



Jefferson Journal

Principally Speaking

August 1st, 2023

Dear Jefferson Elementary parents,

As principal of Jefferson Elementary School, it is my pleasure to welcome everyone back for another great year. We are all excited to have students back in our classrooms and hallways filling them with energy and enthusiasm for learning. It is our mission to help every child feel welcomed, connected, and a part of our Jefferson Jaguar family.

Additionally, we strive to challenge each student to grow in his or her academic, behavior and social/emotional abilities. At Jefferson, we have great teachers who spend hours planning and creating classroom activities to engage our students in learning.

Our teachers utilize research-based best practices and analyze academic data to determine current skill levels and to set goals for growth and improvement. We use NWEA MAPS to differentiate instruction and set new academic goals.

We hope that you will find our website helpful and informative. You will find our school handbook, newsletters, and much more found on this site:

<https://www.watertown.k12.sd.us/o/jefferson-elementary>

We also have entered dates for all events and activities into the "Events" feature of our website.

We will continue to focus on Character Education, Be Kind, attendance and our behavior matrix. Please see more information in our handbook.

I am honored to serve as the principal of Jefferson Elementary. It is truly a privilege to be a part of a community where parents, teachers and students care for each other and strive to build positive relationships that support academic and social growth. Please feel free to contact me at school or via email.

It's a GREAT DAY 2B a JAGUAR!!!

Sincerely,
John J. Decker
john.decker@k12.sd.us
605-882-6390

Special Points of Interest:

- ☺ **Aug. 21st - Open House at 11 am - 7 pm by appointment only**
- ☺ **Aug. 24th - First day of school (8:30 am to 3:20 pm)**
- ☺ **Aug. 25th - Picture Day**
- ☺ **Sept. 4th - Labor Day; NO School**





7 Strategies to Help Kids Start the School Year Strong

A strong foundation as the school year begins sets the tone for the rest of the school year. As children gear up to head back to school, families can use these strategies to get their kids excited for school and start the year strong.

1. **Validate Feelings:** Whether students are starting a new grade or a new school, it can be scary. Give kids the opportunity to share their feelings about starting school, and validate these feelings by letting them know it's normal to feel that way.
2. **Focus on the Positive:** Starting something new can cause anxiety for kids and adults alike. Help children make a list of fun things they're looking forward to during the school year.
3. **Set Goals:** Having goals set ahead of the school year for the first few weeks helps them feel accomplished and more confident. Make goals unique to your child, but general ideas include finding a club or an activity to be part of, introducing themselves to one student they don't know, or reading a book in the first month or quarter of the school year.
4. **Visit the School:** Many schools offer tours of the school or open houses for new students. Take advantage of this to help your child become familiar with a new building or classroom and how to navigate the school.
5. **Meet With Teachers:** When students can meet their teachers ahead of the



school year, it'll make them feel calmer when they show up for school the first day. Have your child write a "hello note" to their teacher that lets them introduce themselves and start building the connection that is so important to their success during the school year.

6. **Connect With Friends:** Get your child together with friends, including new friends who will be in class with them, to talk about how they all feel about starting the new year. Have them take turns sharing what they're looking forward to the most and what hesitations they might have.
7. **Set Up Accommodations and Specialized Services:** Individualized and equitable learning is a top priority in schools. This means that your child has access to individualized learning programs and specialized accommodations to help them learn in ways that maximize success for them. Connect with the school district or the school's administrators to set up these accommodations and services before the school year begins.



A place that offers parents home learning resources, and strategies to connect school, families and communities.
Please visit the site at: <https://sdsfec.org/>



BACK 2 SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

We would like to invite parents to meet your child's teacher and visit their classroom in an appointment style Open House on August 23rd between 11:00 AM and 7:00 PM. Please follow the link below to sign up for a time. We are inviting parents and students to meet your teachers, drop off supplies, sign up for PTO events, visit with the nurse or drop off medication, begin a relationship with your teachers and develop a level of comfort within our walls before school starts.

We understand that time is limited and ask that any additional time needed that an extra appointment be set up later. We look forward to a positive working relationship that thrives on strong communication and celebrating the learning of your child!!!

Go to this link to sign up for **Back 2 School Conference**: <https://tinyurl.com/yy6x5xjd>



BACK 2 SCHOOL CONFERENCES-2023

Jefferson Parent/Teacher conferences will be held Monday, August 21st. from 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM. Conferences will be held in person.

We ask that you stick to the 15 minute time slot. We ask that additional time needed be set up at a later date. Please find your teacher's site below to sign up for your 15 minute conference.

KINDERGARTEN

Mrs. Asmussen

<https://tinyurl.com/mtbpn6ez>

Mrs. Flatten

<https://tinyurl.com/mwxzurex>

Ms. Foust

<https://tinyurl.com/zsr367w4>

FIRST

Mrs. Swenson

<https://tinyurl.com/3fz778hj>

Dr. Tisher

<https://tinyurl.com/3kkdused>

Mrs. Vega

<https://tinyurl.com/mr29sf56>

SECOND

Mrs. Johnson

<https://tinyurl.com/38ku7wnd>

Mr. Ramos

<https://tinyurl.com/22zsznm7>

Mrs. Stemwedel

<https://tinyurl.com/7n5xen2t>

THIRD

Mrs. Deutsch

<https://tinyurl.com/wpkz9353>

Mrs. McLaughlin

<https://tinyurl.com/4hkt5yjr>

Mrs. Stoick

<https://tinyurl.com/2mjxbh3y>

FOURTH

Mrs. Hogue

<https://tinyurl.com/3n2877uk>

Mrs. Miller

<https://tinyurl.com/yubzr2er>

Mrs. Wietzema

<https://tinyurl.com/bd4jdy5k>



OPEN HOUSE

		Breakfast				Lunch			
		Full Price PK-6th	Full Price 7th-12th	Reduced	Adult Price	Full Price PK-6th	Full Price 7th-12th	Reduced	Adult Price
		\$1.80	\$2.05	\$0.30	\$2.95	\$2.70	\$2.95	\$0.40	\$5.10
MONTH	DAYS	Cost Per Month for each category							
August	6	\$10.80	\$12.30	\$1.80	\$17.70	\$16.20	\$17.70	\$2.40	\$30.60
September	20	\$36.00	\$41.00	\$6.00	\$59.00	\$54.00	\$59.00	\$8.00	\$102.00
October	21	\$37.80	\$43.05	\$6.30	\$61.95	\$56.70	\$61.95	\$8.40	\$107.10
November	18	\$32.40	\$36.90	\$5.40	\$53.10	\$48.60	\$53.10	\$7.20	\$91.80
December	16	\$28.80	\$32.80	\$4.80	\$47.20	\$43.20	\$47.20	\$6.40	\$81.60
January	21	\$37.80	\$43.05	\$6.30	\$61.95	\$56.70	\$61.95	\$8.40	\$107.10
February	19	\$34.20	\$38.95	\$5.70	\$56.05	\$51.30	\$56.05	\$7.60	\$96.90
March	16	\$28.80	\$32.80	\$4.80	\$47.20	\$43.20	\$47.20	\$6.40	\$81.60
April	21	\$37.80	\$43.05	\$6.30	\$61.95	\$56.70	\$61.95	\$8.40	\$107.10
May	17	\$30.60	\$34.85	\$5.10	\$50.15	\$45.90	\$50.15	\$6.80	\$86.70
Totals		\$315.00	\$358.75	\$52.50	\$516.25	\$472.50	\$516.25	\$70.00	\$892.50

Activity Ticket Fees

Activity:	<u>Adult</u>	<u>Student</u>
Activity Ticket	\$80.00	\$20.00
Single Event	\$5.00	\$3.00
65+	No Charge	



Dear Families,

Success in school is not just about reading and math. It is also about knowing how to learn and how to get along with others. The Watertown School District has always taught these critical skills through Social-Emotional classroom lessons. The district adopted a digital curriculum available from the Second Step program. The Second Step program teaches skills in the following areas:

- ◆ **Growth Mindset & Goal-Setting:** Students learn how to develop a growth mindset and apply research-based goal-setting strategies to their social and academic lives.
- ◆ **Emotion Management:** Students learn how to build their emotion vocabularies, practice identifying their own and others' emotions and recognize the importance of labeling and processing their emotions.
- ◆ **Empathy and Kindness:** Students learn how to recognize kindness and act kindly toward others and how to develop empathy by learning strategies to take others' perspectives.
- ◆ **Problem Solving:** Students learn how to process strong emotions, describe a problem, identify the wants and need of others and think of and explore the outcomes of potential solutions and pick the best solution.

Our classroom lessons will continue to utilize that Child Protection Units of the Second Step program for all of our K-4 students. These units expand the social-emotional learning of our students using these three skills:

- ◆ **Personal Safety.** Children will learn safety rules and ways to decide if something is safe or not.
- ◆ **Touching Safety.** Children will learn about safe, unsafe and unwanted touches, and about rules to apply regarding these touches. They'll also learn to say no to unsafe or unwanted touches, and to tell a grown-up if someone breaks the touching rules.
- ◆ **Assertiveness.** These lessons will also give children a chance to practice asking grown-ups for help, telling a grown-up about an unsafe situation, and being assertive to get out of an unsafe situation.

If you have any questions regarding the Second Step program or the Child Protection Units please call your child's school counselor listed below. Thank you for supporting your child in learning the skills that lead to success in school and in life!

Sincerely,

Kristi Koll
Mellete/Jefferson (gr. K-1)
kristi.koll@k12.sd.us

Pam Luecke
Lincoln/Jefferson (gr.2-4)
pam.luecke@k12.sd.us



WATERTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SUPPLY LIST

Preschool

- 1 backpack (no wheels)
- 6 glue sticks
- 1 pair of kid scissors
- 1 box of 24 Crayons
- 1 box of 8 washable markers

Junior Kindergarten

- 1 backpack (no wheels)
- 6 glue sticks
- 1 pair of kid scissors
- 3 boxes of 24 Crayons
- 1 Composition Notebook

Kindergarten

- 1 backpack (no wheels)
- 8 glue sticks
- 1 pair of kid scissors
- 3 boxes of 24 Crayons
- 1 large pink eraser
- 1 pencil box
- 12 No. 2 pencils
- 1 pocket folder
- 1 8-pack of markers
- 1 box of Kleenex

1st Grade

- 1 backpack (no wheels)
- 8 glue sticks
- 1 pair of kid scissors (pointed)
- 3 boxes of 24 crayons
- 2 large erasers
- 1 pencil box or zippered pouch
- 24 No. 2 pencils(sharpened preferred)
- 1 pocket folder
- 1 8-pack markers
- 1 box of Kleenex

2nd Grade

- 1 backpack (no wheels)
- 8 glue sticks
- 1 pair of kid scissors
- 2 boxes of 24 crayons
- 2 large pink erasers
- 1 pencil box
- 24 No. 2 pencils
- 1 pocket folder
- 1 8-pack markers
- 1 box of 12 colored pencils
- 1 wide-lined notebook
- 1 box of Kleenex

3rd Grade

- 1 backpack (no wheels)
- 8 glue sticks
- 1 pair of kid scissors (pointed)
- 2 large erasers
- 1 pencil box or zippered pouch
- 24 No. 2 pencils
- 2 pocket folders
- 1 8-pack markers
- 1 pack of 24 colored pencils
- 3 wide-lined spiral notebooks
- 1 box of Kleenex

4th Grade

- 1 backpack (no wheels)
- 4 glue sticks
- 1 bottle of glue
- 1 pair of kid scissors (pointed)
- 2 large erasers
- 1 pencil box/zipper pouch
- 24 No. 2 pencils
- 4 pocket folders
- 1 8-pack markers (fine-tipped)
- 1 box of 24 colored pencils
- 3 wide-lined spiral notebooks
- 1 box of Kleenex
- 1 Highlighter



SOCIAL SKILLS

Social skill development is something to be worked on at school and at home. Therefore, each month we will inform you of what skills we are working on at school. Practice with your child. Please feel free to call if you wish more information on our Boys Town Social Skills

(August 25 – September 16)

Following Instructions

1. Look at the person
2. Say “Okay”
3. Do it right away

2023-2024 Jefferson Elementary PTO and Volunteer Positions

President: Lona Simon
Treasurer: Laurie Johnson
Secretary: Kylie Knippling
Communications Chair: Kylie Knippling
Event Coordinator Co-Chairs: **open**
Faculty Board Member/Teacher Representative: Kristi Wietzema
Principal/Administration Representative: John Decker
Volunteer Coordinator: **open**
Jaguar Gear Coordinator: Brookney Delgado
Yearbook Coordinator: Taylor Johnson
Room Parent Coordinator: **open**
Turkey Bingo Co-Coordinators: Taylor Johnson & Jamie Olson



Jefferson Elementary ----- MAY PTO Meeting Minutes

May 31, 2023

1. Administrative Items

- a. Review Checkbook – Allison has the Checkbook yet and will send a check to NS Inflatables for 400\$. Taylor has the card yet. Discussion on changing accounts because of fees and the local banks which the PTO would consider moving to. More discussion next meeting after checkbook is balanced. Need to add more signers.
- b. Bylaws: Will look at binders to look at bylaws and have digital copy to group. In the future would like to follow bylaws, set up a budget, and use our gmail account, Taylor has the information.

2. End of the Year Party: May 25th

1. Update: Inflatables will be paid this week by Allison.
2. Need to write thank you note to Willbur Ellis for Water.
3. 100 Pizzas – Pizza Ranch UPDATE ordered 15 more pizzas due to the number of RSVPs– Billing Statement don't have yet. Gluten free pizza was not available right away so next year request that with initial order.
4. Everyone enjoyed it at Jefferson, would like to keep the same location.
5. Will add a 3rd bouncy house, yard games, and discussion on inviting other organizations to set up tables like derm for sunblock giveaways, facepainting, dunk tank, police dpt with icecream, etc.
6. Laurie mentioned bringing in stock tank with ice to have a spot for cold water, was one of the comments about it being warm.
7. Set up for next year will vary on the amount of bouncy houses.
8. Not having music was ok since the generators were loud.

3. Teacher Appreciation

- a. May 8
 - i. Update from Laurie: Everyone followed through on what they signed up to bring. Even had an add-on of juice brought. The teachers/staff loved it and Laurie did a great job with the design. Most if not all of the leftovers were eaten.
- b. Retirement Gifts – Update from Katie/Lona: Delivered windchimes that were personalized from ETSY to Beutler and Labore. They were about 30\$ each.
- c. Coffee Station – Update Laurie: Found online from Volga, she set up and had non coffee options. Was 450\$, the staff loved it and was very appreciative!

PTO Officers and Volunteers for 2023-2024 School Year

President – Lona Simon

*Past President: Taylor Johnson

Treasurer – Laurie Johnson



*Past Treasure: Alison Bakken

Secretary – *Discussed with Kylie and group to combine these roles. Kylie agreed to do both.
Communications Chair – Kylie Knippling

Event Coordinator –

Faculty Board Member / Teacher Representative – PENDING

Principal / Administration Representative – John Decker

Volunteer Coordinator -

Jaguar Coordinator – Broonkey Delgado

Yearbook Coordinator – Taylor Johnson

Room Parent Coordinator – Laurie?

Turkey Bingo Co-Coordinators – Taylor Johnson & Jamie Olson

4. New Business

- a. Laurie gave on behalf of the PTO the Past President, Taylor Johnson a gift card from 19th Hole, 25\$, for her service the last few years and a gratitude for her hard work with the Jefferson PTO. Thank you Taylor!!
- b. Open House: 11-7pm
 1. Would like to have more involved with the Open House.
 - a. Brookney will have some shirt options available and some swag for a sign up prize from Sioux Valley Coop.
 - b. Brookney also gave idea of having a PTO magnet to give away.
 - c. Table ideas we would like to invite:
 - i. Boys & Girls Club/Kidscope
 - j. City Transportation
 - k. School Bus
 - l. 4H
 - m. Girl/Boy Scouts
 - n. Extracurricular: Soccer, Hockey, Swim, Park & Rec
 - o. PTO Table
 - p. Lunch Money
 2. Welcome back yard sign, Laurie found Glitzy signs for 50\$ to set up and take down. Also discussed 1st Day of school instead of Open House
 3. Photo Booth: Brookney will look into it and decide on decor
 4. Mascot walking around
 5. Sign Up Genius needed for PTO Table and Mascot
 6. Will post to PTO FB page, Brookney will provide SV 25\$ gas card/basket for winner of giveaway. Giveaway will be those who sign up as incentive.
- c. Goals of PTO
 - i. Have the upcoming events on each agenda.
 - ii. Follow Bylaws
 - iii. Set a budget
 - iv. SUG and notification more time needed so parents have more notice to volunteer.



- v. Turkey Bingo Write up to drop off or email to companies.
- d. Homecoming: Sept 15h
 - i. Sharp donated use of truck, Tyler Lictenburg, 605-690-6008. Will need contact with him and have key pick up in place.
 - ii. Discuss with Mr. Decker about trailor and logistics.
 - iii. Need to create theme and SUG to decorate/hold trailor.
 - iv. Bake Sale: give Student Council half of the money. Sign up genius/PTO FB poster and venmo will be organized.
- e. Turkey Bingo
 - i. Write up about donation goals: How much to collect, how to drop off/collect, will get information to Jamie about the cost. Taylor/Alison/Lona can look back to get that information. Example of a good donation.
 - ii. Email to one contact. Need Gmail account information from Taylor.
 - iii. Jamie will cleanup the Chamber of Commerce Google doc for upcoming school year.
- f. 1st Meeting of August:
 - i. Need Picture day helpers, Open House Staff meal, 1st day staff muffins/K cups/ fruit/juice, check on coffee pot, order 2 cash boxes, nacho cheese container/pump. All new popcorn ingredients.

Meeting: Wednesday, August 2nd



Jefferson Supports PBIS

Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports. PBIS is an evidence-based, school wide behavior system that the Watertown School District adopted. Jefferson staff and students began implementing the system in 2016-17.

PBIS is a data driven systems approach developed to assist schools in achieving socially appropriate behaviors for all students. It is comprised of a broad range of systemic school-wide, group and individualized strategies. These strategies help students achieve important social and learning outcomes while preventing problem behaviors. PBIS is not a specific “model” but a compilation of effective practices, interventions and system change strategies that have been proven effective and efficient. PBIS has relevant applications to educating all children at Jefferson Elementary.

Education plays a vital role in our world, It empowers children and adults alike to become active participants in the transformation of their communities. Developing positive attitudes and behaviors will enable our students to find their purpose in society.

To assist with planning and implementation of this system, Jefferson developed a PBIS team made up of the principal, school psychologist, classroom teachers, and counselor. The is team developed behavioral expectations for our students that stem from four core values: Responsible, Respectful, Safe and Kind.

Responsible: We hold ourselves accountable and take ownership for our actions and words.

Respectful: We treat others the way we want to be treated.

Safe: We keep our hands and feet to ourselves and avoid any actions that may cause hare to ourselves or others.

Kind: We are generous, empathetic and helpful to others without expecting anything in return.

We want to thank you for your support. By encouraging your children to uphold these values, we will continue to succeed at Jefferson Elementary.