please know that I am available to answer any questions you may have as we continue to help each student grow both intellectually and emotionally. I appreciate all that you do for our Jefferson students and the support you provide to our staff. Thank you for making Jefferson a great place for our children to learn!

Sincerely,

Vanessa Rejrat

Vanessa F. Rejrat
Principal

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Mrs. Rejrat - Principal
792-2163

Mrs. Rolchigo – Secretary
792-2163

Mr. Jalonack – Security
368-6712

Ms. Januszewski – Nurse
368-6702

School Fax Number
732-5902

Main Office Hours
8:30 – 3:30



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Utica, NY 13502
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www.uticaschools.org/jefferson

Kindergarten

The kindergarten students had a great time working on the literacy skill of Author's Purpose. We read the story of The Gingerbread Man. The students figured out that the author's purpose was to entertain. We have been working hard on learning all of our sight words. We used our sight words to write about author's purpose. The hallways were decorated with gingerbread men. We have been busy working on learning about flat and solid shapes in math. We have started our measurement unit. The kindergarteners are busy learning every day. They have definitely learned that learning is FUN!



2nd Grade

Second grade students have been very busy working on Informational Writing. We learned several ways to introduce a topic including asking a question, stating a fact, and writing a "wow" description. We also learned how to teach the readers important facts by using a graphic organizer and thinking about the words have, can, and are. We explored concluding statements such as "as you can see, it is clear that, and without a doubt". We became experts writing about spiders, bats, wolves, sea turtles, penguins, the White House, and our favorite, the groundhog.



1st Grade



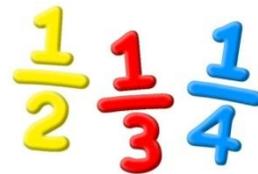
The First Graders are working on adding and subtracting within 20 using different strategies. In the Wonders program we started Unit 3 and some of the skills we are studying are verbs, long vowel sounds, and cause and effect.

We have also started a new writing program with Mrs. Mootz. Once a week she is joining each class to work on different handwriting skills from pencil grip to pencil strokes. Each time a student demonstrates they have mastered a skill they receive a paper pencil on the handwriting heroes chart in the classroom. Keep reinforcing these skills at home to help your child become Hand Writing Heroes. Happy New Year!

3rd Grade

As the third semester commences, our Grade 3 students will study Wonders Unit 4: Meet the Challenge concepts and skills. We will be focusing on reading comprehension, vocabulary, grammar, and writing skills in English Language Arts. In Mathematics, we will study Unit 5: Fractions as Numbers on the Number Line. Please continue to support academic growth and achievement at home by monitoring homework, practicing multiplication facts (0-10) and encouraging independent reading time!

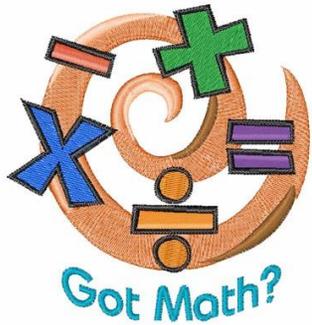
4th Grade



The fourth grade has recently completed Unit 3 of the Wonders reading series. Students worked with biographies and persuasive articles. In addition, students have been working on graphic organizers outlining an author's point of view with details as well as 1st and 3rd person point of view in writing. In math, we have been studying multiplication and division. Keep practicing these math facts at home and read, read, read!

5th Grade

5th grade students are currently working on fractions. They'll be learning to add and subtract fractions with like and unlike denominators.



Parents can help foster this understanding by discussing with their children how fractions are relevant in their lives. You can also provide fraction help at home using simple hands-on activities for fraction fun! Education.com has come up with a great collection of fun ideas for

how to teach fractions to your children. Continue to practice your math facts.

6th Grade

Our sixth grade students have been busy researching Ancient Egypt in anticipation of building their own pyramids for their upcoming presentations. After reading their recent story on the importance of a clean environment we are more aware and thankful for our Recycling Team here



at Jefferson! Algebra is slowly becoming our new math language and we thank My Dear Aunt Sally for That! Feb 8th we're off to Black River for our winter field trip! Can't wait to share our stories and photos with you!

Lego Club News



This year, the First Lego league's theme is Animal Allies. Since our project will deal with animals in wildlife, we invited Kathleen from the Utica Zoo to start off this year's season. She brought in her owl friend Grace. Grace was a rescued horned owl that was severely hurt due to a car accident which is why she can't fly. Even though we couldn't touch the owl herself, Kathleen brought an owl skull and feathers that we could hold. It was so cool! Kathleen answered all of our questions about animals and was a huge help to our team. It was an interesting and educational experience that we really enjoyed!

Jefferson School Superheroes



Thomas Jefferson Elementary School held a food drive for Feed Our Vets in honor of Veterans Day and Thanksgiving. We collected over 500 non-perishable food items which were distributed to local Veteran's on Saturday, November 19, 2016. Any student or staff member that made a contribution to Feed Our Vets was invited to wear a Superhero shirt on Thursday, November 17, 2016. All collected food and cash contributions benefited Feed Our Vets, Utica.



Math Family Fun Night

Jefferson School's PTO sponsored a Math Night on Thursday, November 3 from 6-7. Math Night included make and takes, an estimation jar, math trivia and treat stations. Our students and their families had a lot of fun reviewing math facts and making math games to play at home. Our estimation station was very popular, with all those in attendance trying to estimate the number of gumballs in a 1 quart jar. Edems Tay, from Ms. Czepiel's room was our winner. He estimated that there were 290 gumballs in the jar and his guess was correct. Thank you to all those who attended.



Barnes & Noble Literacy Night

Jefferson School's PTO sponsored a Book Fair fundraiser on Tuesday, December 6, 2016 at Barnes and Noble in New Hartford, NY. Barnes & Noble will contribute a percentage of every sale made during our book fair to Jefferson. It was a fun filled night with many activities for those who attended; including story time, an arts and crafts station, caricature drawings, performances by our band and orchestra, gift card raffles, and a student art display. A special thank you to all our students, staff and families for helping make this event successful.



November SOM

Grade Teacher

K Mrs. Bonfardeci
 K Mrs. Laurer
 K Mrs. Rivera
 1 Mrs. T. Brown
 1 Ms. Czepiel
 1 Mrs. Karelus
 2 Mrs. Blemont
 2 Mrs. Galiulo
 2 Mrs. Salvo
 3 Mrs. Adamo
 3 Ms. Ferris
 3 Ms. Griffin
 3 Mrs. Kallies
 3 Mrs. Montanarelli
 4 Mrs. M. Brown
 4 Mrs. Delia
 4 Mrs. Mallozzi
 4 Mrs. Marsden
 5 Ms. Grant/Mrs. Abeling
 5 Mrs. Lawruk
 6 Ms. Inkawhich
 6 Ms. Mazzara
 6 Mrs. Simon
 6 Mrs. Stalker

Student

Autumn Carter
 Angelia Cardin
 Amelia Oliver
 Jasmin Aung
 Giuliaanna Deserre
 Mazen ElHabashi
 Isaiah Galarza
 Nicholas Mariani
 Jason Cooper
 Leeland Lasher
 Sade Green
 Madina Mnondwa
 Francisco Liriano
 You Suu
 Israel Matos Jr.
 Adna Sasinovic
 Herman Pike
 Gianna Fiore
 Dai'Veona Archie
 Teyonna Skermont
 Jamielee Otero
 Jackson Surinach
 Nadina Gacic
 Ashley Hafele

December SOM

Grade Teacher

K Mrs. Bonfardeci
 K Mrs. Laurer
 K Mrs. Rivera
 1 Mrs. T. Brown
 1 Ms. Czepiel
 1 Mrs. Karelus
 2 Mrs. Belmont
 2 Mrs. Galiulo
 2 Mrs. Salvo
 3 Mrs. Adamo
 3 Ms. Ferris
 3 Ms. Griffin
 3 Mrs. Kallies
 3 Mrs. Montanarelli
 4 Mrs. M. Brown
 4 Mrs. Delia
 4 Mrs. Mallozzi
 4 Mrs. Marsden
 5 Ms. Grant/Mrs. Abeling
 5 Mr. Green
 5 Mrs. Lawruk
 6 Ms. Inkawhich
 6 Ms. Mazzara
 6 Mrs. Simon
 6 Mrs. Stalker

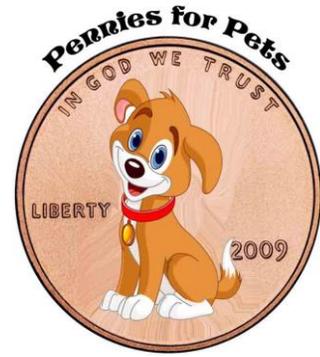
Student

Camryn Mosher
 Julianna Constantine
 Bilal Skiljan
 Maththew Molina
 Jordan Borrell
 Sophia Pelli
 Alyssa Zenobio
 Ke'veonna Johnson-Warmack
 Anthony Wozny
 Nephretiri Hill
 Jaxon LaFluer
 Morgan Randall
 Gabriella Dade
 Sokleng Sum
 She Kae Lar
 Daria Kachanovich
 Ariona Luyanda
 Craig Lay
 Naomi Smith
 Jayana Korenieowski
 Isabella Rivera
 Jacqueline Fischer
 Brielle Underwood
 Asmin Gacic
 Jalissa Pennicooke



January SOM

Grade	Teacher	Student
K	Mrs. Bonfardeci	Christina Mawier
K	Mrs. Laurer	Ryan Antanavige
K	Mrs. Rivera	Jack Murphy
1	Mrs. T. Brown	Shee La Soe
1	Ms. Czepiel	Anastaciya Kachanovic
1	Mrs. Karelus	Eh Hser Khu
2	Mrs. Belmont	Ja Fe
2	Mrs. Galiulo	Logan Thomas
2	Mrs. Salvo	Arianna Drennan
3	Mrs. Adamo	Kristall Padilla
3	Ms. Ferris	Jontai Pierce
3	Ms. Griffin	Dakota Murphy
3	Mrs. Kallies	Shahed Salih
3	Mrs. Montanarelli	Amelia Montana
4	Mrs. M. Brown	Amiya Barnes
4	Mrs. Delia	Philip Santa Croce
4	Mrs. Mallozzi	Arayna Szewczyk
4	Mrs. Marsden	Aubrie Taurisani
5	Ms. Grant/Mrs. Abeling	Bee La Na Wah Ju
5	Mr. Green	Easily cho
5	Mrs. Lawruk	Mu Tar
6	Ms. Inkawhich	Ervin Ruznic
6	Ms. Mazzara	Pyo Pa Pa Moe
6	Mrs. Simon	Sha Wee
6	Mrs. Stalker	Prestin Nosworthy



Thank you for your generous donations to the Stevens-Swan Humane Society!



Thank you to everyone who donated pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters and dollar bills! Thank you to everyone who bought “Kibbles and Bits Snack Mix”. Thank you to everyone who brought in a pet picture for the “Keep Calm and Love Your Pet

Wall”. Finally, thank you to those who brought in blankets and supplies for the pets in need. Together, Jefferson School raised \$475 for the Stevens-Swan Humane Society! Great job Jefferson Jaguars!



PTO News



The halls of Jefferson smelled great as our PTO and many teachers were busy popping popcorn for our October popcorn sale on Friday, October 21, 2016.



More than 500 bags of popcorn were delivered to classrooms, and were enjoyed by our students and staff. The PTO also held a candy bar sale the week of December 9, 2016. Students and staff had the opportunity to pre-order candy bars for \$1 a bar. You could choose from Almond, Dark Chocolate, Toasted Coconut, Crisp and/or Caramel. We quickly ran



out of dark chocolate bars, and students suggested that we sell candy bars again later this year. Look for our next candy bar sale in 2017. Proceeds from these

fundraisers will enable us to provide educational opportunities and supplies for our students.

Adopt a Family-Ugly Sweater & Reindeer Pops

Jefferson School's Climate Committee and PTO worked together sponsoring a few events to help families in need this holiday season. Students and staff donated a dollar



and wore a creative holiday themed shirt for Ugly Sweater Day and/or purchased a reindeer lollipop. Jefferson's School Community used the proceeds to present a gift card to a few families

in need. We appreciate your help with this worthwhile project.

Thanksgiving Feast

On November 22nd, the Kindergarten classes hosted a Thanksgiving feast. Many families joined our classes as we enjoyed delicious food, activities, and made valuable memories. Families feasted on turkey, mashed potatoes, corn, rolls, and dessert. The food was generously prepared by numerous families and staff members. Students not only enjoyed a fabulous meal with their friends and family, but also learned about how and why we celebrate Thanksgiving. Thank you to all that helped make our feast a success.





New York State Education Department Common Core and State Assessment Spring 2017 UPDATE

In response to parent and educator concerns, New York State has contracted with a new test provider and made a number of positive changes to testing. These include:

- NYS Assessment data is used only to gauge how well students are progressing towards higher learning standards and NOT for teacher evaluation purposes or student grades.
- Students will have as long as necessary to complete the ELA and Math assessments each day as long as they are working continuously and productively.
- Both the ELA and Math assessments have fewer questions.
- There is more teacher involvement in developing assessments. Teachers evaluate and select questions for use on tests.
- NEW - Students with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) with the testing accommodation of “Test Read” will now be able to have the ELA Assessment read to them.

It is our goal that student and/or parent questions and concerns are brought to the school’s attention so that information can be provided, perspectives can be shared, and questions/concerns can be appropriately addressed.

Thank you for working together with the school to provide a positive and productive learning environment for all students at Jefferson.

Test	Dates
Grade 3-6 NYS CC ELA	Tuesday, March 28 –Thursday, March 30
Grade 3-6 NYS CC Math	Tuesday, May 2 – Thursday, May 4
Grade 3-6 NYSESLAT Speaking	Monday, April 10 –Friday, May 19
Grade 3-6 NYSESLAT Listening, Reading, Writing	Monday, May 8 – Friday, May 19
Grade 4 Science Performance	Wednesday, May 24 – Friday, June 2



The following students have earned Paw Tokens during special area classes (PE, Art, Music, Library) and lunch for being extraordinarily respectful, responsible and/or safe. These students had their choice of Fun Friday (games, etc.), participation in an extra special of their choice, or a prize out of our prize bucket! Congratulations and keep up the great work Jefferson Jaguars!

November

Nathan Mariani
Robert Delia
Aiden Charbel
Romy Na
Kevonna Warmack
Ariana Luvanda
Kyle Pham
Nadina Gacic
Michael Doolen
Sophira Talarico
Lamia Zeric
Tyriek Tuff
Christian Grant



December/January

McKenzye Brady
Jacqueline Delia
De'anales Santalucia
Nadina Gacic
Shee Lar
Gabriela Price
Savanah Hardy
Amy Tipping
Aniya Peavy
Kaw Htoo



Maker Space

Ms. Grant has added a Maker Space to her science instruction. Her students answered the following questions in regards to Maker Space: What is Maker Space? What does it teach you? Why do you like it?

- “It’s all about the science. Different teams are assigned to microscopes, research computers, Snap circuits, technology take apart, and more.” - Kalil Velazquez
- “Maker Space has taught me not to throw out things I don’t need because I can still use the parts to make something else that is creative and cool.” – Eh Psaw Ku
- “I like Maker Space because it’s fun and challenges me to try new things.” – Gabriel Travarez
- “I have learned that you can make anything you want if you have a purpose, that anything is possible.” - Matthew Martinez
- “I like to use the microscope because I can see what the insect body part looks like.” – Thi Da Soe
- “It teaches that you can create things with the tools you have at your house. We are making brush bots using the motor from electric toothbrushes, batteries, and a scrub brush.” – Rosalys Polanco
- “It teaches me how things work and move so I can build a robot.” - Kyut Paw
- “We have to make things that have a purpose. I learn to build something so that when I grow up I can build it better.” - Brandon Magana
- “The Snap circuits helped me learn that when a switch is closed the light is on and when it’s off the circuit is closed.” – Naomi Smith
- “I like Maker Space because you get to use tools to see how things work.” – Eldin Becirevic
- “Maker Space teaches you to be creative about making things.” – Dai’veona Archie
- “Maker Space is like science but with less teaching from the teacher because we mostly teach ourselves. I like it because there are so many experiences that you might never have discovered.” – Lucy Wah
- “Maker Space teaches me to be an engineer. I like it because it gives me time to build machines and get better at it.” – Shee Lah Htoo
- “Maker Space is different stations we go to. It teaches me a lot about being an inventor.” – Duane Hayes Jr.

Maker Spaces are based on four guiding principles that form the basis of this learning model. It supports learning through design experiences, which helps students build their interests. They develop a sense of community in which they share ideas working together in teams to complete projects. The learning environment is fostered by mutual respect and trust. Maker Space encourages students to develop their own ideas, to experiment, and to innovate!



Math Homework Tips for Parents

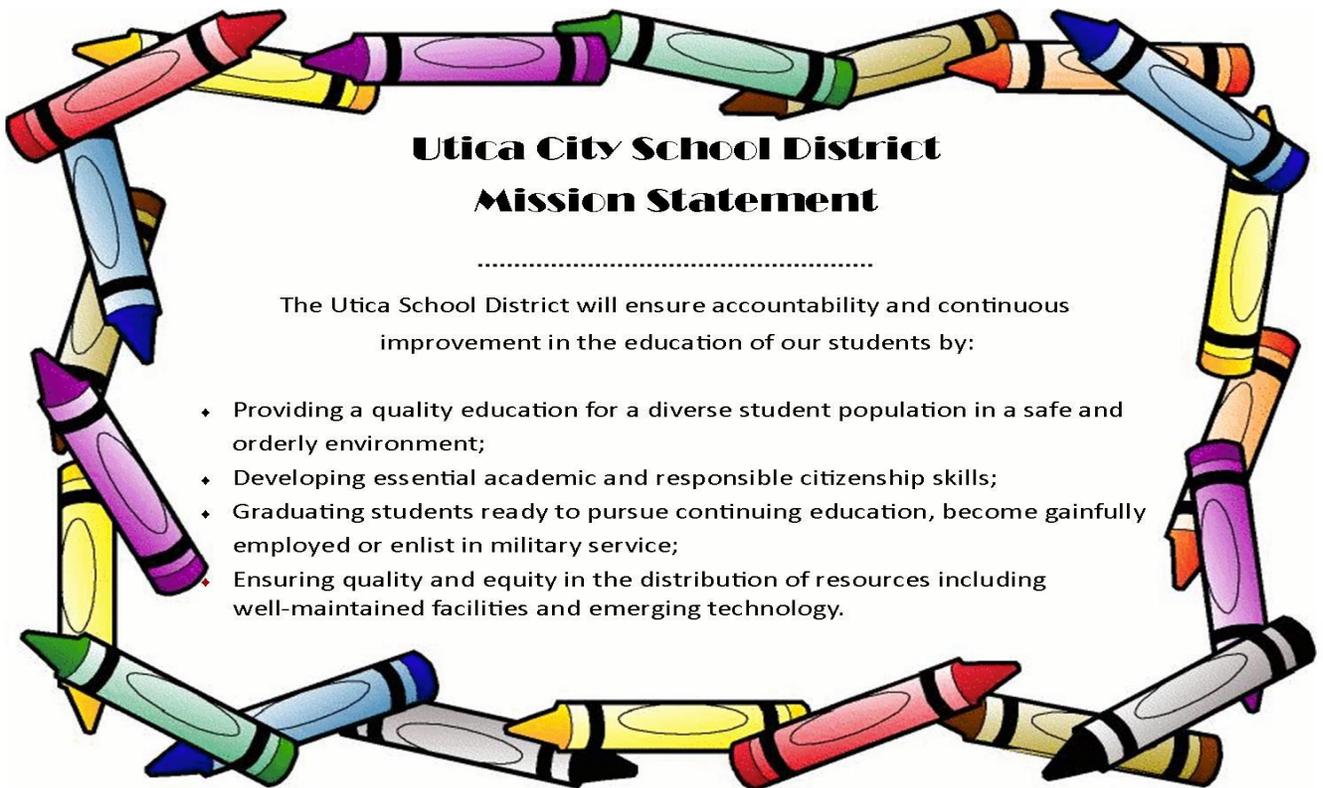
- Encourage your child to use their agenda.
- Follow the progress your child is making in math. Check with your child daily about his/her homework.
- If you don't understand your child's math assignments, engage in frequent communication with his or her teacher.
- If your child is experiencing problems in math, contact the teacher to learn whether he or she is working at grade level and what can be done at home to help improve academic progress.
- Request that your child's teacher schedule after-school math tutoring sessions if your child really needs help.
- Use research-based peer tutoring programs for math. These tutoring programs have proven results, and students really enjoy them.
- Use household chores as opportunities for reinforcing math learning such as cooking and repair activities.
- Try to be aware of how your child is being taught math, and don't teach strategies and shortcuts that conflict with the approach the teacher is using. Check in with the teacher and ask what you can do to help. Ask the teacher about online resources that you can use with your child at home.
- Ask your child's teacher for a list of suggestions that will enable you to help your child with math homework.

-www.2.ed.gov



It is recognized that regular attendance is essential to a successful education. Our goal is to maximize student achievement. Please assist the school in ensuring your child receives a quality education by maintaining appropriate attendance.

Students at the elementary level are expected to be in attendance a minimum of 90% of the time school is in session unless legally excused. Please be reminded that a written note is required following an absence.



Utica City School District Mission Statement

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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.