

Jefferson Middle School Newsletter

September 2022

News, Views, Calendar, Announcements

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September

9/1: PTO Meeting
6:00pm
9/5: Labor Day*

October

10/6&10/7: Fall Break*
10/10: Indigenous Peoples Day*

November

11/8: Election Day*
11/11: Veterans' Day*
11/21&11/22: Parent Teacher Conferences (no classes for students)
11/23-11/25: Thanksgiving Break*

December

12/3: JMS Craft Fair
10:00am - 3:00pm
12/21-1/4: Winter Break*

* =School Closed

Calendar Subject to Change

Letter from the Principal

By Trini Gallegos, JMS Principal

I am thrilled to have been chosen as the Principal of Jefferson Middle School and excited to continue working with students, staff, families, and members of the community. I value relationships, academic excellence for all as well as social and emotional learning and well-being. In cooperation with staff and the JMS community, I will continue to provide students with the supports, tools, and diverse opportunities needed to meet the challenges of an ever-changing world. I believe in the potential of every student and recognize that we must work together to prepare them for the world that lies ahead.

To meet the needs of each individual student, I am prepared to make decisions through collaboration with the Jefferson Community. I strongly believe in open communication and a strong home and school partnership to ensure the academic, social, and emotional success of every student. Most importantly, it is imperative to foster a learning environment in which students, parents, and staff feel safe and secure.

It is my pleasure to welcome back new and returning families to Jefferson Middle School. I look forward to learning more about you and your student while diving into the work of providing a positive, engaging, and rigorous learning environment for all students. We cannot do this work alone, so thank you in advance for your commitment in helping make Jefferson Middle School a powerful place for students to grow and learn!



**JEFFERSON
MIDDLE SCHOOL**
HOME OF THE JETS

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

JMS Administration

505-255-8691
[Full Contact List](#)

Family Services

Mary.slota@aps.edu 255-8691 x20560

JMS Library

255-8691 x20505

JMS Website

<https://jefferson.aps.edu/>

PTO

<https://jefferson.aps.edu/pto>

PTO News

The **first meeting** of the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) for the 2022-23 school year will take place Thursday September 1 at 6:00 pm in the Jefferson Library. Use the link on the left to read more about the JMS PTO.

The position of **PTO Board Secretary** is vacant. If you are interested in serving, please send your statement of interest and brief bio to: jms.pto.abq@gmail.com.

Election will take place at the first PTO meeting.

Let's show some love for the JMS staff and **stock the lounge**, starting 9/7. Please use [this link](#) to sign up and contribute.

Watch for additional community support opportunities, such as Dining for Dollars (Gyros Restaurant) and Positive Banners!

Counselors' Corner

Your JMS Counselors are:

Courtney Elkins (7th and 8th L-Z last names)

Stacey Sieberg (6th and 8th A-L last names)

The counselors deliver a comprehensive school counseling program to support student success. More details and contact information are available at:

<https://jefferson.aps.edu/counseling>

KINDNESS MATTERS

Being kind to yourself and others is a great way to practice self-care during a stressful time.

A Great Jet is A Kind Jet. Practice Kindness.

Family Engagement @ JMS

By Katy Slota, JMS Family Liaison

The 2022-2023 school year is off to a great start. Thank you to the incredible families that have shown interest in volunteering and supporting Jefferson students, families, and staff. We are truly grateful for your interest and outpouring of kindness and support.

If your student is still in need of school supplies, assistance with clothing, food support, housing, or rental and utility assistance, please don't hesitate to let me know. You can reach me at Mary.slota@aps.edu or 255-8691 x20560.

Volunteers Make JMS A Vibrant Community

I would love to talk to you about the many ways that you can be involved. You can begin by completing the APS Background check by going to <https://www.aps.edu/community/volunteer-with-aps>.

Jefferson Student Council

If your student is interested in joining the Jefferson Student Council, please have them come to see me in portable J-2.

What is the Instructional Council?

Instructional Councils (ICs) are empowered to address school issues that fall within the scope of instructional improvement through shared governance. The JMS IC is made up of teachers, staff, and parents. All meetings are open to attendance by students, staff, and the community.

The Jefferson Instructional Council's role will be to gather information, investigate, innovate, make decisions, and communicate our findings with the entire school, community, and district leadership.

More information about the JMC IC is available at:

<https://jefferson.aps.edu/instructional-council>

BE JetKIND*ANSWER THE CALL

OWN IT*MORE GRIT*NO LIMITS



Meet Trini Gallegos, JMS Principal

Mrs. Gallegos grew up in Albuquerque, NM and attended Taylor Middle School and Valley High School. She had an early interest in supporting students during challenging family circumstances that led to her becoming an educator. She is passionate about activity and exercise including biking, hot yoga, and dance. She also enjoys reading novels, spending time with her family, and exploring new places in the world.

As a breast cancer survivor, she understands the importance of perseverance and grit not only to overcome hardships but also to grow and become a stronger person. She is dedicated to helping others understand and develop these important life skills.

JMS Community Values

The [Core Values & Non-Negotiables page](#) of the JMS website lists the values that guide our school community. This newsletter will occasionally feature one of these values/non-negotiables in more detail, to assist families in understanding and discussing them.

Jet Cards are used to call attention to both positive and negative student behavior and choices. JMS wants to highlight all the good things students are doing! Please check your student's agenda for more information.

Non-Negotiable: Back & Forth

What does it mean that *students will accept the response of staff without negotiation*? It means that there are limitations on the time and place for students to advocate for themselves and ask questions. Back-and-forth arguing and negotiation cannot interrupt classroom instruction.

Examples of positive student advocacy that align with JMS values:

- ➡ Raise hand and ask when to meet and discuss the situation
- ➡ Email teacher to set a meeting to discuss a question/concern
- ➡ Talk to a student council rep about the issue
- ➡ Discuss concerns with their advisory teacher, consider asking for group discussion of concerns during advisory period