



Dragon Digest

December 22, 2025

One-Act Play Captures State Championship

The JHS Drama team brought home the GHSA Class AAA One-Act Play State Championship trophy earlier this month. Their production of *Over the River and Through the Woods* earned top honors, securing the program's second state trophy in school history after winning the region earlier this year.

Three performers received individual recognition: Benjamin Purdum and Rebecca Siler were named to the All-Star Cast and Jacob Johnson earned Best Actor honors. Congratulations to the entire cast and crew for their talent, hard work and dedication that made this outstanding achievement possible!



JES Sets Record with Largest Can Drive

Jefferson Elementary School set a new school record during its recent canned food drive, collecting 6,053 cans for a local food bank.

Students from PreK through second grade participated, with every grade level contributing to the effort. The drive was inspired by a schoolwide challenge to fill Principal Chrissy Joiner's office with cans. Once the goal was reached, a fun surprise during morning announcements featured a lighthearted whipped-cream pie moment



that delighted students and staff. This record-setting effort reflects the generosity of JES students and families and their commitment to helping others during the season of giving.

Ag Day 2025: Cultivating Curiosity for JA Students

Jefferson Academy students recently spent a meaningful day learning and exploring at the Jefferson "Ag Barn" during Ag Day 2025. Guided by FFA members, who shared their knowledge and passion, students experienced a variety of agricultural topics, including working with animals and horticulture, hands-on demonstrations with industry equipment and lessons on wildlife and aquaculture.

This event gave students a chance to connect classroom lessons with the important role agriculture plays in our community. The FFA mentors helped make these connections real and inspiring for younger learners.

With involvement from local partners such as Jackson EMC and Take Me Fishing Gary, Ag Day provided engaging, hands-on experiences that celebrate our region's rich agricultural heritage. Events like Ag Day introduce students to the many opportunities within agriculture and honor its vital place in our community.



JMS Students Explore Atlanta Landmarks

Jefferson Middle School's 8th graders, who study Georgia history as part of their curriculum, recently enjoyed an exciting field trip to Atlanta with hands-on experiences.

Students toured the Georgia State Capitol, took a historic ride through the Sweet Auburn neighborhood, enjoyed lunch at the beloved Varsity and wrapped up the day at the College Football Hall of Fame.

By exploring these important landmarks, students were able to bring to life the Georgia geography, history and government topics they study in the classroom. The trip reinforced their understanding of Georgia's role in state and national history, making their lessons tangible and more meaningful.



JHS Jazz Ensemble Shines at GSBA Conference

The Jefferson High School Jazz Ensemble delivered an unforgettable performance at the Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA) conference earlier this month, impressing school leaders and board members from across the state.

The ensemble's music quickly became a highlight of the event. Conference attendees praised the students' talent and stage presence, sharing glowing feedback throughout the gathering.

"The performance was just wonderful," said Ronnie Hopkins, chairman of the Jefferson City Schools Board of Education. "People came up to us all throughout the conference, commenting on how well the students performed."



The GSBA is a statewide nonprofit that supports local school boards by providing advocacy, training and leadership development to strengthen public education across Georgia.

PreK Wheel-A-Thon Celebrates Fitness and Family Fun

Earlier this month, PreK students rode around the JES track for a joyful celebration of fitness, fun and community during the first-ever Wheel-A-Thon! For three days, little riders pedaled bikes and scooters, ran and walked alongside friends and family, and filled the air with laughter and excitement.



This event wasn't just about fun. It was a fundraiser to support a new nature playground designed for our youngest learners. Thanks to the enthusiasm of parents and community members, the Wheel-A-Thon was a great success.

The event became memorable for everyone as children, parents and staff united to promote healthy habits. Thank you to all who helped create a space where PreK students can learn, play and explore in nature.

JHS Renovation and Expansion Underway

As previously announced, JCS has begun renovation and expansion work at Jefferson High School, following the near completion of the JMS project. Key improvements include:



- Additional classrooms to support enrollment growth
- New Career, Technical, and Agricultural Education (CTAE) labs
- New fine arts spaces: band, orchestra, chorus rooms, and black box theater
- Campus-wide renovations to modernize learning environments
- Multi-purpose outdoor facility for PE, fine arts, athletics, and community use
- JROTC Ranger Course and competition area
- Additional parking to accommodate the expanded campus

These updates reflect the district's commitment to safe, modern and flexible learning spaces.

Listen Now: The Anxious Generation Podcast

Abbie Vipperman, licensed professional counselor and JCS mental health therapist, is featured in the latest episode of *Tomorrow Together*, a podcast made right here in our community. The episode dives into *The Anxious Generation*, the same book that was the focus of this fall's JCS Parent Book Club led by Vipperman.



If you missed the book study or want to hear the conversation further explored, this episode is a great way to catch up. It covers the pressures kids and teens face today – from mental health and social challenges to technology – and offers practical tips for parents.

[Listen to Tomorrow Together to hear more.](#) *Tomorrow Together* is produced by Northeast Georgia Business RadioX.

Readers' Choice Voting Ends December 31

Voting is open through December 31 for the "Best of Jackson County" Readers' Choice from *The Jackson Herald* and *The Braselton News* newspapers, including categories such as Best School System, Best PreK, Best Day Care and Best Sports Family. Jefferson City Schools has been honored as Best School System every year.



If you are a subscriber, you can find the ballot on the back page of your newspaper. Additional copies are available at Mainstreet News in downtown Jefferson, as well as newspaper boxes and local grocery and convenience stores throughout Jackson County.

Upcoming Important Dates

- **Winter Break: Dec. 22 - Jan. 5** (Students return Jan. 6.)
- **BOE Meeting: Jan. 8**
- **MLK Jr. Day: Jan. 19** (student holiday)
- **PreK Registration: Opens Jan. 12**

[Click Here to See JCS Events Calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

Enjoy this selection of stories from around the school system ...

[JMS Academic Team Wins Region, Advances to State](#)

[JHS Names District GHP Nominees](#)

[JCS Celebrates Success at Special Olympics Basketball](#)

[JES Second Graders Hold "Quacktastic" Election](#)

[Eleven JHS Students Named to 2026 Junior Leadership Jackson Program](#)

[JHS Honors Veterans During Moving Annual Ceremony](#)

[Middle School Pays Tribute to Veterans](#)

[JHS Beta Club, Community Unite to Help Jefferson Children](#)

[JA Hosts Vibrant Art Show](#)

[Nine Jefferson Student-Athletes Commit During Fall Early Signing Period](#)

[Lady Dragons Basketball Enters New Era Under Alumnus Austin Thompson](#)

[JMS Students Dig Into Science with Hands-On Quarry Exploration](#)

[JCS Launches New Orchestra Program for 5th and 6th Grades](#)

[Dance Dragons Sweep Longhorn Dance Invitational](#)

[JHS Swim Dragons Post Strong Results at Tallulah Falls Holiday Invite](#)

[JHS TAP Students Apply Teaching Skills in Holiday Project](#)



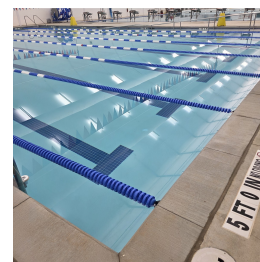
JA Students Explore the Outdoors at Rock Eagle

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JHS AFJROTC Drill Team Earns Southeast Regional Championship

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Ribbon Cutting Marks Opening of New Home for JCS Swim Teams

[Read More](#)

Sports Highlights

Dragons End Historic Football Season as State Runner-Up

The Dragons capped a historic 2025 season with a second consecutive appearance in the GHSA Class AAA State Championship, falling 27-7 to Sandy Creek at Mercedes-Benz Stadium. Jefferson entered the title game following another deep postseason run, marking back-to-back state championship appearances for the program. [Read More](#)



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Winter Sports

Winter Sports are in full swing. You can find [team schedules](#) on our website for Basketball, Bass Fishing, Cheer, Dance, Swim & Dive and Wrestling. GO DRAGONS!



Resources Links

[JCS Events Calendar](#)

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[School Calendar](#)

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