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- Oct 7      PTSO meeting, 7:00 p.m., JMS media center  
Oct 8      Picture re-take day  
Oct 12-29   MEAP testing  
Oct 12      Coffee Talk. 6:00 p.m.  
                 Board of Education meeting, 7:30 p.m.  
                 Market Day pickup  
Oct 13      Progress report day  
Oct 21      JMS Band Concert, 7:00 p.m., Schaublin Auditorium  
Oct 24      JMS/LHS String Concert, 2:00 p.m., Schaublin Auditorium  
Nov 4      PTSO Meeting 7:00 p.m. JMS Media Center  
Nov 5      End of 1<sup>st</sup> card-marking, **Dismissal 11:10 a.m.**  
Nov 8-12   Scholastic Book Fair  
Nov 10      Conferences, 12:30 – 3:00, 5:30 – 8:00 p.m., **Dismissal 11:10 a.m.**  
Nov 11      Conferences, 8:00 – 10:30 a.m., **Doors open at 11:32 a.m.**  
                 **School begins 11:39 a.m.**  
Nov 12      Veterans Day Breakfast  
Nov 15-19   6<sup>th</sup> Grade Camp  
Nov 16      Board of Education Meeting 7:30 p.m.  
                 Market Day Pick Up  
Nov 24      **Dismissal 11:10 a.m.**  
Nov 25-26   No school, Thanksgiving Recess

### **STUDENT ATTENDANCE**

Jefferson Middle School has a separate attendance line to call in absences or if you need to pick your child up early. That number is: **(586) 445-4136**  
**Please do not call the main office.**

We have been experiencing many phone calls for students. We encourage all students and parents to make arrangements prior to the school day. Please limit your phone calls to the JMS office in regards to messages for your children. We will not pull students out of class to take a phone call unless there is an emergency situation. We know that emergencies arise and phone calls may be necessary, but our number one goal is to educate your children. In order for us to do this successfully, we must limit the number of interruptions to all classrooms.

# FROM THE PRINCIPAL

The 2010-2011 school year is off to a tremendous start! The highlight and biggest change to Jefferson Middle School this year is our Positive Behavior Support system. The foundation of this system's success is based on defining expected behaviors, teaching them, modeling them, practicing them and rewarding students that demonstrate them. Safety, Tolerance, Achievement, Respect and Responsibility are the pillars of our community. Throughout the year I will focus on each of these topics to share with you my thoughts regarding each of these behaviors and how we need to own them in our routines and actions so together we can achieve excellence.

Achievement is important and must be our focal point when thinking of academics. We live in the world of accountability. The Federal and State Governments hold school personnel and students to high expectations. In order for our school and our students to be successful we must meet specific growth targets. All students work towards mastering the grade level content expectations (GLCEs) or high school course expectations (HSCEs). Teachers are expected to and must teach students so they can learn the content set forth by the State of Michigan. Our minimum target is to help all students achieve one year's worth of growth each school year. We also work to help all students learn and demonstrate their knowledge at or above their grade level.

The changes made over the past four years have yielded positive results. Last year, Jefferson Middle School earned an "A" and "made AYP." This is our first "A" ever! We are proud of this accomplishment. The entire school community has worked very hard to earn this grade. The school report card grade is determined by how effectively we implement our school improvement plan and how well our students perform on the MEAP. In order to make AYP our students and each subgroup or demographic group of students must achieve proficiency targets while meeting expected growth targets as well. This complicated process is becoming more complicated through changes in our State and Federal requirements. The "Top to Bottom" list was published by the State of Michigan; the only state in the union to publish this type of list is now measuring the success of schools solely by the amount of growth for each individual child. This clearly puts all schools in a position to do whatever it takes to ensure that each individual learns and is able to demonstrate all skills and content embedded in our curriculum. Students have worked harder, teachers have made changes to their instruction, to their assessments and to the way they approach students. Our goal is to maintain the positive trend and to achieve more every year. You get what you give; consequently, we need to give our best so our kids can get the best preparation for their future. The students need to be their best and do their best so they can live a productive, successful, and happy life.

Over the past three years we have continued to work to support each individual student so they can achieve their excellence. 8th hour ASAP, two hour blocks of Math and Language Arts, and Accelerated Math and Language Arts classes are some of the interventions we have designed and implemented to help each student meet the expected outcomes for each grade level and course. We use student achievement data to make intentional scheduling decisions for our students. MEAP scores, grades, local assessment data and other information regarding students help us to help them. The JMS administration and student services department review detailed MEAP information to help us understand each student's strengths and weaknesses. Teachers have implemented pre-assessments, aligned with the GLCEs/HSCEs and teachers use student scores to target specific needs of individuals while using the collective group's demonstration of knowledge to guide instructional decision making. If you would like to review your child's specific achievement data please contact me at 586-445-4130 or by email at [dlavender@scslakeview-k12.com](mailto:dlavender@scslakeview-k12.com).

Doing the right thing is not always doing the easiest thing. Together we need to make sure our students are working hard and improving. The guidance we as school personnel and you as parents can give to students will help set each student on the correct path in life. Excellence is in reach, I believe that all students can and must learn. Let's work together to help all students achieve the learning and behavioral objectives. We need to travel together as we journey to excellence so we can share in our students' successes!

Let's work hard, let's work together and let's have a great year!



## ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Sixth grade students are working on building their repertoire of reading strategies which will be instrumental in enhancing reading comprehension across the curriculum. They're working on honing their skills in being active readers. A strategy they have been working on is called Talking to the Text or T4. During this strategy, students are asked to interact with the text by noting predictions, questions, visualizations, and wondering statements as they read. The process improves comprehension due to the active thinking involved in the reading process.

Seventh grade students are working on identifying the elements of a fictional story, such as protagonist, antagonist, mood, theme, and many more. These literary terms will help them to develop a greater understanding of how the plot of a story is developed. We will also continue to develop our writing skills using these same literary elements. By understanding how to develop the exposition, conflict, rising and falling action, and resolution, the writing skills of all students will continue to flourish.

Eighth grade students are beginning Collection 1 of the Elements of Literature series. They are focusing on the development of plot within the selected short stories that they will be reading. Writing is also being focused on with the emphasis on the Personal Narrative. By the end of the collection, the students will construct their own narrative, incorporating the elements that were discussed in class.

Reading is also an important skill that should be emphasized at home as well. Take the time to read with your child each day, whether it would be aloud together or silent reading time. Magazines, newspapers, or other non-fiction pieces work just as well as a book.

## MICHIGAN EDUCATIONAL ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

The MEAP test is beginning soon. MEAP testing begins on October 12, with the reading and writing portions given on October 12-14, and then again on October 20.

All students are working on good test-taking strategies, which will be helpful for the upcoming MEAP test. Important points such as reading questions first before reading the passage or text, eliminating ridiculous or silly choices for multiple choice questions, and including details in constructive response answers are some of the many strategies being discussed.

Of course it is always a good idea to get plenty of rest and start every day with a balanced and nutritional breakfast, but we are asking all parents to be particularly aware of this during the weeks of MEAP testing.

## SOCIAL STUDIES

All social studies classes recently focused their attention on Constitution Day, which took place September 17, as part of a nationally-mandated program to ensure that all students spend the day celebrating the signing of this most important historical document.

Coming up soon will be the Veteran's Day breakfast, in which students are encouraged to invite a veteran of the U.S. military to celebrate the morning with us and remember their important contributions and sacrifices to protect our country. More information on this annual event will be coming shortly.

Additionally, the teachers in the social studies department began a year-long course this summer in universal design. The course is intended to help teachers in using technology to engage all students and expand learning in the classroom.

## A Message from Mr. Jones

As I begin my 9<sup>th</sup> year with Lakeview Public Schools and my second year at Jefferson Middle School, I find myself eager and excited to return to JMS. As Dean of Students, I deal primarily with student discipline and attendance, but I also actively participate in other areas of student life. I oversee the 8<sup>th</sup> hour ASAP program, assist students with academic concerns, and work with our Student Services department to address student conflicts. My goal is to make Jefferson the most positive, supportive building in the district while providing students with opportunities to build integrity, achieve academically, serve their community, and have fun! For this first letter, I have tried to provide a snapshot of several changes and improvements to JMS this year.

### **POSITIVE BEHAVIOR SUPPORTS**

One of the most noticeable changes this year is the implementation of the Positive Behavior Supports program. PBS seeks to strengthen relationships between staff and students by reinforcing positive behaviors and using instructional interventions instead of punishments to correct negative behaviors. This will be accompanied by various enhancements to the culture of JMS which reinforce our 5 pillars (Safety, Tolerance, Achievement, Respect, Responsibility). These include the various signs and steps toward environmental awareness in the halls and cafeteria. One of the primary ways to recognize students will be the STARR dollars that all staff will give students when they recognize them upholding one of the five pillars. Students will also have a Patriot Pass which will give them access not only to athletic / extra-curricular events, but also to special big / little reward events. If students receive a disciplinary consequence from the office, they will surrender their Patriot Pass for:

- 3 days for each detention
- 5 days for each In School Suspension
- 10 days for each Out of School Suspension



### **DISCIPLINE**

One of the results of PBS has been fewer disciplinary referrals as teachers take responsibility for minor discipline infractions and use them as opportunities for instruction; the goal is for teachers, when necessary, to teach students how to behave, not just punish them when they do not. You may notice increased phone/email contact from your child's teachers as they attempt to address minor discipline issues before they grow into significant problems. This keeps parents informed, strengthens the teacher/student relationship, and shows students that every adult can and will address his/her behavior, not just an administrator. In the event of a serious disciplinary infraction, or chronic small ones, teachers will refer the student to an administrator.

As far as these types of referrals go, we have already seen a decrease over last year. For the month of September, we have had 37 disciplinary interactions with students which is down from 48 in September of last year, and all with more students in the building. Our teachers and our students deserve credit for this improvement as they continue to build positive relationships and model, meet, and exceed our high expectations for behavior.

### **ATTENDANCE**

Lakeview Public Schools has ratified a new attendance policy this year with the goal of increasing the amount of contact time students spend with teachers and lessen time lost due to attendance-related discipline. The most significant change involves the tabulation of classroom tardies by class period instead of cumulatively. JMS students will now have more of an opportunity to correct their tardy tendencies before disciplinary consequences catch up with them. This accomplishes the goal of targeting the students who are tardy most frequently while diminishing the attention paid to students who are sporadically tardy. As an example, under the old system, there would be 39 students currently facing tardy consequences (anything from a warning to 1 day ISS); under the new system, there are 19. This translates to more time in a classroom, with a teacher, receiving instruction.

Additionally, students wishing to avoid an In School Suspension for excessive tardiness will now have the option to perform 4 hours of community service. This will keep them in class and allow them to volunteer in their community to make a positive contribution.



### **TRAFFIC**

As our population continues to grow, we must continuously work to modify and improve our traffic control procedures. Currently, we have cones directly in front of the building to mark the beginning, middle, and end of our drop zone. These will soon be replaced by sandwich boards, but the goal will be the same. **Please pull as far forward as possible into the drop zone before your child gets out of the car, and please do not release them on Rockwood prior to entering the drop zone.** Mr. Ian Smith is our new morning parking lot attendant and traffic monitor, and he works every morning to pull traffic into the drop zone and keep things moving quickly. Having your child ready with books, lunch, and backpack in hand also helps speed up this process.

# JMS SPORTS CENTER

BY: Mr. Anthony Elliott

Welcome back!! Well with the start of school, comes the start of our athletic programs. Our fall season kicks off with boy's football.

Our 8<sup>th</sup> grade team is coached by Dan Cheney, who has been with the Patriots for 8 seasons. When asked about the teams expectations this year, Coach Cheney responded, "Well it's really early, but the kids are working hard and seem excited."

Our 7<sup>th</sup> grade is welcoming a new head coach this year. Coach Anthony Savalle brings experience and excitement to our Jefferson program. "I love the game, and love helping kids see the importance of teamwork and achieving a goal."

Girl's basketball here at Fall season. Leading the 7<sup>th</sup> grade coach Nancy Fields and 8<sup>th</sup> grade coach John Carr.

Jefferson also takes place in the Patriots once again this year are

"She is one of the best coaches I have ever had," said Avery Valentine. "If you do something wrong she helps you understand how to do it in a positive way."

When asked about the upcoming season, Cassidy Huyghe said, "Coach is very helpful and takes his time teaching us what we are supposed to do. I'm looking forward to what can happen."

## A Message From: Mrs. Michalowicz

### Parent Involvement in Student Academic Success

"School age children spend 70% of their waking hours (including weekends and holidays) outside of school." This information comes from an article put out by the Michigan Department of Education article *What Research Says*

*About Parent Involvement in Children's Education.* It goes on to say that the most consistent predictors of children's academic achievement are parent expectations. Being involved in your child's education not only increases their opportunities for success, but actually positively impacts their progress. The research has shown that when parents are involved students have:

- Higher grades, test scores, and graduation rates
- Better school attendance
- Increased motivation, better self-esteem

The ways to be involved in your child's education are myriad, but students who are doing well in school have families that exhibit several common characteristics:

#### **A daily family routine**

Examples: providing time and a quiet place to study, being firm about bedtime and having dinner together

#### **Monitor out-of-school activities**

Examples: setting limits on TV watching, checking up on children when parents are not home

#### **Model the value of learning, self-discipline, and hard work**

Examples: communicating through questioning and conversation, demonstrating that achievement comes from working hard

#### **Express high but realistic expectations for achievement**

Examples: setting goals and standards that are appropriate for children's age and maturity, recognizing and encouraging special talents

#### **Encourage children's development/progress in school**

Examples: maintaining a warm and supportive home, showing interest in children's progress at school, helping with homework, discussing the value of a good education and possible career options, staying in touch with teachers and school staff

#### **Encourage reading, writing, and discussions among family members**

Examples: reading, listening to children read and talking about what is being read

It takes both a good school and a good home working in partnership to help students succeed in today's world. Have conversations often with your child about their classes, their assignments, what they are learning, and what their goals are to help motivate them to succeed!

# Math

This year, the JMS Math department is excited to welcome four new staff members to the building, who all bring much knowledge and experience to your students. We welcome Mrs. Sullivan (teaching 7<sup>th</sup> grade Math and Study Skills), Mr. Battani (teaching 7<sup>th</sup> grade Math), Mr. Hahn (teaching 6<sup>th</sup> grade Math and Study Skills), and Mr. Kueppers (teaching 8<sup>th</sup> grade Algebra and Study Skills). We are also excited to offer an advanced course in all three grade levels this year. The 6<sup>th</sup> grade advanced course will cover 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade level content expectations. The 7<sup>th</sup> grade advanced course is Algebra 1, and the 8<sup>th</sup> grade advanced course is Geometry.

In math, a student's performance often centers on successful completion of daily practice assignments and homework. Below are several homework strategies parents can use to help their student improve mathematical performance.

Help your student find a quiet, consistent place to complete homework and study. Eliminate any distractions to your student such as the television, phone, video games, etc.

Develop a consistent daily homework routine. Help your student stay organized by encouraging the use of a 3-ring binder with tabs to keep all class materials in, as well as his or her daily planner to document daily assignments and upcoming assessments.



Review and practice basic facts with your student. Use flash cards, math games, and online interactive websites to give your student the opportunity to reinforce important math skills.

Teach your student to write and solve problems neatly. 25% of all errors in solving math problems can be traced back to sloppy number writing.

Encourage your student to do more problems than those which were assigned. Having your student do extra problems will strengthen skills and build confidence.

Stress the importance of your student learning the vocabulary of mathematics, as well as good problem-solving skills. If your student is working on a word problem, for example, suggest that the student draw a picture or diagram in order to describe and solve the problem.

Monitor your student's progress. Touch base with your student to ensure homework has been completed, and communicate with your student's teacher if concerns or problems arise.

Make math a part of your student's daily life. Mathematics will be more meaningful when your student understands how important math is in real-world situations.

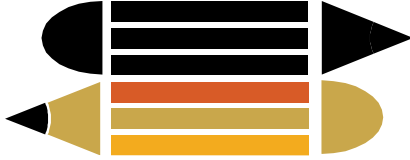
Some helpful websites to use include:

<http://mathforum.org/students>  
<http://www.aaamath.com>  
<http://www.brainpop.com/math>  
<http://www.coolmath.com/home.htm>  
<http://www.math.com>  
<http://www.mathdl.org/mathDL/>





# JMS Student Services



## Parenting School Aged Children Ages 6-12

Join this eight-week facilitated discussion group focused on improving your relationship with your pre-teen. Learn ideas on encouraging personal responsibility, self-respect, respectfulness, age appropriate discipline and methods to help your pre-teen find their way through the issues that they face. Based on the program "Systematic Training for Effective Parenting."

**Lobbestael Elementary**  
**38495 Prentiss**  
**Harrison Twp. 48045**  
**October 4-November 29**

To Register and for other times and locations call CARE at 586-541-0033

*"Parent Education needs to be viewed as a skill acquired through education. We are not born with it and everyone raising children needs to be serious about learning the best techniques to raise healthy, competent children."*  
-Jeanne Rioux, CARE,

## Macomb County Crisis Center- 24 Hour Emergency Assistance

Over the telephone counseling and referral; includes suicide, grief, domestic violence, and sexual assault. Referrals include various agencies, which are screened to provide mental health, education, physical health, and welfare.

46360 Gratiot Avenue  
Chesterfield, MI 48051

## Lakeshore Church Food Pantry

Lakeshore Church in St. Clair Shores has an ongoing Food Pantry that is open to anyone in need. The pantry is open the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month from 1:30-3:00. It is also open the 3rd Wednesday of the month from 5:30-6:45. They also have a small, but full clothes closet (free).

**Lakeshore Church is located at:**  
27801 Jefferson, SCS phone:  
586-777-8533

## October is MEAP month!

Students in Grades 6-8 will be taking the MEAP tests during the month of October.

Testing will begin on October 12<sup>th</sup> and will run through the end of the month. Each grade level will take the following tests:

- Grade 6:** Math, Reading, Social Studies.
- Grade 7:** Math, Reading, Writing.
- Grade 8:** Math Reading, Science.

MEAP testing is very important to monitoring student achievement. Please encourage your student to get plenty of sleep the nights before testing, eat a good breakfast, and do their best while taking the tests.

This will help to ensure that accurate data is collected regarding their academic progress.



## Yellow Ribbon Week

JMS students will observe Yellow Ribbon Week September 20<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>. Yellow Ribbon Week is a suicide prevention and education effort that takes place each year in Macomb County as well as other places across the country.

Students will listen to presentations highlighting the history of Yellow Ribbon Week, common myths about this topic, and warning signs about depression and suicide. Students will also be educated on how to handle and get help with a situation involving suicide or depression.

The Yellow Ribbon program was founded in 1994 by the parents of Mike Emme, who took his life when he did not know the words to say, or how to let someone know that he was in trouble and needed help.

The legacy started when Mike rescued a 1968 Ford Mustang from a field where it sat neglected. He bought it, rebuilt it, and painted it bright yellow. Mike became known for his car. After the tragedy of his death his friends and family commemorated his life by wearing yellow ribbons in his honor. The program began to spread and save countless precious lives. It is now recognized worldwide, and continues to grow and reach youth with help and comfort.

## Be Aware Walk for Suicide Prevention

Saturday, October 16, 2010

Dakota High School

21051 21 Mile Rd., Macomb

Register at [www.KnowResolve.org](http://www.KnowResolve.org)

The goals of this 5K walk are to raise community awareness, and raise funds to support Know Resolve's suicide prevention programs for schools and the Chippewa Valley Coalition for Youth and Families. All the proceeds raised at this walk directly benefit programs in your community that help youth make healthy choices!

## JMS Student Services Staff

- Mrs. Brunson:** Special Education Social Worker
- Mrs. Bulski:** Counselor
- Mrs. Denison:** General Education Social Worker
- Mr. Morin:** Counselor (JMS and LHS)





Save your pennies, the JMS Book Fair is scheduled for the week of November 8th. The book fair will be open during evening conferences as well.

## SEX EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Sex Advisory committee is looking for new members to join! Members may include teachers, parents, and/or students. It is helpful to have different perspectives in our meetings to get diverse opinions. Please contact Tracy Van Peeren, Assistant Superintendent, at 586-445-4000 ext. 2504 or [tvanpeeren@scslakeview-k12.com](mailto:tvanpeeren@scslakeview-k12.com) for more information

### What are BSIC and DSIC?

BSIC is an acronym for "Building School Improvement Committee", and refers to a group of teachers, administrators, parents and students that work together on the school improvement plan. The school improvement plan is required by law, and outlines our goals and strategies for how we'd like to continue to improve the quality of the education here at Jefferson for every students, and the efficiency with which that is done. We decide on which strategies and programs to use that will help us attain our goals, and monitor the school's progress by analyzing data. We also make sure that we are on track in the accreditation process. Lakeview is accredited as a district by NCA, the North Central Association, which is one of the largest organizations that provide external examination of a school or district's current practices, systems and goals. DSIC is the district committee made up of each of the schools' BSIC chairpersons, and is co-chaired by the Assistant Superintendent and a teacher representative. It has the same purpose as the BSIC committees, but has the district as its focus.

### Student Government

Student Government consists of sixth, seventh and eighth grade students. Six students are elected as officers each year. All members are required to submit an application and are approved by their classmates. The following students are members for the 2010-2011 school-year:

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Zachary Allor, Cat Bucholtz, Justin Crandall, Joe Frank, Madison Gollehur, Megan Naglich, Avery Ottoy and Shannon Sheridan

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Rachel Balon, Zachary Barringer, Jonah Belloli, Audrey Cook, Terese Feldpausch, Katlyn Johns, Kasey Johns, Devin Kolesar, Jodi Mitchell and Emily Novak.

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Margaret DeMarco, Shelby Francis, John Gardner, Keira Gibson, Emily Hohn, Arber Velencia and Cheyenne Wroblewski

**Officers:** President – Hannah Belloli, Vice-President – Nina Smith, Secretary – Caleb Stump, Treasurer – Katelyn Martin, Executive Board members – Emiljan Elezi and Cameron Fick

Members of Student Government participate in a variety of activities. Students serve on four main committees: service, appreciation, dance and spirit. We have three after school parties per year that run from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. We will be working on scheduling our first dance very soon. Student Government members also organize food drives, clothing drives, luncheons, spirit days, appreciations for staff/students/community members and organize school-wide events to raise funds for Muscular Dystrophy, Relay for Life and the Red Cross. Students involved in this organization assist in promoting school spirit and serving our school community and beyond.