



# Jefferson Elementary

Responsible Citizens ~ Lifelong Learners

Jefferson Families,

How do teachers use quizzes, unit tests, State assessments and other assignments to check for students' understanding and address specific learning needs?

Student assessments and checks for understanding are powerful tools that help to identify students' strengths, as well as specific skill areas requiring work. When teachers analyze all student performance information they can better meet the needs of each student, so that students can learn efficiently. Assessments and checks for understanding also provide students with empowering information that allows students to take ownership of their learning, enabling them to monitor their own progress and improve their learning. NYS Assessments also play a role in gauging how well students are progressing toward mastery of learning standards.

For your information, here are notable points regarding NYS Assessments:

- Students will have as long as necessary to complete the ELA and Math Assessments as long as they are working productively.
- NYS Assessments do not count toward students' grades.
- NYS Assessments do not count toward teacher evaluations.
- Both ELA and Math Assessments have fewer questions and will be shorter in duration.
- Students with Individual Education Plans containing accommodations "Test Read" will be able to have the ELA and Math Assessments read to them.

Assessment, curriculum and instruction are equal parts in learning which is why we continue to "Dig into Data" here at Jefferson. Assessment informs teaching and learning. It also promotes, assists and improves students' learning. We have recently "dug" into i-Ready diagnostic 2 data which indicates 70% of students are on, above or emerging grade level in Reading (+15% since September) and 74% of students are on, above or emerging grade level in Math (+18%). The data also indicates we have shown growth in high frequency words and numbers and operations. Thank you for your continued support at home. Our focus areas moving forward will be geometry and phonics while continuing to reinforce numbers and operations and high frequency words. Currently, we also see an increase in attendance we hope to maintain as well as a decrease in behavioral incidents and suspensions. Thank you for getting your child to school on time and for supporting our PBIS and Like Skills Programs. Please stop into our parent room anytime during school hours or visit our website for resources and materials to support your child in all of these areas at home.

Quarterly Learning Conferences or student/parent/teacher conferences are scheduled for Friday, February 16<sup>th</sup> and will include collaborative conversations around student progress and goal-setting, so please bring your children. We would also like to announce some exciting additions to our school programs and clubs. Jefferson has added Student Council, Literacy Buddies, Fitness Club and Tech Club to our list of school activities. For a complete list of Jefferson programs and clubs, please visit our website at [www.uticaschools.org/jefferson](http://www.uticaschools.org/jefferson). Our winter newsletter is full of fun and important information, enjoy!

Thank you for all that you do for our Jefferson students and for the support you provide to our staff. If you need anything, please let me know!

Sincerely,

Vanessa F. Rejrat



## 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.

## 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**



# Kindergarten

The Kindergarten classes have been working on Snowmen. We are using snowmen flash cards and stations/centers to work on beginning, middle and end sounds as well as blending. We also made "snowmen" out of clay and used our sequencing skills in order to build the snowmen. Students also attended snowman literacy night which had several learning activities through the use of snowmen.



# 1st Grade



The first graders have been working on a handwriting program with Mrs. Mootz. Once a week she has been 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.



# 2nd Grade

Second grade students have been busy learning about informative writing. They have become experts at explaining and writing how to do something or how something works. Students learned how to write an opening sentence that would grab the readers attention and learned how a well written closing sentence relates to the opening. They also learned the importance of using transition words like first, then, next, and last. Students enjoyed hands on learning as they learned how to blow a bubble with bubble gum, how to eat an Oreo cookie as well as how to make a banana split!



# 3rd Grade



2018 is off to a great start for our third graders! Our ELA focus question for Unit 3 is “Why are individual qualities important?” We continue to read, discuss and write about a variety of texts including expository, folktales and historical fiction. We are learning that good readers use strategies such as visualizing, asking questions and summarizing. We are also working on the comprehension skills of main idea, sequencing and identifying cause and effect.

In Math, we are focusing on area and perimeter concepts as well as multi-step problem solving. Soon we will be delving into fractions! Please continue to encourage your third grader to read at home daily and to work on multiplication facts for mastery!

# 4th Grade



In ELA, fourth grade students have been learning, “How can we show our community spirit?” We have participated in Pennies for Pets and brought in lots of yellow items to create a “Box of Sunshine” for a sick classmate. We were also able to learn outside of the classroom and go on two field trips!! We went to the movies to see *Wonder* and then we were able to compare and contrast it to the book we read in class. We also went to see the Nutcracker ballet. What a great experience! In Math, we have been working on area and perimeter. Students made very cute area and perimeter people that resemble themselves. We look forward to the months ahead. Please continue to read and practice math facts daily!



# 5th Grade



The fifth graders are really enjoying 2018! We are working on fractions in math class. We are learning how to add and subtract fractions/mixed numbers. The most challenging part is using our multiplication facts to simplify fractions. We are really having fun drawing and modeling our word problems! In reading we are really focused on expository texts and short constructed responses. We are learning to be great reading detectives! We are learning to be active readers by finding our evidence in the text and supporting our answers with details and text evidence. The pieces are really beginning to come together.



## 6th Grade

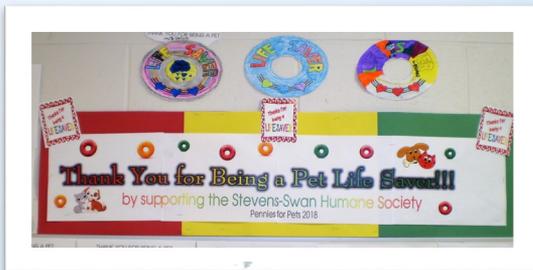
6th grade has been busy working on strengthening our comprehension skills and using text based evidence in ELA. In Math we have been focusing on positive and negative, rational and irrational numbers. We just finished our interim testing and our i-Ready diagnostics and will be looking carefully at that data. Conferences will be coming up to discuss your child's progress. We have met with our kindergarten buddies and had a great time working on our literacy skills. Parents, please continue to read with your child and encourage them to practice their basic math facts. It will help support what we are doing in the classroom. We are starting to plan end of the year activities and a 6th grade fundraiser. More information will be coming soon!

## Pennies for Pets



This month Thomas Jefferson School continued our annual tradition of participating in "Pennies for Pets" to raise money for the Stevens-Swan Humane Society. We collected pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters for three weeks. Students and staff also had the opportunity to donate \$1 or more toward the "Be a Pet Life Saver Wall" which grew to be quite massive! Finally, many teachers and staff members participated in "Hawaiian Shirt Day" and made generous donations as well. In total, we raised over \$450.00 for the Stevens-Swan Humane Society!!!!

Thank you so much to all of those who donated to this worthy cause. Our school community used the Life Skills of caring, generosity, compassion and cooperation to help the animals in need! Great job Jefferson Jaguars!!!!



## Author Visit

On Tuesday, January 16, 2018 Jefferson students were lucky to have Barry Cavanaugh, author of the book *Tree Tolls and Their Secret Gifts*, come to Jefferson. Through the sharing of his book, Jefferson students met twelve tiny tree trolls who shared a message of love and happiness for all children everywhere. This presentation supported our monthly PBIS and life skills programs. Thank you Mr. Cavanaugh!





## Teacher Resource Room

Jefferson is very proud to share that the new Teacher Resource Room is officially open for educational use for teachers and support staff. It is located across from the library, room 111. There is a plethora of new researched based materials available for teachers and support staff to use for lesson planning and instructional delivery. The materials help to support each grade level in the common core for all subject areas, as well as skill and mastery. There are also resources for Differentiated Instruction, Response to Intervention, Academic Intervention Services, Depth of Knowledge and Literacy Skills. Also available are a variety of educational games to make learning fun. We are excited to have our teachers and support staff "Drop-In" anytime to utilize the many wonderful resources that are readily available.



## Letter Writing

In December, the students in Ms. Griffin's third grade class focused on the Life Skills of compassion and generosity by writing letters and making holiday cards to send to a local soldier named Troy and his troop serving in Afghanistan. These soldiers have been overseas for many months, and were not able to come home for the holidays. The class enjoyed writing the letters, asking the soldiers questions, and decorating the cards. We were excited to receive a letter back from Troy! He answered many of our questions and he even said that he would visit our classroom when he returns to the United States! We are looking forward to the chance to meet Troy and thank him for his service in person. We would like to say thank you to all of our brave men and women who serve in the military!



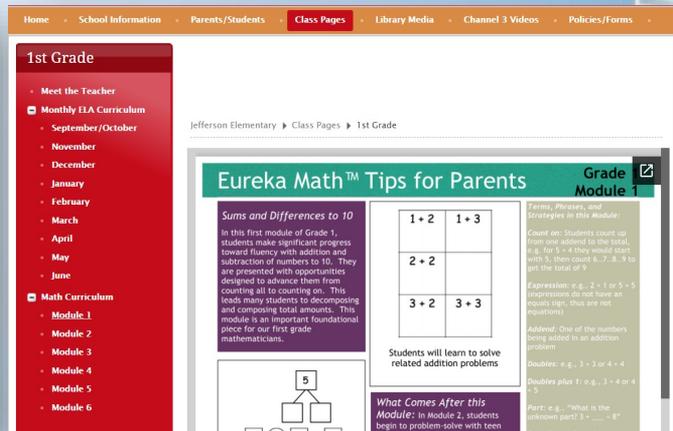
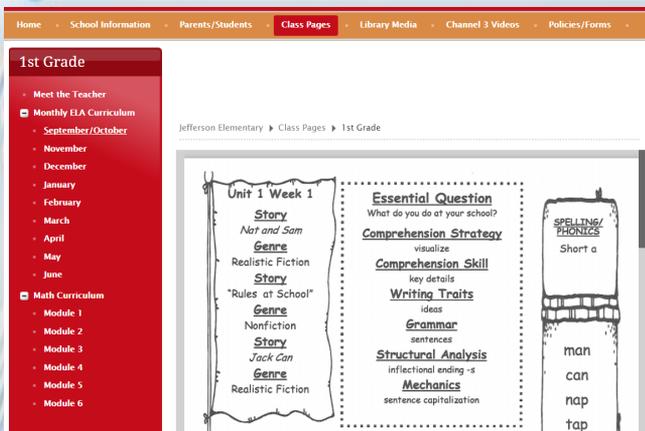


# How to Help Your Child at Home

We are happy to share that Jefferson’s website has recently updated its’ grade level web pages to reflect the monthly updates of the ELA Wonders Curriculum and Eureka Math Modules. Included on each grade level web page is a visual of the weekly Wonders sheet that provides the following: story, genre, comprehension skill, vocabulary strategy and words, writing traits, grammar, mechanics, spelling words, phonics and high frequency words. You will also find the Eureka Math Tips for Parents page which includes: key standards, skills, strategies, examples and suggestions on how you can help at home. This has been updated for the entire school year by grade level for your convenience. You may access your child’s weekly sheets by following the steps below:

- \* Go to : <https://www.uticaschools.org/jefferson>
- \* Click on the tab “Class Pages” and select your child’s grade level
- \* Click on the tab “Monthly Curriculum” and select the month and/or module
- \* Monthly sheets are now visible for you and your child by the week

We hope you find this to be helpful. Please help your child to practice the weekly spelling and vocabulary words, and math facts. Thank you for your continued support to ensure your child’s academic success!



# Testing Schedule

Test	Dates
Grade 3-6 NYS CC ELA	4/11-4/13
Grade 3-6 NYS CC Math	5/1-5/3
Grade 3-6 NYSESLAT Speaking	4/9-5/18
Grade 3-6 NYSESLAT Listening, Reading, Writing	5/7-5/18
Grade 4 Science Performance	5/23-6/1



# PTO News

## Jefferson School Superheros

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 veterans. Any student or staff member that made a contribution to Feed Our Vets was invited to wear a Superhero shirt on Tuesday, November 22, 2017.

All collected food and cash contributions benefited Feed Our Vets, Utica.



## Barnes and Noble Book Fair

Jefferson School's PTO sponsored a Book Fair fundraiser on Sunday, December 3, 2017 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 day with many activities for those who attended, including story time, arts and crafts station, caricature drawings, performances by our band and strings students, complimentary gift wrapping and a student art display. A special thank you to all our students, staff and their families for helping to make this event successful.



## Snowman Literacy Night

On Wednesday, January 17, 2018 Jefferson School sponsored a Snowman themed Family Literacy Night. It was a fun evening with a lot to do. More than 75 students and their families attended this event. There was an estimation station, a photo booth, snowman themed games, teacher shared stories, and craft tables. Keep reading to your children whenever you can!

Here are 3 ideas to help get you started:

1. Read from day one. Start a reading routine in those very first days with a newborn. Even very young babies respond to the warmth of a lap and the soothing sound of a book being read aloud.
2. Share books every day. Read with your child every day, even after he becomes an independent reader.
3. Reread favorites. Most children love to hear their favorite stories over and over again. Rereading books provides an opportunity to hear or see something that may have been missed the first time, and provides another chance to hear a favorite part.

Congratulations to Zachery Ardo from Ms. Grant/Ms. Saville's class, who estimated that there were 155 hersey kisses in the jar. His thoughtful guess was the closest to the actual number of kisses in the jar. (There were 157 kisses in the jar.)





# PAW Pride Winners



Jefferson is pleased to announce the school-wide implementation of our PBIS Paw Program which encourages students to go "ABOVE AND BEYOND" to be RESPECTFUL, RESPONSIBLE and SAFE at all times. Teachers and staff will recognize those individuals which demonstrate these exemplar behaviors. Students will redeem tokens monthly for a prize(s) and will be recognized by the principal.



November



December



January



# 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



## **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.