



JEFFERSON SCHOOL

Dear Jefferson Families,

We are excited to welcome our scholars, families, and staff to the 2026–2027 school year! It is an honor to continue serving the Jefferson School community as principal alongside Assistant Principal Renald Edwards. Together, we are committed to building on our successes and ensuring that every scholar experiences a year of growth, achievement, and belonging. We are grateful for our exceptional team of dedicated educators and staff, our amazing scholars, and our supportive families who make Jefferson such a special place.

As we begin a new school year, we are proud to celebrate the outstanding academic growth our students achieved last year. Our state assessment results showed meaningful increases in English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science, reflecting the hard work, perseverance, and dedication of our students, staff, and families. These gains are a testament to the strong partnerships between home and school, the commitment of our teachers to high-quality instruction, and our shared belief that every student can succeed. While we celebrate this progress, we remain focused on continuous improvement and are excited to build on this momentum as we work together to provide every student with an exceptional educational experience. We are also proud to celebrate Jefferson's recognition as a **PBIS Platinum School**, the highest level of acknowledgment for creating a positive, safe, and supportive learning environment for all scholars. This achievement reflects our unwavering commitment to teaching and reinforcing positive behavior, building strong relationships, and fostering a culture where every student feels valued, respected, and connected.

This year marks an important milestone for Jefferson as we prepare for our International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary Years Programme (PYP) Evaluation. This process provides an opportunity to reflect on our implementation of the IB framework and celebrate the ways our scholars, staff, and community embody the IB mission and learner profile every day. As an IB PYP World School, we remain committed to nurturing inquisitive, caring, and internationally minded scholars through engaging, student-centered learning experiences that encourage critical thinking, collaboration, and action. We look forward to showcasing the strong culture of inquiry, academic excellence, and global citizenship that defines the Jefferson learning community. In addition, our work as a Community School remains central to who we are. Through strong partnerships with families, community organizations, and service providers, we continue to support the whole child by expanding access to academic, social-emotional, and wellness resources. Together, these efforts ensure that Jefferson remains a place where scholars thrive academically, socially, and emotionally while families feel welcomed, supported, and engaged as valued partners in their children's education.

We are excited to continue and expand our Read to Succeed: Early Learners Literacy initiative as we strengthen our commitment to ensuring every scholar becomes a successful reader. Building on the progress made last year, we will expand to focus on providing our TK–3rd grade scholars with high-quality, research-based literacy instruction that develops strong foundational reading skills and fosters a lifelong love of reading. Families will once again have opportunities to participate in engaging reading challenges and activities that support literacy at home, while our teachers will continue to receive coaching, professional learning, and resources designed to accelerate student achievement. Through ongoing literacy assessments, targeted support, and strong partnerships between school and home, we remain dedicated to helping every scholar develop the confidence, skills, and enthusiasm needed to thrive as readers and learners.

Attending school regularly helps scholars feel better about school—and themselves. Start building this habit in preschool so they learn right away that going to school on time every day is important. Eventually, good attendance will be a skill that will help them succeed in high school and college. Being late to school may lead to poor attendance, as well. Please make sure that your scholar is at school every day on time, on time everyday.



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Jefferson scholars TK-6th grade start school at 8am and middle school scholars start school at 7:45am. **Our school-wide goal is to have a 95% attendance rate.**

We also offer the LEAP Academy after-school program. It is funded by the state and provides enrichment and learning opportunities after the regular school day for students in grades TK-8, Monday - Friday until 6 PM. Scholars participating will engage in art, athletics, cooking, science, technology, and also receive additional academic support. Space is limited, so complete [the registration](#) as soon as possible if your family is interested.

We are continuing our use of Parent Square at all schools district-wide as our primary communication tool to share information with families. All information from our school, as well as the district office, will be provided using ParentSquare. We encourage all families to download the app in the Apple or Google Play store as soon as possible to be able to access all the features and benefits. Please visit the NUSD [website](#) that has a page dedicated to all things ParentSquare, including how to access it, training, how-to guides, frequently asked questions, multiple videos, handouts, printed documents, and more. Please be sure to sign up!

As a reminder, the Welcome Center is a one-stop shop for families to enroll in NUSD schools, obtain immunizations and physicals, and access a variety of resources to support their students. Welcome Center hours are Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 4:30pm. Please contact our Constituent and Customer Services at customerservice@natomasunified.org or (916) 561-5253 for emergencies and urgent matters.

Important Dates and Events:

- **Middle School Orientation/Schedule Pick Up:** Monday, August 10th (4pm-5pm)
- **Jefferson Ice Cream Social:** Tuesday, August 11th (4pm-6pm)
- **First day of school:** Thursday, August 13th. **Start times: 7th/8th grade @7:45am; TK- 6th @ 8am.** Here is a [link](#) to the 26-27 school year's calendar.
- **Back to School Night:** Tuesday, August 18 (5:30pm-7pm)

Traffic always is more congested during the first few weeks of school. We are striving to lessen the impact of traffic in and around our school during drop off and pick up. We thank you in advance for cooperating with our staff in keeping all of our scholars and parents safe. I look forward to welcoming you and your students back to campus! **If you have any questions about our school, please do not hesitate to contact us at (916) 567-5580 or visit our website at <https://natomasunified.org/jfs>.**

Sincerely,

Ms. Danisha Keeler, Principal