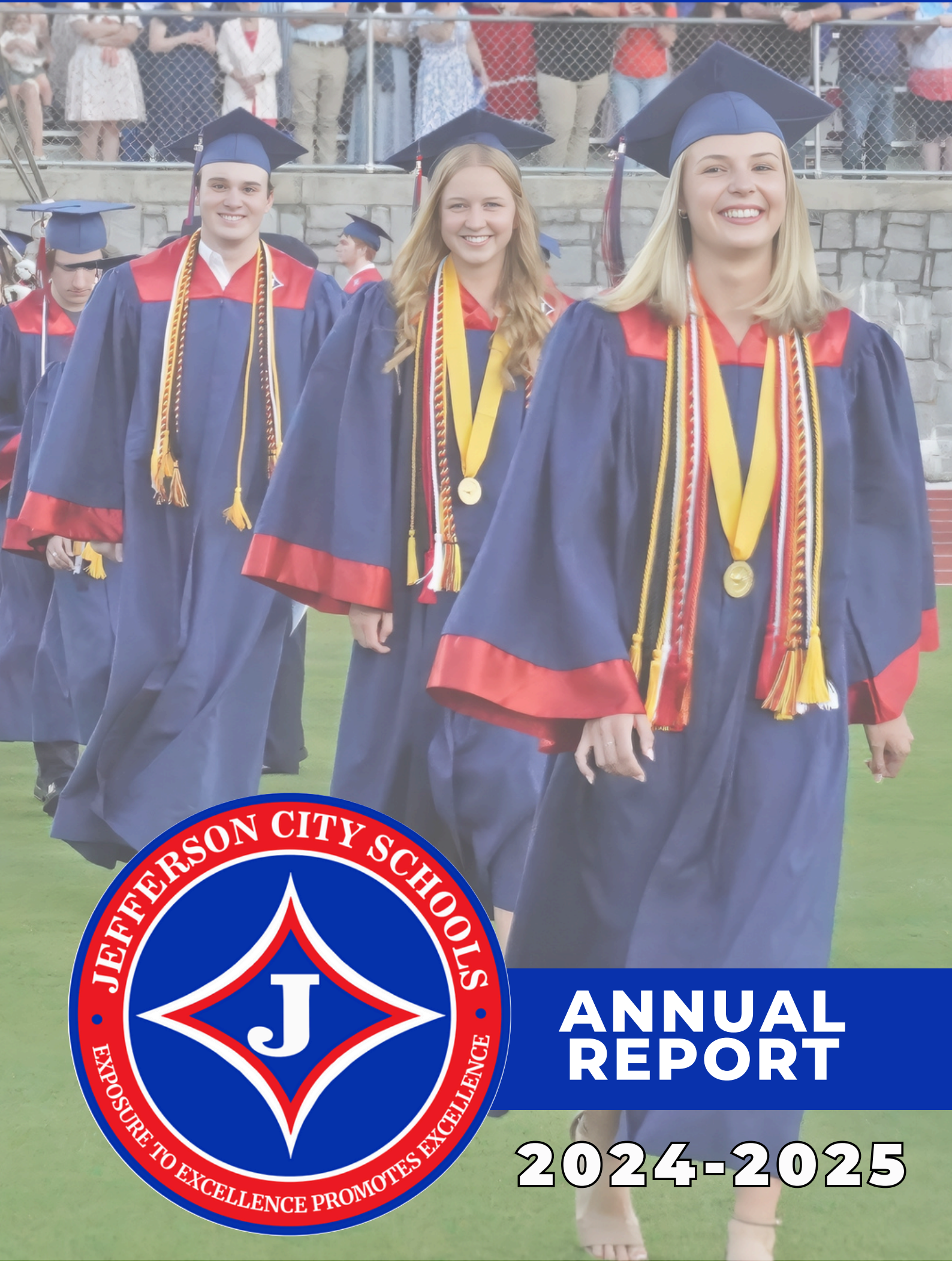




JEFFERSON CITY SCHOOLS



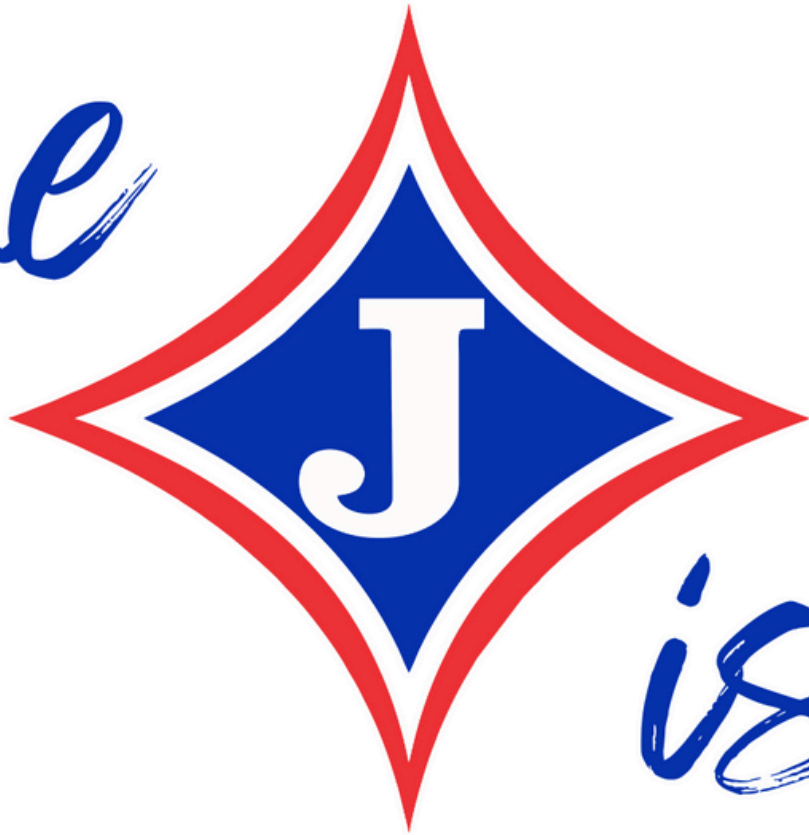
**ANNUAL
REPORT**

2024-2025

HOME

is where

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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 can we 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 2024-2025 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



The Jefferson City School System has been in existence for over 200 years, having a rich history and strong reputation built on excellence. Intentional planning and deliberate actions have led to long-term success. The exceptional work that is done in our schools begins with the visionary leadership of board members who are truly committed to doing what is best for students. Our system and school leaders and staff members are dedicated to providing the best educational services for the students enrolled in Jefferson City Schools.

From the moment children walk into our classrooms until they exit as high school graduates, it is our responsibility to implement challenging programs and equitable learning experiences that enable all students to achieve their full potential. Our academic focus is centered on high expectations and rigorous instruction to ensure maximum performance of all students. The Jefferson City School System continues to be one of the top-ranked school districts locally, regionally and statewide, which is the direct result of collaborative efforts on the part of students, staff, parents and community.

Please take some time to review the 2024-2025 Annual Report to learn more about the educational progress of our school system. Included in this document is an overview of state-mandated assessment results, college and career readiness data and demographic and budgetary information, along with accomplishments and notable achievements within the academics, athletics, arts and other extracurricular programs.

We will continue to uphold high standards for our students and staff. We will work diligently to strengthen the partnerships with our families in support of student learning. I am honored to serve our school system and community and appreciate your willingness to work alongside us in our continued pursuit of excellence!

Best,
Donna R. McMullan
Superintendent

BOE ACHIEVEMENTS



Board members pictured left to right: Ashley Smith, Vice Chairman Willie Hughey, Brantley Porter, Superintendent Dr. Donna McMullan, Board Chairman Ronnie Hopkins, Treasurer Guy Dean Benson and Lisa Richmond.

JCS BOE Achieves 2024 GSBA Exemplary School Board Status

JCS is proud to share the achievement and status of the Georgia School Boards Association's (GSBA) 2024 **Exemplary School Board Recognition** for our school system. This is the eighth 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 2024 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 was also selected for the prestigious, inaugural cohort of the GSBA **Excellence in Governance Institute**. JCS is one of only four school systems chosen for this highly selective program, which is designed to strengthen governance practices and enhance student outcomes through innovative leadership development.

JCS was previously awarded **Governance Team of the Year**. This prestigious award honors Georgia's top board/superintendent team that best demonstrates its commitment to maximizing student achievement and enhancing trust and support for public education in its community. The JCS BOE has also received the **Leading Edge** award every available year since the program's inception.

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

343 Certified Employees

161 Support Staff

504 Total Employees

Student Population

- 4,286 Total Enrollment
- 73.8% White
- 7.6% Black
- 10.3% Hispanic
- 5.2% Multiracial
- 2.7% Asian
- 2.6% English Learners
- 21% Gifted
- 13.2% Special Needs
- 27 Native Languages

Technology



- Upgraded wireless infrastructure with latest technology
- Continued support of the 1:1 student device initiative; purchased 1,000 student devices to replace aging equipment
- Continued professional learning
- Upgraded staff devices

*Exposure to
Excellence
Promotes
Excellence*



**MISSION: To Graduate Fully
Functioning Adults**

SAFETY & SECURITY



A Top Priority

Safety remains a top priority at Jefferson City Schools. Every school has a dedicated School Resource Officer, enhanced visitor procedures, upgraded security cameras and access systems and augmented window safety measures.

During the 2024-2025 school year, staff participated in extensive training, including CPR and AED certification, Stop the Bleed, Avoid, Deny, Defend (CRASE), Behavior Threat Assessment and Emergency Care.

District-wide initiatives this year included a Safety Summit, crisis alert asset mapping, the installation of a new bus camera system, the Perry Weather on-site station, the School Dog reporting platform, and emergency communication system audits.

These efforts, combined with ongoing coordination with local and state law enforcement and emergency personnel, ensure that students, staff and the community remain safe and prepared.



Staff Training & Preparedness

- Safety Summit – Oct.
- Stop the Bleed – Nov.
- Safety Awareness, CPR & AED Training – Dec.
- Avoid, Deny, Defend (CRASE) – Nov. & Dec.
- Behavior Threat Assessment Training – Nov.
- Emergency Care Clinic for Coaches – March

Safety Equipment & Infrastructure

- Stop the Bleed Kits – 54 new kits distributed
- Bus Camera System
- Crisis Alert Asset Mapping – completed for each school
- Perry Weather On-Site Station – Aug.
- School Dog Reporting Platform

Communication & Coordination

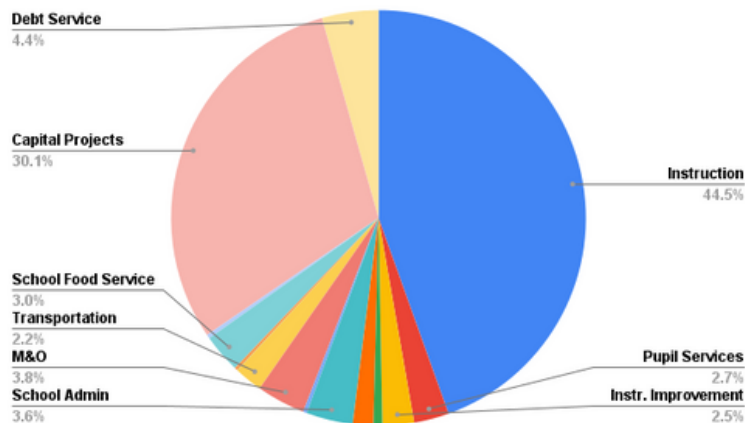
- Communication System Audit – radio & cellular networks
- Ongoing coordination with local and state law enforcement
- Safety and emergency response teams at each school

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

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



General Fund Expenditures



General Fund Revenue

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

State Funds	\$29,379,940
Local Funds	\$25,321,046
Federal Funds	\$2,828,688
SPLOST	\$6,746,581
Bonds	\$109,753,414
Total Revenue	\$174,029,669

Per \$1.00 Spent

\$0.78	Instructional/Instruction. Improvement/Media
\$0.08	Maintenance & Operations and Safety & Security
\$0.09	Administration/Insurance
\$0.03	Transportation
\$0.02	Other Support Services



85% of Budget
=
Salary & Benefits

Capital Projects

2025 Public Building Authority
Revenue Bonds Issued:
\$109,753,414

JMS Expansion, Renovation & Modification
JHS Expansion, Renovation & Modification
JES Expansion, Renovation & Modification
Daycare Renovation & Modification

Millage Rate (2024)

One of the lowest in Northeast Georgia

Jefferson	14.049
Jackson	15.395
Commerce	14.554
Barrow	15.500
Oconee	14.250
Gwinnett	19.100
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

Voters approved ED SPLOST VII on 3/18/25.

OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE



Transportation

1500 + Bus Riders
18 Regular Routes
4 Special Needs Routes



School Nutrition

383,558 Total Lunches Served
151,642 Total Breakfasts Served
857 Average Daily Breakfasts
2167 Average Daily Lunches



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.

**Awarded \$27,000
in scholarships**



**Provided
\$16,576
in grants to schools
+
Gifted
\$5,654
in books to schools**

REACH Scholarships

- \$9,000 yearly commitment for REACH Georgia Scholarship
- Mentoring and scholarship program for promising students
- Awarded three scholarship recipients this school year
- Jefferson School System Foundation provides a 100% funding match



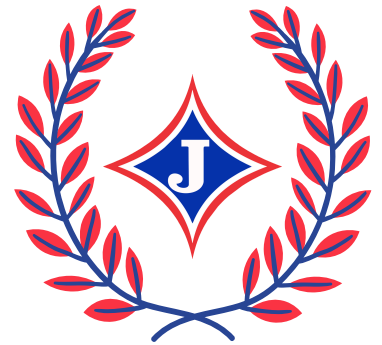
JHS CLASS OF 2025



62% of the graduating class of 2025
earned HOPE or ZELL eligibility

51% completed advanced
academics pathways

66% took a dual enrollment or
advanced placement course



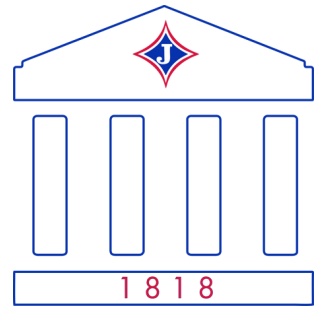
The Class of 2025 committed to the following colleges and universities:

Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College
Andrew College
Athens Technical College
Austin Peay State University
Brenau University
Brevard College
Brewton-Parker College
Chattahoochee Technical College
Clemson University
Cleveland Community College
College of Coastal Georgia
Colorado University - Boulder
Columbus State University
Denmark Technical College
Emanuel College
Erskine University
Florida Institute of Technology
Florida State University
Georgia Gwinnett College
Georgia Southern University
Georgia Institute of Technology
Georgia College & State University
Georgia Highlands College
Georgia Southwestern State University
Georgia State University
Gordon State College
Indiana Institute of Technology
Kennesaw State University
Kenyon College



Lander University
Lanier Technical College
Lee University
Lincoln Memorial University
Mercer University
Middle Tennessee State
Mississippi State University
Murray State University
North Georgia Tech
Piedmont University
Reinhardt University
Rider University
Savannah College of Art and Design
South Carolina State
South Georgia State College
South Georgia Technical College
Tarleton State University
Toccoa Falls College
Tri-County Technical College
Truett McConnell University
University of Georgia
University of North Georgia
University of Alabama
University of Mississippi
University of West Georgia
University of West Georgia
Valdosta State University
Wilkes University
Youngstown University

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 our 2024-2025 Teachers of the Year!

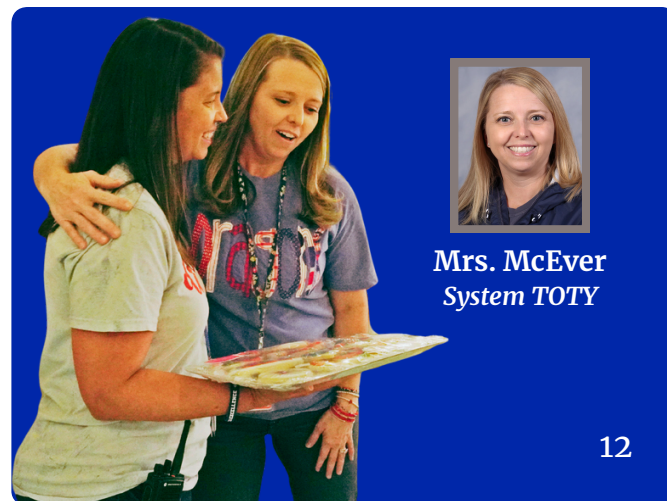
2024 -2025 Teachers of the Year

Erica Golding, JES

Timberlie McEver, JA & System

Janill Stephenson, JMS

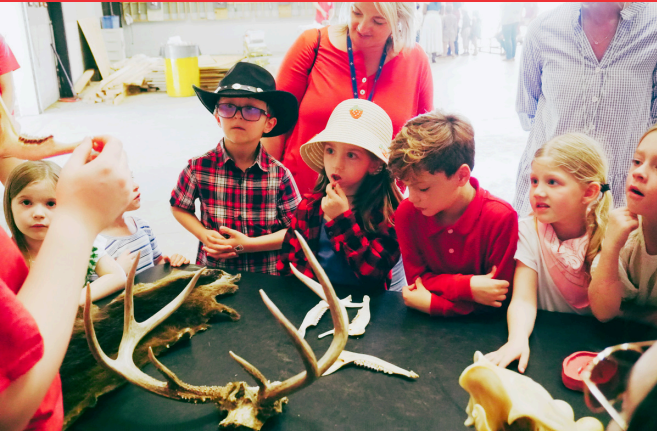
Drew Lawrence, JHS



Mrs. McEver
System TOTY

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
- Best PreK Program - The Best of Jackson County Readers' Choice
- Rigorous instruction in reading and math foundational skills
- Center for Early Learning PreK program on-site
- PreK-2 *Bright from the Start* Summer Jump Start program
- BioSTEAM lessons and outdoor learning activities with visits to JCS wetlands
- Dragon Den summer camp and after-school care
- Literacy on the Lawn parent engagement picnics
- Nationally renowned author visits
- National student winners in the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Art Contest



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
- 5th-grade band and chorus programs
- Off-site learning experiences for all students: Funk Heritage Center (3rd), Tybee Island/Georgia Coast (4th) and Washington, D.C. (5th)
- JCS Book Mobile throughout the community during summer
- 3 Top-Three Finishes in Science Olympiad Competition
- NEGA Regional GaSTC Student Competition winners
- BETA Club - 4th/5th grades
- Safety Patrol - 5th grade
- Musical performances for all grades
- Family engagement opportunities - Picture Book Picnic and Parent Academy



*Ms. Jessica Ferguson
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
- National Blue Ribbon School
- National Parks exploration in California & Florida
- 26 club options for extracurricular involvement
- 15 athletic opportunities
- Science Olympiad & Academic teams
- JMS Literary Magazine featuring student art and writings
- Gold Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia grant for outdoor classroom
- High standards of academic excellence and performance
- Award-winning fine arts program
- Distinctive outdoor classroom learning opportunities
- AFJROTC year-long program for students in eighth grade
- Community service project opportunities for students
- CTAE Pathways for eighth grade students: Business Education, Agriculture, Fine Arts, Healthcare and JROTC



Ms. Carol Ann Knight
Principal

706-367-2882

100 Dragon Drive
Jefferson, GA 30549

JEFFERSON HIGH SCHOOL

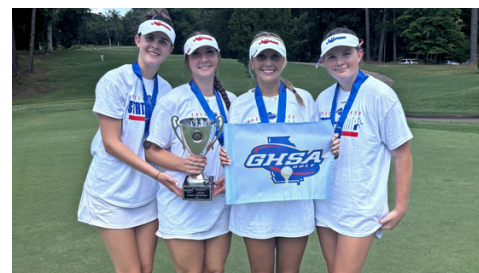
Legacy in Educational Excellence



98.2%
Graduation
Rate



- #1 Best Public High School in Jackson County per Niche.com
- U.S. News & World Report National Best School (Top 6% in Nation)
- AP Honor School recognitions: AP School of Distinction, AP STEM School, AP STEM Achievement School
- Global Learning Experiences: WWII Europe Trip, Hawaii National Parks Trip and Scotland Exchange Program
- Participants in Governor's Honors, National Merit Scholarship Selection and Jackson EMC Washington Youth Tour Delegation
- 34 UGA Certificate of Merit winners
- London New Year's Day Parade (JHS Dragon Regiment)
- Young Georgia Authors NEGA RESA Winner
- 45 Inductees into National Honor Society
- 4 State Championships (Volleyball, Boys Traditional and Boys Duals Wrestling, Girls Golf), 4 State Runner-Up Titles, 7 Region/Area Championships, Every Athletic Program Reached Post-Season Play
- AFJROTC - National Champions (Armed Exhibition Division), National Runner-Up (Overall Armed Division)
- 17 National Spanish Honor Society inductees
- FFA: National Chapter Award - Gold Emblem, 12 State Degree Recipients, Forestry Superior Chapter Champion
- CTAE: 9 Pathways and 25 Career Clusters, 11 Teaching as a Pathway (TAP) Signees and 15 Healthcare Pathway Signees
- 2025 GADA Director's Cup Champion (AAA) with Highest Point Total Among All Classifications
- LGPE - All "Superior" Ratings: Chorus, Concert Band and Wind Ensemble
- Yearbook: Jostens' "Best of the Best" for Excellence in Design and Georgia Scholastic Press Association's "Superior" Rating



Ms. Jenny Hardy
Principal

706-367-2881

575 Washington Street
Jefferson, GA 30549

SCHOOLS OF EXCELLENCE



Work - Based Learning



Agriculture



Air Force JROTC



Audio/Video



Business



Education



Engineering



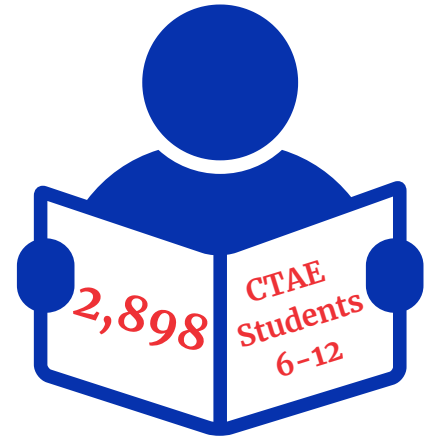
Health Science



Information Technology



Manufacturing

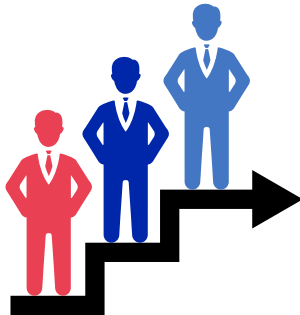


99% of CTAE pathway concentrators at JHS entered a post-program track in the workforce, military or post-secondary education.

Youth Apprenticeship



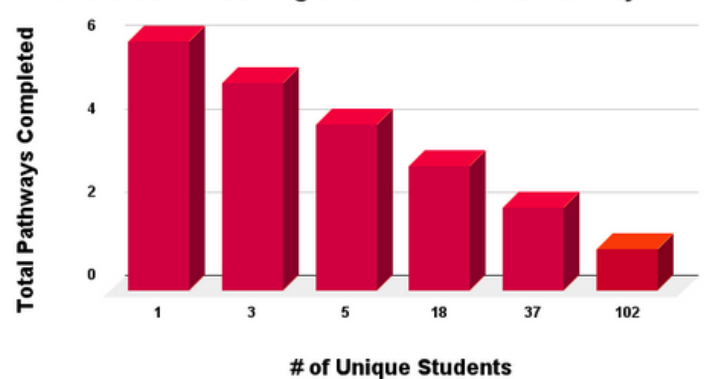
9 Career Clusters
25 Pathways



BY THE NUMBERS

- 9 Career Clusters
- 25 Career Pathways
- 1 School-Based Enterprise
- 19 Middle & High School Teachers
- 5 JHS and 2 JMS CTAE Student Organizations
- 267 Industry Credentials

JHS Students Earning One or More CTAE Pathway



55% of the Class of 2025 completed at least one CTAE pathway



ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT



JCS students consistently outperform both NEGA RESA and state averages on Georgia Milestones End-of-Grade and End-of-Course assessments.



- 126 students
- 471 courses completed
- 1,413 college hours earned

95 students completed 350 AP courses



Work-Based Learning

Over 183
WBL Students



Over 80
Business Partners



30% of the Class of 2025 participated in Work-Based Learning

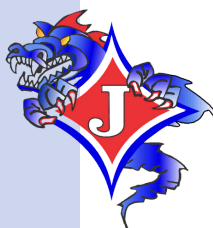


Over \$500,729
Total Wages Earned

ATHLETIC ACCOLADES

FALL SPORTS

- Competition Cheerleading - 3rd in State
- Game Day Cheerleading - State Qualifier
- Girls Cross Country - Region Runner-Up, 7th in State
- Boys Cross Country - Region Runner-Up, 3rd in State
- Football - Region Champions, State Runner-Up
- Volleyball - Region Runner-Up, **2024 State Champions**
- Softball - State Sweet 16



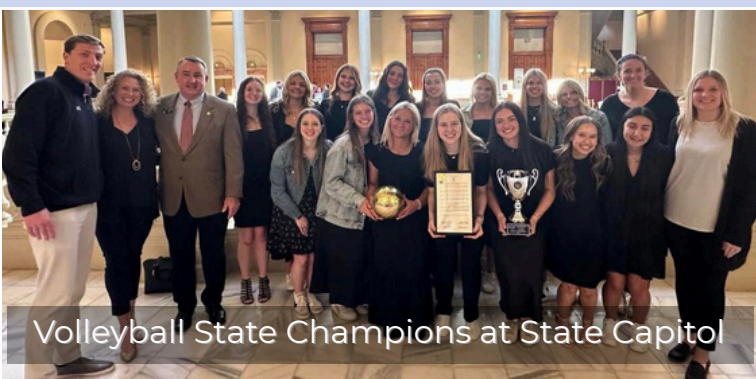
AAA

*Director's Cup
Champions*



2025

Jefferson High School Athletics earned the 2025 GADA Director's Cup, posting the highest point total in Class AAA and the top overall score across all classifications in Georgia. This achievement reflects an outstanding year of competition, with four state championships, four state runner-up finishes and every program advancing to state-level competition.



Volleyball State Champions at State Capitol

SPRING SPORTS

- Baseball - State Elite 8
- Bass Fishing - State Qualifiers
- Girls Golf - **2025 State Champions**
- Boys Golf - Area 3 Champions, 5th in State
- Girls Soccer - Region Champions, State Runner-Up
- Boys Soccer - State Final 4
- Softball Slow Pitch - Region Champions, State Final 4
- Girls Tennis - State Elite 8
- Boys Tennis - State Playoffs
- Girls Track & Field - Regional Champion, 3rd in State
- Boys Track & Field - Region Champions, 2nd in State

Thirty four (34) student-athletes signed letters of intent to continue their athletic and academic careers at the collegiate level.



WINTER SPORTS

- Girls Basketball - State Sweet 16
- Boys Basketball - State Elite 8
- Girls Swim & Dive - 3rd in State
- Boys Swim & Dive - 10th in State
- Girls Wrestling - State Traditional Runner-Up
- Boys Wrestling - Duals Region Champions, Traditional Region Champions, **2025 Duals State Champions**, **2025 Traditional State Champions**



Early Signing Day, 2024



Spring Signing Day, 2025

JMS EXPANSION

Opening for the 2025-2026 school year, Jefferson Middle School will welcome students with a striking new front façade and main entrance for a major expansion project designed to support growth and enhance the student experience.



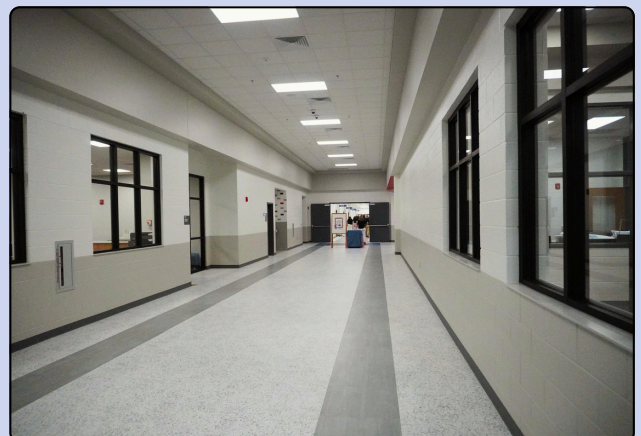
The latest phase (Phase II) introduced a new connections wing with a modern administrative suite, a spacious media center, updated CTAE classrooms/labs, a new gymnasium, an orchestra room and locker rooms, creating a state-of-the-art learning environment.



The first phase, completed the previous school year, added 11 classrooms – including an agriculture classroom with a lab and outdoor learning area – a relocated greenhouse and a new band room with an ensemble practice space.



The final phase, now underway, will renovate the original building, including all classrooms, while transforming the former gym into practice areas for cheerleading, dance and wrestling, and adding a new weight room.



Together, these improvements reflect Jefferson City Schools' ongoing investment in excellence.



LONDON PARADE



The Jefferson High School Dragon Regiment made history by performing in the prestigious 2025 London New Year's Day Parade.

Sixty-one students showcased their trademark energy and precision along a two-mile route past iconic landmarks. The experience provided students with a unique cultural opportunity and a memory they will carry for a lifetime.

Their performance highlighted the band's award-winning excellence and brought international recognition.



AIR FORCE JROTC



The Jefferson High School Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFJROTC) earned national honors at Open Drill Nationals in Dayton, Ohio, capturing the National Championship in Armed Exhibition and National Runner-Up in Overall Armed titles. They also earned top-three finishes in Armed Inspection, Unarmed Inspection and Unarmed Exhibition.

Earlier in the year, the program earned a perfect 100 rating on its annual formal assessment and earned the Distinguished Unit with Merit designation for 2024–2025.

National Champions



Chief Budell Willis and Major Bryan Watson were each honored with the 2025 Air Force JROTC Outstanding Instructor Award as a result of the excellence of the program.



STAFF DAYCARE

Jefferson City Schools will open **The Dragon Nest**, a new staff daycare, for the upcoming school year. The facility is prepared to welcome up to 35 children and will be staffed by a nurturing team of eight.

The renovation and planning completed this year bring to life a space designed to give JCS employees peace of mind, knowing their little ones are close by in loving hands.

This investment ensures teachers can give their best at school while their little ones are cared for just steps away.



A TIME TO PLAY



The Center for Early Learning at Jefferson City Schools launched *A Time to Play* last year, a monthly playgroup for children from birth to age four and their caregivers.

The program gives families a welcoming space to connect through songs, stories and hands-on play while supporting early development and building community ties.

SUMMER BOOK MOBILE



- 18 Travel Days
- 18 Volunteers
- 439 Patrons
- 1,476 Books Circulated

In its third year, the JCS Book Mobile continued rolling into neighborhoods and community locations with more than 1,300 books on board. This “library on wheels” encouraged readers to “Build their Inner D.R.A.G.O.N.” throughout summer by promoting determination, resilience and accountability through books.

Participants enjoyed special guests and hands-on activities that connected reading with real-world learning, the community and the environment.

PROPANE FLEET & STATION

Jefferson City Schools added propane-powered buses to its fleet last fall, marking a new step toward cleaner and more sustainable student transportation. In May, the district held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to open its on-site propane fueling station, which supports the growing fleet and positions JCS for continued expansion in clean energy. These efforts reduce emissions, lower fuel and maintenance costs and support the district’s sustainability goals.



STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

The 2024-2025 Superintendent's Student Advisory Council (SAC) served dutifully throughout this past school year. Three students represented each grade from kindergarten to twelfth grade with the goal of enhancing the student experience at JCS.



TEACHER ADVISORY COUNCIL



The Jefferson City School System's 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 representatives from each school.

2025 RETIREES

Jefferson City Schools recognized seven retirees for the 2024-2025 school year. We wish these incredible individuals a happy retirement and best wishes in their future endeavors.

*Congratulations
to our
2025 Retirees*



2025 System Retirees

Sherri Bruno (JHS), Marcia Edwards (Central Office), Brian Moore (Central Office), Christy Potts (JMS), Cleda Howard (JHS); Not pictured: Lori Bartek (JES), Jody Smith (JES)

PARTNERS IN EDUCATION



Community partners are essential to the success of Jefferson City Schools. Their support - whether through financial contributions, volunteer service, work-based learning or the gift of time - helps us sustain the standard of educational excellence we strive for each day. These efforts create a lasting, positive impact on our schools, our students and the overall learning experience.



JEFFERSON CITY SCHOOLS

Exposure to Excellence Promotes Excellence



Readers' Choice

The Best of Jackson County

**"Best Public School System"
2024**

*Presented by
The Jackson Herald*



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Social Media!**



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@jeffersoncityschools



706-367-2880



jeffcityschoools.org



Jefferson City Schools
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