

2023

Jefferson Elementary Spring Newsletter

Excellence * Diversity * Achievement

Principal's Message 

Jefferson Families,

Spring is finally here! The staff and students are busy with end-of-year assessments, and exciting events such as our Field Day, end of the year picnics/parties, school events, and celebrations. Our Field Day will be held on Monday, June 5th. Please make sure your children are dressed appropriately, have sunscreen, water, and hats/glasses if needed. The Kindergarten Graduations will be held on Thursday, June 15th at 10:00 am and 6th grade Graduation will be held on Friday, June 16th at 10:00 a.m.

Friday, June 23rd is the last day for students. Summer vacation provides time for your child to relax and have some fun. However, reviewing information from the previous school year can help prevent learning loss and keep them up to date on information that they should know for next year. Helping your child retain learning over summer vacation can be a fun activity for you both. Try finding some workbooks, quizzes, flash cards and practice problems to help your child review. Reading is always a good way to exercise the mind and practice skills your child gained from the previous school year. Have your child set aside some time each day for reading a book they find interesting. This could be for 15-30 minutes depending on their age and abilities. Again this year, the final report cards will not indicate next year's teacher assignment. A district-wide standardized letter will be mailed home during the summer. Just a friendly reminder, we do not accept parental teacher requests. This helps to ensure equitably balanced classes.

Your participation and support throughout the school year has been appreciated. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to making this year, and all of our programs and fundraisers a success. On behalf of the entire Thomas Jefferson staff, we thank you for another great school year and we wish you a productive and fun-filled summer.

Sincerely,
Tricia Norton
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 School Phone Numbers

Principal
315-368-6700

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 proud of how our Kindergarten classes adjusted this year. We have been super busy in all areas of learning. In ELA we write simple sentences, all our letters and sounds, and 3-4 letter words. Our 36 sight words are being continuously worked on too. We have come a long way! In Math we are working on subtraction to 10 and decomposing of numbers 11-20.

We also learned about Earth Day, the Positivity Project, and Kindness Rocks. In Art class we painted rocks and are writing a kind message on each in order to inspire creativity and spread happiness. They will be displayed outside our school.

We recently had the opportunity to attend a field trip to the Stanley Performing Arts Center to see "Bluey"!! The students had a great time and were so well behaved.

The Kindergarten team would like to thank parents for all the support this year. We look forward to our "moving up ceremony" as our students blossom into First Graders!!

First Grade

Mrs. Karelus - Ms. Czepiel - Mrs. Adamo

There is still so much to learn in first grade. As we enter our final months of the school year, the first grades have been learning how to tell time on a digital and an analog clock. They have also been learning how to count money. To practice these skills at home with your child have them count up spare change and find the value. Also have them tell you the time.

With our reading skills, continue to have them practice their high frequency words every day. Reading is very important so please have your child read daily, especially over the summer.



Second Grade

Mrs. Belmont - Mrs. Bennett - Mrs. Kallies

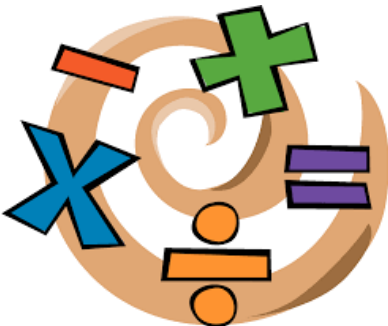
Happy Spring from Grade 2. Grade 2 students are busily studying in E.L.A. Unit 5: Let's Make a Difference and in Mathematics we are studying time, shapes, fractions and problem solving! In Science, we are studying life science and in Social Studies, we are studying good citizenship skills! We are reviewing skills in all areas as we prepare for end-of-the-year testing! In addition, Grade 2 is looking forward to an upcoming field trip to the "Cinderella" ballet! Please keep up the wonderful support at home with independent reading and math practice and monitoring homework & best wishes for a safe and happy Spring Season!



Third Grade

Mrs. Brown - Ms. Griffin - Ms. Walter

It is hard to believe that the 2022-23 school year is almost complete! The third graders have worked very hard and learned so much this year. It has been wonderful to watch these students grow into responsible learners and thinkers; from reading more rigorous texts to writing more detailed responses. They know more about multiplication, division, fractions, area and geometry! Our third graders have become better problem solvers and cooperative team players! They have developed more of a growth mindset, and learned to recognize the special qualities in themselves and in each other. These kids are ready to show the fourth grade teachers what they know, and what terrific students they are! We are very proud of our third graders and all of the growth they have made this year!





Fourth Grade

Mrs. Galulo - Mrs. Marsden - Mrs. Waskiewicz

Fourth grade students have been working hard this semester in Reading and Math. We have been focusing on reading comprehension and continue to improve our writing using RACES. Multiplication and fractions continue to be a main focus in Math. Some of us are Multiplication Masters and have memorized all of our facts up to x10! We are looking forward to the Science Investigations involving "Energy-Light It Up" and "Circle of Life".

The fourth grade classes will be attending two field trips in June. On Friday, June 2nd we will be attending Farm Fest at Dinitto Farm in Marcy, NY. Students will rotate through fun, hands on, educational stations where they learn about agriculture by getting up close with farm animals and equipment. On Tuesday, June 6th we will be attending the Utica Blue Sox game.



Fifth Grade

Mr. Green - Mr. Rogowski - Ms. Dorbrinski - Mrs. Lawruk - Ms. Rivera

In Math, we will be focusing on addition and multiplication with two- and three- dimensional figures. Students are going to use their concrete understanding of volume and multiplicative reasoning to find the total volume of right rectangular prisms. Later, they will extend their understanding of area as they use rulers and set squares to construct and measure rectangles with fractional side lengths and find their areas.

In ELA, students are reading trade books in their classrooms. Throughout the reading, students are engaging in discussions and practice answering short and long response questions while citing textual evidence. Students have been very excited in the books that we have been reading.

We are looking forward to our field trips that are planned for June. We are scheduled to go to Farm Fest, the Utica Blue Socks baseball game, and to the Wild Animal Park in Chittenango. Specific details to these trips will be forthcoming.

As always, thank you for your continued support at home. The fifth grade team appreciates your diligence in having your child(ren) to school on time, and well-prepared for learning each day. This both supports and optimizes our instructional goals for each child, and aids us in helping your child be as successful as he/she can.

Sixth Grade

Ms. Mazzara - Mrs. Sayles - Ms. Simon

We can not believe it is May already!! Our sixth grade year is flying by! Our 6th graders just finished up with their Math and ELA state tests and worked so hard at getting ready for them! We are currently preparing for our end of the year final exams and have an upcoming field trip to the Utica Blue Socks game that we are all super excited about! Please encourage your child to keep working hard throughout this last marking period! Graduation will be soon approaching so we will be busy working on a great ceremony for both you and them! Our 6th grade graduation this year will take place on June 16th at 10 am. We are looking forward to this celebration of a year full of hard work and the start of a new chapter of their school careers!

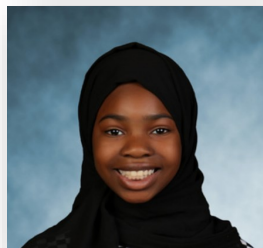
Young Scholars

Young Scholars Liberty Partnerships Program (YSLPP) is a multi-year collaborative project, established in 1993 with Utica University and the Utica City School District (UCSD). This program is designed by education professionals to motivate diverse and talented students with potential to stay in school, earn a New York State Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation, and pursue post-secondary education. Young Scholars students participate in a comprehensive program providing academic, social, and cultural enrichment.

The Young Scholars chosen this year are:



Julianna Constantine



Famo Ahmed



Stanford Htoo

Congratulations to them!

Welcome Community Readers

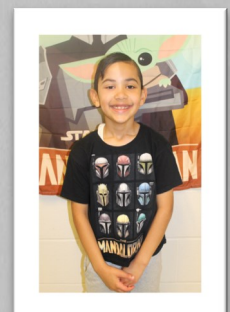
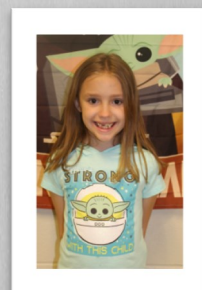
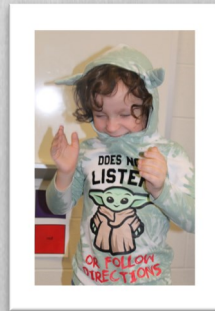
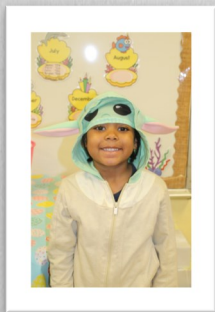
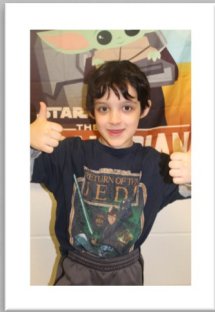
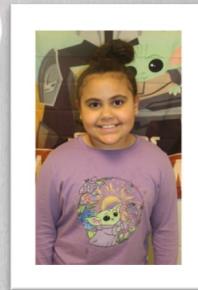
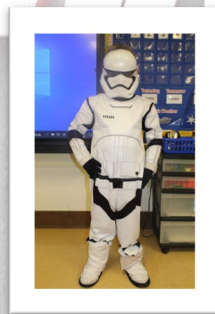
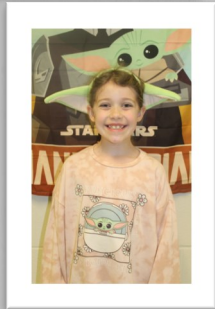
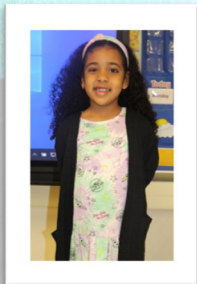
On Friday, March 31st Thomas Jefferson Elementary School celebrated a Community Reader's Day with a focus on reading books that celebrated diversity. Several community members came to the school and read a picture book to our students, and also told the students a little bit about themselves and the importance of reading. This aligned with our commitment to promote an environment of cultural responsiveness and inclusivity at a deeper level, and celebrate all beauty that exists within the differences amongst us all. We are very thankful for all the community readers that joined us including "Trax" the moose from Utica University!



STAR WARS DAY™ MAY THE 4TH BE WITH YOU

Ms. Czepiel's first grade class had fun celebrating Star Wars Day! They read stories, completed math worksheets and created a geometry project all involving the Star Wars theme. The students had a fantastic day learning in a galaxy far, far, away!

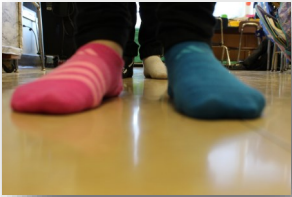
All Jefferson students were asked to celebrate Star Wars day, by wearing their Star Wars attire. It was a fun-filled day for all!





"We are more alike than different."

Jefferson School celebrated Crazy Sock Day on Tuesday, March 21, 2023. Every year on March 21, people all around the world celebrate World Down Syndrome Day by wearing brightly colored, mismatched socks. March 21 (3/21) is symbolic because people with Down syndrome have 3 copies of their 21st chromosome.



East Utica Optimist Club Winner

Madison Gadziala



After reading the criteria for the Optimist Student of the year myself and the other teachers in grade six agreed unanimously that our choice would be Madison.

I have had the pleasure of instructing and watching this young lady become the bright outgoing person she is today. Madison is extremely disciplined and hardworking when it comes to her education. Her achievements in academics are exemplary as well as her social involvement. Madison is very driven and works exceptionally well with her classmates and expects only the best of herself. Her academics prove the excellence that she strives to achieve daily. Her work is always meticulously done and of excellent quality. Madison is a

great problem solver which is why she does so well in Math and enjoys helping her classmates during math rotations as she works so well with others.

Madison is a member of the Jefferson Choir and was recently chosen to be a part of the All-County Music Festival. She represents our class as a student council member to share in student decisions in our building. Currently they are working on a project that will help to raise funds for the Humane society. She was honored as Student of the Month for our class for the month of September.

Madison will be graduating this June and moving on to middle school. With the willingness she has to take on new tasks, self-motivation, and how she rises to the occasion I know she will do great things. Congratulations we are very proud of you!



FIELD TRIPS

Jefferson student have been on many field trips this year....

5th Grade—The Most

Kindergarten—Bluey @ Stanley Theater

Technology Club—WKTV and Proctor Channel 3 Studio

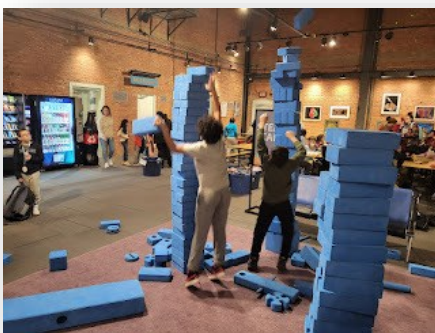
Upcoming field trips:

2nd Grade—Cinderella—May 19h

4th/5th Grades—Farm Fest—June 2nd

4/5/6 Grades—Blue Socks game—June 6th

3rd Grade—Utica Zoo—June 12th



Home & School

Working Together for School Success

CONNECTION[®]

SHORT NOTES



D.E.A.R. Day

This April 12, celebrate Drop Everything and Read Day with a reading campout—or “camp-in.” Pitch a tent in the backyard, or let your youngster make a living room fort. Then, take turns reading aloud, read silently together, or do both. *Idea:* Encourage regular reading by making D.E.A.R. a monthly tradition.

DID YOU KNOW?

Spending time outdoors can build your child's observation skills. Play

“I Spy” with clouds (“I spy a cloud that looks like a rabbit”) and see who else can spot it, too. Or take a walk with a magnifying glass, and have your youngster look closely at plants and animals.

Online homework

If your youngster does homework online, you may wonder how to support him. Just like with pencil-and-paper assignments, invite him to explain his homework to you, and ask to look over his finished work before he sends it. Also, make sure he closes tabs he's not using for assignments so he doesn't get distracted.

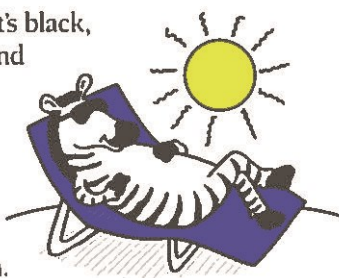
Worth quoting

“The shortest way to do many things is to do only one thing at a time.”
Richard Cecil

JUST FOR FUN

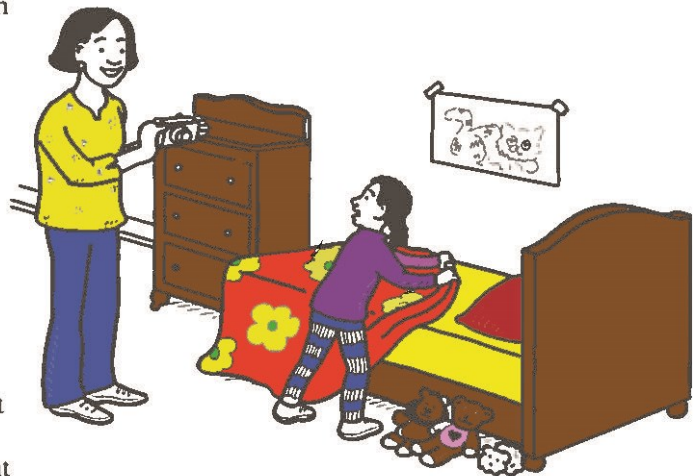
Q: What's black, white, and red all over?

A: A zebra with a sunburn.



Being responsible

Megan keeps up with her homework and is always ready for soccer practice on time. The reason? She has learned about responsibility from a young age. Consider these hands-on ways to help your youngster be responsible, too.



Part of the team

Show your child that everyone's responsibilities matter. Have her cut bookmark-sized strips of paper and write a family activity on one (eating dinner). On the others, she should write jobs that make it happen (plan the meal, buy groceries, cook, set the table). Now let her link the strips to make a chain. She'll see that dinner relies on everyone doing their job!

Around the clock

Help your youngster get in the habit of handling her responsibilities on time. Let her draw a clock on paper or poster board and add sticky notes labeled with

daily tasks. She might put “Homework” at 4 p.m. and “Walk the dog” at 7 p.m. Have her post the clock in a visible spot as a reminder.

Caught in the act

“Catch” your child being responsible, and tell her you noticed. (“That was responsible of you to throw away your trash.”) You could even snap photos of her responsible behavior (say, making her bed) and hang them on the refrigerator. Seeing the photos will inspire her to continue being responsible. ♥

Review report cards

When your child's next report card arrives, use it to encourage him to finish the school year strong. Try these strategies for discussing it.

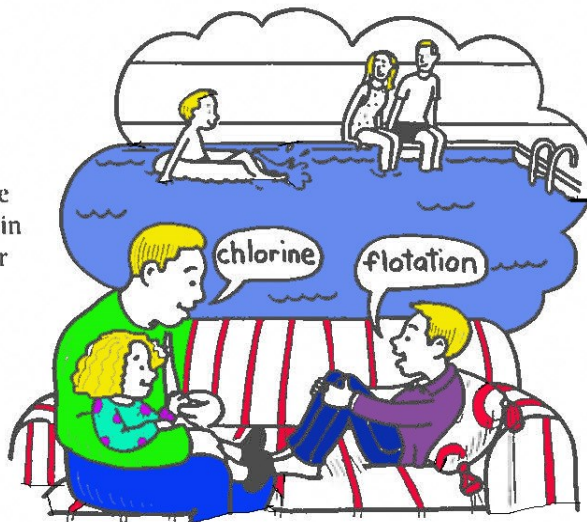
1. Give your youngster and his report card your full attention. For example, find a quiet spot, put away your phone, and turn off the TV.
2. Find reasons to high-five your child. Maybe he brought up his writing grade or the teacher commented on how well he gets along with classmates.
3. Talk about ways he could improve. If his math grade dropped, he might double-check work for careless errors. Or if he needs to be more organized, share strategies you use, like keeping office supplies in different-sized containers. ♥



Build a rich vocabulary

Where will your child hear the word *stethoscope*? What synonym could he use for *hilarious*? Hearing and saying words in context is a good way for your youngster to learn and remember them. Consider these ideas to improve his vocabulary.

Match places with words. Ask your child to name a place in your community (*bakery, swimming pool*). Take turns saying a word you might hear or say there. When you run out



of familiar words (*doughnut, swim*), try to come up with less common ones (*aroma, chlorine*). The last person who thinks of a word picks the next location.

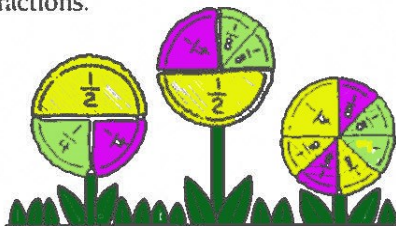
Use synonyms. Hold a conversation full of synonyms—words with similar meanings. Your youngster might say, “The *funniest* thing happened in the *cafeteria* today.” Then, go back and forth, replacing as many words as possible with synonyms. Examples: “What *hilarious* incident occurred in the

lunchroom?” or “I love it when *comical* events *transpire* in the *canteen*!” Tip: Keep a thesaurus or dictionary handy to find new synonyms.♥

ACTIVITY CORNER

Fraction flowers

Spring is in bloom—and so are these “flowers” that let your youngster explore fractions.



1. Have your child color three paper plates, each a different color.
2. She can use a ruler and marker to draw lines dividing the plates into fractions—one into halves, another into fourths, and the other into eighths.
3. Ask her to label each “petal” with its fraction ($\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{8}$) and cut the plates apart on the lines.
4. Now let your youngster see which fractions are *equivalent*—or represent the same parts of a whole—by creating flowers with different color petals. For example, if she glues a purple half and two orange fourths onto a new plate, that’s a whole flower ($\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{4} = 1$).♥



PARENT TO PARENT

Teachable moments

During a recent game of disc golf at a local park, our family had some fun conversations—and I think my daughter Esme learned a lot, too.

It started when Esme said she was going to “toss the Frisbee.” I pointed out that the disc wasn’t actually a Frisbee! I explained that *Frisbee* is a brand name that people use generically. Soon we were naming all sorts of products like that, such as inline skates (*Rollerblades*) and ice pops (*Popsicles*).

Then, as we played, Esme asked why there were three different types of discs in the game. That led us to a conversation about engineering, as we examined the discs and talked about how their designs affect how far, fast, or straight they fly.

All this made me realize that simple family outings can be learning opportunities!♥



Q & A Handling complaints

Q: My son has been complaining a lot lately, even about little things. For example, he’ll gripe if we’re out of his favorite cereal or his sister moves his backpack. How can I handle this?

A: Try acknowledging your son’s feelings in a calm, upbeat voice. Then, encourage him to find a solution. You might say, “I know you’re disappointed about your cereal. What could you eat instead?”

Resist the urge to say, “That’s nothing to complain about,” which can discourage him from expressing his feelings. Instead, brainstorm ways to “flip” his thinking. For instance, he could say, “I

have cereal every day, so it might be nice to eat something different.”

With practice, he’ll get out of the habit of complaining—and make life more pleasant for everyone.♥



OUR PURPOSE

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

Resources for Educators,
a division of CCH Incorporated
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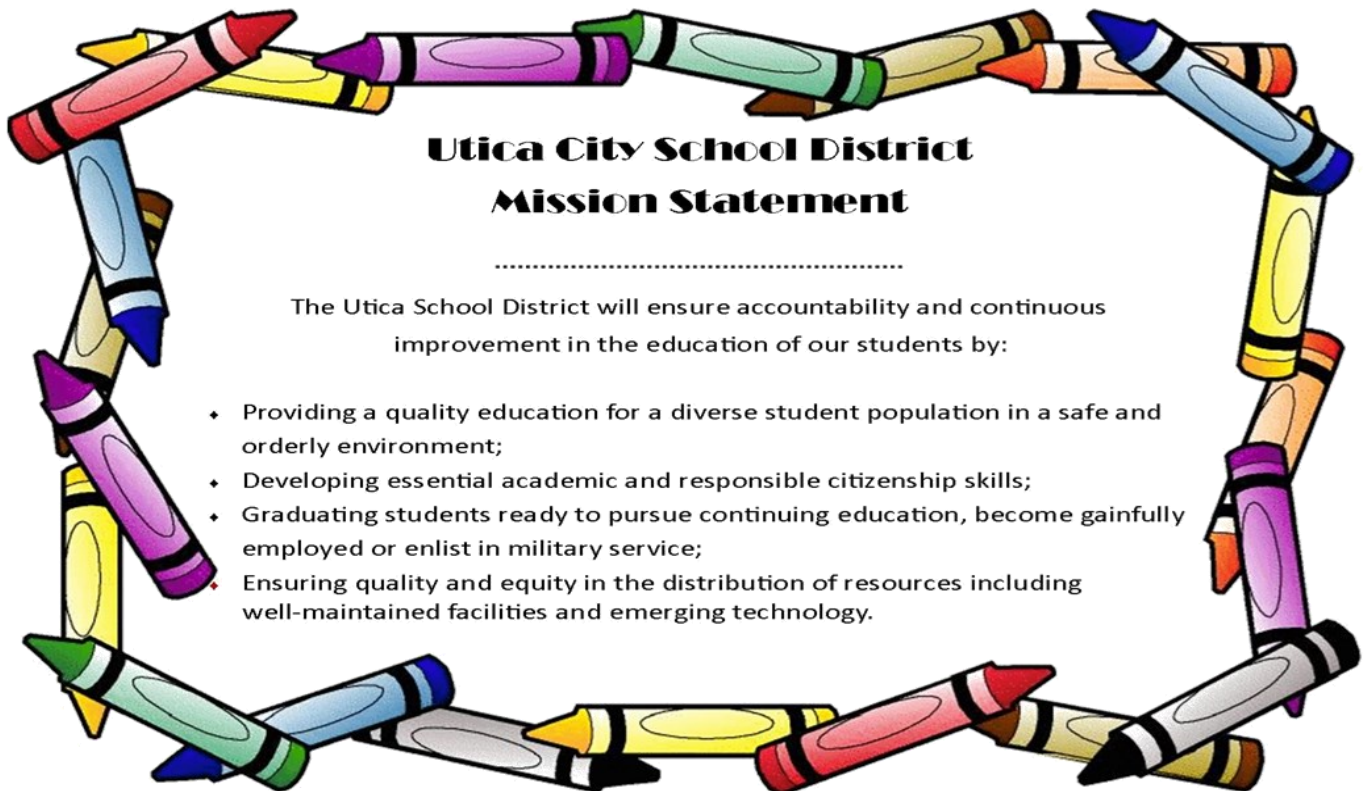
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Thank You!

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Mrs. Tennille Knoop
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Chief Academic Officer
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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.