

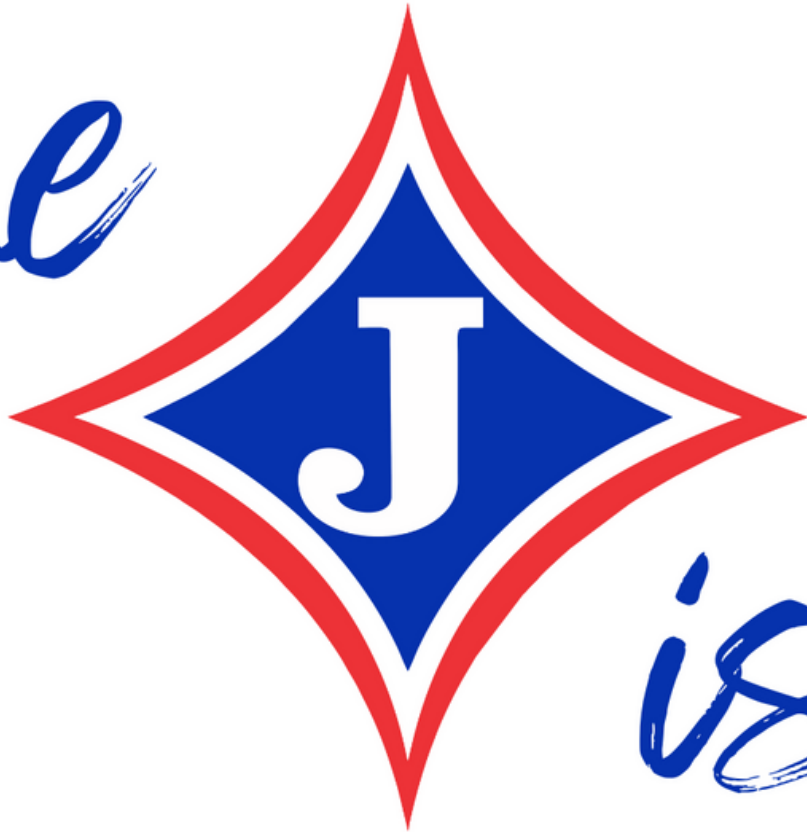


# ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

**HOME**

*is where*

*the*



*is.*

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# BOE ACHIEVEMENT



Board members pictured left to right:  
Brantley Porter, Lisa Richmond, Board Chairman Ronnie Hopkins, Superintendent Donna McMullan, Treasurer  
Guy Dean Benson, Angela D'Zamko and Vice Chairman Willie Hughey

## JCS System's BOE Achieves 2022 GSBA Exemplary School Board Status

JCS is proud to announce the achievement and status of the Georgia School Boards Association's (GSBA) 2022 Exemplary School Board Recognition. This is the sixth consecutive year JCS has achieved exemplary status. JCS BOE Chairman Ronnie Hopkins, along with Superintendent Dr. Donna McMullan and other board members, accepted the award at the 2022 Georgia School Boards Association conference last fall.

The recognition program is designed to showcase best practices in school governance and leadership. GSBA recognizes good school board governance to foster educational community cultures in order to advance student learning and achievement. The GSBA Board recognition program is a three-tiered program with "exemplary" being the highest level.

The JCS BOE also was recognized with the 2022 Leading Edge Award at the conference. This unique achievement recognizes the innovative design and implementation of projects and programs throughout JCS that are having a significant and positive impact on students. JCS BOE received the award based on the Center for Early Learning initiative.

JCS previously was awarded and still holds the title of Governance Team of the Year.

# BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Jefferson City School System Board of Education is honored to serve the students, staff, and community of Jefferson. As a Board, we are committed to providing educational opportunities and equitable experiences that support all students reaching their maximum potential. In keeping with the mission statement of the Jefferson City School System, To Graduate Fully Functioning Adults, we resolve to provide a highly qualified professional staff with a challenging, rigorous, and relevant curriculum in a safe and orderly environment. The work we do as a Board of Education is centered first and foremost on doing what is best for our students. We are truly grateful for your willingness to partner with us in support of teaching and learning.

Thank you to our students, staff, parents, and community members for sharing our vision for excellence. Jefferson is a special place that continues to attract many new families. The Board of Education is committed to providing state-of-the-art facilities and resources that promote the overall performance of students and staff. We recognize that strong, collaborative partnerships are essential to sustainable growth and continuous improvement. At Jefferson City Schools, we strive to never be satisfied with current levels of performance and keep the question of how we can get better at the forefront of our thinking.

We commend the students and staff for their hard work and dedication and are extremely proud of their accomplishments during the 2023-2024 school year. We are grateful for the opportunity to work collaboratively with the entire community to build excellence in students each and every day. Together, we can accomplish amazing things for the benefit of our students and staff!

Sincerely,  
*JCS Board of Education*



It is my privilege to share the 2022-2023 Annual Report, which provides key information on the educational progress of our school system. This document provides an overview of student achievement results, college and career readiness data, demographic and budgetary information, along with accomplishments and notable achievements within the academics, athletics, arts, and other extracurricular programs. The overall success of students is a direct result of the ongoing commitment of our families and staff. I am thankful for the strong collaborative partnerships between the school system and community, which help us to sustain the Jefferson City School System's strong reputation across the state of Georgia.

The visionary leadership of the Board of Education provides a solid foundation for the work that occurs in the school system and plays a major role in JCS consistently being ranked as one of the top-performing school systems at the local and state level. The 2022 graduation rate is 96.6%, as compared to Georgia's graduation rate of 84.1%. **The school system ranks 8th in the state and is one of only 41 districts in the state of Georgia with a graduation rate higher than 95%.**

Jefferson Elementary School and Jefferson Academy have been recognized as Title I Distinguished Schools, being among the top 5% in the state based on college and career ready performance index (CCRPI), and both schools are SSTAGE Award winners for promising practices in support of student learning. Jefferson Middle School has been named a National Blue Ribbon School based on exemplary high-performing results, being the only middle school in Georgia and one of 45 nationwide in 2021. Jefferson High School remains an Advanced Placement (AP) Honor School, based on student performance on Advanced Placement exams, and has earned national recognition from the U.S. News in the 2021 Best High Schools rankings as well as received the 2021 Great Schools Gold in College Success award.

The Jefferson City School System Board of Education was selected as the 2021 Governance Team of the Year by the Georgia School Boards Association. Additionally, the Board was once again named an Exemplary School Board, the highest tier of recognition based on standards of effective governance, and recognized as a Leading Edge Award winner for leading the way in ensuring students are competitive in an ever-changing global market.

As you review the information presented in this report, please know that our work would not be possible without your support. Thank you for partnering with us to provide the best educational services possible as we strive for excellence in all we do. It is certainly an honor to serve you, our students and staff, and the entire community. We are committed to upholding high expectations for each of our students, focusing on making Jefferson City Schools a place where everyone belongs!

Best,  
*Donna R. McMullan*

# ABOUT JEFFERSON CITY SCHOOLS



## Four Schools



Jefferson Elementary School, Grades PreK-2

Jefferson Academy, Grades 3 - 5

Jefferson Middle School, Grades 6-8

Jefferson High School, Grades 9-12

## Employees



**92%** Retention Rate

**324** Certified Employees

**155** Support Staff

**479** Total Employees

### Student Population

- 4,156 Total Enrollment
- 76.9% White
- 7.5% Black
- 9% Hispanic
- 4.3% Multiracial
- 2.1% English Learners
- 17.2% Gifted
- 13.1% Special Needs
- 22 Native Languages



## Technology



- Upgraded technology in all classrooms with interactive panels
- Continued support of the 1:1 student device initiative through a conservative replacement cycle
- Continued professional learning provided by Digital Learning Specialist

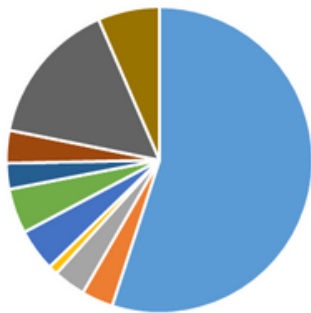
- Launched School Resource Officer Program
- Installed wearable incident response technology
- Enhanced visitor management system
- Upgraded radio communications (with local agencies)
- Augmented entrance security

# FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

JCS ranks in the lowest 1% on Georgia school systems for expenditures per student for the past four years, and student achievement remains among the highest in the state.



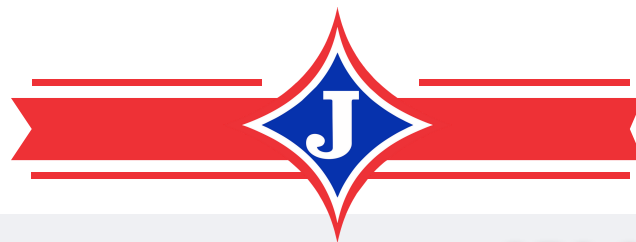
## General Fund Expenditures



■ Instruction    ■ Pupil Services    ■ Inst. Improv.    ■ Media  
■ School Admin    ■ M&O    ■ Transportation    ■ School Food Service  
■ Capital Projects    ■ Debt Service

## General Fund Revenue

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★	
State Funds	\$24,894,578
Local Funds	\$21,674,144
Federal Funds	\$2,274,878
SPLOST	\$5,428,525
Total Revenue	\$55,003,023



## Millage Rate

One of the lowest in Northeast Georgia

Jefferson	14.549
Jackson	16.576
Commerce	16.928
Barrow	17.881
Oconee	15.500
Gwinnett	19.200
Clarke	18.800

## SPLOST Projects

JCS uses a voter-approved Education Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (Ed SPLOST) to fund capital expenditures such as school renovation and construction, classroom technology, safety equipment, school buses, and debt reduction. The current Ed SPLOST was approved by the voters in 2021 and is providing for the following projects:

- classroom additions
- student/teacher technology devices
- early learning initiatives
- band equipment
- safety equipment
- buses

# JEFFERSON SCHOOL SYSTEM FOUNDATION



The Jefferson City School System has received tremendous support from the Jefferson School System Foundation since 1983. The Foundation is for the benefit of the school system with scholarships, special grants, supplements, and other specific programs and projects. The Foundation partners with the North Georgia Community Foundation, which is recognized as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

**Provided \$12,339 in grants to schools**



**Awarded \$24,500 in scholarships to graduates in the Class of 2023**



## *REACH Scholarships*

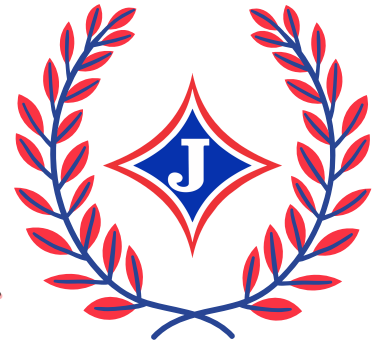
- \$9000 yearly commitment for REACH Georgia Scholarship
- Need-based mentoring and scholarship program for promising students
- Awarded first three scholarship recipients
- 100% funded by the Jefferson School System Foundation



# JHS CLASS OF 2023

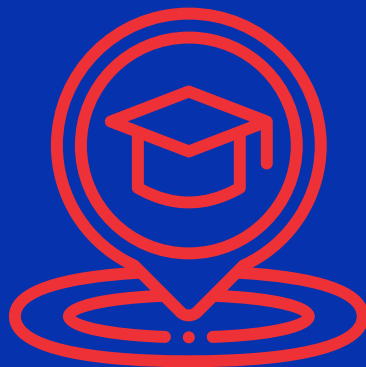


- **67%** of the graduating class of 2023 earned HOPE eligibility.
- **24%** of the total HOPE qualifiers earned the ZELL Miller Scholarship.



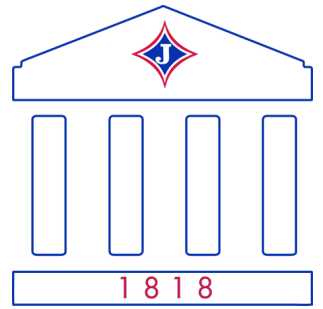
## The Class of 2022 has committed to the following colleges and universities:

ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE  
ATHENS TECHNICAL COLLEGE  
BERRY COLLEGE  
BRENAU UNIVERSITY  
BREVARD COLLEGE  
CENTRAL MICHIGAN  
CLEMSON  
COLLEGE OF COASTAL GEORGIA  
EAST GEORGIA STATE COLLEGE  
EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVEROSTY  
EMMANUEL COLLEGE  
FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY  
FURMAN UNIVERSITY  
GEORGIA COLLEGE & STATE UNIVERSITY  
GEORGIA GWINNETT COLLEGE  
GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY  
GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY  
GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY



GWINNETT TECHNICAL COLLEGE  
KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY  
LANIER TECHNICAL COLLEGE  
MERCER UNIVERSITY  
PIEDMONT UNIVERSITY  
SEWANEE UNIVERSITY  
SOUTHERN UTAH UNIVERSITY  
TRUETT MCCONNELL UNIVERSITY  
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA  
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH GEORGIA  
UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI  
UNIVERSITY OF NORTHWESTERN OHIO  
UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE - CHATANOOGA  
UNIVERSITY OF WEST GEORGIA  
U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY  
VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY  
YOUNG HARRIS COLLEGE

# Teacher OF THE YEAR



Congratulations to Ms. Lane Thomas, Jefferson City School System's Teacher of the Year! Ms. Lane's love for teaching and learning and devotion to students is contagious; she is a true champion for children and an asset to JCS.

*Lane Thomas*  
Jefferson Academy  
JCS Teacher of the Year

The Jefferson City School System has premier teachers who demonstrate a strong commitment to excellence and are passionate about positively changing the lives of their students. We congratulate each of the 2022-2023 Teachers of the Year.

## 2021-2022 Teachers of the Year

*Molly McCarty, JHS*  
*Penny Cain, JMS*  
*Lane Thomas, JA*  
*Janet Fielding, JES*



# JEFFERSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

*Legacy in Educational Excellence*



- #1 Best Public Elementary School (Grades PreK-2) in Jackson County according to Niche.com
- Title I Distinguished School
- National Blue Ribbon School
- Consistent implementation of PreK-2 rigorous, research-based curriculum, including Eureka Math, Haggerty, Jan Richardson Model of Guided Reading, and Foundations
- Summer Jump Start Program
- BioSteam lessons and outdoor learning activities with educational visits to JCS wetlands



Ms. Chrissy Joiner  
Principal

706-367-8242

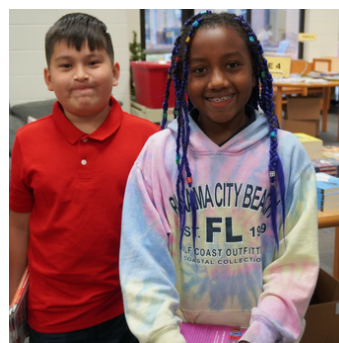
415 Hoschton Street  
Jefferson, GA 30549

# JEFFERSON ACADEMY

*Legacy in Educational Excellence*



- #1 Best Public Elementary School (Grades 3-5) in Jackson County according to Niche.com
- Title I Distinguished School
- 2022 GAESP District 2 School Bell Award Winner
- Implementation of 5th grade band and 4th/5th grade chorus programs
- Off-site learning experiences for 4th and 5th grade students: Tybee Island/Georgia Coast and Washington D.C.
- JCS book mobile launch throughout community
- Soda bottle greenhouse project located at STEAM center



Mr. Chris Whitworth  
Principal

706-367-2300

99 Dragon Drive  
Jefferson, GA 30549

# JEFFERSON MIDDLE SCHOOL

*Legacy in Educational Excellence*



- #1 Best Public Middle School in Jackson County according to Niche.com
- Academic Team placed in the Top 10 at state PAGE Academic Bowl
- National Parks Exploration in California
- 25 club options for extracurricular involvement
- 15 athletic opportunities
- Weather balloon launch and research study with Georgia Youth Science & Technology Centers (GYSTC)
- High standards of academic excellence and performance
- Award-winning fine arts program
- Distinctive outdoor classroom learning opportunities
- National Blue Ribbon School



*Ms. Carol Ann Knight*  
*Principal*



706-367-2882



100 Dragon Drive  
Jefferson, GA 30549

# JEFFERSON HIGH SCHOOL

*Legacy in Educational Excellence*



96.6%  
Graduation  
Rate



- #1 Best Public High School in Jackson County according to Niche.com
- U.S. News & World Report National Best School
- AP Honor School: AP STEM Achievement
- WWII Europe Trip and National Parks Exploration in Hawaii
- FBLA Gold Chapter of the Year
- FFA Gold Chapter Award – National and State
- Three Governor's Honors Participants
- 8 Region Championships: Comp Cheer, Football, Girls Cross Country, Volleyball, Boys Tennis, Duals Wrestling and Traditional Wrestling
- JHS Miracle Club State Program of the Year
- AFJROTC National Champions in Exhibition and Drill Competitions (National Overall Division Runner-up)
- Literary Team Region Champions
- Michael Ballman Appointment to U.S. Air Force Academy
- Band Selected to perform at GEMA



Jefferson High School Marching Band

10



Mr. Rob McFerrin  
Principal

706-367-2881

575 Washington Street  
Jefferson, GA 30549

# ATHLETIC ACCOLADES

## FALL SPORTS

- Competition Cheerleading - Region Champions, 5th in State
- Boys Cross Country - Region Runner-Up, 7th in State
- Girls Cross Country - Region Champions, 14th in State
- Football - Region Champions, State Playoffs
- Volleyball - Region Champions, State Final Four



The Jefferson Athletics Booster Club completed a capital campaign for a Jumbotron at Memorial Stadium. It was used for Football, Track, Graduation and Beta Club used it for a Community Movie Night. Thank you to the many individuals, businesses, and to the Athletics Booster Club for your support with this project.



## SPRING SPORTS

- Baseball - State Playoffs
- Bass Fishing - 6th in the State
- Girls Golf - 6th in State
- Boys Golf - 12th in the State
- Girls Soccer - Region Runner Up, Sweet 16
- Boys Soccer - State Playoffs
- Slow Pitch Softball - Area Champions
- Boys Tennis - Region Champions, State Playoffs
- Girls Tennis - Region Runner Up, Sweet 16
- Boys Track & Field - Region Runner Up, 11th in State
- Girls Track & Field - Region Champions, 9th in State

## WINTER SPORTS

- Girls Basketball - Region Champions, State Playoffs
- Boys Basketball - Region Runner Up, State Playoffs
- Boys & Girls Swim & Dive - 8th in State
- Wrestling - Region Duals & Traditional Champions, Duals State Champion & Traditional State Champion



Seventeen (17) students signed letters of intent to continue their athletic and academic careers at the college level.

# AIR FORCE JROTC



Jefferson High School's AFJROTC won the Southeast Regional Drill Competition on November 5th, 2022, placing first in the Armed and Unarmed Divisions. The team competed in the Air Force Nationals in Dayton Oh, on March 18th, 2023, winning National Championship titles in the Armed and Unarmed Exhibition competitions. They were also overall runner-ups in the Armed and Unarmed Team Divisions.

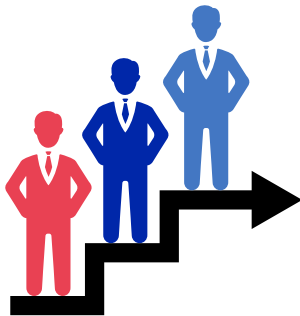
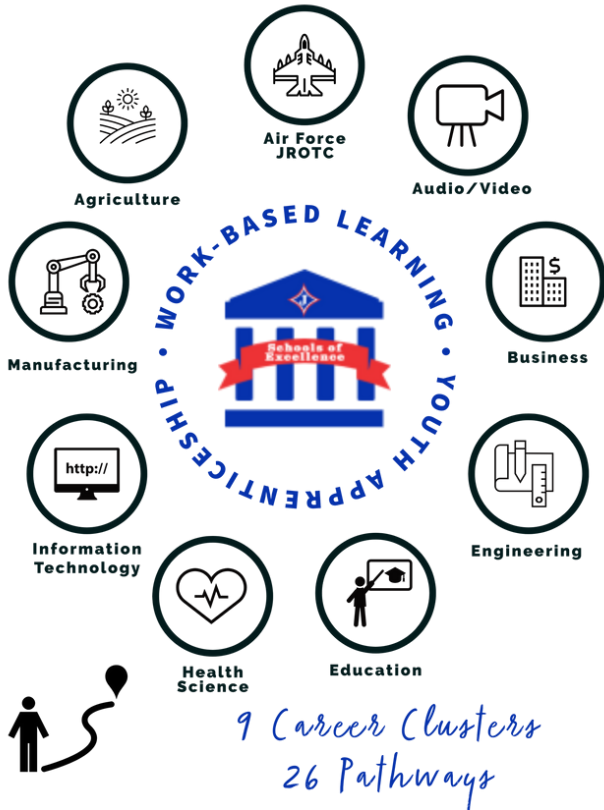
*National  
Champions*



**Michael Ballman appointed to the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, CO.**

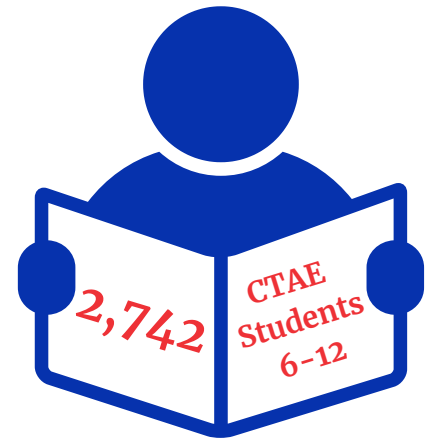


# SCHOOLS OF EXCELLENCE

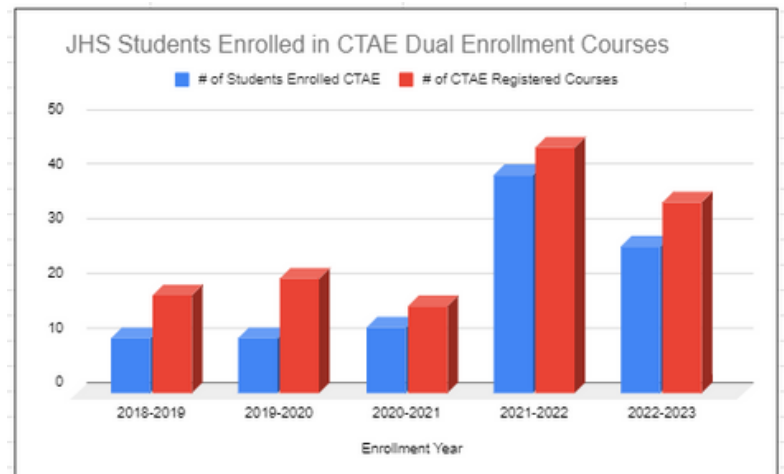


## BY THE NUMBERS

- 9 Career Clusters
- 26 Career Pathways
- 1 School-Based Enterprise
- 18 Middle & High School Teachers
- 5 CTAE Student Organizations
- 211 Industry Credentials



**99.4% of CTAE pathway concentrators at JHS entered a post-program track in the workforce, military, or post-secondary education.**



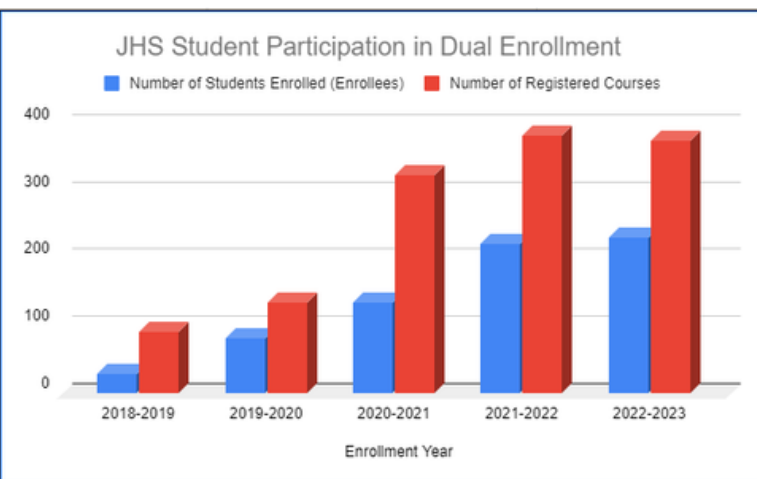
**99.4%  
Graduation  
Rate of CTAE  
Completers**



# ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT



Georgia Milestones EOG and EOC results exceed RESA and state averages for all subject area tests.



## Work-Based Learning

Over **138**  
WBL Students



Over **100**  
Business Partners



Over **\$364,638**  
Total Wages Earned

# OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE

## Transportation

- 1300 +** Bus Riders
- 16** Regular Routes
- 2** Special Needs Routes
- 1** Rutland Route

## School Nutrition

- 348,365** Total Lunches Served
- 151,723** Total Breakfasts Served
- 1935** Average Daily Breakfasts
- 843** Average Daily Lunches

# JMS EXPANSION

Jefferson Middle School will operate in newly constructed classrooms (9) beginning with the 2023-2024 school year, along with a state-of-the-art band room and new agriculture lab/classroom. JMS also add 60 new parking spaces as part of the Phase 1 expansion project.



## BOOK MOBILE LAUNCHED



- 20 Travel Days
- 16 Volunteers
- 629 Patrons
- 733 Books Circulated

The inaugural JCS Book Mobile ride commenced on Tuesday, May 30, with over 1300 books on board. This bright, cheerful "library on wheels" traveled to local neighborhoods and other community locations throughout the summer. The Book Mobile with books geared for students in PreK through fifth grade was available to any JCS student. Patrons could visit any location on the schedule to check out or return books.

# STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

The 2022-2023 Superintendent's Student Advisory Council (SAC) served dutifully throughout this past school year. Three students represented each grade from kindergarten to twelfth grade in the council's first year with the goal of enhancing the student experience at JCS.



2022 - 2023

# TEACHER ADVISORY COUNCIL



The Jefferson City School System's recent implementation of a Teacher Advisory Council allows teachers the opportunity to provide feedback on current processes and procedures as well as offer new ideas for more effective operations. The Teacher Advisory Council is comprised of each school's Teacher of the Year and two additional teachers in each building.

# 2023 RETIREES

Jefferson City Schools recognized fourteen retirees for the 2022-2023 school year. We wish these incredible individuals a happy retirement and best wishes in their future endeavors.



*Congratulations  
JCS Retirees!*

Penny Cain, Chuck Cook, Jean Conner,  
Harry Cooper, Mike Doolittle, Susan Fouche,  
David Hembree, Bridgett McCullough, Lorie Roberts,  
Donna Shaw, Donna Shope, Melanie Stoudenmire,  
Marion Stem and Jackie Thurmond

# PARTNERS IN EDUCATION



Community partners are vital to the success of our school system and its operations. Without the support of our community partners, JCS would not be able to provide the level of educational excellence that we strive to provide. The contributions they make to our school system make a positive impact on the education of our students.



# JEFFERSON CITY SCHOOLS

*Thank You*

**Readers' Choice**  
*The Best of Jackson County*

**2023**

*"Best Public School System"*

*Presented by  
The Jackson Herald*



706-367-2880



[jeffcityschools.org](https://jeffcityschools.org)



Jefferson City Schools  
345 Storey Lane  
Jefferson, GA 30549



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social media!



@jeffcityschools



@Jeffersoncityschools