A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Jefferson Families,

It’s hard to believe, but the end of the first semester of the school year is quickly approaching. Currently, our teachers are working diligently to challenge students to master end of course content.

The end of the 3rd report card grading period ends on December 1 and the final grading period, for the four courses students are currently taking, ends on January 15. We strongly encourage you to regularly review your student’s grades on Focus. If you feel that your child would benefit from additional assistance, you may want to consider sending your student to morning school and/or teacher tutoring sessions. The tutoring schedule is available on our school’s website. Morning school is offered daily from 8-9.

Jefferson Middle School will be closed starting on Monday, December 21 through Friday, January 1 in recognition of winter break. School will resume normal hours of operation on Monday, January 4.

On behalf of the faculty and staff at Jefferson Middle School, we wish you a wonderful holiday season with family and loved ones. We are so proud of your children and all of the special talents they bring to our prestigious school each day. We are truly thankful to be working with such amazing students and supportive parents.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Meara Trine

IMPORTANT EVENTS

12/1     End of Second 4.5 Weeks
12/4     Second 4.5 Weeks Grades Posted to FOCUS
12/10    Report Cards Issued
12/17    Virtual SAC Meeting, 8:20
12/21 - 1/1     No School - Winter Break
1/4      School Resumes
1/13-    Exam Days
1/15     End of First Semester
1/16     Orchestra Showcase, MIHS
1/18     MLK Day/Holiday for All
1/21     Virtual SAC Meeting, 8:20
1/21     First Semester Grades Posted to FOCUS

HELP SUPPORT THOSE THAT SUPPORT US

A+ Thrift
Affordable Pavers
Brilliant Smiles
East Coast Christian
Family Vision
Koch’s Irrigation
Martinez Construction
Merbitz Team at Keller Williams Realty
Dr. Tanya Taival, DO
CIVICS BOOT CAMP

Mrs. Booth’s 7th grade Civics classes are gearing up for their Civics EOC test! Last month, 40 students attended a Civics EOC Bootcamp. There were snacks, drinks, pizza, and dozens of hands-on Civics activities. Groups of students traveled together from station to station as they played games, solved problems, created posters, filmed interviews from 'colonists', and so much more! But it wasn’t all just fun and games. Students were reviewing concepts that they will see on their exam. Who would of thought civics could be so fun?

THANK YOU PHOENIX FOUNDATION, MERRITT ISLAND ROTARY AND BREVARD SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

Two teachers at Jefferson were awarded grants by community foundations. The Phoenix Foundation, a local organization dedicated to supporting the arts in Brevard County Public Schools, has awarded Ms. Kinion a grant to help her purchase new music stands, a necessary supply for our band students.

In addition, Ms. Mason received a grant from the Merritt Island Rotary Club through the Brevard Schools Foundation Bright Ideas grant. She has purchased a class set of Ozobots to help incorporate computer science skills into Jefferson classes. As part of this, she will be starting a coding and engineering club in January.

https://www.brevardschools.org/JeffersonMS
**Mock Senate**

Mrs. Booth's 7th grade Civics classes held a student senate last month. It was a huge success! Democrats dominated the Senate 1st block and Republicans were in the majority 2nd block. Students spent the week researching state issues, creating senator profiles, meeting with their political parties, electing their leaders and teaming up to write bills. By Wednesday, the party leaders organized committees. They assigned senators, bills, and chairpersons to each committee. Bills were introduced, debated, and either revised or died in these committees. Winning bills were then introduced and debated on the Senate floor.

These students fought hard to see their bills passed! They showed up to school dressed professionally and ready to work. Not only did these students have to research and write these bills, but they had to create bills that aligned with their party platforms and that benefited their constituents. These young senators used superior collaboration and compromising skills in order to get their bills pushed through. Majority and Minority Leaders were well-organized and completely took the lead in this simulation.

**PBIS**

Our PBIS store is up and running! Students are earning sand dollars for answer questions, helping out in class, remembering their homework, and other positive behaviors that demonstrate the PBIS expectations of being respectful, responsible and prepared. The store is open on Fridays...but we need supplies to fill it. If you would like to donate, you can purchase goods from Amazon through the QR code below or you can donate cash or rewards directly to the school.

**Newspaper**

The Green and Gold is our student run newspaper and you can have it delivered straight to your phone!

**Text @C7AFFFF to the number 81010**

https://www.brevardschools.org/JeffersonMS
CRITICAL THINKING STUDENTS “VISIT” ALASKA

As part of a unit where students learned to how to create maps tracking an imaginary trip across Alaska, Ms. Moss’s students were able to Zoom with a ranger from Denali National Park. Ranger April described what life was like as an Alaskan and listened as students compared their lives to hers. Did you know that during the winter, some places only get 2-4 hours of sunlight a day? And that 85 degrees counts as a heat wave?

Students used that information to plot out a road trip though Alaska, visiting not only sites in Denali, but also major cities like Anchorage and cultural and natural sites like Native American historical locations and viewing spots for the Northern Lights. Even though students can’t get on a bus for a field trip this year, we can still help them see the world outside of school walls.

TOYS FOR THE HUMANE SOCIETY

Jefferson has partnered with the Central Brevard Humane Society this holiday season to bring gifts to the animals. First, Dr. Starraks’ students created DIY animal toys to give to all the cats in need of homes. Students had just read the SSYRA book Klawde: Evil Alien Warlord Cat and made the toys out of paper towel rolls, fabric scraps, pipe cleaners and cat treats. School wide, students had the opportunity to make holiday cards as a fundraiser for the Humane Society. Cards will be sold at select Central Brevard Humane Society offices. Consider adopting a dog or cat this holiday season.
SCHOOL GARDEN THRIVES UNDER DR. STARRAK’S CLASS’ CARE

Dr. Starrak’s students continue to work hard in the garden. Currently, we are growing eggplants, cotton, sunflowers, watermelons, broccoli, and tomatoes, among many other things. We are continuing to raise butterflies as well. Butterflies lay eggs on our milkweed plants. When the caterpillar hatches, we keep them safe inside our classroom until they transform into a butterfly. We release them to start the cycle anew. Finally, we have made our first batch of soil from our composter.

INNOVATION CLUB STARTING

We have a new club for the STEM minded starting in January. Students interested in learning about engineering, coding and robotics (or students already interested in those topics and just want the time and tools to practice) are invited to join The Innovation Club. This is not Lego Robotics, but a more informal gathering. Meeting times have not been set yet, but we are seeking input from interested parties. If you think your student may be interested, complete the survey at the link below to help with planning.

bit.ly/2UU7M1o

PROJECT LIT BOOK CLUB

MEETS EVERY FRIDAY AT LUNCH

SEE MS. MASON FOR INFO

https://www.brevardschools.org/JeffersonMS
Thank you band supporters for your Pecan orders! They have been given out to the band students to deliver. If you did not receive your order, please contact the band office at 321-453-5154 ext. 32682

The Statesmen Band will hold a pre-recorded Winter Concert this year. Please “like” our Facebook page (Statesmen Band) and follow us on Instagram to view our concert. The link will be posted before Winter Break.

Thank you to the Phoenix Foundation! The band was awarded the Morning Glow grant for new stands.

Our students celebrated our October challenge in band on October 30th by decorating the band room and dressing up.

Band News Band Parents & Supporters - We have a wonderful mailing list and social media sites that will keep you informed of what is happening in the Statesmen Band! To get linked, please visit: https://linktr.ee/StatesmenBand

Band Students - We have a new BAND app! This includes calendar reminders, messages, attachments and more. Please visit this link to join: https://band.us/n/a7a73fV3Abg8g

Upcoming Events: Mentoring - Mondays 4:15-5:15pm
December - View our Pre-Recorded Winter Concert on our Facebook Page

Thank you for supporting the JMS Band!
Go Statesmen! Ms. Kinion
Red Ribbon Week is a week sponsored by National Junior Honor Society designed to draw awareness to the dangers of drug addition and show students another way to enjoy life. Students had four dress up days: Twin Day, Team Day, Wacky Wednesday and Wear Red Day. On Friday, students were able to wear their Halloween costume for a $5 donation to the Children’s Hunger Project. Our students raised $175 to help children in Need in Brevard County. Plus students (and teachers) had a chance to show off their creativity.
ORDER YOUR YEARBOOK BY MARCH 15TH

ONLY $30*

PLACE YOUR ORDER TODAY AND SAVE!

*After March 15th the book price will increase to $35. Yearbooks are not guaranteed for students/parents that have not pre-ordered by March 15th.

ORDER ONLINE AT COMMPE.PICTAVO.COM
ENTER SCHOOL ID: 92930

Scan with mobile device to order
JEFFERSON MORNING SCHOOL

Beginning on September 28, 2020 @ 8:05 — 9:05 a.m. In the Media Center

Monday — Thursday: Math & ELA Teachers Available
Friday: Math, ELA, Science, & SS Teachers Available

Student Success is our Goal:

- ALL students on campus or in front of the school prior to 9:05 a.m. will be sent to the Media Center for academic enrichment and intervention.
- Students will be expected to participate and receive intervention or enrichment by a teacher.
- This is not a time for non-academic tasks or games. Students are expected to work diligently.

Our current tutoring schedule will remain in place and if needed, students in morning school will be dismissed accordingly for tutoring with specific teachers. Those not attending tutoring are expected to remain in Morning School and continue their work or read a book.

**Sand Dollars can be earned during Morning School.

**Consequences will be given for misbehavior.
Hot Off the Press!

Free Breakfast and Lunch Meals!

The USDA has extended the meal flexibility waiver for the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). This means that starting Wednesday, September 16 through Friday, December 18, 2020, all breakfast and lunch meals will be free for all children ages 18 and under, regardless of status.

**In-Person Students:** Free Breakfast Meals will be available in the school cafeteria and at the breakfast cart Monday through Friday. Free Lunch Meals will be available in the school cafeteria Monday through Friday. You will still be able to purchase a la carte items.

**eLearners, Virtual Students, and All Other Children Ages 18 and Younger:** Free Breakfast and Lunch meals will be distributed curbside at all 84 of our schools on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. If your child isn’t able to accompany you, simply bring a form of your child’s identification, such as a student ID or birth certificate. If you have children who are enrolled at different schools, you can now pick up their meals at one location. Contact the school for meal distribution times.

Please note that this is a temporary flexibility. It is important that families interested in meal benefits for their children apply for Free & Reduced priced meals now, if you have not done so already. In January, lunch prices will be based on the student’s status of free, reduced or paid. Apply now at [www.brevardschools.org/page/3473](http://www.brevardschools.org/page/3473).

### HOW BLOCK SCHEDULE GRADES ARE CALCULATED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall Term:</th>
<th>Fall Term Midterm Dates</th>
<th>Percentage of Semester Grade</th>
<th>Semesters Calculation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Term 1</td>
<td>Aug 24 – Sep 23</td>
<td>40% of Semester Grade</td>
<td>Semester 1 Grade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 2</td>
<td>Sept 24 – Oct 23</td>
<td>40% of Semester Grade</td>
<td>Semester 2 Grade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam for Sem 1</td>
<td>Oct 21 - 23</td>
<td>20% of Semester Grade</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 3</td>
<td>Oct 26 – Dec 1</td>
<td>40% of Semester Grade</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 4</td>
<td>Dec 2 – Jan 15</td>
<td>40% of Semester Grade</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam for Sem 2</td>
<td>Jan 13 – 15</td>
<td>20% of Semester Grade</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Semester 1 Grade (50%) + Semester 2 Grade (50%) =

**EXCEPTION:** If taking Algebra/Geometry/Biology or Civics
Semester 1 Grade (35%) + Semester 2 Grade (35%) + EOC (30%) =

Year Long Grade (used for promotion)
In an effort to reach all students at Jefferson and provide them with the help they need, every teacher has set tutoring hours where kids can come in and receive help. Just find the teacher’s name on the chart and stop by their classroom on the day listed. In addition, we have started morning school where students can come in every morning and get help preparing for the reading and math FSA. See the flyer later in this newsletter for more information.

For e-learners, some teachers have dedicated e-learning time or will be doing all tutoring via Zoom. If you are an e-learner and need help, but your teacher doesn’t have a Zoom link posted, email them and explain what you need help in. At Jefferson we are all here to help students succeed.
KEEP YOUR SCHOOL SAFE
(give an anonymous tip)

DOWNLOAD THIS APP

SAY IT HERE™

SpeakOut
800.423.TIPS

SpeakOutHotline.org
PD by CSTF
INTRODUCING THE FORTIFYFL APP

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY REPORTING APP
FortifyFL is a suspicious activity reporting tool that allows you to instantly relay information to appropriate law enforcement agencies and school officials.

Quick and Easy Safety Tip Submission
By accessing FortifyFL, students can provide a description of the threat, share pics and videos and optionally submit their contact information.

Easy Tip Submission
Follow the easy 4-step process to submit a tip. Your name and contact information is always optional, just skip it to submit anonymously.
You can access your previous tips, and submit updates and additional information.

Coordinated Development
FortifyFL was created and funded by the 2018 Florida Legislature as part of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act. The application was named by students from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. The Office of Attorney General, Department of Education and Florida Department of Law Enforcement coordinated its development and roll-out.