

Jefferson Charger News

JEFFERSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



October 2020

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 2

From the Principal

The school year is in full swing! As I visit virtual classrooms each day, there is **much to celebrate**: High student participation, a growing fluency with technology, and engaging teaching and learning. Though the educational experience is different in the remote environment, I'm inspired by the things that *haven't* changed: Kids still say insightful and funny things each day. They still come together under their teachers' leadership to form a community. And, most importantly, they are still learning!

Attendance matters! Each day, we work hard to ensure we have *contact* with each child, that we address any *connectivity* issues with technology that may be getting in the way, that we flexibly support via *relationships* with students and families, and that we do everything we can to ensure high *engagement* in learning. Thank you for all you are doing to ensure that your child engages as much as possible each day!

This month, we'll have an opportunity to strengthen our partnership with families through an **academic-focused virtual evening event** on Thursday, Oct. 22. We are still working out the details, so save the date and stay tuned!

In the next week, students are wrapping up **i-Ready diagnostic tests** (required for Grades 1-5 in math, and Grades 3-5 in reading). The diagnostic sets each student on a personalized learning path of online lessons. Students should be working on i-Ready lessons during the afternoon adaptive learning time. The goal is 45 minutes per week in each content area (math and reading – for those grades that do i-Ready reading). Some of our English language learners should be prioritizing Imagine Language & Literacy over i-Ready reading. Your child's teacher or our EL coach, Ms. Ashley, can help you determine what's best for your child. You can learn more about i-Ready [here](#).

Please be sure to read the **Jefferson Family Technology Q&A** on the next page for tips on improving Zoom audio, how to get tech support, and hotspot availability.

We know that families are eager for information about when students may return to in-person learning. Part of the planning requires getting information from families. We would **appreciate your input** by 10 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 4, via this quick [survey](#).

-- Elizabeth Kelley, principal

Elizabeth Kelley Principal

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<https://twitter.com/EPSJefferson>

Info on free meals during remote learning is [here](#).



Let's Connect! You are invited to connect with regional superintendent Sally Lancaster from 5-6 p.m. Oct. 19 to engage in conversation about remote learning and to provide feedback to help us improve. We want to hear from you and hope you can attend a Zoom meeting to share your thoughts. Register [here](#) in advance to receive the Zoom link by e-mail. Questions that will be posed:

- When we start to bring groups of students back to the classroom, are you planning on sending your child to school or staying 100% remote?
- What are some factors in your decision?
- What information could the school district provide to make you feel more comfortable sending your child back to the classroom?



Jefferson Family Technology Q&A

Q: What should I do if I need tech support?

A: It really depends on what the problem is.

- Teachers may be able to help with basic questions related to Zoom and Canvas access and navigation.
- Everything else needs to go through Everett Public Schools [Technology Help Request Form](#). You can find additional resources on the district website under COVID 2020-21, then [Family Tech Support](#).
- Please do not call the school office, as we don't have the expertise to provide tech support. Due to limited supply, we can swap out Chromebooks only after you've gone through the process of contacting district-level tech support and have been told to swap out the Chromebook.

Q: Do you have wireless hotspots available?

A: We continue to prioritize those with no WIFI or home Internet access, as any other home Internet is better quality than what the hotspots provide. Please note that the hotspots do not help with Zoom audio issues (see next question/answer). If you want to be added to a waiting list for a hotspot, please fill out [this form](#).

Q: What will fix poor audio quality on Zoom on district Chromebooks?

A: This is a processor capacity issue, not an Internet bandwidth issue. Having better Internet access, or a hotspot, will not help. Some tips for addressing this problem:

- Bluetooth has been disabled – so no wireless headphones, mice, etc. They put additional demands on the processor capacity.
- Ensure that your Chromebook has been updated to the most recent operating system. Type `chrome://settings/help` in the browser address bar. Click “Check for Updates” and it will download the new updates (or it may say it's up to date, if no updates are needed). When it's done, it will change to “restart.” Select restart, and your Chromebook will reboot with the updates installed.
- Shut down (using power button) and restart your Chromebook every morning.
- Ensure that your Chromebook is fully charged and plugged into a power outlet.
- Ensure that the Chromebook is positioned to provide proper ventilation to avoid overheating.
- Close all unused/non-active browser tabs in your browser.
- Zoom tips to reduce the processor load:
 - Mute your microphone unless you are speaking.
 - Use speaker view, not gallery view.
- If none of the above helps, ensure that your full name is displayed and then turn off your camera.
- If this still doesn't help, use the Zoom chat feature to respond to teacher questions.





News from the Reading Team

Happy October from the Reading Room! We have enjoyed getting to know our students by visiting classrooms on Zoom and watching the scores as tests are completed. It is great to see that so many students continued learning throughout the closure last spring! We are very excited to have this information because it will help us to identify specific ways we can support learners and their teachers.



We want to remind EL students that they have access to Imagine Language & Literacy at home, even if they didn't get to use it last year. It's another great way to keep learning.

Any time you have questions, please feel free to contact us. We're looking forward to a great year of learning.

– Mrs. Erickson (reading) and Ms. Weiner (EL)

News from the Art Room

Jefferson Chargers are off to a creative start this year! Students have studied line, shape, and pattern through the observation of famous artworks. Students have worked hard to fill their entire page with their artwork and create colorful masterpieces that show contrast; well done!



In October we will continue to practice using line, shape, color, and pattern to create beautiful artwork. Make sure to add your work to the virtual gallery.

If you need blank paper, I have made sketchbooks that will be available at the next materials pick up opportunity. – Mrs. Gardner

News from the Music Room

Hello, Charger families! We're off to a great start this year. I've seen a lot of students in our music Zoom meetings each afternoon, and so many are excited to be there and make music while we're separated. We've reviewed concepts we learned last year and will now start introducing new content at each grade level. Please remember that everything we do on Zoom will also be available in the week's Modules as part of every student's Canvas music course. Checking in on Canvas each week will ensure that each student is at the same level of musical knowledge when we return to in-building learning. – Mrs. Rockwell

News from the Counselor

Families, we know that this has been a very hard time for many. If your family is struggling with stable housing, please check out [this site](#). We want to hear from you and help in any way we can. Clothes for Kids is open for students in need by appointment this fall. You can come by the school to pick up a requisition form between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. – Ms. Ortiz-Self

News from the Math Coach

Hi everyone! Encouraging your child to read math word problems several times is a great strategy. Check out the "three reads protocol":

- First read: Encourage your child to read for understanding what the problem is about. Encourage them to think about the math that might come into play, instead of trying to solve the problem straight away.
- Second read: Have your child write down quantities and values. These don't have to be just numbers, but can be relationships (a is twice as much as b) and words (double, volume, area, etc.).
- Third read: Think about what the question is asking or what other questions you might need to answer first before solving. Students who like or need a challenge can create further questions that can be answered in the scenario.

Have a great October! – Mrs. Roach

News from the Library

Hello Chargers! Our library is currently closed, but digital eBooks are available to check out and read on your device. Please visit the Jefferson library homepage or your Canvas library lessons for more information on reserving digital materials. In addition, students are in the process of creating a personal wish list in Destiny Discover. Materials from this wish list can be placed on hold when we begin checking out books from the library.

Speaking of books, library materials checked out at the time of the spring closure can be returned to the book bin located outside the office door weekdays between 8:00 and 4:00. Please be on the lookout for any library materials. Returning those materials will help update our inventory before we begin checkout this year. Have a great year and keep reading! – Ms. Klujber



DISTRICT NEWS

2020 High School & Beyond Event

The High School & Beyond event will be completely virtual this year. The Pacific Northwest Association for College Admissions Counseling has been in the process of designing remote opportunities for students and families to connect with colleges and universities from all over the country. The Washington-specific portion will take place live from October 19-23. The presentations will also be recorded and will remain available until December 31st. The virtual event site is available here: <https://pnacac.swoogo.com/PNACAC>. In order to participate, register using the blue button in the top right-hand corner of the site event page. Once registered, you will be able to preview the college fair booths beginning on September 15 all the way through December 31. College representatives and presentation will be “live” during the days and times indicated in the table.

Washington student week live times October 19 - 23, 2020	
Date	Time
Monday, Oct 19	9 a.m. - noon
Tuesday, Oct 20	4 - 7 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct 21	10 a.m. - 1 p.m. AND 4 - 7 p.m.
Thursday, Oct 22	4 - 7 p.m.

Parent University

Everett Public Schools Parent University is available 24/7 online and mobile for you to access important resources to help support your student’s remote learning. You can find details on how to access and log in to Canvas, how to view your student’s schedule, where to get meals, and much more. Resources will continue to be added throughout the year. You will find Parent University, and all other information related to remote learning, at www.everettsd.org/COVID2020-21.



Website refresh

Feedback from families and the community to improve navigation and the layout of the district’s website was integrated into the redesign, which launched October 1. The new site features inviting visuals, reduced clicks and a standard experience with navigation among all school sites. The interface is user-friendly, attractive and a welcome change.

Community survey about strategic plan

The district is engaging the community as we start the process of creating a new strategic plan. Please look for a survey coming out on October 12 on the district website to provide your input.

Let’s Connect!

You are invited to connect with district leaders and engage in conversation from 5-6 p.m. Oct. 19. See more details in the teal box on the first page of this newsletter. We want to hear from you and hope you can attend a Zoom meeting to share your thoughts. Please check your email for an invitation to connect with your school’s regional superintendent and other district leaders. Then RSVP required to receive the link for the Zoom meeting. Let’s Connect!

Website tools for you

The website has tools to make your life easier. Sign in with your LMS password to:

- Add your student’s school and teachers’ calendars to your calendar view
- Filter calendar items by category
- Export calendar items to your personal calendar
- Access *Grades & More*, lunch menus and staff contact information from the home page



Mobile app

Families can [download the district mobile app](#) to easily access student information, grades, attendance, lunch balances, borrowed library books, calendars and more! Translate notifications and app functions into the language you prefer.

Did you miss a call from us?

If you missed a call from your school, please first check your voice mail, email or mobile app for the message rather than calling the school. Schools are often inundated with phone calls from parents after they send an automated call and cannot answer all of the calls.

Is your contact information up-to-date at school?

If your contact information has changed, please let your school know so we can reach you.

Homeless resources

We care about all our Everett Public Schools families and know many are experiencing economic impacts due to changes in the economy. If not your family directly, you may know others who are starting to question whether there is any help available. If you are staying temporarily with someone else because you lost your housing, or are staying in a motel, campground, shelter, outside or are in an inadequate place, you and your children have special rights at school. Everett Public Schools' Kids in Transition (KIT) program supports students who qualify as homeless under the federal [McKinney-Vento Homeless Act](#). Students without a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence may qualify. The KIT program works to eliminate barriers to students' academic success. If you believe your child qualifies, please complete the [online Housing Questionnaire](#). For more information, visit the [KIT website](#) or contact the KIT office at 425-385-4032. Rights include:

- Keeping your children in the same school even if you move, and receiving transportation to that school, as long as it is in the student's best interest
- Enrolling in school immediately without the documents schools usually require
- Receiving free school meals
- Getting help with school supplies and other needs
- Receiving extra support for youth who are on their own
- Connecting young children with early childhood services
- Referrals to other community resources

Get resources and activities for your children from [Sesame Street in Communities](#), including tips for [how to talk to your child about homelessness](#) and [how to create a feeling of home](#) even if you are moving around a lot.

If you find yourself in a dangerous situation, or in need of medical, emotional, or physical support, please see [this list of national hotlines](#) that provide an array of services. All hotlines listed are national hotlines providing 24/7 support across the United States. In Snohomish County, you may call 425-25-ABUSE (425-252-2873). **In an emergency, call 911 for the police, get yourself and your children to a safe place, seek medical attention and call DVS (the hotline above) for assistance.**



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• Everett Public Schools does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination:

• Title IX/Civil Rights
Compliance Officer:

• Mary O'Brien
425-385-4106
• MO'brien@everettsd.org
• PO Box 2098
• Everett, WA 98213

• Section 504 Coordinator:

• Dave Peters
425-385-4063
• DPeters@everettsd.org
• PO Box 2098
• Everett, WA 98213

• ADA Coordinator:

• Randi Seaberg
425-385-4104
• RSeaberg@everettsd.org
• PO Box 2098
• Everett, WA 98213