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School District

# NEWS



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## Message from Superintendent

by Michael Swartz, Superintendent

On behalf of the School District of Jefferson's Board of Education, staff and administration, I would like to extend a warm "welcome back" to all who have previously been a member of our school district family. To those students, parents, and others who are new to our school district, I offer a sincere hello and welcome. We hope that you find your experience with the School District of Jefferson rewarding, enriching, and successful.

With the initiation of the Character in Action project, we are emphasizing that Jefferson is a place "where everybody knows your name." It is important to us that all students, parents, and community members get to know our entire staff and that we get to know you. We sincerely care about the success of every individual walking through our doors and will do everything possible to help you achieve your goals and reach your dreams!

If, at any time during the year, I can answer questions for you or assist you in any way, never hesitate to call me at (920) 675-1010. I have an "open door" policy and truly do want to get to know you and recognize you by name.

Thank you for being a part of the School District of Jefferson's family – together we make a great team!

## Character Education Initiative

by Michael Swartz, Superintendent

As most of you may be aware, the district has launched a Character Education initiative. The purpose of this initiative is to create moral behaviors where respect, honesty, and kindness are modeled, taught, expected, celebrated, and continuously practiced in everyday interactions. This initiative will be a team effort with the home, the school, and the faith community.

The following traits will be emphasized throughout the school year:

- September: **Responsibility**
- October: **Respect**
- November: **Honesty**
- December: **Caring**
- January: **Self-Discipline**
- February: **Fairness**
- March: **Perseverance**
- April: **Courage**
- May: **Citizenship**

### Business/Community Leaders Greeter Program

We want every student in our school district to feel welcome, to feel a part

of our school family, and to know that people in our community care about them. For this reason, volunteers from local businesses and other community members have agreed to "greet" our students during this school year. Due to the schedules of these volunteers they may not be at every school door everyday, but at most doors at least a couple times per week.

If you are interested in hearing more about this project, please call Sandy Swartz, Volunteer Character Education Coordinator, at (920) 675-1050.

### Character in Action Funding Projects

Since the Character in Action project is happening without the use of any school district money, it is necessary that we find alternative funding sources. We have applied for several grants and are hopeful that we will be fortunate enough to receive one or more of them. In order to have the funds needed for this school year and to sustain the project

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## Senior Citizens' Lunch Days

October 6 - 11:00 a.m.

- Grilled Cheese
- Soup
- Pineapple
- Dessert

Lunch for senior citizens is provided at the High School (675-1100) or Sullivan Elementary (675-1500). Please call the appropriate telephone number to notify the Student Nutrition staff of your interest to participate.

October 20 - 11:00 a.m.

- Chicken & Gravy
- Mashed Potatoes
- Green Beans
- Cranberries, Dinner Roll



# Curriculum and Instruction

## 2003-2004 "Good News" Report



*by Dr. Steven Landfried, Director of Curriculum and Instruction*

The 2003-04 school year found the Jefferson schools better appreciating the need to integrate its staff development, curriculum, instruction, and assessment practices as the provisions and scope of No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation on schools were clarified by federal and state officials. Budgetary constraints, evolving Wisconsin Academic Standards, and increasingly diverse student needs added to the mix of challenges that the fine staff of the School District of Jefferson addressed in thoughtful ways. This report provides a brief overview on some of those initiatives.

### STAFF DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

Rapidly changing educational, economic, and social factors make ongoing staff development an even higher priority. For that reason, it is important to increase staff awareness of federal and state mandates, effective instructional practice, student needs, and abilities. Other areas of focus during the 2003-2004 school year included further integration of technology into our evolving curriculum and greater stress on the development of reading and writing skills. A summary of the opportunities provided staff is outlined below.

- A fourth year of differentiation training (organized by Challenge Coordinator Gretchen Ginter)
- Curriculum early release days stressing the importance of balanced literacy skills (led by Reading Coordinator Laureen Greathouse)
- Six Traits training sharing instructional strategies for integrating reading and writing instruction
- New student database training for all staff (led by Assistant Network Administrator Kathryn Doar)



*Pictured above are middle school instructors Nona Schrader and Steve Durley during differentiation training last fall.*

- Informational presentations on the provisions of NCLB and the implications for our district
- Advanced placement workshops to improve current AP course offerings at Jefferson High School
- Bloodborne pathogens training
- Paraprofessional assessment
- Performance Evaluation Pilot Project (led by building principals)

In addition, staff members enhanced their knowledge/skills by attending a variety of workshops, training programs, and professional conferences. The district's Staff Development Team met twice during the year to monitor the effectiveness of in-service programs, make recommendations for adjustments, and to plan staff development activities for 2004-05.

### CURRICULUM

The reentry of art and music into the final stage of the district's curriculum cycle schedule brought six years of curriculum upgrading (begun in 1998-99) full circle. Changing funding circumstances provided challenges that required several curricular areas to phase in curriculum changes that might otherwise have been implemented in one year.

Curriculum work and innovation occurred in 2003-04 in ways far too numerous to detail here. The more significant developments included:

- Implementation of new K-5 communication arts, reading, vocabulary, and spelling materials.

- Updating of K-5 entry/exit expectations for math and science.
- Introduction of new agriculture, language arts, physical education, and technology courses at Jefferson High School.
- Major upgrading of all art and music course syllabi.
- Extensive curriculum planning done to achieve AYES certification for the JHS automotive program.
- Development of course syllabi for

K-5 Developmental Guidance.

- A review of K-12 science curricula.

As has been the practice for the past three years, teaching staff provided the School Board with updates about the effectiveness of curriculum implementations. During the spring semester, first year implementation reports were provided to the Curriculum and Instruction Committee about new programs in a variety of areas.

## INSTRUCTION

The delivery of curriculum through effective instructional practices is essential in providing quality learning opportunities for all students. The advent of increasingly specific NCLB guidelines and better delineation of Wisconsin Academic Standards by the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) puts the School District of Jefferson in a much better position to understand those expectations and their implications for monitoring and assessing student learning.



During this period of unprecedented global change, the emphasis of state standards on problem solving, adaptability, integrated learning and higher-order thinking in preparing students for an increasingly interdependent world is both appropriate and vital.

With our “paper curriculum” well in place after six years of hard work, attention now turns to how our curriculum can be delivered most effectively. Steps taken in 2003-04 to achieve that goal included:

- The introduction of looping at West Elementary (e.g., a teacher following his/her students to the next grade).
- Providing K-8 LEL (Limited English Learner) students and parents with access to Spanish vocabulary, spelling, and reading materials.

- Continuation of effective thematic approaches to cross-curricular learning at the Middle School.
- Acquisition of considerable new-leveled reading materials to better appeal to students with different reading skills.
- Expansion of hands-on teaching/learning opportunities in the new hydroponics and computer repair labs at JHS.

## ASSESSMENT

As state and federal educational agencies hold individual schools and districts accountable for the educational progress of students, it becomes increasingly necessary for teachers, administrators, and parents to be mindful of the importance of meaningful assessment for student progress.

Key developments in the assessment area during 2003-04 included:

- The district again meeting its goal of exempting no more than 2-3% of students from state testing.
- Careful analysis at building levels of student responses to WKCE items done so that possible instructional gaps can be identified and addressed.
- Having JHS staff take old ACT and WKCE tests to better familiarize themselves with content and formats.
- Two days of meetings of teams of JMS and JHS staff to review new reading and math standards.



*Pictured above are (left to right) Taylor Anfang and McKinzie Comer, East Elementary students.*

Because state testing provides such a limited snapshot of student achievement on a few test items in five core areas within a few days, the most meaningful type of assessment of student learning occurs on a day-to-day and week-to-week basis. For that reason, Jefferson school staff must make sure that classroom assessments represent authentic strategies for monitoring and guiding academic achievement.

## LOOKING AHEAD

- The 2004-05 school year will bring significant increases in NCLB-based expectations for the percentage of students who must attain proficient and advanced scores on reading and mathematics portions of WKCE tests. These increases place greater pressure on schools to be increasingly vigilant about academic progress shown by individual students currently performing at minimal and basic levels. In turn, this positive aspect of NCLB will serve as a useful catalyst in requiring greater coordination between classroom teachers, special educators, those providing other support for diverse student populations, and parents. Some view NCLB as an unrealistic intrusion on local education; the Jefferson School District sees it as a character builder.
- The coming year offers many challenges as the District strives to provide quality opportunities for our students to pursue their dreams.

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on a long-term basis, the following projects are being planned:

**RAFFLE:** Raffle tickets are currently being sold for a 1996 Oldsmobile Achieva automobile. The price is \$5 per ticket or five tickets for \$20. Second prize is a night's stay in downtown Chicago, and third prize is \$100. We hope to sell a minimum of 1,000 tickets.

**CD SALE:** Beginning in October, you will have an opportunity to purchase a historic CD for \$10. This CD will feature School District of Jefferson photos from 1922 to the present. With over 200 photos to look at and reminisce past events, they will make excellent gifts.

**CALENDAR SALE:** Also in October we will be having a calendar raffle. This 2005 calendar will sell for \$20 and

will entitle purchasers an opportunity to win money every day during 2005. The highlight of the calendar will be the featured monthly artwork provided by Jefferson students who were the winners of the Character in Action Art Contest.

For more information regarding these funding projects, please call Sandy Swartz at (920) 675-1050.

*"Respect cannot be bought...it must be earned."*

# October Calendar of Events.....

- 1 \* V FB (H) Fort (Homecoming)  
\* HS Progress Report Week
- 2 \* G Tennis SLC JV Invite @ Elkhorn
- 3 \* Milwaukee National College Fair,  
12-4:00 p.m., Midwest Airlines Center
- 4 \* G Tennis Subsectionals @ Whitewater  
\* Sullivan PATHS Mtg., 3:15 p.m.,  
Sullivan Cafeteria  
\* East, West, & Sullivan Grade 5 Boys'  
Basketball Begins  
\* HS Progress Report Week  
\* 7th & 8th VB @ St. John's
- 5 \* B Soccer @ Fort  
\* G VB @ Milton  
\* MS PTO Mtg., 7:00 p.m., MS  
Cafeteria  
\* 7th VB (H); 8th @ Milton  
\* HS Progress Report Week
- 6 \* East Elem. Vision Screening
- 7 \* 9th/JV FB (H) Whitewater  
\* G Tennis Sectionals @ Madison  
Edgewood  
\* G VB (H) East Troy  
\* 7th & 8th VB (H) J. Creek  
\* East Elem. Hearing Screening  
\* B Soccer @ Wisconsin Heights
- 8 \* V FB @ Whitewater  
\* Early Childhood Screening, by  
appointment only, St. Mark's Church  
\* HS Fall One-Act Plays, 7:00 p.m., HS  
Auditorium
- 9 \* CC Pirate Invitational @ Waterloo  
\* G VB Tournament @ Madison  
Edgewood  
\* HS Fall One-Act Plays, 7:00 p.m., HS  
Auditorium

**National School Lunch Week  
10/10 - 10/16**

- 11 \* CC Invite @ Columbus  
\* West Elem. Vision & Hearing Screen-  
ings  
\* HS Booster Club Meeting, 7:00 p.m.,  
in Room M1 @ HS
- 12 \* B Soccer (H) East Troy  
\* G Swimming (H) Platteville & Badger  
\* G VB @ Fort  
\* West P.A.T.H.S. Mtg., 6:30 p.m., West  
Library  
\* 7th VB (H); 8th @ Watertown
- 13 \* **3-Hour Early Dismissal**
- 14 \* CC Conf. Meet @ Delavan-Darien  
\* G Tennis State (Individual) @ UW-  
Madison  
\* G VB (H) Whitewater  
\* East P.T.O. Mtg., 3:15 p.m., East  
Library  
\* 7th VB (H); 8th @ L. Mills  
\* Sullivan Vision & Hearing Screenings
- 15 \* V FB (H) Poynette (PARENTS'  
NIGHT)  
\* G Tennis State (Individual) @ UW-  
Madison
- 16 \* G Swimming @ Fort  
\* G Tennis State (Individual) @ UW-  
Madison  
\* CPA Event: Red, Hot...& Blue!,  
7:30 p.m., HS Auditorium

**National School Bus Safety Week  
10/17 - 10/23**

- 18 \* MS Fund-raiser Pick-up, 3-6:00 p.m.,  
MS Cafeteria
- 19 \* 9th/JV FB @ Delavan-Darien  
\* G Swimming @ Milton  
\* G VB Regionals @ TBA  
\* 7th VB @ Fort; 8th (H)

- 19 \* CPA Event: "Charlotte's Web,"  
9:30 a.m. & 1:00 p.m., Auditorium  
\* Special Connections Group Mtg.,  
6:00 p.m., East Elem. Library
- 20 \* MS Vision Screening for 7th Graders
- 21 \* V FB (H) Delavan-Darien (SENIORS'  
NIGHT)  
\* B Soccer Regionals @ TBA
- 22 \* G Tennis State (Team) @ UW-  
Madison  
\* G VB Regionals @ TBA  
\* HS Show Choir Performance,  
7:00 p.m., HS Auditorium
- 23 \* CC Sectionals @ St. Catherine's,  
Racine  
\* B Soccer Regionals @ Mt. Horeb  
\* G Tennis State (Team) @ UW-  
Madison  
\* G VB Regionals @ Whitewater  
\* Last Date for District Theatre Festival
- 25 \* **School Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.,  
HS Library**  
\* MS Boys' Basketball Begins  
\* MS/HS Fall Choral Concert,  
7:00 p.m., HS Auditorium
- 26 \* V FB WIAA Level 1 Playoff @ TBA  
\* G Swimming @ Elkhorn
- 28 \* **No School - Teacher Convention**  
\* B Soccer Sectionals @ McFarland
- 29 \* **No School - Teacher Convention**  
\* G VB Sectionals @ Evansville  
\* **District Newsletter in Advertiser**
- 30 \* CC State @ Wisconsin Rapids  
\* V FB WIAA Level 2 Playoff @ TBA  
\* B Soccer Sectionals @ Mt. Horeb  
\* G Swimming Conference Meet @  
Badger  
\* G VB Sectionals @ McFarland
- 31 \* **Standard Time**