

Community Newsletter

First Edition!

Message from our Principal

Dear Jefferson Middle School Families,

As we move through the latter part of our school year, I am thrilled to introduce a new way for us to stay connected: our first-ever **Jefferson Middle School Family and Community Newsletter!**

While the year is already well underway, we believe it is never too late to enhance our partnership with you. At Jefferson, we believe in the potential of every student and recognize that a strong home-school connection is essential for their academic, social, and emotional success. This newsletter is designed to be a consistent bridge between our hallways and your homes.

What to Expect in Each Issue

To help you stay informed and engaged, each edition of our newsletter will include:

- **School Updates:** A "What's Happening Now" section featuring highlights of current classroom activities and student achievements.
- **Monthly Calendar:** A clear look at upcoming events, from school-wide celebrations to important academic deadlines.
- **Family & Community Resources:** Curated resources to support your student's wellness and success, including links to local community programs and mental health tips.
- **Celebrations:** Spotlights on the kindness and effort we see in our students every day.

Our goal is to provide you with a "one-stop-shop" for everything you need to know about life at JMS. We want this to be a valuable resource for you, so we encourage you to reach out with any feedback or topics you would like to see covered in future editions.

Thank you for your continued trust and for partnering with us to make Jefferson Middle School a remarkable place for our students to grow. We look forward to finishing this school year stronger and more connected than ever!

Partnering in Education,
Steve Smith
 smsmith@okcps.org



Jefferson's Teacher of the Year - Ms. Alana Hill

Ms. Alana Hill is a graduate of Moore High School. She obtained her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Special Education from the University of Central Oklahoma. Ms. Hill is in her 38th year as a special education teacher -- all of those years at Jefferson Middle School. Over the years, Ms. Hill has served as teacher, Department Co-Chair, Cooperating Teacher, Hospitality Chair, and on the Faculty Advisory Committee. She has always been (and continues to be) a valued member of the Statesman teaching staff as a trusted colleague and hard-working leader. Jefferson is PROUD to have Ms. Hill as our 2025-2026 Teacher of the Year!

Employee of the Month:

For the month of February, our employees of the month are...

Mr. Eddie Woodburn
and
Ms. Annette Lara!

Thank you so much for all that you do to make our school and community a better place!

March is WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH!

March 8 is International Women's Day, a day for remembering the struggle for gender equality across the globe.

We are glad to have so many wonderful women teachers and staff who are intelligent, kind, and hardworking. Our school aims to serve the young women in our community to reach their fullest potential and become who they want to be!

Student of the Month:

For the month of February, our students of the month are...

Alexa A.
Arianna C.
Josh F.
Aleigha N.
Cortez H.
Aniyla T.
Arturo A.
Joy H.
Alexa R.
Kimberly S.

Congratulations, everyone! You make the Jefferson community sparkle!

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"I am no longer accepting the things I cannot change. I am changing the things I cannot accept."
— Dr. Angela Y. Davis



February was BLACK HISTORY MONTH!

The month of February was Black History Month! We have been delighted by all of the wonderful school projects that honor our community's history.

The colors for BHM come from the flag of Ethiopia and many other African Nations. The colors also come from the Pan-African flag, which represents the unity of African people no matter where they live and symbolizes Black Liberation in the United States.

Here are what the colors symbolize:

- **Black:** Represents the resilient people whose existence as a nation is honored and affirmed by the existence of a flag.
- **Red:** Symbolizes the blood of innocent Black lives that have been shed throughout history.
- **Yellow:** Stands for optimism, justice and equality for everyone.
- **Green:** Symbolizes Africa's rich greenery and other natural resources.

We are all very grateful for our Black teachers, students, and staff. We would not be the community we are without their excellence! Happy Black History Month!

Clubs and Activities

Reading Club meets **every Tuesday & Thursday** from 4-5pm. (This may be canceled on State Testing days. Communication will be sent out if canceled.)

Any student can come to the Reading club! Just show up in the library after school. Please have a ride arranged for pick up at 5.

We would love to welcome parents to join in reading club! They are free to participate & practice their English or just observe the process. Parents will need to fill out a background check before attending. Please contact Ms. Walker for more information & link to the form.



Student Council is hosting a school dance for fifth and sixth graders on **Thursday, March 12**, as well as one for seventh and eighth grade on **Friday, March 13**.

All City Secondary Arts Show will be 5:00-6:30pm at the Oklahoma Contemporary Art Museum on **March 3**. Come see the fantastic art work done by OKCPS students!



OKCPS Stompdance will be **March 7** at the Southeast High School gymnasium. Supper is at 6:00pm, dancing is at 7:00pm. Bring money for concessions, vendors, and raffles!

5th grade will be going on a **field trip March 13** - permission slips are due **March 6**. Please contact Ms. Martinez for more details.

Resource Spotlight: Legal Assistance



Finding the right person who can help you in a jam can be difficult, especially when you're dealing with something that requires a lawyer's assistance. Luckily, you are not alone! There are many resources to help out at low or no cost, regardless of citizenship status.

If you need help finding general legal information,

- **OKLaw.org** provides information about the law, your legal rights in many areas and organizations offering legal help to moderate and low income Oklahomans.

If you need to be connected to legal assistance,

- **OkLegalConnect.org** can connect you with a low or no-cost legal agency who can help with just about any legal problem you can think of, from disability to tribal law to immigration assistance.

If your legal problem is not in Oklahoma,

- **LawHelp.org** provides links to websites in all 50 states with information about nonprofit legal aid programs, legal resources, court forms and more.

An Academic Update from Ms. Muir in Literature & Writing

8th grade is learning about the Civil Rights Movement & Martin Luther King Jr with story "Martin's Big words". Grammar focus is writing about the past using past tense verbs.

7th grade is learning about "How the past impacts future" with a story called "Immigrants Today". With grammar focus on making comparisons with comparative words

6th grade is learning about "What other cultures give to the world" with the story "Choco Choco Boom Boom". Grammar focus on descriptive adjectives and suffix -ous.

5th grade is learning about "How people make Music." with the story "The World of Instruments". Grammar focus on comparative adjectives "as+adjectives+as" and possessive adjectives "Its and It's".

Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) Make-Up Testing

All students who were absent for GATE testing earlier in the year, or students who are new to the district will take makeup tests on **March 12th**.

Ms. Covington's Class is Wild for Dr. Seuss!

Monday, March 2nd is Dr. Seuss' birthday. This is also Read Across America day. My students will be celebrating all week by making Dr. Seuss crafts and reading his books. This will be an exciting week for my students! Be on the lookout for their displayed crafts and artwork. There is always time for people to stop in and read with them.

Community Support

School is for more than learning; if you are hungry, in need of the basic necessities such as toiletries or have other emergencies notify your child's counselor because they often have access to other assistance. We are here to help!

Our school has an in-school food pantry and free clothing closet, and our counselors are knowledgeable about other resources in OKC such as rent/utilities assistance, free hot meals, community education, and more!

An Academic Update from Ms. Hughes - Skill 6.3r8. Next CFA

We will be testing over inference and writing argumentative papers through **March 12**.

JMS POM STEALS THE SHOW AT ALL-CITY

The Jefferson Middle School Pom Squad participated in the OKCPS All-City Dance Showcase this past Friday. With a performance that displayed their pride in their culture, they began with their own version of a traditional Mexican folkloric dance quickly switching into a jazz/hip hop style dedicated to the reigning Miss Universe from Mexico. JMS engaged the crowd like no one else using their unique style and choreography to receive a standing ovation.

An Academic Update from Ms. Lima

5th grade is currently studying and classifying triangles as well as angles.



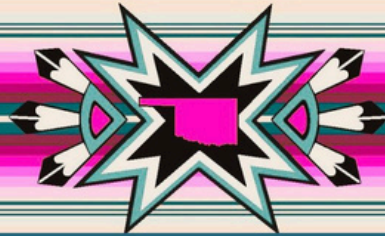
THE STATESMAN

Important Dates:

- **Every other Thursday:** popcorn and pickle sales \$1 each
- **March 3** - All City Art Show @ Oklahoma Contemporary 5:00pm
- **March 7** - OKCPS Stompdance @ Southeast HS Gym 6:00pm
- 5th grade will be going on a field trip **March 13** - permission slips are due **March 6**
- **March 12** - GATE makeup testing
- **March 12** - School dance for 5th and 6th grade
- **March 13** - School dance for 6th and 8th grade

5TH GRADE	SOCCER
6TH GRADE	BASEBALL
7TH GRADE	TRACK
8TH GRADE	

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
01	02 READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY 	03 7:30/8:30 AWAY @ SNEEGLE ALL CITY ARTS SHOW 5:00PM	04	05 7:30/8:30 HOME @ SNEEGLE 	06 PERMISSION SLIPS DUE	07 STOMP DANCE @ SOUTHEAST HS 6:00PM
08 INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY	09 7:30 *BOYS ONLY* HOME @ DOUGLAS HS	10	11	12  5:30/6:30 AWAY @ DOUGLAS HS SCHOOL DANCE 5TH & 6TH GRADE GATE MAKE-UP TESTING	13 FIELD TRIP SCHOOL DANCE 7TH & 8TH GRADE	14
15	16 	17	18	19	20 	21
S P R I N G B R E A K						
22	23 PD - NO SCHOOL	24 5:00/6:00 @ JEFFERSON	25	26  5:30/6:30 HOME @ TAFT 5:00/6:00 @ JEFFERSON	27 TBD	28
29	30	31 5:00/6:00 @ JEFFERSON 	01	02	03	04



11th Annual
Oklahoma City Public Schools
STOMP DANCE
MARCH 7, 2026

SOUTHEAST HIGH SCHOOL GYM
5401 S. Shields Blvd, OKC, OK 73129

** PARKING AND ENTRANCE ON SOUTH SIDE OF THE SCHOOL**

6PM SUPPER

7PM DANCING

MC: CHEBON KERNELL

VENDORS ● CONCESSIONS ● RAFFLES

