

# Thomas Jefferson Elementary

Responsible Citizens ~ Lifelong Learners

Dear Families,

It is exciting to be starting off what I am sure will prove to be another great year at Jefferson Elementary School. This year at Jefferson Elementary School we will be working toward meeting the following school comprehensive education goals (SCEP) and will continue to welcome your input on how we can help all students to succeed. Jefferson staff will...

- Provide feedback and support to teachers on the use of embedded test prep strategies
- Align and prioritize grade level skills with the New York State Next Generation Learning Standards
- Utilize the gradual release model to scaffold instruction
- Monitor and track RTI Edge data to meet the social/emotional needs of students
- Embrace the growth mindset model to better support students in understanding the importance of assessments

We will also continue to reinforce positive behaviors and Life Skills through our PBIS PAW and Life-long Guidelines programs.

You can help at home by practicing basic math facts with your child, reviewing Life Skills and ensuring he/she is reading at least 20 minutes a day. Jefferson's website also includes grade level web pages with monthly updates of the ELA Wonders and Eureka Math Curriculums. 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 Eureka Math Tips for Parents. You may access your child's weekly ELA sheets and Math Tips for Parents by following the steps below:

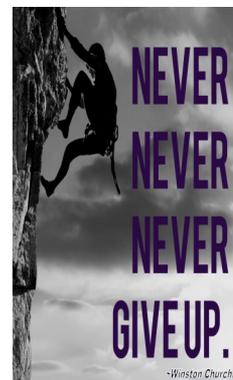
- Go to : <https://www.uticaschools.org/jefferson>
- Click on the tab "Class Pages" and select your child's grade level
- Click on the tab "Monthly Curriculum" and select the month
- Monthly sheets are now visible for you and your child by the week/module

Continuing to help your child maintain great punctuality and attendance is also instrumental in developing positive work habits and ensuring success in school. Planning family vacations during the summer break, holiday vacations, and/or over spring break is greatly appreciated. This will help eliminate the possibility of your student/s developing gaps in their education.

Report cards are scheduled to be sent home on November 14th. Quarterly Learning Conferences are scheduled for November 21st. Teachers, parents and students will review report cards and assessment data. Please begin speaking with your child about developing goals for Marking Period 2. After the conference, please review your child's Student Learning Conference Form with them regularly to reinforce goals and activities.

A special thank you to the entire Jefferson community for your dedication to success! It is through working together as a team that we all succeed. Please contact me at 315-368-6700 or via email at [vrejrat@uticaschools.org](mailto:vrejrat@uticaschools.org), if you need anything!

Sincerely,  
*V. Rejrat*  
Vanessa Rejrat  
Principal



## 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, compassionate, and productive members of society.

## IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Main Office  
**315-368-6700**  
**8:30-3:30**

Mr. Jalonack – Security  
**315-368-6712**

Ms. Januszewski–Nurse  
**315-368-6702**

School Fax Number  
**315-732-5902**

Birnie Bus  
**315-797-4933**



# Kindergarten



The kindergarten classes have been working really hard identifying letters and sounds. We have been reviewing them daily, and adding in new letters and sounds each week. Please continue to work with your child at home a few minutes each day having them identify various letters and the sounds that they make, as well as helping your child write the capital and lower case letters correctly. In addition, our classes have been working on identifying parts of books, characters, setting, and what the stories are all about. In math, our students have been working on counting and writing our numbers from 0 – 10. Students have also been working on grouping and classifying objects based on similarities. Mrs. Bonfardeci's class is working with their 6th grade Literacy Buddies from Ms. Mazarra's class. The students are reading the Biggest Pumpkin Ever by Steven Kroll. Each student has a partner. Students are also completing a story map to identify the who, what and where of the story. And they are working to identify the main idea of the story.



## 1st Grade

During Unit 1 of the Wonders Reading program we discovered ways in which we are all special. We focused on short vowel sounds and letter blends. In Unit 2 of Wonders we will be exploring what makes a community and will introduce long vowels, contractions, plural nouns and proper nouns. In math, we have been working hard on our addition strategies and have begun working on subtraction too. As always, please continue to practice high frequency words and math facts at home.

Here are some fun ways to practice spelling words at home: 1) Spell the word out loud and jump on the vowels 2) Use water and a paint brush to spell out the words, watch them dry up and disappear 3) Sing out words 4) Scramble up the letters of the words and sort them out



## 2nd Grade

As the new school year commences, the Grade 2 Team is studying the Theme -- Friends and Family in English Language Arts focusing on phonemic awareness, vocabulary, reading and writing skills. In Mathematics, we are studying place value, sums and differences to 20, and counting and comparing numbers to 1,000! In Science, we are exploring the "Nature of Matter" and in Social Studies, our story "Maria Celebrates Brazil" invites us to explore our big, beautiful world, multiculturalism and work on our mapping skills! Please encourage independent reading at home and participate in our Parents As Reading Partners Program (P.A.R.P.) to promote reading skills! Our brightly colored P.A.R.P. leaves beautifully decorate our school hallway at Jefferson Elementary School this Fall season!



## 3rd Grade

The leaves are falling and the third graders are keeping very busy at Jefferson School! In ELA we are reading different types of stories including fantasies, folktales and narrative nonfiction. We are learning that good readers visualize and ask/ answer questions as they read. The comprehension skills that we are focusing on include identifying character traits, sequencing and identifying cause and effect. In writing, we are incorporating the RACES strategy (Restate, Answer, Cite text evidence, Explain, Summarize).

In Math, the third graders are now completing Module 1: Multiplication/ Division Concepts and Problem Solving. Our next module focuses on place value and problem solving with units of measure. We are learning how important it is to choose a strategy and show work when solving math word problems. Please continue to encourage your third grader to read at home daily and to work on multiplication facts for mastery!



## 4th Grade

The children are off to a great start! We've become reacquainted, made new friends, and are ready to explore the wealth of learning that the Grade 4 curriculum has to offer. We've been studying about place-value, comparing and rounding numbers, how animals are classified, the continents and oceans that make up our world, and have read some interesting stories.

To quote Ralph Waldo Emerson, "Nothing great is ever achieved without enthusiasm." In our 4th grade classrooms, enthusiasm abounds!

We look forward to meeting with you soon for parent teacher conferences!



## 5th Grade

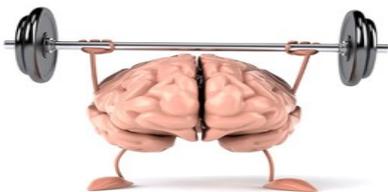
Our 5th grade students have been working very hard on place value and decimal fractions. We are currently learning how to multiply and divide decimals and whole numbers, in Module 2. Please encourage your child to practice their multiplication math facts as these fundamental skills are crucial to the success of the upcoming module lessons. Students can go on [zearn.org](https://www.zearn.org) for additional practice to develop the necessary skills that are needed in our classroom.

In ELA, students have been reading passages that focuses on the big idea, “Where can an idea begin?” It is very important that our 5th grade students are reading daily for at least 20 minutes at home. This will help to improve reading fluency and comprehension.

Please visit the “Student Links” page which is provided on our school website. These sites will greatly assist your child in reinforcing math and literary skills. As always, we greatly appreciate your support at home.

## 6th Grade

Our sixth graders have had a new experience this year with having a locker of their own and learning their three code combination to access it. They are still getting acquainted with their schedules and realizing that organization is key to a successful day. We encourage all sixth graders to learn their multiplication tables and take some time each night to read . Students have also had the opportunity to work with Literacy buddies for the skill Main Idea.



## Growth Mindset

Here at Thomas Jefferson we are focusing on growth mindset. Growth mindset is the belief that our talents, intelligence and abilities can be developed over time. It is the belief that through hard work, effort and perseverance, our students can continue to grow their brains and learn new things. Teachers and staff at Jefferson are helping our students develop and keep a growth mindset. They are giving students the tools and strategies that our students need to stay positive, learn new things, and nurture their brains.

# Teacher Resource Room

Jefferson teachers and staff continue to utilize the educational resources available to them in the Teacher Resource Room, located across from the library, room 111. There are numerous and newly 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 New York State Next Generation Learning Standards 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.



# Parent Resource Room

Thomas Jefferson Elementary School is very proud to share that our Parent Resource Room is "Open For Business", located in the front office corridor, room 122. There is a plethora of materials available for the parents/guardians of our students to help foster the growth of their child's learning. This includes student school supplies (book bags, notebooks, folders, pencils, crayons, markers, scissors, glue sticks, rulers and loose leaf paper). It also includes several baskets of books (all reading levels) for you to take and keep at home. The room is available during the school day for parents/guardians. We are excited to have our parents stop in and utilize the many wonderful resources that are available.



# The John Convertino & Santo Paniccia 5th and 6th Grade Cross Country Meet



On Wednesday, October 9th the John Convertino & Santo Paniccia 5th/6th Grade Cross Country Meet was held at Proctor Park. Jefferson had 26 students participate in the 1.3 mile race. We are proud of all who participated in the meet and the effort they put forth! Special congratulations to Sohayla Mohamed for finishing in 1st place out of 145 runners in 5th and 6th grade!

## Jefferson Team Results

5th grade Girls placed 4th  
6th grade Girls placed 5th

5th grade Boys placed 9th  
6th grade Boys placed 9th

## Jefferson Runners

### 5th Girls

Sohayla Mohamed \*\*  
Christal Strange  
Jholai Howard  
Arianna Drennen  
Avanni Staton  
Laila Ajang  
Juliana Antonuk  
Makayla Velasquez

### 5<sup>th</sup> Boys

Jason Titus \*\*  
Paul Marinuzzi \*\*  
Shoaib Mugalli  
Michael Collins  
Jason Cooper

### 6<sup>th</sup> Boys

Scott Yourdon  
Charly Bi  
Antonio Bridenbecker \*\*  
Yusuf Haji  
Salah Khames  
Edrian Bagomboy

### 6th Girls

Anna Zemanek \*\*  
Mia Tiffany  
Kyleigh Brady  
Leila Bates  
Jamila Osman  
Alyssa Randall  
Isabella Matos

\*\* Top Finisher



## Fall Fun with Ms. Czepiel's Class



Ms. Czepiel's first grade class learned all about apples and Johnny Appleseed. The class ended the unit by making cinnamon applesauce in the classroom. This was a fun activity where the students had to recall the steps of the recipe. Another fun activity was retelling the story of Johnny Appleseed. We discussed the characters, setting, and plot. This is something you can practice at home. While reading, ask about the characters, setting, plot and conflict of the story. Please continue to read to your child each day and have them read to you. The best way to end the day is with some warm homemade applesauce and a bedtime story.





Per the NYS Education Department your child is required to have a physical examination and grade level screenings in grades K,1,3, and 5. It is recommended that your child have an examination by his or her own physician. Please provide a copy of the physical to the school.

### Tips to Stay Healthy

Wash your hands!

Cover coughs and sneezes

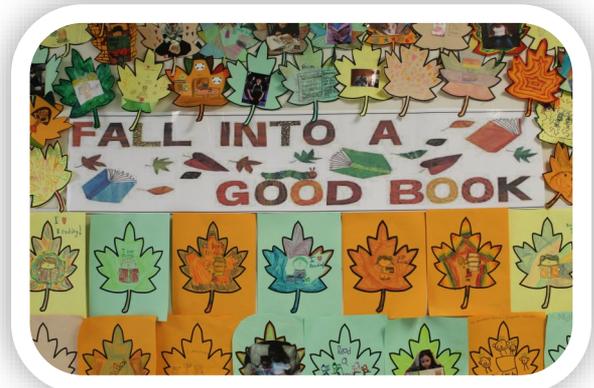
Get a flu shot

Plenty of rest

Drink fluids and eat healthy foods



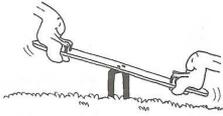
Thomas Jefferson PARP theme this year was, "Fall Into A Good Book". Students participated in PARP from Monday, September 30, 2019 through Monday, October 21, 2019 and had a blast reading. Students were encouraged to FALL INTO a book and snuggle under a warm blanket to READ! They did an AWESOME job creating a Fall Leaf with a picture or photograph showing him/her reading their favorite book. The leaves were displayed in the hallways of the school! Phenomenal job to all students that participated! Remember to keep reading in school and at home!!!



# Home & School CONNECTION<sup>®</sup>

Working Together for School Success

Jefferson Elementary  
Vanessa Rejrat, Principal



## SHORT NOTES

### Excellent attendance

Being in school every day means your child won't miss out on learning. Try to schedule appointments and family trips outside of school hours. If he asks to stay home "just because," remind him of what he'll miss, such as his reading group or PE class. Explain that he can be absent only if he's sick or if there's a family emergency.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Children who regularly eat meals with their families tend to do better in school and avoid risky behavior. Eating dinner together is great, but other meals count, too. If you work at night, maybe you could make time for a family breakfast. Or on a weekend, try a picnic lunch.

### Celebrate progress

Suggest that your youngster create a fun reminder of all the things she has accomplished. Let her cover a box with construction paper and label it "I did it!" Then, she can write each success ("I learned to add fractions") on a slip of paper and put it in the box. If she's feeling discouraged, have her read the slips.

### Worth quoting

"The best way to cheer yourself up is to try to cheer somebody else up!"  
Mark Twain

## JUST FOR FUN

**Q:** Can a kangaroo jump higher than the Empire State Building?

**A:** Of course. The Empire State Building can't jump!



## Conversations about school

When you think of parent involvement, do you picture moms and dads volunteering in classrooms? That's one way to help—but research shows that supporting your child's education at home is even more important. Here are conversation starters that will help you stay involved.

### "Let's see what you brought home."

Look at completed work to find out what your youngster is learning and how well she's doing. You could comment on her math work or social studies project, for instance. ("You know a lot about our state's history!") Also, respond to notes from her teacher, and sign her weekly folder or daily planner if required.

### "Show me what you have for homework."

It's your child's job to do her homework, but you play a role, too. Make sure she knows what she's supposed to do by having her explain the assignments to you. After she finishes her homework, glance over the work to see that it's complete.

### "Describe a book you enjoyed today."

This gives you an idea of what your youngster prefers to read. Then, build a daily reading habit by asking what she'd like to read tonight. Encourage her reading and listening skills by reading aloud to her and letting her read to you.

### "Tell me what you learned that you'd like to know more about."

Use her interests as jumping-off points for activities to share. If she likes geometry, you might hunt for

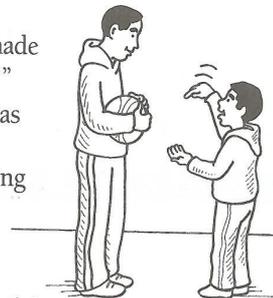


shapes together. If she's fascinated by how animals adapt to winter, take her to the library to research the subject or to the zoo to see live animals. ♥

## After-school questions

Asking "How was school today?" might not get you far. Instead, ask questions like these for a better picture of your youngster's day:

- "What's the coolest thing that happened today?"
- "Pretend you're the teacher. How would you describe the day?"
- "What made you laugh?"
- "What was the most creative thing you did?"
- "How were you kind or helpful today? How was someone kind or helpful to you?" ♥





SEPTEMBER



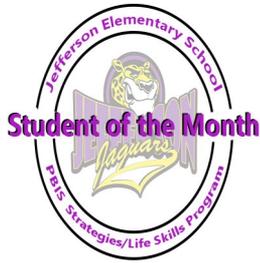
Grade K-3 Students



Grade 4-6 Students



# SEPTEMBER



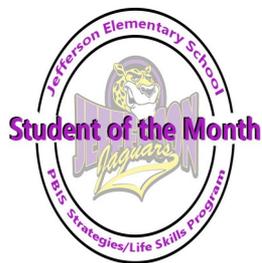
## Grade K-3 Students



## Grade 4-6 Students



**OCTOBER**



**Grade K-3 Students**



**Grade 4-6 Students**

*Thank  
you*



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District Administration



**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.