

# Jefferson Elementary Fall Newsletter

Excellence • Diversity • Achievement

## Principal's Message

Dear Families,

This year at Jefferson Elementary School we will be working toward meeting the following school comprehensive education (SCEP) goals and will continue to welcome your input on how we can help all students to succeed. We at Jefferson commit to...

### Promoting real world skills (i.e. decision-making, self-awareness and critical thinking) in the classroom.

- ◆ Engage students in blended learning
- ◆ Increase executive functioning skills
- ◆ Implement Data Chats

### Increasing student engagement and connectedness to school.

- ◆ Update the Jefferson Communication plan to include students
- ◆ Increase programs and activities that will support social, emotional, and educational needs
- ◆ Promote cultural responsiveness and inclusivity

Also, we will continue to reinforce positive behaviors and life skills through our PBIS PAW, and Lifelong 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 includes grade level web pages with monthly updates of the ELA Wonders and Eureka Math Curriculums. Included on each grade level webpage, 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> for these and other parent resources

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 instrumental in developing positive work habits and ensuring success in school.

Progress reports are scheduled to be sent home on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. Please begin speaking with your child about developing learning goals for the remainder of Marking Period 1. Please review your child's learning goals with them regularly to reinforce student growth and achievement.

A special thank you to the entire Jefferson community! 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!

Thank you,

*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, compassionate, and productive members of society.

### Important School Phone Numbers

Mrs. Rejrat  
Principal  
315-368-6700

Mrs. Rightmier  
Secretary  
315-368-6700

School Nurse  
315-368-6702

Security  
315-368-6712

IT Help Line  
315-368-6997  
Ext. 9

# Kindergarten

Mrs. Brown • Mrs. Bonfardeci • Mrs. Timpano

We are so glad to have all of our new friends with us in Kindergarten this year! We have a lot of hard working students. In reading, we have been working on our letters and sounds for a, m, and s. We are starting to make words and blend the sounds of those letter together to read the words. We've learned high frequency words such as: I, can, we, the, a. In math, we are writing numbers 0-10 and counting those numbers both forwards (0-10) and backwards (10-0). Please continue to practice these skills at home as well as writing their own name. We are looking forward to a great year with our classes!



# First Grade

Mrs. Karelus - Ms. Czepiel

First Graders are off to a great start this school year. The first few weeks of school in ELA, we reviewed kindergarten skills such as high frequency words, as well as, letters and sounds during *Smart Start*. We just started working on our first grade *Wonders* curriculum. In Math, we are completing number bonds, counting on to add, and solving word problems, plus much more. We started our new Social Studies curriculum and are currently studying rights and responsibilities of citizens. In Science, our focus is Engineering and Technology. In Writing City all first graders are working on Unit 1, which is *Getting Ready for Writing*. We are so happy to be back in school full time. We are excited about working with your child and with you this school year!



# **Second Grade**

**Mrs. Belmont • Mrs. Bennett • Mrs. Kallies**

**Welcome back to the new school year Grade 2 Students and Parents!** As the new academic school year commences, Grade 2 students are working diligently in all of their subject areas. In our ELA Wonders Series, we are studying "Friends Help Each Other," literary elements, phonics, comprehension skills, spelling, grammar and writing skills. In Mathematics, we are studying: sums and differences to 20, addition and subtraction of length units, place value, counting and comparison of numbers to 1,000. In Social Studies, we are studying about history. Lastly, in Science we are exploring the world of Engineering and our role in it as young scientists!



# **Third Grade**

**Mrs. Adamo • Mrs. Brown • Ms. Griffin**

Welcome to third grade! We are a team of cooperative, hard-working, and responsible learners. We have many goals that we are working toward this year. We want to become fluent readers. In order to reach this goal, we will read every day. We will read many different stories and texts using helpful comprehension strategies. We will think deeply about the text, look for evidence to support our answers and write about what we read.

We want to master the properties of multiplication and division with units of 0-5. In order to reach this goal, we are learning new strategies to help us solve word problems. We are remembering to show our math work. We are practicing our multiplication facts so we can recite them in a snap!

In Social Studies, we are learning about communities in our country and all around the world. We are also learning about force and trying to think like scientists! We have a lot to do and learn in third grade! We are ready for the challenge!

# Fourth Grade

Mrs. Galiulo • Mrs. Marsden • Mrs. Rivera • Mrs. Waskiewicz

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. We've also read some interesting stories.

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



# Fifth Grade

Mr. Green • Mr. Rogowski • Mr. Thorne • Mrs. Lawruk

Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year! We sure hope you found your summer to be relaxing, reenergizing and enjoyable. We are looking forward to a year full of hard work and learning. Our 5th grade students have been working very hard on place value and decimal fractions. Math skills are strengthened when it is practiced often. Please encourage your children to practice their multiplication math facts as these fundamental skills are crucial to the success of the upcoming module lessons. Additionally, your child can go on zearn.com to practice the math skills that are being taught in the classroom.

It is very important that our 5th grade students are reading daily at home. Please encourage your child to read everyday to improve fluency and comprehension. Your child can go on [readtheory.org](http://readtheory.org) to practice their reading skills. This program will track your child's performance and quickly analyze his/her results so you can see how he/she is performing.

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

# Sixth Grade

Ms. Mazzara - Mrs. Sayles - Ms. Simon

Happy Autumnal Equinox from grade six!! Yes, the first day of fall has arrived and we are busy learning schedules and trying to balance out homework, sports and family time. We could not be happier to see our students back in school in person! Our sixth grade classes are off to a great start this year! We have done some great getting to know you activities and have been working well with our new classmates. Please continue to have your child read daily and practice their multiplication facts 1-12 as it is so important to our 6th grade curriculum! Also, if you have not signed up for class dojo please do so, as it is our main form of contact. Please let one of us know if you need assistance.



## PAW Award Winners September

These students have been recognized for being respectful, responsible and safe.

Eddie Howard Jr.  
Ali Talas  
Amila Kadic  
Valentina Kecan  
Alicia Moe  
Jessica Nguyen  
Malek Ali  
Mason Roman  
Ajsa Mekic  
Aliyah Nadarevic  
Angelia Cardin  
Joshian Cirino-Diaz  
Adel Causevic  
Emillione Gaston  
Siranoush Marashian  
Kyle Kelachinathu

Rosar Be  
Eh Htoo  
Jeffrey Moo  
Phoenix Blount  
Seldina Mujcic  
Adin Bajric  
Kion Atkins  
Gabrielle Butler  
Angel Martinez Moreno  
Christal Williams  
Rashi Daroe  
Joseph Etman  
Kenan Grgic  
Nur Syafiqah Khair Ahmad  
John Nguyen  
Mckenzie Thornton

Avery Hughes  
Sisi Win  
Riley Wilkinson  
Andrielys Ramirez  
Asif Nadarevic  
Eldin Zeric  
Leah Jackson-Carey  
Zyera Sparrow  
Violet Nieves  
Nyomi Prescod  
Kennedy Le  
Xavier Velte  
Gianna Dougall  
Ehchris Paw

Kaylan Le  
Aidin Divovic  
Sophia Pelli  
Kadyn Spratt  
Maximilian Moo  
Joseph Polise



# Student of the Month

## September

**September Life Skills - Respect, Friendship, Responsibility**

Aheri Velte  
Jaxon Hughes  
Jovanna Garcia  
Saytayu Moo  
Mikaela Duniec  
Amila Kadic  
Xavier Velte  
Edin Causevic  
Leah Jackson-Carey  
Ester Ma  
Miley Oleksik

Mahirah Shameem  
Kaylan Le  
Khadijah Mnondwa  
Adel Causevic  
Selia Nguyen  
Aliyah Nadarevic  
Jaxen Davy  
Antonio Pina  
Abdulkadir Muktar  
Chrysanthemum Htoo  
Nicholas Malagese

John Nguyen  
Eddie Howard

# Morning Announcements

## The Morning Crew



Again, we have begun this year, live zoom morning announcements with, Frank, Jaida, Jeremiah, and Sophia each morning. Every classroom teacher connects to the morning announcement zoom link so all students can see and hear the announcements.

Each morning the students say the Pledge of Allegiance then announce the weather, lunch for the day, quote of the day, joke of the day, did you know fun fact and school activity reminders.

There is now a "Joke Box" at the security station for anyone that would like to contribute a joke. The anchors will read the joke and acknowledge the student on air.

9/29/21

Click above picture to see  
Announcements.

If you would like to see the morning announcements, they are recorded, then linked on our webpage so parents/guardians can view them each day. Click on the attached picture on our webpage to view the announcements.



# Note from the Nurse

In order to more quickly communicate with parents about any confirmed positive COVID-19 cases identified by the Oneida County Health Department at our school, the school district will be implementing the following procedures effective Monday, September 20, 2021:

1. An automated School Messenger Robocall will be sent out to parents at **Thomas Jefferson Elementary School** upon notification of a positive case.
2. A "Daily COVID-19 Positivity Report" will be added to our school website and will be updated daily.

As a result of these new, more rapid communication procedures, a COVID-19 notification letter will no longer need to be sent by mail.

Daily COVID-19 Positivity Report : Jefferson		
Jefferson Elementary Positive COVID-19 Cases		
	Staff	Students
9/29/2021	0	0
Jefferson		

# Bussing Information

The school district understands that Durham is experiencing a driver shortage which is a statewide problem.



Any bussing issues can be directed to Durham Student Bussing Services. We are sending messages via Class Dojo to let parents know when busses will be late and when they have left the school. Please be sure you have set up your classroom Dojo app to receive these and other important messages.

## Durham Student Bussing Services

Phone: 315-758-1648

Email: [utica.durham@gmail.com](mailto:utica.durham@gmail.com)



# 9/11 Day of Remembrance

# Jefferson Tribute



This year marks the 20th anniversary of the September 11th terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and the Town of Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

September 11th is a day many Americans remember with a broken heart, and how we united in a common bond.

It is also a day to honor those who answered the call to defend the nation and our freedom.

On September 11th, all schools in the Utica City School District joined in a moment of silence honoring the memory of those lost.

# Summer STEAM Program

The Jefferson STEAM Makerspace Summer Program is an exciting initiative that brings exploration, creativity, and hands-on learning to the classroom and beyond. With Makerspace, students work on their own or in teams to build, create, learn and solve. Makerspace covers topics like robotics, physics, coding, electricity, and more. Makerspace projects:

- Include ELA Skill integration
- Engage students in hands-on projects
- Develop problem-solving skills and encourage self-direction
- Foster teamwork, decision-making, creativity, and higher-level thinking
- Supports STEAM, social studies, and vocational education curriculum -*Follett Learning*



# Home & School CONNECTION®

Working Together for School Success



## SHORT NOTES

### Memory builder

Strengthen your youngster's memory with this playful idea. Have her look away while you build a small block tower. Then, let her study it for 30 seconds and turn her back. Can she duplicate it from memory, using the same shapes, colors, and positions for her tower? Now let her build a structure for you to copy—and test your memory!

### Prepared for conferences

You can make the most of parent-teacher conferences—whether yours is virtual or in person—by listing questions ahead of time that you'd like to ask. Here are three to include: "What does my child seem most interested in?" "What is hardest for him?" "How can I support him at home?"

### A vote for good citizenship

Good citizens take an active role in selecting their leaders. Show your youngster how it's done. Talk about the candidates you prefer and what they stand for. Then, take her to the polls when you vote this month, or let her watch you fill out a mail-in ballot and put it in the mailbox.

### Worth quoting

"The difference between winning and losing is most often not quitting."  
Walt Disney

## JUST FOR FUN

**Q:** If people count sheep to fall asleep, what do sheep count?



**A:** Nothing. Sheep can't count!

Jefferson Elementary

Vanessa Rejrat, Principal

## Learn to manage emotions

Is your youngster's behavior sometimes a mystery to you? Acting out can be a child's way of showing you he's angry or upset. Use this advice to help him express his feelings in more positive ways.

### Make a chart

Together, brainstorm a list of emotions, such as happy, frustrated, excited, and bored. For each one, your child can draw and name a character (Happy Henry, Frustrated Fred). If he misbehaves (say, he yells at his sister for touching his toys), he could use the characters to talk about his feelings. ("Uh-oh, I'm acting like Angry Andy!")

### Ask "why?"

Simply asking "Why do you think you feel that way?" and listening carefully to your child's answer helps in two ways. First, it allows him to recognize and describe how he's feeling. ("I'm frustrated because my project isn't turning out the way I wanted.") Second, he



will feel heard and cared about. As a result, he may be less apt to take out his frustration on others.

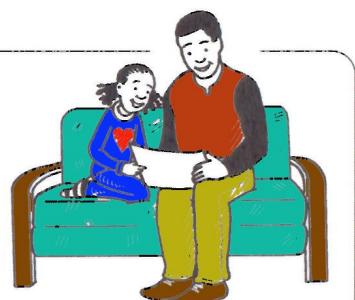
### Find coping techniques

Equip your youngster with strategies for handling negative emotions. You might mention things you do when you feel the same way he does. ("If I'm worried about something, it helps me to put it in writing. That might help you, too.") With time and patience, he'll develop his own strategies for managing his feelings.♥

## Reviewing report cards

Look at your youngster's first report card of the school year as an opportunity to help her succeed going forward. Consider these tips:

- Start by reading the key that explains what the marks or grades mean. Do they indicate how well your child performed or how much progress she made—or both?
- Ask your youngster to tell you about her report card. She's a good judge of what's behind the grades. Also, put any low marks in perspective. Your child has probably adjusted to a lot of changes in this unusual year. Let her know you understand and that she has time to finish the year strong.♥



## Doorways to creative writing

Coming up with a good story idea is the first step toward writing a good story. Unleash your youngster's imagination and boost her writing skills with these two ideas for getting started.

**1. Book titles.** Suggest that your child use the title of a favorite book as inspiration for her own story. If she chooses *Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs*

### ACTIVITY CORNER

#### Paper-cup phone

This old-fashioned "phone" is a fun way for your child to explore sound waves.

**Materials:** pencil, two paper cups, scissors, string, two paper clips

Have your youngster use the pencil to poke a hole in the bottom of each cup and cut a piece of string about 50 feet long. Now he should put opposite ends of the string through the bottoms of the cups and tie each end to a paper clip inside the cup.



Time for a phone call! Each person holds a cup. Walk apart until the string is taut, and carry on a conversation, taking turns speaking into your cups. To listen, hold your cup to your ear.

Now talk at the same volume without the phone. Your child will notice your voice isn't as loud. That's because sound waves vibrate, and the vibrations travel better through a solid (the string) than through air.♥

#### OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ideas that promote school success, parent involvement, and more effective parenting.

Resources for Educators,  
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(Judi Barrett), she might describe a rainy afternoon spent making spaghetti and meatballs with her grandma. Or for *Where the Wild Things Are* (Maurice Sendak), she could write about a hike in the forest—what wild animals will her character see?

**2. Flashbacks.** Instead of writing the beginning of her story first, your youngster can start at the end! She might open with, "And that's how we discovered that our cat was a secret agent." Then she could write the rest of the tale as a flashback, with the cat disappearing unexpectedly and the family finding spy disguises like wigs and fake mustaches around the house.♥

### PARENT TO PARENT

#### Tag ... you're out!

Our sons love our local playground, but because of the pandemic, we don't go when it's crowded. So we look for creative ways to stay active outside. Recently, the boys started making up new versions of tag.

Brody invented Pizza Tag. When "It" tags you, you have to call out a pizza topping before "It" counts to 3. If you can't think of one, or you pick a topping another player already said, you're out. Then Ben came up with Sticker Tag. "It" tags you by putting a sticker on your back. If a player gets three stickers, he's out.

In all of our games, the last person out becomes "It" and decides which version of tag we'll play next—or invents a brand-new one. And all that running around means the boys get plenty of exercise!♥



#### Develop stronger social skills

**Q:** My daughter seems to have trouble making and keeping friends. How can I help her learn better social skills?

**A:** Strong social skills will help your child become a good friend. Plus, knowing how to interact with others can also improve her academic achievement and her attitude toward school.

Discuss ways to show she cares about a friend's opinions or interests. Your daughter might ask questions ("What kind of dance class do you take?") and follow

up to show she's listening ("What songs do you dance to?"). Friends also celebrate each others' accomplishments and strengths. Your child could tell a classmate that he used awesome graphics in his presentation, for instance.

Finally, encourage your daughter to stay in touch with friends and set up get-togethers to maintain strong relationships.

For example, they might have dance parties or sing-alongs via video chat.♥



# *Thank You*

**Superintendent of Schools**

Mr. Bruce J. Karam

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**UCSD Board of Education**

Mr. Louis D. LaPolla, President

Mr. Robert Cardillo, Vice-President

Mr. Donald Dawes

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**Administrative Director of Curriculum and Instruction**

Mr. Steven A. Falchi

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**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.