

Jefferson School NEWS District

October 2006

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Community Education/Enrichment Classes to Begin

by Michael Swartz, Superintendent

The beginning of fall is a reminder that it is time to go back to school. As learning is a lifelong process, our school district is offering Community Enrichment classes. The class offerings for this fall are outlined in the table at right. Classes will be held at Jefferson High School beginning the week of October 16 and ending the week of November 20. You will note that some classes will only be held one or two evenings, while others will meet for six weeks.

At the time this newsletter went to print, some class schedules were not established. Information on these classes will be posted to our website at www.jefferson.k12.wi.us and will also be featured in the *Daily Jefferson County Union* as soon as it is available.

Fall 2006 Course Offerings

Course Title	Description	Dates	Time	Fee	Instructor
Rosemaling	Rosemaling is the Norwegian form of folk art that was revitalized in Stoughton, WI, almost a hundred years ago. The class will learn the basics of this art form, and students will produce a simple ornament using oil paints.	Monday Oct. 16 - Nov. 20	5:30-7:30 p.m.	\$25 (fee includes all materials)	Mary Carpenter
A minimum of 12 will be needed to hold this class.					
Why should your credit rating count?	Learn the following: What is a "Credit Score?"; Who needs to care about good credit?; The significance of your credit report and tips for using credit wisely.	Tuesday October 24	6:30-8:30 p.m.	\$10	Tom Pinnow
Financial Options in Spanish	This class will be presented in Spanish. Learn about financial options in our area and get answers to your financial questions such as: "What is the difference between a bank and a credit union?"	Tuesday October 31	6:30-7:30 p.m.	\$10	Maribel Borski
Basketry	Participants will learn basic basket weaving techniques and how to create a plaited bottom basket (over/under weaving) that may be used in a variety of ways. Your basket will be ready to display upon completion of this class.	Monday Nov. 6 & 13	5:30-7:30 p.m.	\$50 (fee includes all materials needed to complete the basket)	Anne Urso
A minimum of 10 will be needed to hold this class. This class will have a maximum of 16 participants.					
Jewelry Making	Details forthcoming - check our website at www.jefferson.k12.wi				
Scrapbooking/Stamping	Details forthcoming - check our website at www.jefferson.k12.wi				

If you are interested in registering, forms are available on our website (www.jefferson.k12.wi.us) or can be picked up at the School District Office, 206 S. Taft Avenue, Jefferson. Please plan on registering as soon as possible. If you have any registration questions, please contact Carol Brandel at 920-675-1043 or via email at brandelc@jefferson.k12.wi.us.

CHAMPIONS

4 KIDS

by Michael Swartz, Superintendent

The 2006-07 school year is off to a wonderful start. On August 29, returning staff was "welcomed back" by an enthusiastic group of retired school district employees and board members. Joining this group were business leaders, parents, and other community members. "High-fives," hugs, and laughs were shared in this mini-reunion, proving once again that our district believes we are all responsible for the education of our young people.

The district's theme for this year is "**We are the Champions**" and fits in nicely with our district's vision and mission statements. As educators, "**We are the Champions**" who strive to help our students reach their potential, never accepting failure as an option. "**We are the Champions**" of modeling good character and striving to be known on a local, state, and national level as a district and community that promotes and lives the development of good character. "**We are the Champions**" of having community members who support us in educating our young people and who generously support our district both financially and emotionally. "**We are the Champions**" in that our parents value, stress, and live the importance of good, solid academics.

"We are the Champions"... it's The Jefferson Way.



Curriculum and Instruction

Report for 2005-06 School Year



by Dr. Steven Landfried, Director of Curriculum and Instruction

The 2005-06 school term was another productive year for the School District of Jefferson in the areas of staff development, curriculum advancement, instruction, and assessment. This report provides a brief summary of some of the many positive and forward thinking activities aimed at moving the district forward as it seeks to foster student achievement and meaningful opportunities for students to “achieve their dreams.”

Staff Development

Increasingly explicit state expectations for reading, math, and science instruction associated with federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation continue to affirm quality staff development initiatives taken by the School District of Jefferson in recent years. In particular, the publication of new technology standards, and new Reading and Math Criterion Reference Test (CRT) frameworks, have provided especially helpful points of focus for in-service training. These documents were shared with appropriate staff in order to develop ways to improve instruction and student achievement.

Aside from K-5 grade level meetings, K-12 curriculum team meetings, conferences, and workshops, some of the more significant staff development activities during the 2005-2006 school year included the following:

- Differentiation training provided by nationally known consultant, Diane Heacox, for district and consortium staff for the fourth year in a row
- Curriculum early release activities that were highly differentiated on the basis of staff input and departmental need
- Math standards training for K-12 students delivered by well-respected DPI math consultant, Diane Kasbaum
- Site visits by math teachers to Germantown, Elkhorn, and Stoughton to observe high quality standards-based classroom math instruction
- Technology training for special and regular education teachers on new developments in assistive technology and video streaming

Curriculum

The 2005-06 school year was especially busy on the curriculum front as three core areas—Science, Communication Arts, and Math—entered different phases of the district’s six-year curriculum cycle.

As in the past, a great deal of important curriculum work was accomplished during early release days and summer curriculum projects. Sample activities included the following:

- Intensive Curriculum Phase I review of local curriculum, state academic standards, and best practice by K-12 Communication Arts teams
- Implementation of new or revised Science curricula in grades 6-12
- Curriculum decisions by the K-5 Science team based on piloting experiences
- Careful review of state CRT expectations by K-12 teachers, and the development of strategies to address standards-related deficiencies in math instruction in the district
- Math adoption proposals being made to the School Board by K-5 and 9-12 Math teams based on recommendations of the National Council of Teachers of Math (NCTM), national and international research, recent brain research, and observation of up-to-date math instruction
- Summer curriculum projects by 30-plus staff

Instruction

Instructional practices are changing as schools adapt to divergent factors (e.g., brain/learning research, evolving state academic standards and testing systems, the influx of English language learners, changing family dynamics, impacts of technology and media. Back in 1964, Bob Dylan introduced his famous song which has proved prophetic for schools today: “The Times They are A-Changin’.” The world has changed significantly since many of us went to school, and it’s our duty to adjust in ways that embrace new ideas without throwing the proverbial baby out with the bath water.

As publishers respond to changing circumstances, they are producing materials that require schools to think differently about how instruction is delivered. As greater emphasis is given to active (rather than passive) learning, we have to adjust our thinking about how learning opportunities are presented. In other words, the nature of “instruction” itself is becoming nearly as important as what is taught.

In order to give more attention to teaching strategies, the district has taken a variety of important steps intended to enhance instructional practices in the district. Examples of steps taken include the following:

- Hiring a highly respected consultant, Laurie Holmquist, to model effective teaching strategies associated with the 6 Traits writing program in K-8 classrooms
- Expansion of the innovative Read 180 program to all periods in the school day for grades 6-8 at Jefferson Middle School
- Leadership efforts by new Reading Coordinator, Dawn Antczak, to increase the use of Scholastic Reading Inventories (SRI) to better assess reading skills and differentiate instruction
- Significant updating of our K-12 Technology Plan to foster learning and instruction
- Building on the excellent participation of our teaching staff at the district's first Character Education conference in 2005 to better weave character trait development into teaching/learning aspects of school culture
- Continuation of our pioneering local history that takes all third graders in the district to Rome, Sullivan, Helenville, and Jefferson to learn firsthand about the past from members of those communities

Assessment

Significant changes have occurred in the area of assessment. Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Exams (WKCE) expanded to grades 3, 5, 6, and 7. Some sections of WKCE tests in grades 4, 8, and 10 are longer and require more time. In addition, the district administered state-mandated ACCESS testing for English Language Learners (ELL) for the first time. Things went well, and in June we received the good news that the School District of Jefferson had met all state and federal Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) targets.

The significant increase in testing generates huge quantities of data to be reviewed, analyzed, and organized. Toward that end, we are working closely with Wayne Bellcross, the School Improvement Services (SIS) consultant at CESA 2 in a pioneering project to sort data in ways that will allow us to better monitor student achievement and to adjust instructional practices to better meet individual needs. We have also

begun to identify options for archiving the exploding quantity of individual, group, and building data that will accumulate in the years ahead.

Looking Ahead

The 2006-07 school year holds promise for working more closely with each other, parents, and community members as we collaborate to actualize our mission of providing "an environment of excellence and opportunity for all students to achieve their dreams."

Among others, steps in that worthy direction will include the following:

- Better longitudinal tracking of student progress on WKCE tests on the basis of a second year of testing in grades 3 through 8, and 10
- Closer monitoring of curriculum and instruction to assure alignment with expectations found in the CRT frameworks for reading, math, and science
- Inclusion of parents and community members on K-5, 6-8, and 9-12 math curriculum teams
- Curriculum adoption proposals to the School Board coming from Business Education, K-5 Science, and K-12 Communication
- Tapping the experience and energy of our large incoming class of new staff members as we work toward our ultimate goal of maximizing the achievement of all our students

In so doing, we will keep in mind John F. Kennedy's memorable admonition:

"There are risks and costs to a program of action, but they are far less than the long-range risks and costs of comfortable inaction."



School News

East Elementary Welcomes Class of 2019

by Connie Pellmann, Building Principal

East Elementary School is very proud and excited to welcome the class of 2019 to kindergarten. Kindergarten classes started on Thursday, September 7, for 56 eager learners.

This year, East Elementary has three kindergarten sections being taught by Gail Maas, Diane Haas, and a job share arrangement between Karissa Paar and Kristin Rousseau.

As portrayed by the smiles in the photo above, these students are very happy to be the newest members of the East Elementary School family. As the bulletin board in the picture states, "Kindergarten is buzzing with character!"



East “Sings Praises” of School Counselor

by Connie Pellmann, Building Principal

At East Elementary we are very fortunate to have a great part-time guidance counselor, but doubly so in that Ms. Sheila Larkin is also a very talented musician/singer/song writer. Ms. Larkin began the 2006-07 school year by introducing herself through song to first grade students. Through melody and lyrics the students learned about her job as a school counselor and also about her personal interests. Her original musical composition (listed below) provided these first graders with a “listening” and entertaining learning experience.

“I’m the School Counselor Song”

By Sheila Larkin

Good Morning class,
How do you do?
It’s great to be back at East Elementary School.
I’m the school counselor, what do I do?
Listen and I’ll tell you now.

I talk with kids about how they feel,
Happy, sad, worried, or afraid.
Sometimes I have small groups in my room,
And brand new friends are made.

I come to your class and we learn new things,
About friendships, and how we get along.
And when I’m not at school I like to hike in the woods,
And sometimes I like to sing songs.....Like this one!

Good morning class,
How do you do?
It’s great to be back at East Elementary School.
I’m the school counselor, what do I do?
You listened and I told you, listened and I told you, you listened and I told you now!

Ms. Larkin has found that music is a great way to connect with children. She states, “It seems to engage them easily and gets a message across in a fun way.” A guidance class lesson is provided once a month on topics including friendship and getting along with others, handling bullying, identifying and appropriately expressing one’s feelings, fairness and acceptance of differences in others, safety behaviors, basic drug and alcohol awareness, and an introduction to careers. She also meets students individually and in small groups. The focus of these meetings might include social skills and adjusting to family changes such as divorce, illness, or death. If the need arises, she will also assist students who are experiencing difficulty with organizational skills and achieving academic goals in school.

Ms. Larkin is a very good friend, role model, and counselor to our students. She is willing to consult with parents, teachers, and administration to assist individual students. If you are interested in learning more about our guidance and counseling services, Ms. Larkin can be reached at 920-675-1426 and works Mondays and Thursdays, and morning hours on Wednesday. If she is not available, please leave a message on her confidential voice mail system. Ms. Larkin shares that she feels lucky to be able to be a part of the students’ lives and really enjoys watching them grow and develop each year



“So, what did you learn in school today?”

by Mark Rollefson, JMS Principal

As a parent, have you ever noticed that when your young teen comes home from school you tend to get the same dull response to the question posed above? The response tends to be an uninterested and disengaged “noth’in” or “not much, just stuff.” As principal of Jefferson Middle School and a parent of two children who have and are going through this stage of life, I must admit that I often get the same disengaged response. This is troublesome due to the fact that I know different. I know for a fact that there is a tremendous amount of both teaching and learning taking place. When I walk through the halls, visit classrooms, look at lesson plans, and talk with staff, it is very evident that our children today are in a highly engaged and motivating academic environment. Kids are learning!

As I learned two summers ago while taking a graduate course entitled, “Learning Goals,” the concept behind learning goals is not “rocket science” by any means, and certainly not new to education. A learning goal is not much more than a learning objective, or what the student is suppose to learn.

For years, teachers have been writing learning objectives (or learning goals) into their lesson plans. Textbook publishers write learning objectives at the beginning of chapters of textbooks. The professor of the course I took simply brought the old concept of learning goals to light by indicating that he felt that schools need to do a better job of sharing the learning goals with students.

Last school year I would frequently ask students, “What did you **do** in class today?” The students would accurately respond with what was done. A response example would be: “We did a lab in science that was about light, then we took a quiz, then we took some notes, and then we cleaned up from the lab.” If, however, I asked students, “What did you **learn** in class today?” I would usually get a very different

response. This response would tend to be a much more disengaged response of “noth’in, or not much.”

This year teachers are writing learning goals and placing them in a convenient classroom location for all students to see. Teachers are drawing their students’ attention to the learning goals so that (a) students take more ownership in what they are responsible for in their own learning, and (b) it becomes routine and habit for students to look for learning goals in every teacher’s classroom. By making this routine, teachers are all communicating to students with a common language and a common approach. Subsequently, if parents continue to ask their students what they *learned* in school today, our hope is that students will respond with a much more engaged response!

Sullivan “Cubby” Construction

by Jeanna Stellmacher & Kelly Curtis,
Grades 1 & 2 Teachers

This summer, a crew of volunteers helped the Sullivan teaching staff realize one of their dreams—getting the mobile coat racks out of their classrooms. To accomplish this task,



the volunteer crew built over 120 coat cubbies in the lower primary hallways of Sullivan Elementary School.

Headed by principal John Orcutt’s design and leadership, the construction crew formed an assembly line and cut, drilled, sanded, primed, painted, installed, and touched-up every last cubby. The entire process took less than a week thanks to all of the people who volunteered.

Our many thanks go out to staff members John Orcutt, Tom Wedl, Sandy Richards, Diane Deutsch, Jerry Herdendorf, Kelly Curtis, Jeanna Stellmacher, and parent volunteers Rick and Pam Stegehuis. The teachers appreciate having the extra space

in their classroom and the students appreciate having a place to consistently store their outdoor gear. This project was so successful that the upper primary classrooms are now looking to add “cubbies” in their hallways too!

Universal Breakfast at West

by Larry Gierach, West Elem. Principal



We are trying a few new things at West Elementary this year and one of the big changes is offering a free breakfast every morning to each student. We are able to do this because of the number of families in our school who qualify for the free or reduced price lunch program. The Universal Breakfast Program is a one-year pilot program. Last year we tried the program with only six classrooms and based on the results from this trial run, we decided to make it a school-wide pilot program.

As students enter the classroom at the beginning of the day, they pick up their breakfast and take it to their desks. As the teachers begin the day by taking attendance, lunch count, and making announcements, the students can eat a healthy meal. At this time, teachers are also able to talk to the students about the importance of eating healthy and nutritious meals. Although students can choose not to eat the breakfast, most students are taking advantage of the opportunity to start their day with a healthy meal. Several of the benefits of this program include: longer attention spans, healthier students, and an increase in student achievement.

So far, parent feedback has been very positive. We are all aware of the busy and hectic schedules that impact our families in

today’s society. By eliminating the breakfast issue at home, families are finding that their mornings are moving at a slower pace. We welcome any and all feedback concerning this program, so feel free to contact me at 920-675-1210 or Doreen Treuden, Student Nutrition Director, at 920-675-1035.

JHS Physical Education Program

by Steve Dinkel, Greg Fetherston, and
Dena Smith, Phy. Ed. Teachers

With the leading causes of death in our country being heart disease and issues related to obesity, the Physical Education staff at Jefferson High School has, over the last three years, dramatically reformed itself to better meet the demands and activity interest of our students. Hopefully this article will provide an appreciation for what our mission and goals are as a physical education department. Our mission is to develop a health-conscious attitude and assist students in acquiring the knowledge and skills necessary to promote lifelong involvement in physical activity and a high level of personal health.

We have developed several goals that include students:

1. developing a knowledge and understanding of leading an active lifestyle;
2. developing and maintaining a high level of physical fitness;
3. developing personal characteristics that contribute to a positive attitude;
4. understanding, applying, and integrating movement and exercise principles; and
5. developing an appreciation for physical activity and lifetime activity.

At JHS, our physical education curriculum is geared toward students achieving the above-stated goals. Incoming freshmen are required to take Physical Education 9. This course offers a variety of individual and team sport concepts/skill development. Students entering grades 10 and 11 will have a choice of three different courses: Individual Sports, Team Sports, and Personal Wellness. Lastly, seniors have the choice of taking a course called Fitness for Life.

Early Childhood Screening

Friday, October 6, 2006 / 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Jefferson

To make a screening appointment for your child(ren), call Lori Erdmann at the Jefferson School District Office, (920) 675-1001, between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

This screening is for all three- and four-year-old children who are not currently enrolled in the Early Childhood (EC) program. It will give parents information about how their child is developing in *gross motor* (coordination, balance, etc.), *fine motor* (mainly doing things with one's hands), *speech and language, social/behavior, and cognitive* (problem-solving) areas. EC screening is for all children in the three- to four-year-old range, regardless of whether you believe your child is having developmental difficulties.

If you have additional questions about Early Childhood screening, call Nancy Garski, School Psychologist and Early Childhood Coordinator, at (920) 675-1440.

Character Corner

by Sandy Swartz, Character Education Volunteer Coordinator

October Character Trait: *Respect*

"Showing high regard for authority, other people, self, and country. Treating others as you would want to be treated. Understanding that all people have value as human beings."

Last February, the entire community was invited to attend a meeting to help discuss "touchstones." A "touchstone" is a shared creed or a shared way; it guides the daily decision-making of students, staff, parents, and community; it is the "glue" that holds successful organizations together and keeps them focused even during difficult times; it helps members of the community/organization feel connected to each other by common values and it inspires critical thinking.

Close to 45 individuals (parents, employees of the district, students, business leaders, clergy, and community members) met to discuss our district and our community's touchstones. Over 125 statements were posted around the middle school library as together we brainstormed on what we wanted Jefferson known for...what statements would represent our schools, families, churches, and community. Five statements were selected as our touchstones and they are listed at right.

Business-size cards and small posters have been printed to help promote our touchstones. If you would like to have a touchstone card for your wallet or a poster for your refrigerator or bulletin board, please contact Sandy Swartz at (920) 675-1050.

The word "respect" is never actually mentioned in any of these statements, but you can tell that it is implied. Respect is so important in everything we do, no matter if we are a parent, a teacher, a business owner, or an employee. We also must first learn to have respect for ourselves. Remember, in order to receive respect, we must first give it!

We have the courage to stand up for what is right even if we have to stand alone;

We believe in the value of giving, of looking beyond ourselves to others' needs and desires;

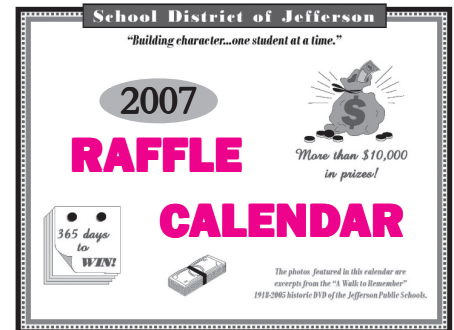
We believe in maintaining a healthy sense of humor and a positive attitude;

We encourage the development of responsibility through a strong, positive work ethic;

We might have different things to give, but we give the best of what we have.

This is "The Jefferson Way"

Now Available!



If you have been a winner in the Character in Action's raffle calendar drawings, you know how exciting it is to receive a check in the mail amounting to \$25 all the way up to \$500! If you have never purchased a calendar before, now is the time to buy one for 2007.

Here's how it works: For the price of just \$20 you receive a great 2007 calendar that includes pictures drawn by students from the three Jefferson elementary schools and 365 chances to win over \$10,000 in cash prizes. Only 1,500 calendars will be sold. To be eligible for the prize drawings, you need to fill out the entry form on the back of the calendar and return it to one of the school offices or to the District Office. Your form will then go into the bin for the daily 10:00 a.m. drawing. You can win many times as each time a winner is drawn the entry form is put back in the bin! The drawings take place at the District Office beginning the first week in January 2007 and continuing through December 31. When you win, a check is mailed to the address on the entry form.

These calendars make wonderful gifts. The receiver of the gift gets a nice calendar and the chance to win multiple cash prizes!

If you would like to help support the Character in Action initiative and have some fun at the same time, call Sandy Swartz at the District Office at (920) 675-1050 or email her at swartzs@jefferson.k12.wi.us to reserve your 2007 calendar.

101 Ways to Promote Character Education

In the August/September issue of this newsletter, a listing of ways to help develop character was featured. The entire list consists of 101 “ways” to develop character. Last month the first ten were shared with you and the next set of ten are included this month. These ideas can be implemented into any setting as we strive to be responsible, respectful citizens who model, celebrate, and reinforce the development of good character in our homes, schools, churches, and businesses.

Beginning where we left off...

11) Share a personal hero and tell your

children why he or she is your hero.

12) Regularly weave “What’s the right thing to do?” into discussions at home, at work, and at school.

13) Help students to see that the “good” in students is much more than academic success.

14) Treat ethical issues like other intellectual issues – get the facts, gather evidence, weigh consequences, and make a decision.

15) Structure opportunities for your children to do service in the community. Volunteer as a family, as a business, or even a classroom.

16) Lead by example. For instance, pick up the discarded piece of paper on

the street. Wipe down the sink in a public restroom out of respect for the next person.

17) Don’t allow unkindness of any kind at home, at work, at school, in social settings.

18) Don’t permit swearing, vulgar or obscene language in any environment that you are in.

19) If you see a child misbehaving, remember to respectfully correct him or her.

20) Share praise to your family members, your friends, your employees, and your co-workers. A kind comment and/or a compliment goes a long way.

Look for numbers 21-30 in November.



STEP UP TO CHARACTER: “WALK THE TALK”

Please consider joining us on Saturday, October 7, for a “Walk the Talk” Character in Action event. You may pre-register by completing the form below (drop off at the school district office or mail to 206 S. Taft Avenue, Jefferson) or register on the day of the walk. You may choose a one mile, three mile, or five mile walk. For an entry fee of \$10 per person (students 12 and older and adults) you will receive a “Walk the Talk” T-shirt, refreshments, and a gift bag at the conclusion of your walk. Walkers under the age of 12 are free and if they want a T-shirt, one can be purchased for \$5. Choose the distance you feel most comfortable with. Each route has highlighted water and bathroom stops on the map. Complimentary refreshments will be available at the conclusion of your walk. Afterwards, spend time downtown enjoying Jefferson’s Fall Fest sponsored by the Jefferson Chamber of Commerce and the new Builder’s Home Tour beginning at 10:00 a.m.

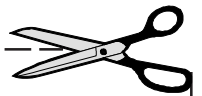
The walk will begin and end at the Jefferson Public Library. Step-off time is 8:00 a.m. This event is cosponsored by County-City Credit Union and Citizens Bank in partnership with the School District of Jefferson’s Character in Action initiative.

Bring your entire family and join your neighbors and friends to show your support for the development of good character in us all! All proceeds from the walk will be used to support the School District of Jefferson’s Character in Action initiative. For more information, contact Sandy Swartz at (920) 675-1050.

**Step up to Character: “Walk the Talk”
Saturday, October 7, 2006**

Registration Form

Clip & Return to:
School District Office, 206 S. Taft Avenue, Jefferson



NAME: _____ AGE (Check One): ___ Under 12Yrs. of Age ___ Over 12Yrs. of Age

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT NAME: _____ TELEPHONE: _____

CHOICE OF DISTANCE TO BE WALKED: 1 Mile 3 Miles 5 Miles (Circle One)

T-SHIRT SIZE (Circle One): S M L XL XXL

I WOULD LIKE TO PURCHASE AN EXTRA T-SHIRT (\$5) IN SIZE: _____

**Entry Fee for participants
12 years and older: \$10
Make checks payable to “Character in Action”**

