



School District of
JEFFERSON

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

JULY 2026



Dear Community Members,

Anticipation is building across our district for the launch of the 2026-2027 school year. Summer is a time for rejuvenation, but it is also a season of preparation. Our dedicated staff, custodians, and administrators have been working hard to ensure our buildings are clean, our teaching materials are high-quality, and our spaces are fully prepared to welcome back nearly 1,500 eager learners.

Our last school year was marked with many **points of pride** in our schools. We cheered on state qualifiers across our athletic and competitive co-curricular activities, witnessed student growth, and celebrated the successes of our dedicated educators who go above and beyond every day. This Community Newsletter provides an important opportunity to keep you updated on the ongoing efforts and achievements happening in our schools every day. Sharing these collective victories highlights exactly what a community invested in education can achieve.

As we look ahead, our district mission, "Empowering Futures Together," remains our guiding star. We firmly believe that **strong schools = strong communities**. The partnership between our schools and the Jefferson community is a bedrock of our success. It is through your support that our students are empowered to elevate their ambitions and give back to the very community that raises them, which was evident during our annual "Soaring to Service" community service event in May 2026.

Thanks to the lasting impact of our 2022 capital referendum, our students are now thriving in modern learning environments—from the fully upgraded, secure facilities at East Elementary to the state-of-the-art additions in agriculture and technical education at the high school. These spaces don't just match the high academic ambitions of our learners; they provide a launchpad for students to develop real-world skills that they quickly apply to local service projects, youth apprenticeships, and community partnerships.

Keeping our community informed is a priority. We encourage all residents, whether or not you have children currently enrolled in our schools, to stay connected with us throughout the year. Please continue to visit our website at www.SDOJ.org, follow our social media channels, and subscribe to our **Friday Focus** mailing list for weekly updates.

Thank you for your continued dedication, your trust, and your passion for our schools. Together, with community support, we will make the 2026-2027 school year our most impactful one yet!

Sincerely,

Superintendent Charles Urness, Ph.D.



STRONG SCHOOLS = STRONG COMMUNITIES

SDOJ SPOTLIGHT

CHECK OUT
WHAT'S INSIDE

- District Points of Pride
- Registration / Open Enrollment Info
- Spotlight
 - Soaring to Service
- Strategic Plan Info
- Important Dates



SDOJ SCHOOLS

East Elementary

120 S Sanborn Ave,
Jefferson, WI 53549
(920) 675-1400

West Elementary

900 W Milwaukee St,
Jefferson, WI 53549
(920) 675-1200

Sullivan Elementary

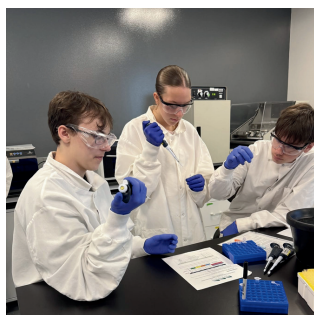
618 Bakertown Rd,
Sullivan, WI 53178
(920) 675-1500

Middle School

501 S Taft Ave,
Jefferson, WI 53549
(920) 675-1300

High School

700 W Milwaukee St,
Jefferson, WI 53549
(920) 675-1100



Sullivan Elementary named 2022
National Blue Ribbon School



18 AP course offerings & 73 2024
Students with AP Exam scores of 3+ &
Named an **AP Pacesetter School** Level 3

Middle and Elementary Schools
are **Playworks Partners**



PLAYWORKS

Named one of the **Best Communities for
Music Education** ten years in a row



Five **National Board
Certified Teachers**

Elementary & High School
Green and Healthy Schools Awards



**Youth Apprenticeship &
Dual Credit Opportunities**

SDOJ POINTS OF PRIDE



Seal of Biliteracy: One of the few schools authorized by the
WI DPI to implement the Wisconsin Seal of Biliteracy program

Over 50 **student clubs & activities** District-wide



ASE Certified
Automotive program

State & National Qualifiers:



Battle of the Books, eSports, FBLA, FFA Judging, Forensics, HOSA, Jerry Awards, Math Meet, Math 24, WSMA Solo & Ensemble, Soaring to the Seal, One Act Play, SkillsUSA, Stock Market Games, Southern Lakes Anthology, and more!

2025-26 **WIAA State Qualifiers:**

All-State Volleyball athlete, Wrestling, Gymnastics, & Track qualifiers

AVID Programs at the Middle
School and High School



Graduating students who are
"College, Career, & Life Ready"



Community Service & Outreach:

Soaring to Service, Christmas Neighbors, Blood Drives, Free Thanksgiving Dinner, and many Community Collections

Several Community Partners and Sponsors!

**Strong Schools =
Strong Communities**



REGISTRATION & ENROLLMENT

Registration is required for all students annually. Registration forms for returning students will be available **July 20 - August 2** through guardian PowerSchool accounts. New this year: Returning student registration is now accessible via the PowerSchool Mobile App!

New student enrollment is open and available now!

Visit our **back-to-school hub** online at sdoj.org/district/enrollment/annual-registration for the registration links and more information, including supply lists, FAQs, important dates, & more!

Need more help? Attend our registration help day for assistance with forms, logins, Wi-Fi and Chromebook access, translation, bus contracts, food service questions, and more. Spanish translation will also be available! **When?** 7/29/26 - 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. **Where:** JHS Commons

Looking to Open Enroll into Jefferson? sdoj.org/district/enrollment/open-enrollment



ENROLL TODAY!



EMPOWERING



FUTURES



TOGETHER



SPOTLIGHT:

Soaring to Service Marks 8 Years of Impact!

For one dedicated day each year, our high school students and staff swap their textbooks for work gloves and step out to give back to the community during the "Soaring to Service" event.

This initiative provides invaluable hands-on labor and support to dozens of local non-profits, civic groups, parks, and community organizations. From local landscaping and park cleanups to assisting at food pantries, historical sites, and spending quality time with local senior citizens, our students help complete projects for these vital organizations and the ripple effects are felt long after the volunteer day concludes.

While the community reaps the tangible rewards of the students' hard work, the lessons our Eagles take home are invaluable. "Soaring to Service" teaches our young people that they are active stakeholders in the community they call home. By stepping outside their comfort zones, they develop crucial life skills such as civic responsibility, empathy, connection, teamwork & leadership.



As we look toward the 2026-2027 school year, we want to extend a massive thank you to all the local organizations that open their doors to host our students year after year. Together, we aren't just completing projects- we are shaping the compassionate, community-minded leaders of tomorrow!

STRATEGIC PLAN

5-Year Objectives:

Foster **Student** Engagement & Learning

- Develop and implement high-leverage instructional practices that address opportunity gaps and support student growth.
- Foster a climate and culture for engagement, collaboration, and belonging.



Connect School & **Community** Through Partnerships

- Prioritize transparent communication that fosters trust within the community while engaging diverse groups and strengthening family voice.
- Promote meaningful relationships and dialogue between school and community to ensure access and representation.



Continuously Improve **Services** & Operations

- Align resources in a sustainable, responsible, and flexible manner to meet the evolving needs of the district and community.



Cultivate **Staff** Growth for Leadership & Retention

- Implement ongoing research-aligned professional learning to achieve desired student outcomes.
- Foster a climate and culture for engagement, collaboration, and belonging.





School District of Jefferson
206 South Taft Avenue
Jefferson, WI 53549

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage
PAID
LMC
54601

NEW TO THE DISTRICT?

WELCOME!



Learn about SDOJ @ about.sdoj.org

New Students Enroll Today!

Enrollment is open for the 2026-2027 school year.

sdoj.org/district/enrollment/annual-registration

ESPAÑOL?

¿Necesita una traducción al español de este documento?

Contacto:

leaths@sdoj.org

920-675-1205 o visita

sdoj.org/district/district-communication



EMPOWERING FUTURES TOGETHER

STAY INFORMED



WEBSITE

www.SDOJ.org



PHONE

1-920-675-1000



FACEBOOK

facebook.com/SDofJ



EMAIL

Find staff info at:

sdoj.org/district/staff-directory



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

No School Days - Athletic Events - Performances - And More!



Online Registration Open: July 20 - August 2

More Registration Information Inside

Upcoming School Board Meetings:

July 27: Regular Meeting

August 10: Strategic Plan Goals ^{6:00 p.m. in the} High School Library

August 24: Budget Hearing

First Days of School:

August 31: 4K, K, 6th & 9th (Transition Day)

September 1: First day with ALL students

Homecoming Football Game:

October 2: 7:00 p.m. vs Lake Mills



Scan the QR code to view all SDOJ calendars



JOIN OUR MAILING LIST!



Email schmittv@sdoj.org or call 920-675-1010 to be added to our community mailing list!

206 S Taft Ave, Jefferson, WI 53549 | 920-675-1000 | www.sdoj.org

The School District of Jefferson does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, sex, (including gender status, change of sex or gender identity), or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability (Protected Classes) in any of its student program and activities (as defined in Wis. Stat. § 118.13). The Board does not discriminate in the employment of administrative/professional/support staff on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex (including gender status, change of sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity), pregnancy, creed or religion, genetic information, handicap or disability, marital status, citizenship status, veteran status, military service (as defined in 111.32, Wis. Stats.), ancestry, arrest record, conviction record, use or non-use of lawful products off the District's premises during non-working hours, declining to attend an employer-sponsored meeting or to participate in any communication with the employer about religious matters or political matters, or any other legally protected category in its programs and activities, including employment opportunities. **Policy References:** po2260/ po2260.01/ po1422/po3122/po4122