

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF JEFFERSON



State and National School (District) of Character!

NEWS AND INFORMATION
PUBLICATION

FEBRUARY 2012

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Senior Citizen Lunches

Served at Jefferson High School & Sullivan Elementary School on:

FEBRUARY 9 at 11 AM

Rotini with Meat Sauce, Garden Fresh Salad, Warm Breadsticks, Peaches

FEBRUARY 16 at 11 AM

Chicken Tenders, Curly Fries, Peaches, Dinner Roll

Call Rebecca Blyth, Student Nutrition Director, at 920-675-1035, to make your reservation.

School Board Meetings

February 13 - 5:30 PM

Board Committee Meetings
New High School Library

February 29 - 7 PM (Note Date Change)

Regular Board Meeting
West Elementary All-purpose Room

February Character Trait

FAIRNESS



Click on icons to access menus and sports events.



"From the Outside Looking In"

Phase III (demolition) underway
at Jefferson High School



If you have not driven by Jefferson High School recently you have really been missing out. The demolition crew and their equipment has been very busy on the north side of the building.

The final phase of the building/renovation project began the end of December with the arrival of the asbestos abatement crew. They worked for approximately three weeks removing asbestos from the wing that housed the old business education and social studies classrooms as well as the library. Once their work was completed, the

demolition crew stepped in and began taking down this section of the building. With the assistance of skid loaders and a backhoe, the crew has made quick work of bringing down the walls.

Once all debris is removed, the foundation crew will be on site to begin pouring footings and setting the walls for the new offices that will house the principal, associate principal, administrative assistants, school counselors, social workers, and the school nurse. This work, together with forming the new main entrance and circular drive, is set for completion prior to the start of the 2012-2013 school year.



School District Office Makes Temporary Move

"Renovations force District Office to relocate for three months."



If you are looking for the School District office staff, do not go to 206 S. Taft Avenue. Our office has temporarily relocated to 824 W. Racine Street, Jefferson. Upgrades to the heating/cooling system and bringing restrooms in compliance with ADA (Americans with Disabilities) regulations required staff and records to vacate the premises. Special education staff (Director of Special Education and his administrative assistants) were relocated to a teacher workroom in the High School. All other District Office employees have been moved to the West Racine Street property. It is anticipated that the renovations to the District Office will be completed in late May/early June.



2012-13 Full-time Inter-District Open Enrollment Information

Information provided by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

What is Public School Open Enrollment?

Wisconsin's inter-district public school open enrollment program allows parents to apply for their children to attend school districts other than the one in which they live.

Who may participate in open enrollment?

Students in 5-year-old kindergarten to grade 12 may apply to participate in open enrollment. Open enrollment for prekindergarten, 4-year-old kindergarten, and early childhood education is limited. Parents should call their resident school districts to find out if their preschool-aged children qualify for open enrollment.

How and when may parents apply?

The legislature recently extended the open enrollment application period. Applications will be taken beginning February 6 and no later than 4:00 p.m. on April 30, 2012. Application deadlines are firm. Early and late applications are not accepted.

Parents may apply in one of two ways:

- On-line (recommended) at <http://dpi.wi.gov/sms/psctoc.html>
- Although on-line application is recommended, paper applications may be obtained from the Department of Public Instruction or any school district, and must be delivered (hand-delivery is recommended) to the nonresident school district during the application period.

Applications may be submitted to up to three nonresident school districts.

Can I apply to a virtual charter school under open enrollment?

Yes. It is strongly recommended that applications to attend virtual charter schools be submitted on-line. Other important things to know about applying to virtual charter schools are:

- A virtual charter school is not home-schooling. Students attending virtual charter schools are public school students.
- You must know the nonresident school district in which the virtual charter school is located. If you have any questions about this, call the virtual charter school.
- You must know your resident school district in order to apply.
- State law limits the number of students that may attend virtual charter schools under open enrollment. You may be placed on a waiting list.

Can an application be rejected?

Yes. Nonresident school districts may deny an application if regular or special education space is not available for the student, if the student has been referred for a special education evaluation but has not yet been evaluated, or if the student has been expelled during the current or preceding two years for certain violent conduct. If there are more applications than spaces, students must be selected randomly, after giving preference to students already attending school in the nonresident

school district and siblings of currently attending students. Some school districts establish waiting lists to fill unused spaces, but others do not.

For additional open enrollment information, contact Jefferson's Open Enrollment Coordinator Pati Fitzgerald at (920) 675-1045, or log on to the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction's Web site at: <http://dpi.wi.gov/sms/psctoc.html>

Candidates for School Board

by Michael Swartz, Superintendent

The deadline for filing candidacy papers for the School Board closed at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 3. Candidacy papers were submitted by two incumbents whose terms expire in April: **Nicole Pupanek** - Area IV (At-Large) and **Gary Thompson** - Area I (City of Jefferson).

The third vacant Board seat (Area II, Townships of Aztalan, Farmington, Hebron, Jefferson and Oakland) for the April election is held by Rick Dwyer. Unless filled by a write-in candidate, this seat will be appointed by the Board of Education following the April election.

School District of Jefferson residents that are interested in running as a formal write-in candidate should contact Mary Ellen Taylor, School District office, 824 W. Racine Street, Jefferson, at (920) 675-1041, between the hours of 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., for procedural information.

"You give but little when you give of your possessions. It is when you give of yourself that you truly give."



First Graders Team Up with Tyson

by Kelly Meinholz, West Elementary Grade 1 Teacher

During the month of December, West first graders had the privilege of working with employees from Tyson Foods. As part of the Adopt-A-Classroom program, Tyson Foods “adopted” West’s first graders and has helped make a difference in the academic life of these students each week.



The character trait for the month of December was caring. Our students and Tyson Foods took it to heart and made donations to the local food pantry in Jefferson. With help from Tyson Foods and donations received from the first grade families, the students assembled boxes and worked along an assembly line to fill boxes and deliver them to the local food pantry.

Thank you to all who contributed to this worthy cause. The students truly enjoyed this hands-on activity and enjoyed the opportunity to show their caring spirit to help those in need.

Senior/Sophomore Conferencing

“A Valuable Component to the Wisconsin Comprehensive School Counseling”

by Shannon Mooney, High School Counselor

Throughout recent years, state school counseling programs have needed to revamp their service models from being primarily reactive to proactive. The Wisconsin Comprehensive School Counseling Program provides the framework for district counselors to provide developmentally appropriate services which are comprehensive in scope, preventative in design, and focused on servicing all students. The goal for this program is to provide for student success and achievement by increasing the options students perceive for themselves using academic, personal/social, and career components.

The School District of Jefferson counselors have instituted program components to support this model, specifically the Individual Planning Conference. The conferences are completed at the 5th, 8th, 10th, and 12th grade levels and provide students and parents with developmentally appropriate information regarding academic, social/personal, and career domains specific to the individual. At the high school, all 10th and 12th grade students, along with their parents, are strongly encouraged to participate

in the Individual Planning Conference.

The 10th grade Individual Planning Conference

The majority of sophomores will complete this conference while enrolled in the required Employability Skills course. Facilitated by the counselor, both students and parents will spend time contemplating the student’s achievements, strengths, and interests by reviewing past and current academic progress, standardized assessments, career survey results, and personal feedback. In addition to completing a high school course plan of study (4-year plan), students will gain an understanding of how to merge general career interests into a career plan by using the specific exploratory tools. Counselors will help students understand the career exploration “time line,” explain testing for college entrance, outline the variety of measures in place to assist in test readiness, and make recommendations specific to each student’s needs. Each student will leave with a packet of information to keep for future review.

The 12th grade Individual Planning Conference

Seniors, along with their parents, are strongly encouraged to schedule an Individual Planning Conference during the months of October-November in order to provide the timely information needed to help facilitate the 2- or 4-year college admissions process and/or review post-secondary plans relative to workforce options or military enlistment. Similar to the 10th grade conference, each student and parent will spend time reviewing the student’s past and current academic progress while goal-setting towards life after high school. Specific information is given regarding the college application process, letters of recommendation, admissions essays, scholarship procedures, and the federal financial aid process. Additionally, recommendations specific to the needs of the student are offered along with a packet of valuable resources including helpful websites and articles.



Citizen of the Month Award Recipients

On January 23, the Board of Education honored the following December recipients of the Citizen of the Month Award for being positive role models and for demonstrating good character:

Sullivan Elementary:
Nickolaus Straub

East Elementary:
Eddy Rodriguez

West Elementary:
Kimberly Bonilla

Jefferson Middle School:
Alan Albrecht

Jefferson High School:
Kyle Duddeck

Congratulations!

Youth Frontiers Courage Retreat

by Deanna Battist, Middle School Counselor

On February 2, 2012, Middle School seventh graders will have an opportunity to participate in a Courage Retreat through Youth Frontiers. The Courage Retreat helps build a more inclusive school community by encouraging students to accept people for who they are, resist following the crowd, and act with moral courage despite their fears. In an action-packed day, the Youth Frontiers Courage Retreat empowers middle school students to examine their fears and commit themselves to acting with courage.

What will the retreat do for JMS students?

- Build a positive school community by breaking down social barriers
- Help students identify moments of choice, and act with courage in those moments
- Change the way students treat each other

Every Youth Frontiers retreat includes a dynamic mix of activities designed to have the greatest possible impact on participants. Youth Frontiers has been refined through years of contact with more than a million students and educators. Listed below is the general outline of the retreat experience:

- Welcome and group-building activities
- Introduction to the theme of the day: Acting with Courage will make you a better person and your school a better place
- Small-group activity: Time to process the message from the presentation
- Large-group activity
- Presentation: Fear-Following the Crowd
- Small-group discussion: Processing time
- Closing - The Pebble In the Pond: Participants commit to take action based on the day's theme

We would like to thank the Jefferson Middle School Parent-Teacher Organization for funding this great opportunity for our students.

East Elementary 5th Graders Learn About Checkbooks

by Wendy Schneller, Grade 5 Teacher

Recently, East Elementary fifth grade students finished a seven-week long checkbook unit. During this unit, students had to pay rent for their locker/desk every week and earned an allowance. Throughout the seven weeks, students also had to pay fines for "no name" papers, homework not done on time, and/or having to go to their locker because they forgot something. They also had the opportunity to pick from the "caught being good" jar. This jar contained a variety of rewards ranging from money, to gum or soda, among other items.



Fifth graders Emely Tovar, Danielle Chwala, Jesus Carrillo Olivares, Amador Gomez and Ethan Salazar participate in Market Day at East Elementary.

The checkbook unit ended with a "Market Day." Kids bought and sold items with fake money they had earned. It was like a huge rummage sale. The teachers also

sold items that they had purchased specifically for this unit.

A great time was had by all! The students learned the value of a dollar and how to manage their money. They enjoyed this unit so much they actually asked if they could do it again before the school year ends!



Save Receipts for West!

West Elementary is participating in a fund-raiser sponsored by McDonald's restaurants. For each McDonald's receipt that West Elementary collects and submits to the McDonald's Corporation, the school receives a credit. Receipts can be for a drive-through purchase or for dining inside. Once receipts are submitted to McDonald's, the school then is able to purchase items from a McDonald's sponsored catalog.

So, the next time you make a purchase at McDonald's, please save your receipt and drop it off at the school office or mail it to: PTO/West Elementary School, 900 W. Milwaukee Street, Jefferson, WI 53549.

Caring Teams at Sullivan Elementary

by Jody Smithback, Sullivan Grade 4 Teacher



Sullivan's cross-grade Caring Teams met in January to learn about respect. As the teams entered the gym, the students and staff were moving to the song "Respect" by Aretha Franklin. The teacher-leaders presented the focus of the lesson and shared a short video that demonstrated what bad manners look like. After the students were entertained by the content, the video was shown again to REALLY watch what happens when someone

is left out or bullied. The whole group then broke into individual caring team groups for discussion. The teams reported that the students had many good thoughts and shared important experiences of their own.

When both positive and negative behaviors are examined and discussed it helps students to be prepared on how best to deal with situations and how to handle them appropriately.

JMS Bandstand

by Tom Kellner, Psychologist



Grandparents and those of the 60's generation are cordially invited to the premier of JMS (Jefferson Middle School) Bandstand. This event is being held in conjunction with the 60's Unit that is part of the eighth grade curriculum. Grandparents of Jefferson Middle School students and community members who grew up in the 1960's are invited to attend. For several hours on Friday, March 9, we hope to create a portal to the past where you can experience some of the sights and sounds of the 60's. Our show will run from 2:15 p.m. until approximately 4:30 p.m.

Attendees will be able to view a display of games, toys, candy, ads, articles, and memorabilia (some local) from the 60's. Then join our host of JMS Bandstand, Mr. Click Dark, as he plays songs of the decade. He has been creating a playlist that he hopes will rekindle fond memories of your youth. While there will be a wide variety of musical selections, there is an emphasis on romantic songs of the era. If Click has done his job right, "your song" may be heard that afternoon.



Just as with the American Bandstand show, we will have such segments as "Rate A Record" and several special "guest appearances." A dance floor will be available for our guests. In trying to replicate the original show, we will also have commercial breaks featuring TV commercials from the 60's. Attendees may have their memory tested with a special version of "Name That Tune" and "Name That Artist." Some additional surprises may also be in store for the afternoon!

As the program is being presented in

conjunction with the eight grade 60's Unit, there will be times students will observe and perhaps participate in some of the festivities. Students may have questions about your youthful experiences and some of your recollections of what life was like in the 60's. If any of our guests would like to adopt a grandchild for the day, just let our JMS Bandstand receptionist know when you call in to make your reservation.

Popcorn will be provided for our attendees, with soda and water available for purchase. So that we can plan accordingly, please call in your reservation to 920-675-1306 (ask for Connie) by March 5.



by Sandy Swartz, Volunteer Character Education Coordinator

February Character Trait: Fairness

Practicing justice, equity, and equality.
Cooperating with one another. Recognizing
The uniqueness and value of each other.

"If you want peace, work for justice." "It isn't fair to ask of others what you are not willing to do yourself." These two quotes from Pope Paul VI and Eleanor Roosevelt give us a starting point in discussing "fairness." Some questions to think about as we consider fairness might be: How do you try to do your fair share of chores at home or work assignments at your place of employment?

When was a time you stood up for someone who was being treated unfairly? How can you be a peacemaker at school, at home, or at work by helping to solve a conflict fairly? How often do you feel you have been treated unfairly? By really thinking about fairness and seeing both sides of an issue we may be able to help the young people in our district learn to treat each other, family members, and even strangers more fairly.

According to Dr. Tom Lickona, developmental psychologist and professor of education at the State University of New York at Cortland, conflicts go with the territory of family life and also in the work environment. They can create anger and other bad feelings that can eat away at relationships. Handled well, however, they can provide important opportunities for families and employee relations to grow stronger and to foster the development of strong character.

One way we can turn conflicts into better situations is to use a fairness approach to solving them. A fairness approach has three parts: 1) achieving mutual understanding; 2) arriving at a fair, agreed-upon solution to the problem; and 3) holding a follow-up meeting to evaluate how the solution is working. The sooner we begin this process of solving a conflict with a child, a friend, a co-worker or a boss, the better off all involved will be. As you enter into and continue the above process, the understanding of each participant increases.

The fairness approach promotes moral growth in three ways: 1) Encourages respect by listening to each other's feelings; 2) requires the participants to listen to and take the perspective of the others involved; and 3) involves everyone helping to solve the problem and creating and maintaining continued harmony at home, at school, or at work. Dr. Lickona points out that when the fairness approach was utilized to solve

conflicts, all parties involved became more cooperative and more oriented to the needs to others. What a better place our community and world will be if we all care about and take into consideration the needs of others.

Listed below are some ways to encourage fairness, honesty, and courage at home or at work:

- Tell the truth when asked a question or when in a difficult situation;
- Do not cheat on tests, your timesheet, or on your diet;
- Be your own person, don't always follow the crowd;
- Walk away from a fight;
- Stick up for younger kids who are being bullied;
- Play fair and do not cheat;
- Obey team, home, or office rules;
- Have a good attitude at home, at work, at school;
- Always thank your child, a co-worker, spouse, for telling the truth, even if you didn't want to hear it;
- Model fair and honest behavior in all situations;
- If a clerk in a store gives you the incorrect change, don't keep it;
- Remember that at a sports event the officials have the final say – when a spectator yells or uses inappropriate language directed at a game official, it makes the spectator look bad – we are all models for one another.

It's Not Too Late to Adopt a Classroom!

We are always looking for individuals, families, church groups, businesses, offices, etc., to become involved in our schools by "adopting" a classroom. For more information, contact Candy Heggie at the School District office at 920-675-1061 or email her at heggiec@jefferson.k12.wi.us.

Jefferson Duo Are Speakers at State Conference

For the fourth straight year, Mike and Sandy Swartz were invited to speak at a breakout session at the annual Joint State Education Convention in Milwaukee. The convention, held on January 18-20, was attended by nearly 2,000 school board members, superintendents, and business officials from across the state.

The Swartz's presentation outlined the steps that the School District of Jefferson took when beginning its Character Education initiative. More and more school districts

across the state are beginning such an initiative and look to Jefferson for leadership. Each month our schools have visiting staff from other districts who want to learn from us on how to integrate character into their district.

The business and industry community, parents, and individual community members are a big part of Jefferson's success...keep up the good work, it's *"The Jefferson Way!"*

February Calendar of Events

- 1 • HS Course Selection Night, 4-8 PM
- 2 • Elementary Parent-Teacher Conferences, 4-8 PM
 - West Book Fair
 - 8th G BB (H) vs. Riverside Middle School, Watertown, 4 PM
 - 7th G BB @ Riverside Middle School, Watertown, 4 PM
 - 9th/JV/V B BB @ Turner High School, 5:40/7:15 PM
- 3 • West Book Fair
 - 9th/JV/V G BB (H) vs. Turner High School, 5:40/7:15 PM
 - V G Gymnastics @ Oconomowoc HS, 6:00 PM
- 4 • V Wrestling RVC Meet @ Whitewater, 10 AM
 - V B Swimming RVC Meet (H), 11 AM
 - 9th/JV/V B BB (H) vs. Delavan, 1:00/2:45 PM
- 6 • West Book Fair
 - East Book Fair
 - HS Course Selection Night, 4-8 PM
 - MS Wrestling Triangular @ Fort MS, 4 PM
 - JV/V G BB @ East Troy, 5:40/7:15 PM
- 7 • Elementary Parent-Teacher Conferences, 4-8 PM
 - MS PTO Meeting, 5:30 PM, MS Cafeteria
 - West Book Fair
 - East Book Fair
 - 8th G BB @ Fort MS, 4 PM
 - 7th G BB (H) vs. Fort MS, 4 PM
 - 9th/JV/V B BB (H) vs. Edgerton, 5:40/7:15 PM
 - 9th/JV/V G BB @ Lakeside, 6/7:30 PM
- 8 • West Book Fair
 - East Book Fair
- 9 • East Book Fair
 - 8th G BB @ Milton MS, 4 PM
 - 7th G BB (H) vs. Milton MS, 4 PM
 - 9th/JV/V G BB @ Edgerton, 5:40/7:15 PM
 - V G Gymnastics (H) vs. Burlington, 6:30 PM
- 10 • Market Day Hard Copy Orders Due by 3:00 PM
 - East Book Fair
 - 9th/JV/V B BB @ Whitewater, 5:40/7:15 PM
- 11 • V Wrestling Regionals @ Lodi, Time TBA
 - V B Swimming Sectionals, 6 PM
- 13 • Board Committee Meetings, 5:30 PM, HS Library
 - HS Booster Club Meeting, 6:30 PM, HS Commons
 - MS Wrestling Triangular (H) vs. J. Creek Middle School/Riverside, 4:15 PM
 - V Gymnastics Meet @ Waupun, 6:30 PM
- 14 • West P.T.O. Meeting, 6 PM, West Library
 - V Wrestling Sectionals @ WI Dells, Time TBA
 - 8th G BB (H) vs. Lake Mills MS, 4 PM
 - 7th G BB @ Lake Mills MS, 4 PM
 - 9th/JV/V G BB (H) vs. Whitewater, 5:40/7:15 PM
- 15 • HS Practice ACT Testing
- 16 • Market Day Pick-Up, 3-4 PM, MS Cafeteria
 - 7th & 8th G BB (H) vs. J. Creek, 4 PM
 - 9th/JV/V B BB (H) vs. Evansville, 5:40/7:15 PM
- 17 • V G Gymnastics RVC Meet @ Elkhorn, Time TBD
 - V B Swimming WIAA State Meet, Time TBD
 - 9th/JV/V G BB @ Evansville, 5:40/7:15 PM
- 18 • MS Solo/Ensemble, 8 AM, @ MS
 - V B Swimming WIAA state Meeting, Time TBD
- 18 • V Wrestling WIAA Section @ Richland Center, Time TBD

February 18-25 National FFA Week

- 20 • HS Progress Report Week - Third Quarter
 - MS Wrestling RVC Meet @ Lake Mills, 4:30 PM
 - 9th/JV/V G BB (H) vs. Lake Mills, 5:40/7:15 PM
- 21 • HS Progress Report Week - Third Quarter
 - East P.T.O. Meeting, 6 PM, Library
 - 9th/JV/V B BB @ East Troy, 5:40/7:15 PM
- 22 • HS Progress Report Week - Third Quarter
- 23 • **3-Hour Early Dismissal**
 - HS Progress Report Week - Third Quarter
 - V Wrestling WIAA State Tournament, Time TBD
 - JV/V G BB (H) vs. East Troy, 5:40/7:15 PM
- 24 • **No School - Vacation Day**
 - HS Progress Report Week - Third Quarter
 - V Gymnastics WIAA Sectionals, Time TBD
 - V Wrestling WIAA State Tournament, Time TBD
 - 9th/JV/V B BB (H) vs. McFarland, 5:40/7:15 PM
- 25 • V Wrestling WIAA State Tournament, Time TBD
- 27 • HS & MS Concert of Bands, 7 PM, HS Auditorium
 - Read Across America Week
- 28 • V B BB WIAA Regionals
 - Read Across America Week
- 29 • Regular Board of Education Mtg., 7 PM, West Elem. All-Purpose Room

The School District of Jefferson does not discriminate against pupils on the basis of sex, race, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability in their education programs and activities and also employment practices.

For questions or information, please contact the School District Office at (920) 675-1000.