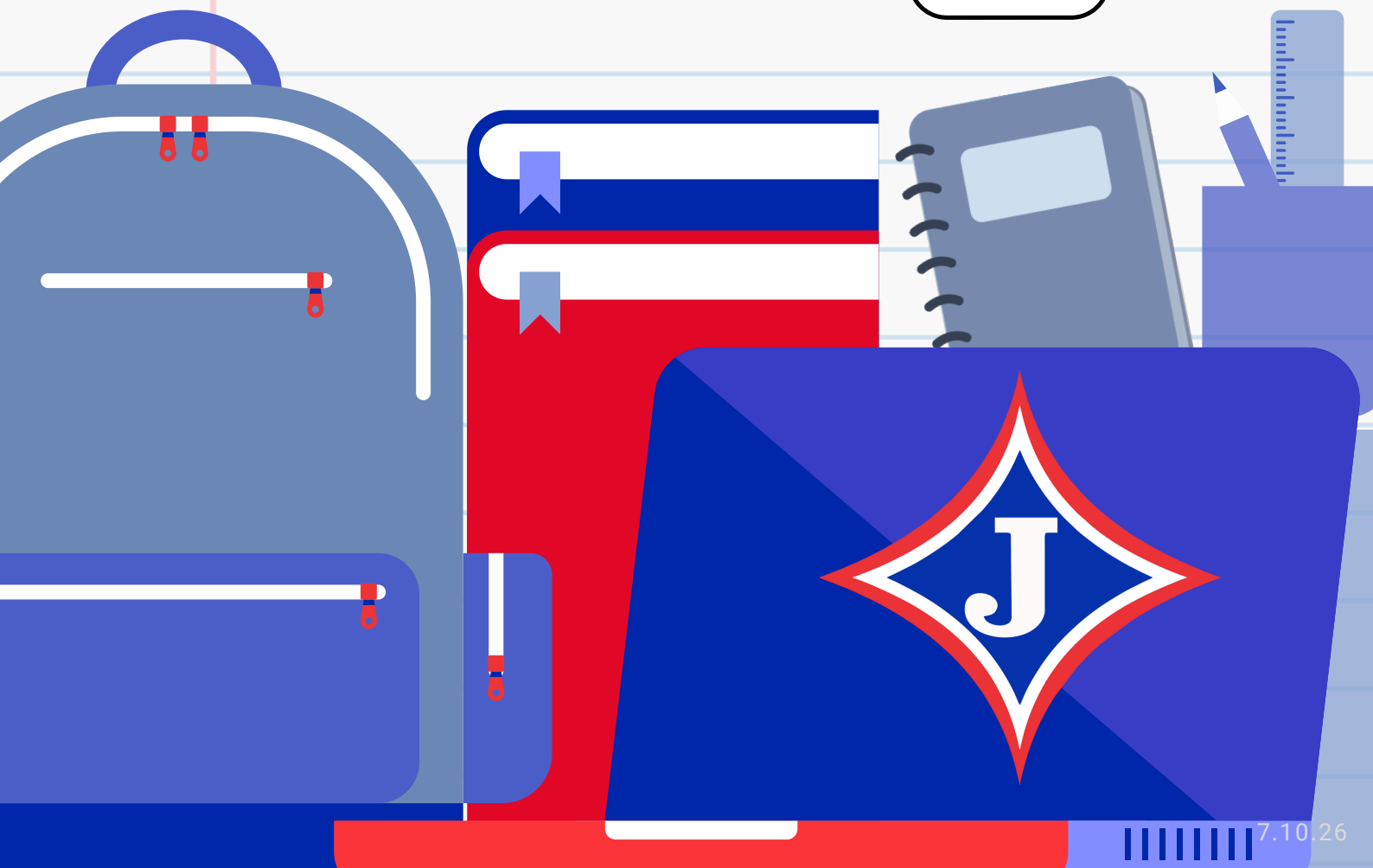
JEFFERSON CITY SCHOOLS

2026 - 2027

BACK TO SCHOOL *Guide*

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL





7.10.26

GEAR UP FOR 2026-2027

We are excited about the upcoming 2026-2027 school year and hope you are enjoying a safe and healthy summer!

As you prepare for the start of school, we hope you find the information in this *Back to School Guide* helpful.

Our staff looks forward to welcoming your child on **Thursday, July 30**!

View 2026-2027 academic school calendar.

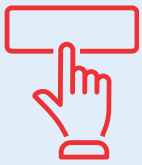


STUDENT REGISTRATION

NOW OPEN! **Returning Student Registration** is now open. Online registration is required for all returning students to JCS and must be completed by **Friday, July 24**.

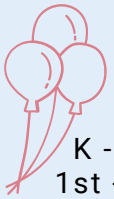
Please visit the Infinite Campus Parent Portal to update each child's information to ensure a schedule is assigned by Open House. Note: You will not be able to view information in the parent portal until after you have completed registration.

New students to JCS should also be registered by July 24. Complete the new registration process by visiting the Student Registration page on our website, where you will find detailed instructions.



OPEN HOUSE

K-12 Open House is on Tuesday, July 28. All students will have an opportunity to attend during assigned times. Detailed information will be released by your child's school. PreK Open House will be on Wednesday, July 29.



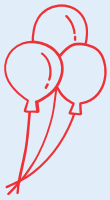
TUESDAY, JULY 28

JES
K - 8:00 to 10:00
1st - 10:30 to12:30
2nd - 1:00 to 3:00

JA
Last Names A - L
8:30 to 10:00
Last Names M-Z
10:30 to 12:00

JMS
Last Names A - L
9:00 to 10:15
Last Names M-Z
11:15 to 12:30

JHS
9th - 8:30 to 10:30
10th, 11th, 12th -
11:00 to 12:30



WEDNESDAY, JULY 29

CENTER FOR EARLY LEARNING
PreK Open House: 3:00 to 6:00

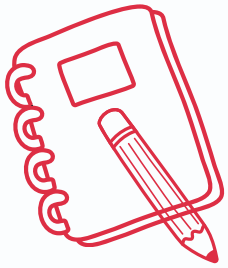
SCHOOL SUPPLIES

2026-2027 School Supply Lists are now available.

If you purchased a school supply kit for your child at JES, JA or JMS this past spring, the boxes will be available at Open House or on the first day of school. Teachers also may have class-specific requests at Open House.

Jefferson High School supply lists vary by teacher and content area. Students will receive this information either at Open House or on the first day of school.

School Supply Lists for All JCS Schools



OUT-OF-DISTRICT STUDENTS

The online tuition payment portal is now open. All tuition payments must be made through the Infinite Campus Parent Portal by Friday, July 24.

DRESS FOR EXCELLENCE

We appreciate your cooperation and support of our dress code policy at each of our schools.

Click below for each school's specific requirements.

JES & JA Guidelines
Students enrolled in grades PreK-5 are required to wear school uniforms. Please note that JES and JA spirit wear dates may vary by school.

JMS & JHS Guidelines
All students in grades 6-12 are expected to adhere to 2026-2027 dress code requirements.



DISTRACTION-FREE EDUCATION ACT

New this year, the JCS Distraction-Free Education policy applies to all PreK–12 students and aligns with Georgia state law. The goal is to reduce distractions, improve focus, encourage meaningful interactions and support student success.

The JCS policy requires personal electronic devices, including cell phones, smartwatches and other connected devices, to be powered off and stored during the school day. Devices should not be visible, audible or in use. Students will continue to have access to school-issued technology for classroom use.

Please discuss the JCS Distraction-Free policy with your child before school begins. We appreciate your partnership and support as we implement these expectations.

JCS Policy Rules & Expectations + FAQs

SCHOOL NUTRITION

Students will have access to nutritious meals each day. We serve breakfast and lunch.

Families are encouraged to complete a **free/reduced lunch application** through the Infinite Campus Parent Portal to determine eligibility. (Once in the parent portal, click "More" and then click "Meal Benefits.") Paper applications are available at your child's school's front office if preferred; however, the eligibility determination will take longer.

All **meal payments** must be made through the Infinite Campus Parent Portal.

School menus (published monthly), meal prices and other school nutrition information will be posted on the School Food Services section of the website and in the JCS mobile app. First-week and August menus for the 2026-2027 school year will be updated in late July.

Director of School Nutrition
Savannah Hix, 706-367-2546
savannah.hix@jeffcityschools.org



TRANSPORTATION

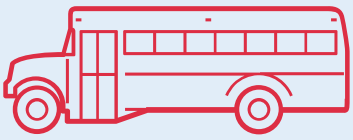
Review your child's bus route before school begins.

2026-2027 Bus Routes. *Please note that routes are subject to change*. A more detailed route list, including pick-up times, will be available at Open House. Plan to check our website for updates prior to the first day.

During the first two weeks of school, JES and JA students should be ready for pickup at **6:10,** and JMS and JHS students should be ready at **7:15**. During this time, students may also arrive home late in the afternoon.

We appreciate your patience as everyone adjusts to the new routines.

Director of Transportation
Mark Weaver, 706-367-1787
mark.weaver@jeffcityschools.org



SUMMER READING

Has your high school child completed summer reading requirements?
Click here to access JHS summer reading lists in the JHS Student Toolbox.

HOW WE COMMUNICATE



JCS is committed to keeping families informed and connected through multiple platforms, including apps, our website and social media. **Download these three apps** to stay up to date with important information from the district, schools and your child's teachers. Apps are available in your favorite app store.

1) **ParentSquare App**
NEW for 2026-2027! ParentSquare is the ***primary communications platform*** for both the school system and our schools. Please download ParentSquare to receive updates from teachers, schools and the district.

Through ParentSquare, families will receive important announcements including severe weather alerts, transportation delays, newsletters, school events, classroom communication and other timely updates.

2) **Infinite Campus Parent App**
Infinite Campus Parent Portal is where you register students, view grades and schedules, monitor attendance, check meal balances and add funds for school meals. Please ensure your email addresses and phone numbers are accurate in Infinite Campus. In the weeks leading up to the start of school, you may also receive emails via Infinite Campus (campus@jeffcityschools.org).

3) **Jefferson City Schools Mobile App**
The *Jefferson City Schools mobile app* provides quick access to important news, calendars, school information and other updates on your phone.

NOTE: As we transition to ParentSquare, families may continue to receive some emails from Infinite Campus. Please make sure your contact information is accurate in the Infinite Campus Parent Portal *and* ParentSquare.

Director of Communications & Public Relations
Teresa Stier, 706-367-2880
teresa.stier@jeffcityschools.org

IMMUNIZATIONS

For school enrollment, Georgia law requires all students to have a valid, current Immunization Certificate, Form 3231, or a notarized statement of exemption form (Form 2206) on file at school. If you have questions about specific grade-level requirements or exemptions, please contact your healthcare provider or local health department. Updated forms may be uploaded during online student registration or submitted (paper copy) to the school nurse.

All **7th-grade students** (including new entrants and/or transfers into a Georgia school) need proof of an adolescent pertussis booster vaccination called Tdap and an adolescent meningococcal vaccination called MCV4.

Before the start of school, all **11th-grade students** (including new entrants and/or transfers into a Georgia school) must have proof of a booster dose of the meningococcal conjugate vaccine on or after their 16th birthday.

**If your child doesn't have health insurance or if vaccines aren't covered, call your local health department and ask about no-cost or low-cost vaccines.*

NEW WEBSITE COMING SOON

Your resource hub for all things JCS is getting a new look! Launching in late August, our redesigned website will feature a modern design and a more user-friendly experience, making it easier for families to find important information, resources, news and events.

Visit jeffcityschools.org.



CONNECT WITH US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Stay connected with Jefferson City Schools on social media for news, student achievements, highlights and events from across our schools and school system.

- Facebook (@JeffCitySchools)
- Instagram (@JeffCitySchools)



SAFETY & SECURITY

Safety continues to be a top priority of Jefferson City Schools. Over the last several years, considerable investments have been made to make our schools as safe as possible, including the addition of School Resource Officers on our campuses.

We are grateful for the strong partnerships we have with local law enforcement agencies, including the Jefferson Police Department, Jefferson Fire Department, Jackson County Sheriff's Office and the Jackson County Emergency Management Agency, as well as with safety experts from the Georgia Emergency Management Agency.

A school is a place where all students and staff should feel safe and secure. We will continue to participate in weather-related and required safety drills throughout the school year. Rest assured, school safety and security will continue to be a constant focus for Jefferson City Schools as we strive to provide the highest quality educational services in the safest learning environment.



CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

JMS: Phase III construction will be complete before the start of school, including a new cafeteria and kitchen, renovated classrooms and commons areas and newly paved parking and bus lanes. Tennis court area renovations will be completed in early August.

JHS: Front parking lot renovations have been underway this summer. Demolition of the JROTC and engineering buildings is nearly complete as part of the initial phase of JHS renovations. JROTC Raider Course is complete.

Jefferson Memorial Stadium Complex: The new Multipurpose Facility is now open. The facility will serve as additional space for school activities, athletics, after-school band practice and community/school events.

Facility Improvements: JES floor replacement in all hallways and cafeteria. JA hallways have been repainted. Softball/Baseball Complex improvements are complete.

Future Projects
JHS – New classrooms, CTAE labs, JROTC facility and college and career center.



PARENT ENGAGEMENT

Parent engagement is an important component of a student's success in school.

Jefferson City Schools values the contributions and involvement of parents/guardians in support of improved student learning.

Your involvement truly helps improve attendance, behavior and academics. We encourage you to find ways to get involved in your child's school.

Specific opportunities are listed in the JCS Student Handbook, and you can also find ways to get involved at Open House.

You play a critical role in helping us build excellence in our students every day!



LEGACY OF EXCELLENCE

Exposure to Excellence Promotes Excellence

At Jefferson City Schools, we believe that exposure to excellence promotes excellence, and that begins the moment a student walks through our doors.

With state-of-the-art facilities, exceptional educators and a strong foundation of support, Jefferson City Schools is a place where students are encouraged to reach their full potential and grow into fully functioning adults, prepared for the future.

For more than 200 years, our tradition of excellence in academics, fine arts and athletics – along with deep community pride – has defined who we are.

YOU BELONG HERE!

JEFFERSON FOUNDATION

Are you passionate about supporting educational excellence in Jefferson City Schools? Consider making a contribution to the Jefferson School System Foundation.

Established in 1983 as a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization, the Foundation is led by a dedicated board of trustees and plays a vital role in advancing teaching and learning across the district.

Its important work is sustained by generous gifts and memorials from alumni, current families and community members.

Every contribution goes directly toward supporting our students and faculty, making a lasting impact where it matters most.

For more information on specific programs and projects, including scholarships and special grants, please contact Gina Dee Barker, Executive Director, at 706-367-4939 or gina.barker@jeffcityschools.org.

JEFFERSON
SCHOOL SYSTEM
FOUNDATION

PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

We're fortunate to live in a community that values education, and we're grateful to the businesses and organizations that partner with JCS to support student success.

Partnerships create meaningful connections between our schools, students and community. Opportunities may include guest speaking, hosting field trips, providing community service and work-based learning experiences, mentoring, participating in Career Days, judging competitions, sponsoring events or recognition programs, supporting teacher and staff appreciation and partnering with programs such as the JCS Book Mobile, BioSTEAM, athletics and fine arts.

Interested in becoming a Partner in Education? Whether you are a current partner or interested in becoming one, please complete our **Partner Interest Form** to be included in our Partners in Education network and connect your organization with opportunities across JCS.

To support a specific school, please contact the principal. For district partnerships, contact Teresa Stier, Director of Communications, at teresa.stier@jeffcityschools.org.

BOOSTER CLUBS

Support our School of Champions

ATHLETICS

Dragon Booster Club
Membership Packages
Advertising Sponsorships
More Information

FINE ARTS

Band Boosters
JHS "*Band on the Move*"
Sponsorships

Drama Boosters
Elizabeth Kelley, Drama Program
jeffersondramaboosterclub@gmail.com

ATTENDANCE MATTERS: YOU BELONG HERE

Every day a student attends school is an opportunity to learn, build relationships and access support. Regular attendance is vital for student success.

When students attend regularly, they thrive and have an opportunity to achieve academically.

Research shows that when students are chronically absent, they are less likely to read proficiently by third grade, achieve in middle school and graduate from high school.

Join us in making attendance a priority with your family this year!

SCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION

JEFFERSON ELEMENTARY

Principal - Chrissy Joiner
chrissy.joiner@jeffcityschools.org

Assistant Principal - Dr. Trevor Metzger
trevor.metzger@jeffcityschools.org

Assistant Principal - Mary Lauren Schroeder
marylauren.schroeder@jeffcityschools.org

Assistant Principal - Dr. Caitlin Kraeling
caitlin.kraeling@jeffcityschools.org

Dir. of Early Learning - Annette Beckwith
annette.beckwith@jeffcityschools.org

706-367-8242
415 Hoschton Street Jefferson, GA 30549

JEFFERSON ACADEMY

Principal - Jessica Ferguson
jessica.ferguson@jeffcityschools.org

Assistant Principal - Samantha Barrett
samantha.barrett@jeffcityschools.org

Assistant Principal - Brad George
brad.george@jeffcityschools.org

706-367-2300
99 Dragon Drive Jefferson, GA 30549

JEFFERSON MIDDLE

Principal - Carol Ann Knight
carolann.knight@jeffcityschools.org

Assistant Principal - Brandon Vinson
brandon.vinson@jeffcityschools.org

Assistant Principal - Adria Whitworth
adria.whitworth@jeffcityschools.org

706-367-2882
100 Dragon Drive Jefferson, GA 30549

JEFFERSON HIGH

Principal - Jenny Hardy
jenny.hardy@jeffcityschools.org

Assistant Principal - Lori Alexander
lori.alexander@jeffcityschools.org

Assistant Principal - Justin Meyer
justin.meyer@jeffcityschools.org

Assistant Principal - Adam Smith
adam.smith@jeffcityschools.org

706-367-2881
575 Washington Street Jefferson, GA 30549

SYSTEM CONTACT INFORMATION

- **Superintendent** - Dr. Donna McMullan, donna.mcmullan@jeffcityschools.org
- **Deputy Superintendent** - Tom Parker, tom.parker@jeffcityschools.org
- **Assistant Superintendent** - Dr. Sherry Hix, sherry.hix@jeffcityschools.org
- **Director of School Nutrition** - Savannah Hix, savannah.hix@jeffcityschools.org
- **Director of Finance** - Kim Navas, kim.navas@jeffcityschools.org
- **Director of Special Education** - Brandi Pieplow, brandi.pieplow@jeffcityschools.org
- **Chief Technology Officer** - Kris Plummer, kris.plummer@jeffcityschools.org
- **Director of State & Federal Programs** - Taryn Smith, taryn.smith@jeffcityschools.org
- **Director of Communications & Public Relations** - Teresa Stier, teresa.stier@jeffcityschools.org
- **Director of Human Resources** - Miranda Storey, miranda.storey@jeffcityschools.org
- **Director of Transportation** - Mark Weaver, mark.weaver@jeffcityschools.org

Jefferson City Schools

345 Storey Lane
Jefferson, Georgia 30549
www.jeffcityschools.org
706-367-2880

A QUICK NOTE TO SHARE WITH YOUR CHILD

Did you know that the Diamond "J" logo symbolizes excellence? When you wear the Jefferson logo, you are telling the world that you are committed to high expectations for yourself in all circumstances. A Dragon thrives, takes pride in being the best and expects to be a champion in and out of the classroom.

YOU ARE A DRAGON and ... YOU ARE WHERE YOU BELONG!