



The Jefferson Journal



Family Updates: September 16, 2022

Dear Jefferson Middle School Families:

We look forward to seeing you next week for Curriculum Night. This is a chance to hear from your student's teachers about important content, skills, and expectations in each of their classes. Please bring a pic of your student's schedule to help you navigate classes; we will have extra schedules for pick-up just in case. The schedule is [here](#). We will begin in the Commons and move to classrooms at 6:15.

See you soon,

Kristyn Westphal, Principal

Key Upcoming Dates & Events

Happy Latinx / Hispanic Heritage Month: September 15 - October 15. Yesterday was the first day of Latinx or Hispanic Heritage Month, which runs until October 15. Hispanic Heritage Month honors the contributions people of Latinx origin have made to the United States. The celebration highlights the histories [and] cultures of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America. The day of September 15 is significant because it is the anniversary of independence for Latin American countries Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16 and September 18. You can find more info [here](#).

Curriculum Night: September 20, 6:00 - 8:00 PM. We look forward to seeing you! The schedule is [here](#). You are encouraged to bring your student with you. Please bring a pic of their schedule to help you navigate classes.

iReady Testing:

We have been working to assess student skills in Reading this week; they will test in Math next week to provide a baseline for teachers' work with them this year.

Homework Club

Beginning September 19, TJMS will be hosting After School Homework Help every Monday from 2:55-3:55. The After School Homework Help is a space for your student to work on assignments, study for tests, and get extra help if they need it. Transportation home will not be provided. You will need to sign a permission slip to inform whether your student will be picked up, or walking home at 3:55. If you are interested in your student participating in Homework Help, please have them pick up a permission slip from Ms. Hannah in Room 402, and return it back as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please refer them to Hannah Manchel, student advocate- hannah.manchel@vansd.org.

COVID Guidance: What to do and When to Stay Home

[English](#)

[Español](#)

[Chuukese](#)

[русский](#)

Important School Systems to Know

Setting up the Canvas Parent App: check out this [info sheet](#) for help. This info is also available in Spanish and Russian [here](#).

Skyward: Your access is automatically set up when you enroll your student. If you are having trouble accessing, our office can help; you will just need to show a copy of your ID. You can access Skyward [here](#). You can view lunch account balances, attendance by period, info on missing assignments and grades, and lots more.

Notifications from VPS: read [here](#) for info about how/when VPS will contact you.

VPS Mobile App: sign-up info is [here](#). Stay informed on . . . News, bus routes, calendar events, activities and what's for lunch, Skyward: grades, attendance, employee access, directory of staff, social media, and more!

Please remember that an adult guardian needs to accompany students to any athletic event they are viewing as a spectator. Thanks!

TJMS Parking Lot Safety

Please check out [this important information](#).

PTSA

Come join us Wednesday, Sept. 21, at 6:30 PM for our first PTSA meeting! The TJ PTSA needs you! We are a group of parents, teachers and students who serve the Thomas Jefferson Middle School community through grants, fundraising, programs and events. We help organize and implement many school functions, socials, and celebrations all while helping to build the school community. We would love your help in making TJMS the best it can be! Join us! Click here to learn more or become a member: <https://tjmsptsa.weebly.com/>

Family Resource Coordinator

Kelsey Potter is our FRC; you can reach her at 360-721-8464 (call/text). She is available to help with all kinds of needs - backpacks and back to school supplies, food, clothing, hygiene items, housing referrals, utility assistance, and more! You can learn more [here](#). She will be at Jefferson on Thursdays from 12:30 - 4:30 starting September 1.

Planning for Our Future

The next 18 months are an important time for our school district because we are going to be working to redefine VPS's vision, goals, objectives and priorities. As part of a process called strategic planning, we will be gathering input from students, staff members, families and the community in many different ways so that your thoughts and feedback will be the foundation to shaping our path forward. Because our final strategic plan will guide our work for the next five years, we want to ensure it reflects the shared hopes and goals of the people who learn, work and live here. Please join us in the first phase of the project by providing your personal hopes, aspirations and dreams for our students now:

<https://my.thoughtexchange.com/scroll/502658099/welcome>

Attendance

- Attendance counts! We want to see your student every day, and we are here to help with anything that might get in the way.



Jefferson Middle School

Jefferson is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters