

JP FORWARD

A PUBLICATION BY JEFFERSON PARISH SCHOOLS

NATIONAL EXCELLENCE

JP Schools
Earns NIET
Honor



BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Connecting Students to Care



2026 EDITION

A Message from the Superintendent

Welcome to the inaugural issue of JP Forward, a new magazine created to share the people, programs, progress, and possibilities that make Jefferson Parish Schools such a special place to learn and grow.

As one of the largest school systems in Louisiana, we serve nearly 45,000 students across Jefferson Parish. Across Jefferson Parish Schools, we are united by one promise: to provide every student with the education, support, and opportunities they need to succeed in school and in life.

Inside these pages, you will see that promise in action. You'll learn more about the academic progress that has helped JP Schools continue to grow. You will also meet the students, educators, school leaders, and staff members whose dedication continues to move our district forward.

This first issue highlights the many ways we are investing in our students' futures. From new schools and modern facilities to expanded career and technical education, dual enrollment, early childhood programs, the arts, athletics, and innovative academic opportunities, we are preparing students for college, careers, and the path that is right for them.

You will also see how strong partnerships are helping us connect students and families with additional resources, strengthen financial literacy, create pathways to high-wage careers, and provide support that extends beyond the classroom. These efforts reflect our belief that student success is shared work, and it requires schools, families, businesses, community organizations, and local leaders working together.

Most importantly, JP Forward is a celebration of our people. It recognizes the educators who challenge and inspire students, the employees who keep our schools operating each day, the families who trust us with their children, and the students whose achievements remind us why this work matters.

We are proud of the progress Jefferson Parish Schools has made, but we also know our work is not finished. We will continue raising expectations, expanding opportunities, strengthening our schools, and ensuring every student has access to a high-quality education.

Thank you for supporting Jefferson Parish Schools and for being part of our journey. Together, we will continue moving JP Forward.

Dr. James Gray, Superintendent
Jefferson Parish Schools



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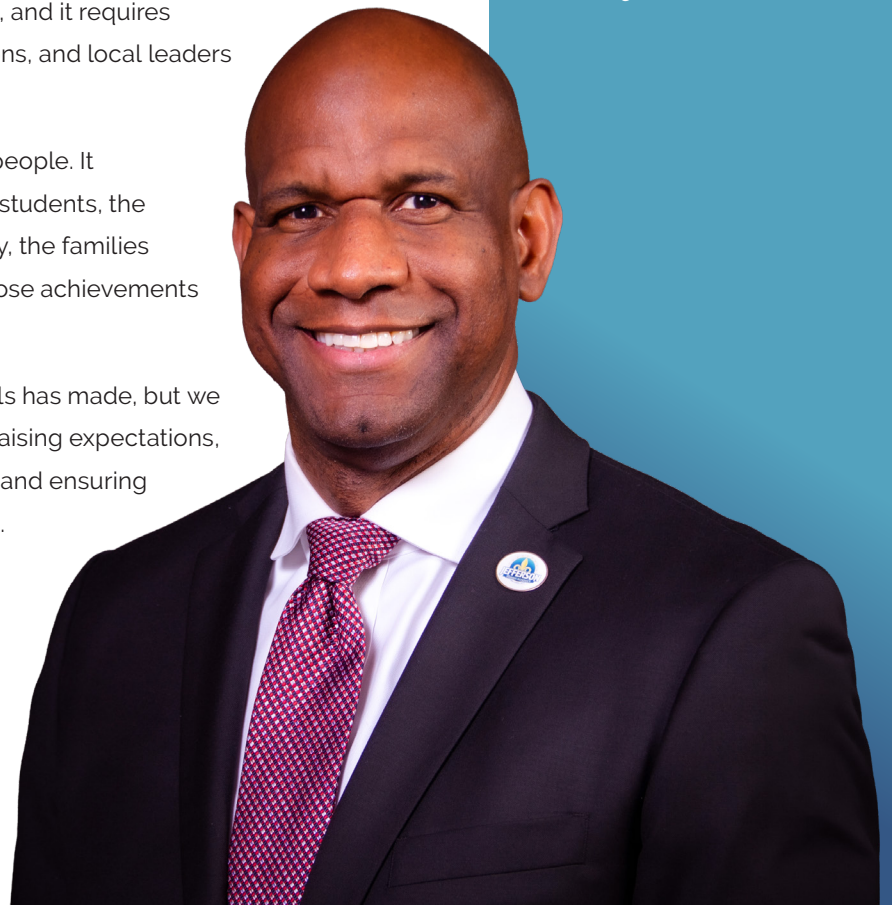
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A Message from the School Board President

On behalf of the Jefferson Parish School Board, I am proud to welcome you to JP Forward.

The stories in this issue reflect the progress taking place across Jefferson Parish Schools and the dedication of our students, educators, families, and community partners. As a School Board, we are committed to supporting strong schools, expanding opportunities for students and making decisions that help move our district forward.

Thank you for your continued support of Jefferson Parish Schools. We hope you enjoy this look at the people, programs and progress shaping our school community.

Kriss Fairbairn Fortunato, President
Jefferson Parish School Board

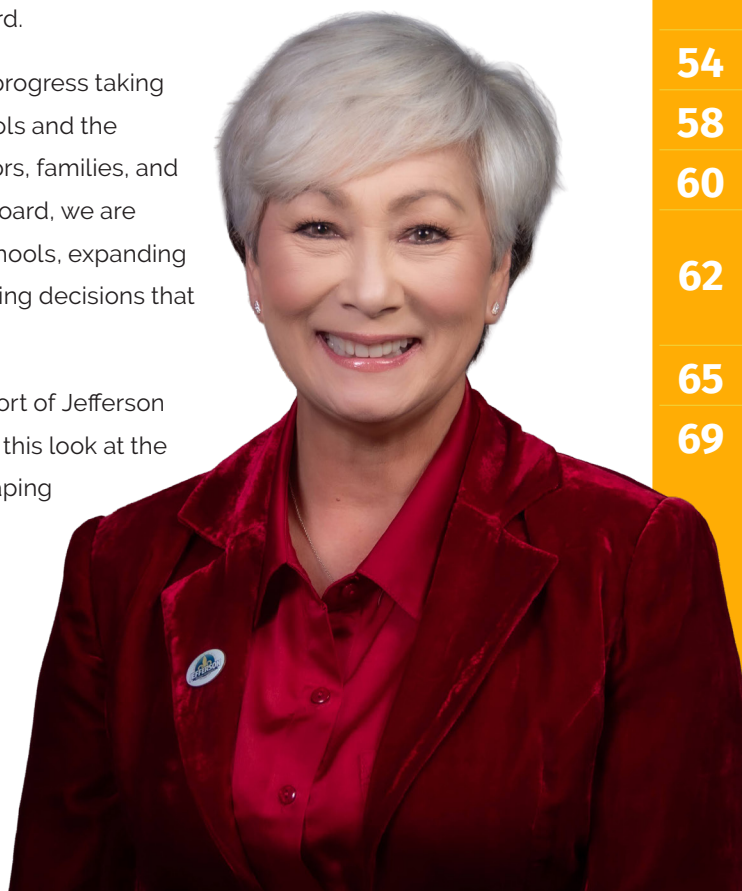


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ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Rigorous learning.
Real results.
Bright futures.



INNOVATION IN ACTION

Creative solutions.
Future-focused
learning.



INCLUSIVE OPPORTUNITIES

Every student.
Every voice.
Every chance
to thrive.



**CAREER READY
PATHWAYS**

Real-world
experiences.
Strong skills.
Limitless
possibilities.



OUR IMPACT

WHO WE SERVE

Our students and what they experience

45,572

STUDENTS



48.21%

FEMALE



51.79%

MALE



78.42%

MINORITY



80.62%

ECONOMICALLY
DISADVANTAGED



20.16%

ENGLISH
LEARNERS



93.77%

ATTENDANCE
RATE



2,473

ENROLLED
IN PRE-K



6,204

STUDENTS WITH
DISABILITIES



2,932

GIFTED &
TALENTED



2,102

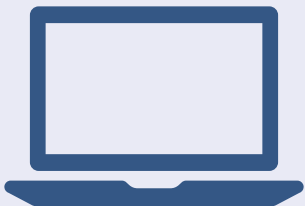
CAREER
ACCELERATORS



80

COLLEGE CREDIT
COURSE OFFERED AT
HIGH SCHOOLS

6,184,347 MEALS SERVED



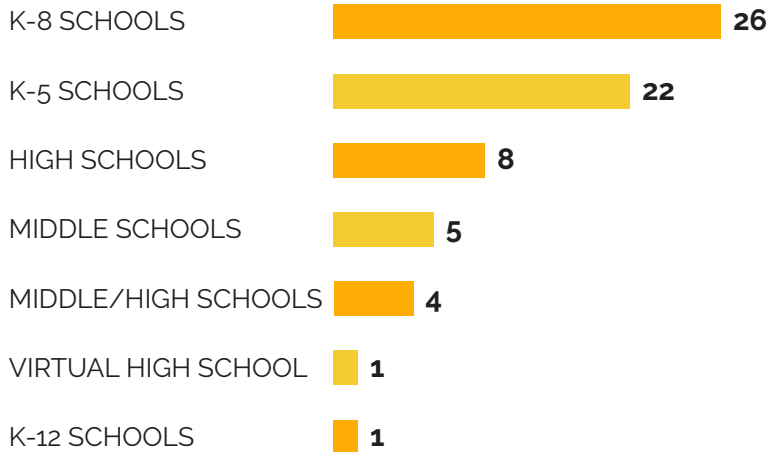
1:1 TECHNOLOGY

EVERY PRE-K-12TH STUDENT HAS ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY

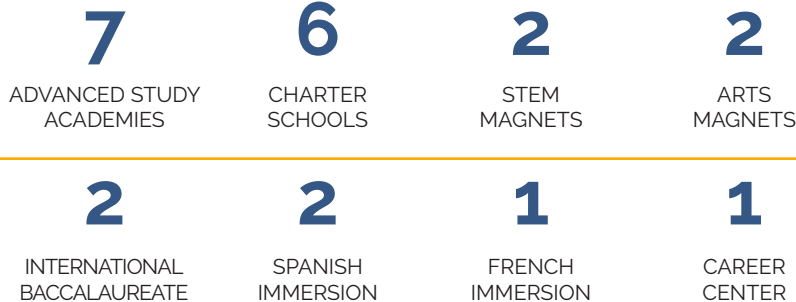
WHAT WE OFFER

Our schools and programs

73 SCHOOLS



PLUS SPECIALIZED LEARNING OPTIONS



B-RATED SCHOOL DISTRICT

FOR TWO CONSECUTIVE YEARS

WHAT WE'VE ACCOMPLISHED

Our results and our achievements

A

12

A-RATED SCHOOLS



26

SCHOOLS EARNED
TOP GAINS AWARDS

B

14

B-RATED SCHOOLS



16

SCHOOLS EARNED
OPPORTUNITY HONOREE
AWARDS

NO F-RATED SCHOOLS



3

TOP HIGH
SCHOOLS IN
LOUISIANA



3

TOP ELEM.
SCHOOLS IN
LOUISIANA



3

TOP GROWING
K-8 SCHOOLS IN
LOUISIANA

WHO WE ARE

Our district and our commitment

OVER 6,000 EMPLOYEES

2ND LARGEST EMPLOYER IN
JEFFERSON PARISH

7

SUPERINTENDENT'S
COUNCILS

STEM

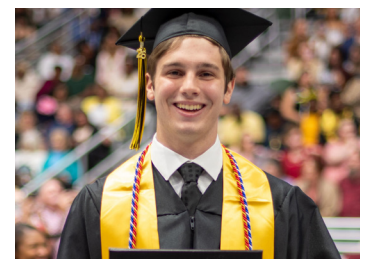
ONLY DISTRICT IN LOUISIANA
TO HAVE STEM-CERTIFIED
SCHOOLS

3

NEW, STATE-OF-THE-ART
FACILITIES

GROWING OUR OWN

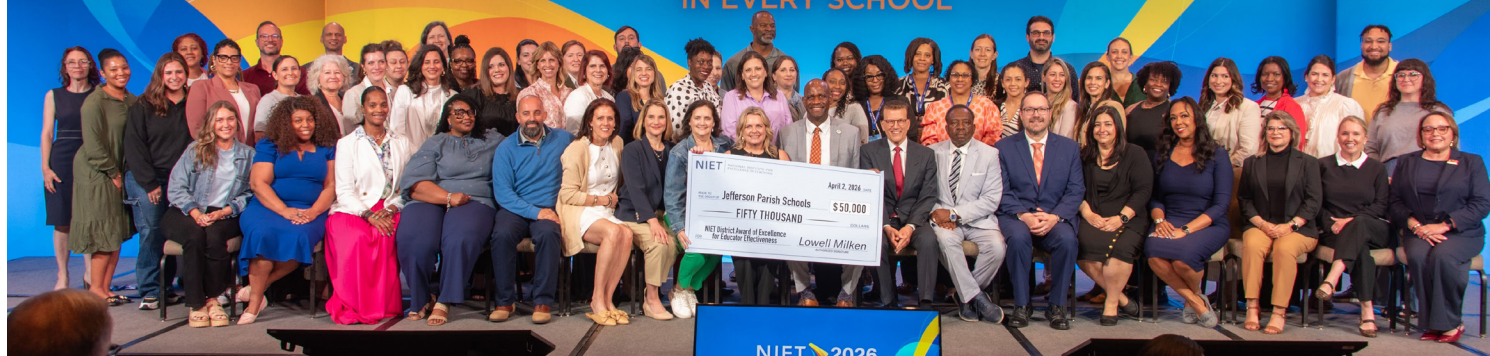
EMBARK ASPIRING EDUCATORS
AN IN-HOUSE ALT CERTIFICATION PROGRAM





NIET 2026 NATIONAL CONFERENCE

GENERATING EXCELLENCE IN EVERY SCHOOL

FOR
HING

TEACHING EXCELLENCE TAKES CENTER STAGE

JP SCHOOLS EARNS NATIONAL NIET AWARD

Every day, across Jefferson Parish Schools, educators are doing the work that changes student outcomes.

They are planning stronger lessons, studying student data, collaborating with colleagues, receiving feedback, leading from within their schools, and helping students reach higher levels of achievement. That daily commitment to great teaching is now receiving national attention.

Jefferson Parish Schools has been named the recipient of the 2026 District Award of Excellence for Educator Effectiveness from the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching, one of the nation's leading organizations focused on strengthening educator practice and improving student achievement.

The award, which includes a \$50,000 grand prize, recognizes school districts that demonstrate an exceptional commitment to supporting educators and creating the conditions where students can thrive. For Jefferson Parish Schools, the honor is more than a national award. It is a reflection of years of focused work to invest in teachers, strengthen instruction, and improve academic outcomes for students across the district.

The recognition was announced during the 2026 NIET National Conference in New Orleans, where district leaders and educators

were surprised with the honor in front of colleagues from across the country.

Awarded for only the eighth time, the District Award of Excellence recognizes school systems that have built strong instructional systems, invested in educator growth, and demonstrated measurable gains in student achievement. Jefferson Parish Schools was selected from districts across the country for its sustained focus on teacher development, instructional excellence, and student success.

"Educator effectiveness is at the heart of improving student achievement in Jefferson Parish Schools," said Lowell Milken, Founder of NIET. "We applaud Superintendent Dr. James Gray and his team for creating strong systems of teacher leadership and support that prepare students to succeed in learning and life."

Serving nearly 47,500 students across more than 70 schools and programs, Jefferson Parish Schools is the largest public school system in Louisiana and one of the largest districts in the nation. The district serves a diverse student population representing more than 30 languages and a wide range of backgrounds and experiences.



Despite its size and diversity, Jefferson Parish Schools has remained focused on a simple but powerful goal: ensuring every student has access to high-quality instruction every day.

That work has been supported through a long-standing partnership with NIET, which began in 2018 as the district expanded its implementation of high-quality instructional materials and strengthened systems of coaching, feedback, and teacher leadership.

Over time, the district has developed a robust teacher-leader pipeline of teacher leaders and instructional coaches who provide embedded and ongoing support to educators across schools. These structures of support help teachers refine their instructional practices, analyze student work, and receive individualized feedback that directly impacts student learning.

Rather than relying on one-size-fits-all professional development, Jefferson Parish Schools has built both district level and school level systems that allow educators to continuously learn, collaborate, and grow throughout their careers. Job-embedded professional development allows teachers to engage in instructional planning and the analysis of student learning with trained teacher leaders on their campuses. This continuous support for educators and consistent monitoring of student learning allows school

“To reach the milestone of becoming a ‘B’ rated school district for the first time in 10 years, and to do so two years in a row, shows that what we are doing is working.”

— Dr. James Gray, Superintendent



teams to promptly adjust in order to ensure that decisions remain focused on student needs.

The results of that work are evident across the district.

Over the past year, 70 percent of Jefferson Parish schools either improved or maintained their student performance ratings. Twelve schools increased their letter grades, while every school previously earning an “A” rating maintained its status. Most notably, Jefferson Parish Schools no longer has any F-rated schools.

The district also maintained its “B” district performance rating from the Louisiana Department of Education for a second consecutive year, marking continued progress and reflecting sustained academic growth across schools.

“We have the largest, most diverse population in the state of Louisiana, and we have been able to show growth almost every

single year," said Superintendent Dr. James Gray. "To reach the milestone of becoming a 'B' rated school district for the first time in 10 years, and to do so two years in a row, shows that what we are doing is working. We are truly changing the trajectory for students."

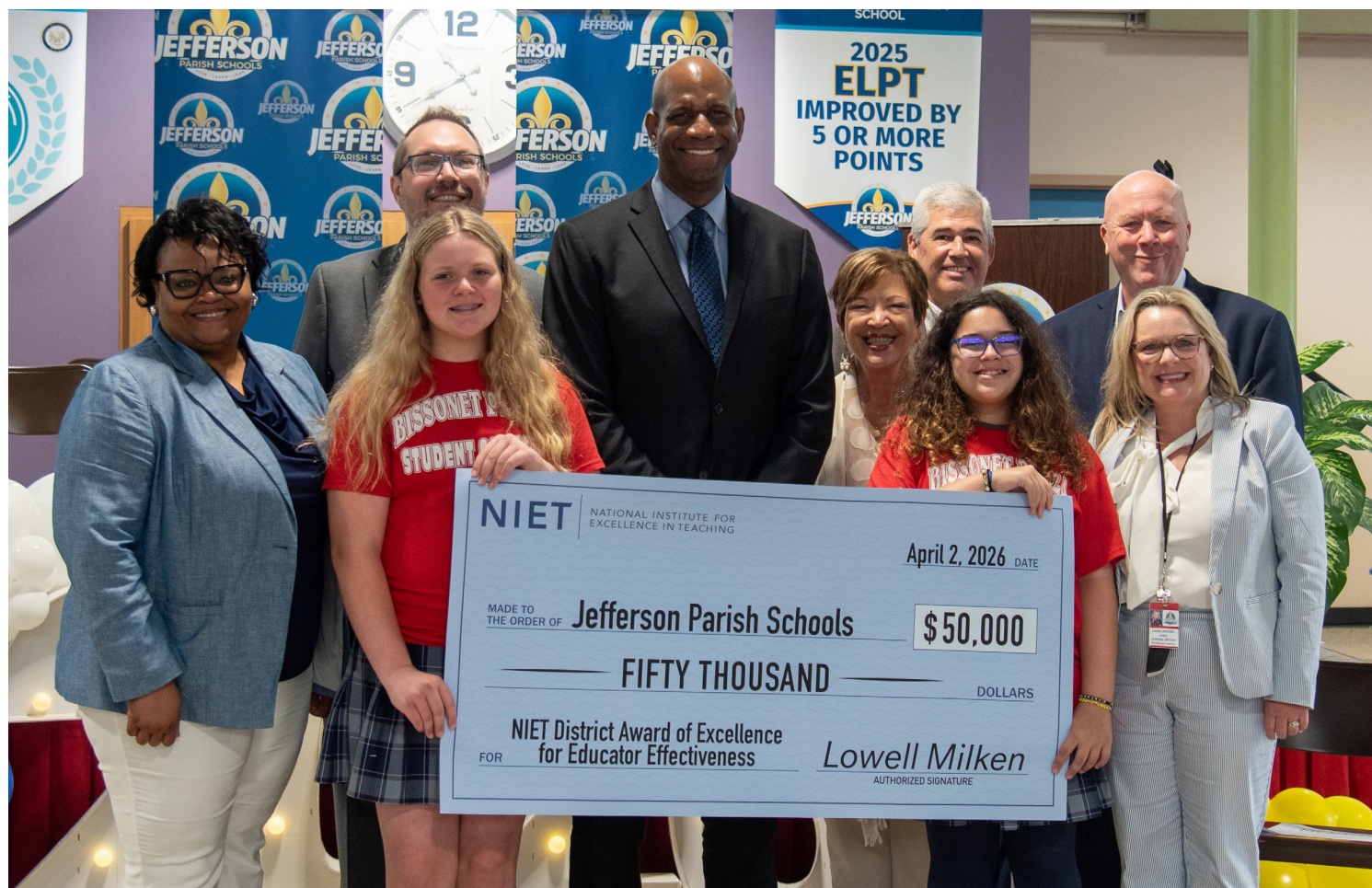
While the award recognizes instructional excellence, district leaders emphasize that student success extends beyond the classroom.

Jefferson Parish Schools continues to expand opportunities through Career and Technical Education programs, industry-based credentials, apprenticeships, advanced coursework, fine arts, athletics, and extracurricular activities. In 2024 alone, students earned more than 10,000 industry credentials, helping prepare them for college, careers, and life after graduation.

Together, these efforts reflect a districtwide commitment to ensuring every student graduates with the knowledge, skills, and opportunities needed for future success.

The NIET District Award of Excellence serves as a national affirmation of that work. More importantly, it highlights the educators, school leaders, and support staff whose daily efforts continue to make a difference for students across Jefferson Parish.

As Jefferson Parish Schools continue building on its momentum, the recognition stands as a reminder that investing in educators remains one of the most powerful ways to invest in student success. The work happening in classrooms, coaching conversations, leadership meetings, and school communities is not only moving the district forward. It is helping change what is possible for students. |





STRENGTHENING INSTRUCTION THROUGH INNOVATION

JEFFERSON PARISH SCHOOLS EARNS
NATIONAL APEX DISTRICT RECOGNITION

Jefferson Parish Schools has been recognized on the national stage for its commitment to innovative instruction and effective use of digital learning tools, earning the 2025–2026 Imagine Nation Apex District Award from Imagine Learning.

The district is one of only six in the country to receive this distinction, which highlights school systems demonstrating exceptional implementation, strong program usage, and measurable student engagement and success across multiple schools.

The Imagine Nation Awards recognize districts and schools nationwide for their dedication to supporting student growth through effective use of digital learning platforms. Out of more than 42,000 eligible schools and districts, only a select group received recognition this year, including 293 Schools of Excellence and Districts of Distinction.

The Apex District Award represents one of the highest honors within the program, celebrating districts that demonstrate consistent, high-quality implementation across multiple campuses and instructional settings. Jefferson Parish Schools was recognized for its strong alignment between instructional practice, technology use, and student learning outcomes.

"This recognition reflects the focused work taking place across Jefferson Parish Schools to support student achievement," said Dr. James Gray, Superintendent of Jefferson Parish Schools. "Our teachers, school leaders, students, and academic teams have used these tools with purpose and consistency, and their efforts are helping create stronger learning opportunities for students across our district."

District leaders emphasize that the recognition is not only about technology, but about how it is used to strengthen instruction and support student growth.



Effective implementation across campuses has been key to ensuring that digital learning tools are integrated intentionally into daily classroom practice.

"The Imagine Nation Apex District Award speaks to the power of strong implementation and aligned instructional support," said Laura Roussel, Chief Academic Officer of Jefferson Parish Schools. "When our schools use high-quality resources consistently and intentionally, we are better positioned to meet students where they are, strengthen instruction, and support continued academic growth."

In addition to the district-level recognition, six Jefferson Parish Schools were named Imagine Nation Schools of Excellence in recognition of their exceptional implementation and high levels of student engagement. These schools include:

- **Alice Birney Elementary School**
- **Bridgedale Elementary School**
- **Chateau Estates School**
- **J.C. Ellis School**
- **Ray St. Pierre Advanced Academy**
- **Ruppel Académie Française**

Each of these campuses was recognized at the national level for their effective integration of Imagine Learning programs into daily instruction and for maintaining consistent, purposeful student engagement that supports academic growth. This recognition reflects their strong commitment to instructional excellence and the intentional use of high-quality digital tools to enhance teaching and learning across classrooms.

For Jefferson Parish Schools, this recognition underscores a districtwide focus on innovation and equity in access, ensuring that all students benefit from high-quality instructional resources designed to support academic success. |





BEHIND THE NUMBERS

JEFFERSON PARISH SCHOOLS EARNS NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR FINANCIAL TRANSPARENCY

Jefferson Parish Schools has earned the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO International) for its Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025.

The Certificate of Excellence recognizes school districts that demonstrate a high level of financial reporting, accountability, and transparency. Jefferson Parish Schools earned the distinction after its Annual Comprehensive Financial Report was reviewed by a panel of experienced financial professionals and found to meet the program's rigorous standards.

"Receiving the Certificate of Excellence reflects the care and attention our team puts into preparing financial reports that are clear, accurate, and reliable," said Sarah Caruso, Chief Financial Officer of Jefferson Parish Schools. "This work is important because it helps our community understand how district resources are managed. We are honored by this recognition and remain committed to maintaining strong financial practices for Jefferson Parish Schools."

Participation in the Certificate of Excellence program reflects the district's ongoing commitment to strong financial practices and responsible stewardship of public funds. The review process also provides feedback designed to help districts continue improving the quality and clarity of future financial reporting.



"Strong financial practices are essential to supporting strong schools," said Dr. James Gray, Superintendent of Jefferson Parish Schools. "This recognition reflects our commitment to managing public resources responsibly, maintaining the trust of our community, and ensuring that our work continues to support students, families, and educators across Jefferson Parish Schools. That work is made possible by our finance team, and I am proud of their commitment to upholding these high standards and supporting the long-term success of our district."

"For over half a century, ASBO International's Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting has been the gold standard

for promoting and recognizing excellence in financial transparency," said Jim Rowan, CAE, SFO, Executive Director of ASBO International. "Clear and accurate financial reporting is crucial for engaging school communities and building trust. Districts that earn the COE have demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to these principles."

The Certificate of Excellence distinction supports school districts in demonstrating transparency to families, employees, taxpayers, community members, and financial stakeholders. It can also support bond rating and continuing bond disclosure processes. |

The Jefferson Parish Public School System received a Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO) and a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for its annual comprehensive financial report (ACFR) for Fiscal Year 2025. This was the 34th consecutive year that the School System has received these prestigious awards. In order to be awarded these Certificates, a government must publish an easily readable and efficiently organized ACFR. This report must satisfy both accounting standards generally accepted in the United States of America and applicable legal requirements.

A BLUE RIBBON ACHIEVEMENT

Congratulations

to Haynes Academy for Advanced Studies!

Named **one of just eight Louisiana Blue Ribbon Schools**,
Haynes Academy is being recognized for its academic
excellence and student success.



OPENING DOORS Through Language

Building Global Learners Across JPSchools

Jefferson Parish Schools is proud to celebrate 11 schools that have earned designation as 2026 State Certified World Language Immersion Schools, a recognition awarded by the Louisiana Department of Education to schools that demonstrate excellence in dual language and immersion education.

This year's recognition is especially significant because it means all 12 Dual Language and Immersion campuses in Jefferson Parish Schools are now state certified. Geraldine Boudreaux Elementary School previously received its state certification, helping lead the way for this districtwide milestone.

State certification recognizes schools that are establishing and maintaining high-quality, highly effective immersion programs that support bilingualism, biliteracy, academic achievement, and positive self-esteem among students. Through these programs, students learn academic content in multiple languages while developing language skills, cultural understanding, and the confidence needed to succeed in an increasingly connected world.

The following Jefferson Parish schools received 2026 State Certified World Language Immersion School recognition:

- A.C. Alexander School
- Alice Birney Elementary School
- Clancy-Maggiore School of the Arts
- Green Park Elementary School
- Greenlawn Elementary School
- Harold Keller Elementary School
- J.C. Ellis School
- Marie Riviere Elementary School
- Phoebe Hearst Elementary School
- Terrytown Elementary School
- Tom Benson School





Each school was honored during the June 2026 Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education meeting for its commitment to providing students with exceptional dual language learning opportunities.

Together with Geraldine Boudreaux Elementary School, these campuses represent Jefferson Parish Schools' continued commitment to expanding access to high-quality language programs that foster academic excellence, cultural understanding, and global readiness.

This milestone reflects the district's belief that language opens doors for students, helping them build strong academic foundations while preparing them to communicate, connect, and lead across cultures. |





Rendering:
Bonella A. St.Ville
School

Rendering:
Bunche-Washington
STEM School

BUILDING THE FUTURE

NEW SCHOOLS WELCOME THE
NEXT GENERATION OF LEARNERS

Jefferson Parish Schools is continuing its commitment to creating learning environments that support student achievement and prepare students for the future through the opening of the new Bunche-Washington STEM School and the continued construction of the new Bonella A. St. Ville School. Together, these campuses represent an investment not only in facilities, but also in students, educators and the communities they serve.

The new Bunche-Washington STEM School officially opened for the 2026–2027 school year, welcoming Pre-K through eighth-grade students into a modern, 126,000-square-foot campus designed to inspire curiosity, creativity and collaboration.

Built to support science, technology, engineering and mathematics education, the school features advanced science labs, technology-integrated classrooms, collaborative learning spaces, a gymnasium, cafeteria and flexible instructional areas that support hands-on learning. The new campus gives students opportunities to learn in spaces designed around the way they explore, create and solve problems.

For students, these learning environments help make lessons more interactive while building skills that extend beyond the classroom. Whether working together on a project, conducting an experiment or using technology to explore a new concept, students have access to spaces that encourage critical thinking, communication and problem-solving.

Educators also benefit from classrooms and instructional areas that provide greater flexibility in how lessons are delivered. The design supports collaboration among teachers, the integration of technology and a range of instructional approaches that help meet the needs of students at different grade levels.

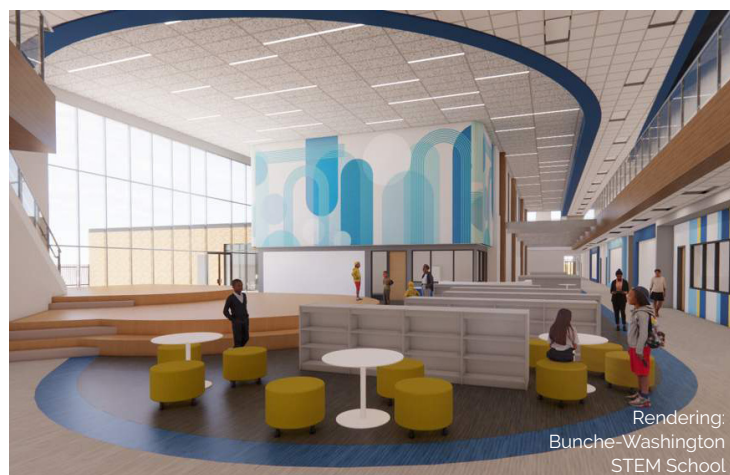
The impact extends beyond the classroom. The new school provides families with a safe and welcoming campus while creating a source of pride for the surrounding community. Schools often serve as gathering places for families, students and neighbors, and investing in modern facilities helps strengthen that connection between schools and the communities they serve.

Construction is also continuing on the new Bonella A. St. Ville School in Harvey. Following its groundbreaking in 2025, the campus is scheduled to open in 2027. Once complete, the school will provide students and educators with another modern learning environment designed to support strong instruction, collaboration and student success.

Like Bunche-Washington, the new St. Ville campus reflects the district's focus on ensuring students have access to facilities that support both academic growth and the changing needs of teaching and learning. The project will also provide families and staff with a new school environment designed to serve the community for years to come.

Together, Bunche-Washington STEM School and Bonella A. St. Ville School are part of Jefferson Parish Schools' continued work to strengthen schools and invest in the future of its students. From updated classrooms and technology to spaces designed for collaboration and hands-on learning, these projects are creating environments where students can learn, educators can teach and communities can continue to grow.

As Jefferson Parish Schools look ahead, investments like these help ensure that students across the district have access to schools that reflect both where education is today and where it is going next. |





DRIVEN BY PURPOSE

BUILT TO MOVE JP SCHOOLS FORWARD

Before students walk through school doors, before morning announcements begin, and before the first lesson of the day is taught, many Jefferson Parish students begin their school day on a JP Schools bus.

That ride matters.

A safe, reliable trip to school helps students arrive ready to learn and gives families confidence that their children are supported from the moment they leave home. That is why Jefferson Parish Schools has continued to invest in the systems, facilities, and employees who help make student transportation possible each day.

In June 2026, JP Schools officially opened its new Transportation Complex in Bridge City, LA, a \$6.4 million investment designed to strengthen student safety, improve daily operations, and support the transportation team that helps keep the district moving.

The 15,000-square-foot facility brings key transportation services together in one central location. It includes upgraded office space for mechanics and district employees, a large garage to service multiple buses at once, new vehicle diagnostic tools, and technology that supports more efficient maintenance and operations. On an average day, the complex can house up to 92 Jefferson

Parish-owned buses, with additional capacity to support transportation needs during emergency weather events.

For Superintendent Dr. James Gray, the new complex reflects the district's commitment to ensuring every part of JP Schools works together to support student learning.

"We want to make sure that every aspect of Jefferson Parish Schools functions at a high level," said Dr. James Gray. "This increases opportunities for our kids to maximize their time in classrooms."

The opening of the complex is also an investment in the employees who serve students and families behind the scenes. Transportation staff, mechanics, operations leaders, and support teams now have a facility designed to help them work more efficiently, communicate more effectively, and respond to daily transportation needs with stronger tools and resources.

Dr. Patrick Jenkins, Chief Operations Officer for Jefferson Parish Schools, said the facility strengthens one of the district's most important student support systems.

"Transportation is one of the first ways we serve students each morning and one of the last ways we support them at the end of



the day," said Jenkins. "This complex gives our teams stronger systems, better tools, and a more efficient way to serve our families. When we invest in transportation, we are investing in student safety, student attendance, and the overall learning experience."

"Transportation is one of the first ways we serve students each morning and one of the last ways we support them at the end of the day,"

— Dr. Patrick Jenkins, Chief Operations Officer

The facility was also recognized as an important milestone for the district's long-term planning and commitment to responsible investment. School Board Member and Facilities Subcommittee Chair Clay Moise described the complex as a step forward for students, families, and the broader Jefferson Parish community.

"This is not simply a new building," said Moise. "This is an investment in our children and our community."

For JP Schools, the new Transportation Complex represents the kind of behind-the-scenes investment that directly supports what families and communities care about most: students arriving safely, schools operating effectively, and employees having the tools they need to do their jobs well.

From maintenance and fleet operations to daily coordination and emergency readiness, the new complex strengthens the foundation of student transportation in Jefferson Parish. It gives JP Schools the space, tools, and systems needed to better support safe and dependable service for students across the district.

Student success does not begin only in the classroom. It begins with every safe ride, every prepared team member, every reliable route, and every decision made to help students reach school ready to learn.

With the opening of the new Transportation Complex, JP Schools is moving forward with purpose, one student, one bus, and one school day at a time. |





CTE

Preparing Today's Students for Jefferson Parish's Tomorrow

The future of Jefferson Parish is already taking shape in classrooms across the district.



Every day, approximately 45,000 students are learning, growing and preparing to become the next generation of leaders, entrepreneurs, skilled workers, innovators and community builders. Their success will help determine the strength of the local economy, the vitality of neighborhoods and the future of Jefferson Parish.

As businesses and industries across Jefferson Parish and the region continue to face workforce shortages, public education plays a key role in preparing students for the opportunities ahead. Today's students are preparing to enter a workforce that is more competitive, innovative and technology driven than ever before. Across nearly every industry, careers now require advanced

knowledge, technical expertise, adaptability and strong communication skills.

Jefferson Parish Schools' responsibility extends beyond helping students earn a diploma. The district is preparing students for life after graduation, whether that path leads to a four-year university, community college, technical training, military service or direct entry into the workforce.

That is why Career and Technical Education, also known as CTE, remains a critical part of the district's vision for student success.

Through CTE, Jefferson Parish Schools is preparing students to meet the demands of today's workforce with confidence and purpose. The district's mission is to ensure that every student has

Did you know?

Career and Technical Education programs help students develop qualities employers consistently rank among their top hiring priorities.





access to high-quality career and technical education programs that prepare them for high-skill, high-demand careers in an ever-changing global economy. By integrating rigorous academic instruction with hands-on technical training, students gain real-world experience while building the skills needed for both college and career success.

Through CTE programs, students gain hands-on experience, career exposure and industry-based credentials in high-demand fields such as advanced manufacturing, healthcare, welding, culinary arts, information technology, automotive technology, digital media, construction and more. These programs help students connect what they are learning in the classroom to real career opportunities in the community.

For many students, CTE opens the door to possibility. They are not only learning technical skills, but also building confidence, discovering their interests and seeing a clearer path toward their future. In some cases, students graduate with certifications and credentials that allow them to enter the workforce immediately with valuable skills and strong earning potential.

A key part of this work is the Joseph A. Cuillier Career Center, which serves as the district's Career and Technical Education hub. The center provides Eastbank and Westbank high school students with access to hands-on, industry-aligned training designed to prepare them for success in college, careers and beyond.

At the Cuillier Career Center, students can explore high-demand career pathways and earn industry-recognized certifications in areas such as automotive technology, digital media, health sciences, manufacturing and micro enterprise. Programs include Automobile Technology, Automotive Service Excellence, Auto Body Repair, Safety and Pollution Prevention, Adobe Illustrator, Adobe InDesign, Adobe Photoshop, Certified Nursing Assistant, Dental

Assistant, Medical Assistant, Carpentry, Electrical, Industrial Machine Shop, Welding, Barbering, Cosmetology and Fashion Design.

These opportunities allow students to gain technical expertise, workplace readiness skills and valuable industry exposure before they graduate. Just as importantly, students are able to see how their interests and talents can connect to meaningful careers and long-term growth.

Jefferson Parish Schools also proudly partners with Jobs for America's Graduates, known as JAG, a state-based national nonprofit organization dedicated to helping students overcome barriers and achieve success beyond high school. JAG programs across several JP Schools campuses provide students with leadership development, career readiness training, mentoring and individualized support.

Through JAG, students receive support to remain on track for graduation, pursue postsecondary education opportunities and secure meaningful employment that can lead to long-term career advancement. The program helps students develop confidence, professionalism and the life skills necessary to thrive in today's workforce.

This work is made stronger through meaningful partnerships.

Jefferson Parish Schools works closely with local businesses, industry associations, higher education institutions and workforce development organizations to ensure programs align with current and future labor market needs. These partnerships help create a stronger bridge between the classroom and the workplace.

One example is the district's growing partnership with UA Local 60 through the Pipefitters Apprenticeship Program. Now entering its fifth year, the program has provided employment opportunities with member contractors to 100% of participating students who chose to continue in the industry. Building on that

success, the partnership has expanded to include an HVAC Apprenticeship Program, now entering its second year, creating even more pathways for students interested in the skilled trades.

The district's multi-year partnership with We Work the Waterways has also expanded student awareness of careers in the maritime industry. Through hands-on learning experiences, workforce exposure and career exploration activities, students are able to see how their coursework and industry-based credentials connect directly to careers within one of the region's most important industries.

These experiences are powerful because they help students make real connections between school and their future. They also give employers an opportunity to help shape the talent pipeline they will depend on for years to come.

When businesses engage with schools through internships, mentoring, advisory councils, job shadowing, classroom partnerships and work-based learning opportunities, students gain valuable insight into career pathways and workplace expectations. At the same time, employers help prepare future workers who understand the skills, professionalism and expectations needed to succeed.

This collaboration strengthens the entire parish.

Strong public schools are directly connected to economic growth. Companies considering investment or relocation look closely at the quality of local schools and the strength of the workforce pipeline. Families deciding where to build their lives want confidence that their children will have access to quality education, meaningful opportunities and a strong future.

The success of Jefferson Parish Schools impacts more than student achievement. It influences property values, business recruitment, workforce retention and the overall quality of life across the community.

Workforce development, however, is not only about technical training. Employers consistently emphasize



the importance of communication, teamwork, problem-solving, professionalism and adaptability. These skills are developed every day in classrooms, extracurricular activities, fine arts programs, athletics, student organizations and leadership opportunities across the district.

Education prepares students for careers, but it also prepares them to be thoughtful citizens, responsible leaders and active members of their communities.

Jefferson Parish is experiencing momentum, growth and opportunity. Jefferson Parish Schools is proud to be part of that progress by preparing students not only for graduation, but for the future they will help build. |

SUPERINTENDENT'S COUNCILS

Elevating Voices Across Jefferson Parish Schools



In Jefferson Parish Schools, engaging those closest to the work in shaping the district's direction is a strategic priority. That focus is reflected in the structure and purpose of the Superintendent's Councils. These six advisory bodies serve as essential platforms for collaboration, ensuring the voices of students, parents, teachers, principals, English language learners, and special education stakeholders are not only heard but also integrated into district decision-making.

Established under the leadership of Superintendent Dr. James Gray, the Superintendent's Councils align directly with Priority 5 of the district's 2028 Strategic

Plan. This priority emphasizes deeper stakeholder engagement and a commitment to strengthening internal collaboration and external relationships. These councils function as active working groups that bring their unique insight and perspective to address the challenges and opportunities facing JP Schools and its communities.

Each council convenes regularly throughout the school year, engaging in structured dialogue, collaborative problem-solving, and meaningful exchange with Dr. Gray and district leadership. These sessions help identify actionable priorities, surface systemic challenges, and create alignment between school-level realities and districtwide strategy. While each council centers the unique perspectives of its members, collectively they form a unified strategy for inclusive leadership and continuous improvement.





The impact of the Superintendent's Councils is already shaping the district in visible and meaningful ways. The Student Council has become a thoughtful forum for elevating youth perspectives on school climate, safety, communication, and leadership. Their input is helping district leaders better understand student experiences and strengthen relationships across campuses. The Parent Council brings valuable insight into family engagement, transparency, and school-to-home communication, directly influencing how the district partners with families and builds trust.

The English Language Learners Council, created during the 2024–25 school year, plays a critical role in guiding how the district serves multilingual students and their families. Conversations around equitable access, bilingual educator recruitment, and culturally responsive programming are helping the district address longstanding barriers and strengthen support for Jefferson's diverse communities. To deepen alignment and encourage cross-council collaboration, the district also launched a Collaborative Council that brings together representatives from all six advisory groups to share insights, identify shared priorities, and foster systemwide connection.

By design, each council strengthens the district's commitment to inclusive, responsive leadership and deepens community engagement by creating space for meaningful collaboration among students, families, schools, and the broader Jefferson Parish community. Which provide real-time insight into the experiences of students, families, and educators, allowing policy and practice to reflect the reality of those on the ground.

As Jefferson Parish Schools continue to implement its strategic vision, the Superintendent's Councils will remain a key component of its culture and climate efforts. They represent a clear commitment to shared leadership, where the people most impacted by decisions play an active role in shaping them. Through this model, the district is building a stronger, more connected school system where every voice is valued and every perspective helps move the work forward. |

"The Collaborative Council helps ensure that voices from across our school community are informing key decisions. By working together, we are strengthening communication, promoting equity, and building shared accountability for the future of Jefferson Parish Schools."

— Dr. James Gray, Superintendent





Beyond the Classroom

How JP Schools Is Connecting Students to Care

In Jefferson Parish Schools, we believe that students can't learn if they're not physically, emotionally, or mentally well. That belief is now driving a first-of-its-kind initiative across Jefferson Parish Schools. The JP Schools Care Coordination Program is a groundbreaking partnership with Manning Family Children's and its ThriveKids Student Wellness Program.

Launched to improve student health and academic success, the JP Schools Care Coordination Program connects students, families, school nurses, mental health professionals, and medical providers in a streamlined, student-centered system of care. Through this initiative, we are actively breaking down health-related barriers to learning and creating real, lasting change in the lives of our students and families.

Why Care Coordination Matters

With approximately 45,000 students, 74 schools, and families speaking 49 different languages, JP Schools is Louisiana's largest and most diverse school system. Roughly 76% of our students are economically disadvantaged, and 20% are English learners. These factors amplify the barriers many students face in accessing healthcare and mental health services.

While schools have long provided interventions for academic challenges, many students continue to struggle due to underlying medical, mental health, or social factors. Research shows that students with chronic conditions are more likely to miss school, earn lower grades, and face long-term consequences if their needs go unaddressed. The Care Coordination Program tackles these issues directly by aligning school and healthcare supports, with nurses and mental health professionals playing a central role.

A Program That Makes a Difference

The JP Schools Care Coordination Program is free and voluntary for families, giving students access to a broader network of support once they are enrolled. Through the program, school nurses can work directly with prescribing physicians to support medication management, while families can receive help scheduling follow-up care after health screenings. Students may also be connected to mental health counseling, psychiatric referrals, and individualized care plans that support their needs both in and out of school. The program also helps ensure continuity of care during natural disasters, prolonged school closures, or transitions from the hospital back to the classroom. And the results speak for themselves.

Real Stories, Real Impact

Estefany's Story

Estefany had been struggling to follow classroom lessons. Her mother, Raquel, suspected vision issues but didn't know where to turn. A language barrier made communication with the school difficult. Through the Care Coordination Program, Estefany was referred to both an audiologist and an ophthalmologist. She was soon diagnosed with significant vision and hearing impairments and received glasses, hearing aids, and transportation to appointments.

"I could never have taken care of this on my own," Raquel shared. "I am very thankful to the school nurse who referred me and to Children's Hospital for arranging all of this."

Marco's (pseudonym) Story

After immigrating from Nicaragua, Marco's mother struggled to secure services for her son, who had recently been diagnosed

with autism. Through the Care Coordination Program, a care coordinator helped her apply for Medicaid, understand the IEP process, and ensure Marco received speech and occupational therapy. Today, Marco is thriving in school. His entire family now has access to health coverage.

Juan's (pseudonym) Story

Juan was facing serious mental health challenges, including signs of depression. With no insurance and no primary care provider, his mother didn't know how to help. The Care Coordination Program connected Juan to counseling services, primary care, and community supports. These included financial aid applications, a food pantry, and utility assistance. Juan is now receiving the care he needs, and his family no longer faces these challenges alone.



Results That Go Beyond the Clinic

The impact of care coordination extends far beyond the clinic. Connecting students and families with the right support at the right time, including access to nursing and mental health services on campus, has helped reduce duplication of services, increase access to Medicaid and financial assistance for families, and strengthen the safety net that surrounds students each day.

According to parent surveys, families report high levels of satisfaction with the program and appreciation for its personalized, proactive approach.

A Community Commitment

This work would not be possible without the commitment and collaboration of many. We are deeply grateful to our school nurses, mental health professionals, talented visual arts teachers, and the ThriveKids team for their unwavering dedication to supporting students in every aspect of their well-being.

Looking Ahead

By supporting the whole child and engaging families as partners, JP Schools is transforming how we think about student wellness. The JP Schools Care Coordination Program is not just a medical model. It is an educational strategy rooted in equity, compassion, and proactive collaboration. |

PROGRESS YOU CAN MEASURE

ACADEMIC GROWTH CONTINUES ACROSS JP SCHOOLS

Strong public schools are essential to a strong Jefferson Parish.

Across Jefferson Parish Schools, students and schools continue to make academic gains. In both 2024 and 2025, Louisiana's largest and most diverse public school system earned a B rating, marking two consecutive years at that level and demonstrating continued improvement across the district.

Behind that progress are students working toward higher goals, educators strengthening instruction, school leaders focused on improvement, and families and community partners supporting students along the way.

For JP Schools, those gains represent more than a district milestone. They are part of the continued work to strengthen schools and expand opportunities for students throughout the parish.

"This year's progress reflects the collective commitment of our educators, staff, families, and community," said Dr. James Gray, Superintendent of Jefferson Parish Schools. "Raising our performance score again shows what is possible when we stay focused on strong instruction, the right support, and the needs of every student. As the largest district in Louisiana, sustaining a B rating with continued growth is something we can all be proud of. We are moving forward together and building a system where every student has the opportunity to thrive."

Excellence Across the District

Academic progress can be seen in schools throughout Jefferson Parish, including campuses that continue to rank among Louisiana's highest performing schools.

Among K-8 schools, Metairie Academy ranked No. 2 in the state, Gretna No. 2 Academy ranked No. 3, and Airline Park Academy for Advanced Studies ranked No. 8.

JP Schools high schools also earned statewide recognition. Haynes Academy for Advanced Studies ranked No. 1, Patrick F. Taylor Science & Technology Academy ranked No. 5, and Thomas Jefferson Academy for Advanced Studies ranked No. 7.

The 2025 school performance results also showed consistency among the district's highest-performing campuses. All A-rated schools maintained their ratings, with JP Schools ending the year with 12 A-rated schools and 14 B-rated schools.

Together, those results demonstrate the strength of academic programs and high expectations found throughout the district.

"Progress is happening across Jefferson Parish, from campuses ranked among the top schools in Louisiana to schools making some of the largest academic gains."

— Dr. James Gray, Superintendent





Growth Where It Matters

Some of the district's most important gains are happening at schools that have made significant academic progress from one year to the next.

Judge Lionel R. Collins Elementary, Laureate Academy, and Cherbonnier Elementary were recognized among the top growth schools in Louisiana. Their gains point to the work happening inside classrooms each day as educators use strong instruction, student data, and targeted support to respond to individual student needs.

Their success also shows that academic momentum is not limited to the district's highest-ranked schools. Students are making gains across grade levels, campuses, and communities throughout Jefferson Parish.

A District Moving Forward

The broader district results tell a similar story.

Approximately 70 percent of JP Schools campuses grew or maintained their performance. Fifty of the district's 74 schools showed growth, 12 schools increased their letter grades, and 10 schools improved by six points or more.



Another significant milestone was reaching zero F-rated schools.

That achievement represents years of focused school improvement efforts, instructional support, leadership, and the daily work of educators and school teams committed to helping students succeed.

The numbers provide one measure of that progress. What happens behind them matters just as much.

The Work Behind the Results

Academic improvement does not happen through one program, one initiative, or one school year. It is built through the work taking place in classrooms and schools every day.

JP Schools continues to focus on strong instruction, high-quality instructional materials, targeted support for educators, and using student data to identify where additional support or new approaches are needed.

Behind every performance score are students mastering new skills, teachers refining their practice, principals leading improvement efforts, and families reinforcing learning beyond the classroom.

"Academic growth begins with what happens between teachers and students every day. When students feel supported, challenged, and seen, they are able to build the skills and confidence they need to succeed," said Laura Roussel, Chief Academic Officer for Jefferson Parish Schools. "That is why our focus remains on creating strong learning experiences in every classroom, so every student has the opportunity to grow from where they are and move toward what is possible."

Two consecutive years as a B-rated district represent an important marker of progress, but they are not the finish line. As Louisiana transitions to a new school accountability system with new expectations for how school performance is measured, Jefferson Parish Schools remains focused on what matters most: helping students grow, achieve at high levels, and graduate prepared for what comes next. |

2025 BY THE NUMBERS

2nd

consecutive year as a B-rated district

12

A-rated schools

14

B-rated schools

12

schools increased letter grades

10

schools grew 6 or more points

50

schools showed growth

zero

F-rated schools



Teachers of the Year

Aimee Perret

A. C. Alexander School

Jennifer Cowart

Airline Park Academy for
Advanced Studies

Valena Coco

Alice Birney Elementary

Aimee Webre

Allen Ellender School

Natalie Eldridge

Bissonet Plaza School

Cynthnia Thompson

Bonnabel Magnet Academy High

Lori Lapatka

Bridgedale Elementary

Katelyn Blanke

Chateau Estates School

Ariana Rodriguez

Cherbonnier/Rillieux School

Elsbeth Harkey

Clancy Maggiore School for the Arts

Ashley Sarrio

Congetta Trippe Janet Elementary

Emily Roubion

East Jefferson High

Danielle Lawrence

Ella C. Pittman Elementary

Reggionne Franklin

Emmett Gilbert School of
Excellence at Ford

Joanne Spears

Estelle School

Kimblie Matherne

Fisher Middle-High

Connie Brown

Frederick Douglass Community
School

Jennifer Jones

George A. Cox Elementary

Jennifer Tran

Geraldine Boudreaux Elementary

Victoria Stein

Grand Isle School

Neocha Farlough

Granville T. Woods School

Erica James

Green Park Elementary

Meredith Weigand

Greenlawn Terrace Elementary

Tanya Cook

Gretna No. 2 Academy for
Advanced Studies

Latasha Kennedy

Harahan Elementary

Susan Toso

Harold Keller Elementary

Pierre Cazaubon

Haynes Academy School for
Advanced Studies

Rachel Granat

Hazel Park/ Hilda Knoff
Elementary

Teriyona Francis

Isaac G. Joseph Elementary

Amy Schellhaas

J. D. Meisler Middle

Caitlin Wilson

J.C. Ellis School

Latosha Dorsey-Williams

Jefferson School

Stacye Griffin

Jefferson Virtual High School

Taisha Muse

John Ehret High

Robert Lenahan

John James Audubon School

Erica Pickett

John Q. Adams Middle

Irvin Osborne

Joseph A. Cuillier Sr. Career Center

Anne Reed

Joseph C. Moscona School

Kristy Riser

Judge Lionel R. Collins Elementary

Matthew Bearden

L. H. Marrero Middle

Janelle Crocker

L. W. Higgins High

Brittany Baum

Leo E. Kerner, Jr. Elementary

Schwanell Smith

Lincoln School for the Arts

Racheal Minchew

Livaudais Middle

Lourdes Ramirez

Marie Riviere Elementary

Kelly Carderara

McDonough 26 Elementary

Courtney Moore

Metairie Academy for Advanced
Studies

Evelyn Huddleston-James

Patrick F. Taylor Science &
Technology Academy

Lynette Flagge

Paul J. Solis Elementary

Leslie Jemison

Phoebe Hearst Elementary

Mechele Shirley

Ralph J. Bunche Elementary

Jamie Covey

Ray St. Pierre Academy for
Advanced Studies

Edward Haik

Riverdale High

Rachel Fitzsimmons

Rudolph Matas School

Shannon Doyle-Coates

Ruppel Academie Francaise
School

Dana Brown

Shirley T. Johnson Gretna Park
Elementary

Bianca Woods

Stella Worley Middle

Mitchell Rothermel

Strehle Community School

Antzavier Brown

T. H. Harris Middle

Rosemarie Soriano

Terrytown Elementary

Treychel Bryant

Thomas Jefferson Academy for
Advanced Studies

Andrea Rauchle

Tom Benson School

Rose Williams

Truman School

Arielle Hurst-Jack

Walter Schneckenburger
Elementary

Denicia Anthony

West Jefferson High

Patrick Houston

William Hart Elementary

Shyniece McGennis

Woodland West Elementary

Marcus Rogers

Woodmere School

District Teachers of the Year

Courtney Moore

Metairie Academy for Advanced Studies

Natalie Eldridge

Bissonet Plaza School

Cynthnia Thompson

Alfred Bonnabel High School

District New Teachers of the Year

Ronesha Johnson

Pittman Elementary School

Leatric Kindred

Livaudais Middle School

LoriElle Adams

John Ehret High School

District Support Staff of the Year

Tyneisha Chevalier

Woodmere School

Stella Cruz

Stella Worley Middle School

Carmen Birden

Patrick F. Taylor Science & Technology Academy

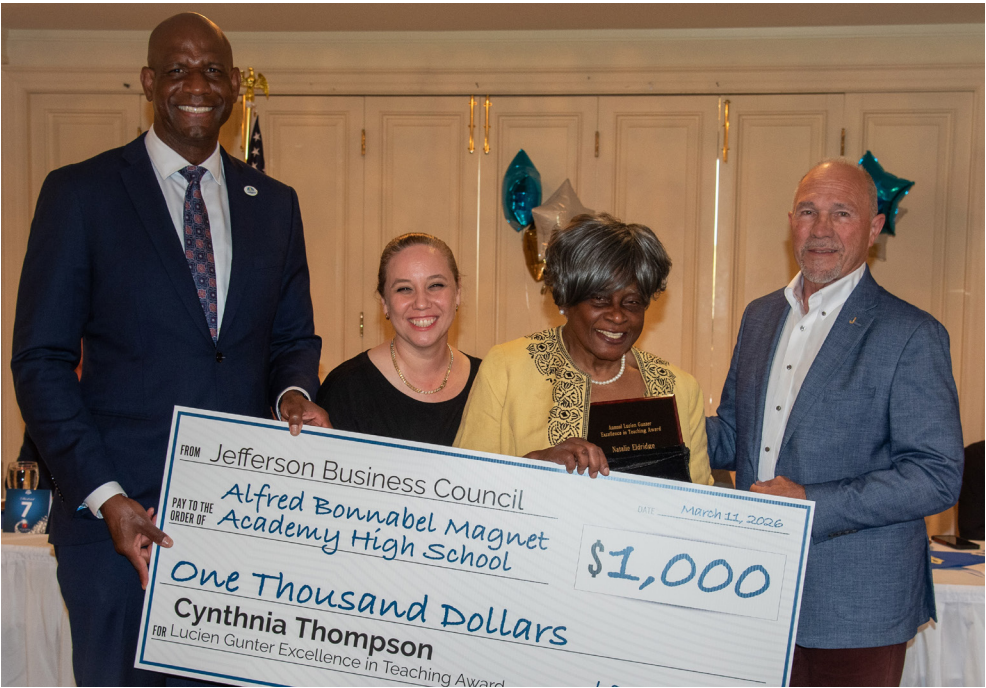
District Principals of the Year

Brian Wahl

Phoebe Hearst Elementary

Dr. Gerod Macon

TH Harris Middle



SCHOLARS OF DISTINCTION

Celebrating academic excellence, leadership, and achievement across Jefferson Parish Schools

PERFECT 36 ACT 2025-2026

BONNABEL
HIGH SCHOOL

Kevin Mejia

THOMAS JEFFERSON ACADEMY
FOR ADVANCED STUDIES

Hayden Espiritu

PATRICK F. TAYLOR SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY

Blake Trinh

Malik Adams

Marissa Nguyen

Evan Kellogg

HAYNES ACADEMY FOR ADVANCED STUDIES

Evelynn Boyd

Audriana Li

Leonid Smyk

Abigail Duvoisin

Christine Tseng



U. S. PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLAR 2025

Vaishnavi Kumbala

Haynes Academy for Advanced Studies



JOBS FOR AMERICA GRADUATE (JAG)

Avery Pham & JAG Specialist Sandra Dennise

*2nd place nationally in the Project-Based Learning Event
at the JAG National Career Development Conference*

NATIONAL MERIT FINALISTS 2026

THOMAS JEFFERSON ACADEMY FOR ADVANCED STUDIES

Jacie Marshall

Hayden Espiritu

Sien Hu

Kristen Davis

Jacob Hoffmann

HAYNES ACADEMY FOR ADVANCED STUDIES

Mason Bond

Ryan Pham

William Triplett

Tasnia Farhin

James Roop III

Christine Tseng

Gianna Gilberti

David Russo

Hannah Wen

Jeremy Lin

Liliana Tender

PATRICK F. TAYLOR SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY

Malik Adams

Nick Huynh

Sarah Nguyen

Tyson Gilton

Beckham Lieu

Sarah Ruppel

Vance Hartman

Alexandra Mercadel

Julie Tran



STATE MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT OF THE YEAR FINALIST

Arivan Subramanian

Patrick F. Taylor Science & Technology Academy

STUDENTS OF THE YEAR

Fifth Grade

Afreen Liban

A. C. Alexander

Eva Evans

Airline Park Academy for
Advanced Studies

Lailah Issa

Alice Birney

Amanda Bertrand

Boudreaux Elementary

Eann Pina

Chateau Estates School

Perla Perez

Clancy-Maggiore School
for the Arts

Justice Murdock

Ella C. Pittman

Julienne Portugal Nair

George Cox Elementary
School

Alisson Sanchez Castro

Green Park Elementary

Leo Wu

Greenlawn Terrace
Elementary

Russell Rogers

Gretna No 2 Academy

Vera Mutoonono

Harahan

Zury Casco Vasquez

JC Ellis Elementary

Sarah Umul Lux

Jefferson Elementary
School

Naman Chouhan

John James Audubon

Madalynn Turley

Joseph C. Moscona School

Richard Nguyen

Judge Lionel Collins

Breanne Guidry

Leo Kerner Elementary

Abigail Kleiner

Lincoln School for the Arts

Kenny Barrios DeLeon

Marie Riviere

August Beshears

McDonogh 26 Elementary

Maya Ray

Metairie Academy

Dalia Fares

Paul J Solis

Nathaniel Murga

Phoebe Hearst Elementary
School

Alex Plessala

Rudolph Matas

Kedric Pearson

Ruppel Academie
Francaise

Melina Martinez

Terrytown Elementary

Kori Stewart

Tom Benson School

Andres Paredes

Walter G Schneckenburger
Elementary School

Neyci Carrasco Sanchez

William Hart Elementary

Lilah McNeil

Woodland West

Eighth Grade

Julia Armas

A. C. Alexander

Abigail Wood

Allen Ellender School

Wilmer Coello Milla

Boudreaux Elementary

Odalis Alvarado

Chateau Estates

Madison Aguilar

Fisher

Flor Perez

G T Woods

Lucas Zeng

Harahan Elementary

Norah McKinney

Haynes Advanced
Academy

Sarita Perez

J.D. Meisler

Angela Villafane

JC Ellis Elementary

Lillie Belinas

Jefferson Elementary

Crista Eguigure

John James Audubon

Matthew Eskander

John Q Adams

Teagan Reed

Joseph C. Moscona School

Dynver Williams

Lincoln School for the Arts

Hector Cruz Rodriguez

Marrero Middle School

Arivan Subramanian

Patrick Taylor

Gabriel Thomas

Rudolph Matas

Taylor Vo

Ruppel Academie
Francaise

Kennedy Tally

Stella Worley Middle
School

Caroline Cordova

T.H.Harris Middle School

Kinzie Kaiser

Thomas Jefferson Academy

Dara Paz

Tom Benson School

Khloe Henry

Truman School

Lamar Williams

Woodland West School

Elijah Bucknor-Stewart

Woodmere

Twelfth Grade

Ailyn Chinchilla

Alfred Bonnabel Magnet
Academy High School

Bianca Hernandez-

Turcios

East Jefferson

Kaydence Leslie

Fisher

Christine Tseng

Haynes Advanced
Academy

Alyssa Glapion

Jefferson Virtual

Brandon Washington

John Ehret High School

Keira Paige

L.W. Higgins High School

Aiden Recinos

Patrick Taylor

Latisha Gordon

Riverdale High School

Hayden Espiritu

Thomas Jefferson Academy

Karon King

West Jefferson

DISTRICT STUDENTS OF THE YEAR

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Kedric Pearson

Ruppel Academie Francaise



MIDDLE SCHOOL

Arivan Subramanian

Patrick F. Taylor Science & Technology
Academy



HIGH SCHOOL

Christine Tseng

Haynes Academy for Advanced Studies



ATHLETIC EXCELLENCE

5 LHSAA State Championships | 1 Gatorade Louisiana Player of the Year Honor

LHSAA GIRLS
WRESTLING
STATE CHAMPION,
107 lbs.

Layla Higgins
Riverdale
High School



GATORADE LOUISIANA
VOLLEYBALL
PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Marilyn Voitier
Haynes Academy
for Advanced
Studies



LHSAA BOYS WRESTLING
STATE CHAMPION, DIVISION III, 165 lbs.
Debraun Norris

LHSAA BOYS TRIPLE JUMP
STATE CHAMPION, CLASS 3A
Kingston Harris

LHSAA SINGLES BOWLING
STATE CHAMPION
Beckham Lieu

LHSAA BOYS BOWLING
STATE CHAMPIONS, DIVISION II
Patrick F. Taylor Boys Bowling Team



SIGNED & COMMITTED ATHLETES

JOHN EHRET HIGH SCHOOL

Corey Dudley, football
Troy University

PATRICK F. TAYLOR SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY

Ashtyn Rogers, softball
Southeastern Louisiana University

Jackson Norwood, football
Tulane University

Jeremy Gibson, baseball
Tuskegee University

BONNABEL HIGH SCHOOL

Thomas Molette, basketball
Phillips Community College at the University of Arkansas

Jaden Franklin, baseball
Dillard

FISHER MIDDLE HIGH SCHOOL

Jacob Bourgeois, baseball
John Melvin University

THOMAS JEFFERSON ACADEMY

Mi'Leah Harris, track and field
Dillard University

Savannah Thompson, track & field
Nicholls State University

RIVERDALE HIGH SCHOOL

Amin Dip, baseball
Loyola University

Jamarri Williams, baseball
Arkansas St.-3 Rivers

Anthony Suazo, soccer
Ortiz - Bethany College

Arandy Deleon, soccer
Sul Ross State

Byron Perrilliat, football
Alabama A&M

Toren Signal, football
Louisiana College

Cole Moses, football
Louisiana College

Zach Brown, football
Louisiana College

Syour Ferrell, football
Arkansas Baptist

Anthony Ebib, football
Cornell College

Dwain Swilley, football
Fresno City College

Bryan Jackson, football
Arkansas Baptist

Lance Simmons, football
Grambling

ACCELERATING SUCCESS

HOW STAR ACADEMY IS CHANGING OUTCOMES FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

STAR Academy in Jefferson Parish is transforming how the district supports students at risk of falling behind. This innovative acceleration program gives middle school students a second chance and a path forward by combining high expectations with the right academic and emotional support. At its core, the program is designed for 6th grade students who are overaged and at risk of not graduating on time. It begins in middle school rather than waiting until high school, when support may come too late to make a lasting impact. By reaching students earlier, STAR Academy helps them catch up and move forward with confidence, ensuring they are prepared to succeed in high school.

Created for rising 7th grade students who are one or more grade levels behind, STAR Academy functions as a "school within a school." It offers a structured, engaging environment for students who have struggled due to academic gaps, personal adversity, or lack of motivation. Through hands-on, project-based learning and a strong STEM focus, students are given the opportunity to recover two grade levels in a single year and enter 9th grade prepared and on track.

Each STAR Academy site is intentionally structured to support small learning environments, with 20 students per class and a

maximum of 80 students per school. This model allows for personalized instruction, strong teacher-student relationships, and consistent academic monitoring. The small cohort size is a key factor in the program's success and impact.

The results speak for themselves. In the 2022–2023 cohort, 83% of STAR students advanced to 9th grade, and 72% are currently succeeding in high school. These outcomes are even more significant when compared to historical data. In the 2017–2018 school year, 800 students who failed 8th grade were promoted to 9th grade due to age, but only 49% graduated in four years. STAR Academy interrupts that pattern by focusing on early, meaningful intervention.

During the 2024–2025 school year, the program operated at two hub campuses: TH Harris Middle School on the Eastbank and Marrero Middle School on the Westbank. Each location served students referred from nearby middle and K-8 schools, with transportation provided to ensure access.

The stories behind the numbers are just as powerful. One student shared, "I could not wait to go to school this year." Another said the program helped him believe in himself again. One parent wrote,

**Did you
know?**

The program's impact has earned national attention. In 2023, a STAR Academy student was recognized as the National STAR Student of the Year. This recognition highlights the remarkable talent, resilience, and academic growth fostered through the program. It also reflects Jefferson Parish Schools' commitment to building programs that identify and elevate student potential.





"Thank you for giving my kid a second chance. It feels good to know that y'all did not forget about him."

STAR Academy continued to grow during the 2025–2026 school year, expanding to two additional sites: J.D. Meisler Middle School and Worley Middle School. With this expansion, the program now serves up to 320 students across four campuses, providing more students with opportunities for academic recovery and long-term success.

As the district prepares for the year ahead, STAR Academy stands as a powerful example of what is possible when innovation, equity, and compassion come together. It is more than a program. It is a promise that every student deserves a path to graduation and a future full of opportunity. |





Workforce Child Care Tax Credits

FORMERLY THE SCHOOL READINESS TAX CREDIT

INVESTING IN THEIR FUTURE, STRENGTHENING OURS

WHAT IS IT?

Louisiana businesses are eligible for a dollar-for-dollar tax credit for up to \$5,000 by donating to Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) Agencies. (R.S. 47:6107)

WHO WE ARE

Jefferson Parish Early Childhood Collaborative is the CCR&R for Jefferson Parish, contracted through the Louisiana Department of Education. We operate as a division under the Early Childhood Department in Jefferson Parish Schools and have served as the CCR&R in Jefferson since 2023.



WHY SHOULD MY BUSINESS INVEST?



Strengthen community partnerships that bring visibility and resources to your program



Benefit from increased awareness of the high-quality care and education you provide every day



Help families, local businesses, and stakeholders understand that investing in early childhood is an investment in Jefferson Parish's future



Earn 50% of the funds your center raises through the campaign

CENTER CHAMPION PROGRAM

Designate 50% of your
donation to a specific
learning center

HOW IT WORKS

The Workforce Child Care Tax Credits make giving simple, impactful, and cost-free:

STEP 1

Donate up to \$5,000 to Jefferson's CCR&R, the JP Early Childhood Collaborative



STEP 2

File Louisiana State Taxes with the Workforce Child Care Tax Credit



STEP 3

Earn dollar-for-dollar credit! Receive a 100 percent refundable tax credit of up to \$5,000 each year.

READY TO MAKE AN IMPACT?

Your decision to participate in the Workforce Child Care Tax Credit creates ripples of change that last for generations.



504-250-3017



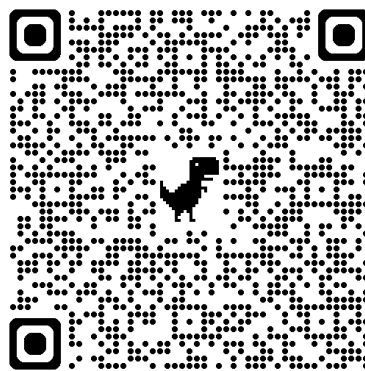
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DISCOVERING GIFTS, CULTIVATING TALENTS, INSPIRING CREATIVITY, CREATING FUTURES

THE IMPACT OF GIFTED, TALENTED, AND ARTS EDUCATION IN JEFFERSON PARISH SCHOOLS

In Jefferson Parish Schools, the arts are more than performances, paintings, concerts, and exhibitions. They are pathways for students to discover who they are, express what they see, and share their gifts with the world. Through the district's Gifted, Talented, and Arts Program, students across Jefferson Parish are being identified, challenged, and celebrated for exceptional abilities in visual arts, music, theatre arts, and gifted academics.

From student artwork displayed in public exhibitions to theatre productions that bring school communities together, from honor band performances to creative projects connected to history and culture, the program reflects a growing commitment to helping students develop their talents while gaining confidence, discipline, creativity, and a stronger sense of belonging.

The purpose of the Gifted and Talented Instruction Program is to provide educational services to students in Kindergarten through

12th grade who demonstrate the potential for exceptional intellectual or artistic achievement. Gifted students are those who demonstrate exceptional intellectual aptitude and advanced cognitive abilities beyond what is typical for their age group, while talented students are identified through a state evaluation in the areas of theatre, music, and visual arts. Across each area, the goal remains the same: to challenge, support, and inspire students through differentiated, accelerated, and enrichment opportunities designed to meet their unique academic, creative, social, and emotional needs.

Identifying Gifts: Opening Doors to Opportunity

The work begins with identification. The Jefferson Parish Gifted, Talented, and Arts Program is committed to finding students who demonstrate exceptional abilities and providing them with

opportunities to grow. The screening process often begins with a referral from a parent, teacher, or school staff member who recognizes a student's potential in a specific area.

Once parental consent is received, students participate in a screening process designed to assess their strengths and abilities. Students who meet screening criteria then move forward to a comprehensive evaluation conducted by trained specialists. Depending on the area of talent, evaluations may include observations, performance tasks, portfolios, interviews, and assessments tailored to visual arts, music, theatre arts, or gifted academics.

The process is designed to be both thoughtful and equitable. It allows educators to look beyond a single moment or score and consider how a student thinks, performs, creates, communicates, and responds to challenge. Through this work, Jefferson Parish Schools continues to identify students with exceptional potential and provide specialized educational opportunities that nurture creativity, strengthen talent, and support continued growth.

A Year of Student Showcases and Creative Achievement

Throughout the school year, Jefferson Parish Schools students have demonstrated the power of gifted, talented, and arts education through performances, exhibitions, competitions, and districtwide recognitions.

At the December School Board meeting, the district highlighted the bicentennial through a showcase that featured Talented student artwork, Talented Theatre performances, CrimeStoppers PSA video winners, Talented Music performances, and Honor Band recipients. The event provided students with a public platform to



share their creativity while allowing families, educators, and district leaders to see the depth of talent being developed in schools across Jefferson Parish.

Students were also recognized through the district's holiday card contest, where young artists used their creativity to help represent the spirit of the season. Talented Music students were allotted the opportunity to perform during Breakfast of Champions, further reinforcing the district's commitment to recognizing student achievement in the arts.

The Jefferson Parish Honor Band Performance, hosted by Jefferson Parish Arts, also served as an important celebration of musical excellence. Students selected for Honor Band represented not only their individual schools, but the collective strength of music education across the district. Their performance reflected hours of practice, strong instruction, and the discipline required to perform at a high level.



Several bands throughout Jefferson Parish Schools received opportunities to showcase their talents and represent their schools and communities with pride. The L.W. Higgins High School Marching Storm was featured as a representative band during the Jefferson Parish Schools Mardi Gras festivities, while the John Ehret High School "Pride of Marrero" Marching Band performed during the burial of the time capsule as part of the Jefferson Parish Bicentennial Celebration. These performances not only highlighted the musical excellence of our students but also demonstrated the important role the arts play in connecting schools with the broader community.

Creativity in Color and the Power of Visual Storytelling

The district's Talented Visual Arts students have used their artwork as a powerful tool to explore history, identity, culture, and personal expression. This year, the exhibition Creativity in Color at the Louisiana Civil Rights Museum brought together students, families, educators, and community members for an evening celebrating artistic excellence, creativity, and storytelling through visual art.

Jefferson Parish Schools also continued its longstanding partnership with the National World War II Museum, a collaboration that began in 2018. Through this partnership, Talented Visual Arts students have the opportunity to engage with history in meaningful ways, creating works that reflect themes of resilience,



remembrance, hope, courage, and sacrifice. By connecting artistic expression with historical learning, students gain a deeper understanding of the past while developing their own creative voices. This year's Annual Arts Exhibit, themed Avant-Garde Art, challenged students to think boldly, experiment with innovative ideas, and connect their work to a broader artistic tradition.

These exhibitions celebrated the creativity and excellence of Jefferson Parish Schools' Talented Visual Arts students, complemented by performances from Talented Theatre and Talented Music students, while honoring the legacy, achievements, and contributions of Black individuals throughout history.

Through these experiences, students were able to bridge art and history, using their creativity to tell meaningful stories, explore important cultural narratives, and engage audiences in thoughtful reflection. These opportunities demonstrate how arts education empowers students to become both creative thinkers and informed citizens, capable of using their talents to inspire, educate, and connect with others.

One Student's Art Opens an International Opportunity

One powerful example of the impact of the Talented Visual Arts Program is the story of Daniel Rome, a student at Joseph C. Moscona School. Daniel's passion for art has grown into a journey of history, honor, and international opportunity.





His artwork was first showcased at the TVA Civil Rights Art Show and the TVA World War II Art Show. At the Civil Rights Art Show, Daniel presented an acrylic portrait of legendary jazz musician Wynton Marsalis. For the World War II Art Show, he created a watercolor tribute titled *Reflections of Soldiers*, which honored World War II veterans.

Daniel's watercolor gained attention beyond Jefferson Parish. Through connections with the Threadhead Cultural Foundation and Walk Among Heroes, a veterans organization based in San Antonio, Texas, his artwork helped raise funds to support programs that preserve and honor the legacy of those who served. His work also earned him a place as a student ambassador for the 2026 Normandy Experience, where he will travel to Normandy, France, to walk alongside veterans, visit historic sites, and present research to the group.

Daniel's selection shows what can happen when talent is nurtured, students are given opportunities, and community partners help expand the reach of student work. His artwork began in a classroom and will now carry him to one of the most significant historic sites in the world.

"This is more than a trip. It is an opportunity to learn from history directly through the stories of veterans and to form lifelong bonds," said a representative from Walk Among Heroes. "Daniel's talent and dedication are helping keep these stories alive for the next generation."

Jefferson Parish Schools Superintendent Dr. James Gray also celebrated Daniel's achievement, noting that his selection reflects the incredible potential of Jefferson Parish students and the extraordinary outcomes that can happen when talent, opportunity, and support come together.

Theatre Students Bring Stories to Life

The arts are also alive on stages throughout Jefferson Parish Schools. Talented Theatre students have taken part in productions that give them opportunities to build confidence, strengthen communication skills, collaborate with peers, and experience the discipline required to bring a performance to life.

2025-2026 year's Talented Theatre productions included:

- **Bonnabel High School:** *You Can't Take It With You*
- **Bissonet Plaza Elementary School:** *Welcome to the North Pole*
- **Leo Kerner Elementary School:** *The Rougarou*
- **Joseph C. Moscona School:** *Simply Cinderella and Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Your Teachers, but Were Too Afraid to Ask*
- **Riverdale High School:** *Twelfth Night*
- **Metairie Academy:** *Annie, Jr.*
- **Haynes Academy:** *Seussical the Musical*

Each production gave students the chance to explore character, movement, voice, storytelling, and stage presence. Just as important, students learned how to work as part of an ensemble, solve problems in real time, and commit to something larger than themselves.





A Vision for the Future

As Jefferson Parish Schools looks ahead, the vision for the Gifted, Talented, and Arts Program is centered on creating innovative, equitable, and enriching opportunities that allow every student to discover and develop their unique gifts.

That vision includes expanding services beyond identification and evaluation to create more specialized enrichment experiences. Future initiatives include the development of Gifted Enrichment Courses designed to foster advanced problem-solving, leadership, creativity, research, and real-world application of knowledge. These courses would give students the opportunity to engage in learning experiences that extend beyond the traditional classroom and allow them to explore complex ideas in deeper ways.

The district also envisions establishing an annual Jefferson Parish Gifted Day, a signature districtwide event that would bring gifted students together from across the parish. Students would participate in brain challenges, critical-thinking competitions, leadership development, social-emotional learning, academic games, innovation challenges, and team-building activities designed specifically for advanced learners.

Similar to an academic showcase and leadership summit, Gifted Day would allow students to connect with like-minded peers, strengthen communication and collaboration skills, and engage in healthy academic competition. Most importantly, it would help foster a sense of belonging and community among gifted learners.

In the arts, Jefferson Parish Schools hopes to establish dedicated art enhancement and enrichment opportunities that give students additional time to cultivate their talents through specialized workshops, master classes, community partnerships, and interdisciplinary projects. These experiences would expose students to professional artists, diverse artistic mediums, and authentic creative experiences that inspire innovation and self-expression.

Recognizing the importance of equitable access to the arts, the district also envisions expanding itinerant music services to support middle school students whose base schools do not currently offer band programs. Through itinerant band instruction, more students would have the opportunity to develop musical skills, participate in performances, and experience the benefits of music education regardless of their school's current resources.



Celebrating Talent Across Jefferson Parish

The long-term goal is to build a comprehensive Gifted, Talented, and Arts Program that serves as a model of excellence. That means identifying potential, nurturing talent, expanding access, and ensuring students have opportunities that inspire achievement, creativity, and lifelong learning.

Whether a student is painting a portrait, performing on stage, playing in an honor band, writing music, competing in an academic challenge, or preparing for an international learning experience, the message is clear: Jefferson Parish Schools is committed to helping students discover their gifts and giving them places to shine.

Through strong instruction, family support, school leadership, community partnerships, and districtwide investment, the Gifted, Talented, and Arts Program continues to show what is possible when student talent is recognized, developed, and celebrated.

In Jefferson Parish Schools, the arts are not just something students do. They are a way students learn, lead, connect, and see themselves as part of something bigger. |





Every Day Counts Perfect Attendance Earns JP Schools Senior a Brand New Car

For 17 Jefferson Parish Schools seniors, showing up every day led to a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

JP Schools partnered with Premier Automotive Group and the Giving Hope Foundation to celebrate the power of presence through the Stay in School Program, an annual initiative designed to encourage graduating seniors to stay engaged, remain committed and finish their senior year strong.

This year, students who achieved perfect attendance throughout their senior year were entered into a drawing for a brand-new 2026 Nissan Versa, courtesy of Premier Nissan of Harvey. The excitement culminated at Premier Nissan of Harvey, where the finalists gathered for the official drawing.

This year, **Sean Simmons of West Jefferson High School** was named this year's grand prize winner. He is only the second person to win this prize in JP School's history.

The moment was about more than a new car. It was a celebration of consistency, responsibility and the daily commitment it takes to succeed. Each finalist represented what it means to show up, not just when it is easy, but every day throughout the school year.

"Attendance is one of the strongest foundations for student success, and this program gives us a meaningful way to celebrate seniors who remained







engaged through the finish line," said Dr. LaDinah Carter, Chief of District Affairs for Jefferson Parish Schools. "We are grateful to Premier Automotive Group and the Giving Hope Foundation for helping us recognize these students in such a memorable way and for standing with JP Schools in support of our graduates."

"Attendance is one of the strongest foundations for student success, and this program gives us a meaningful way to celebrate seniors who remained engaged through the finish line."

— Dr. LaDinah Carter, Chief of District Affairs

The Stay in School Program continues to highlight the connection between attendance and student success. To date, more than 700 students have participated in the program, including those from New Orleans and now from Jefferson Parish Schools. Board member Michael Pedalino learned about the program and brought it to JP Schools. This award recognizes

seniors who prioritize attendance during one of the most important years of their academic journey.

For Premier Automotive Group, the program reflects a continued commitment to investing in students and supporting their future beyond graduation.

"Showing up every day takes discipline, commitment and heart, and these students deserve to be celebrated for that," said Troy Duhon, Founder and Owner of Premier Automotive Group. "Through our partnership with Jefferson Parish Schools and the Giving Hope Foundation, we are proud to reward students who made attendance a priority and encourage them as they take the next step in life. This program is about more than giving away a car. It is about reminding students that consistency opens doors."

In addition to the grand prize drawing, other students with perfect attendance were eligible to receive gift cards and swag bags provided by Premier Automotive Group, All-Star Electric and Mobile-One Auto Sound.

JP Schools extends its appreciation to Premier Automotive Group, the Giving Hope Foundation and all community partners who helped make this opportunity possible for students. Their continued investment in young people reinforces a powerful message: when students show up, the community shows up for them.

Congratulations again to Sean Simmons and all of the seniors who were recognized for their perfect attendance. |



JOIN THE TEAM BEHIND EVERY STUDENT'S SUCCESS.

From classrooms and cafeterias to buses, offices, and school campuses, every role in JP Schools helps students learn, grow, and thrive.

Why Join JP Schools?

- Meaningful work
- Opportunities to grow
- A supportive team
- A shared commitment to student success



Apply today.

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MORE THAN A PANTRY

MEETING NEEDS BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

The American Heart Association and Atmos Energy, in partnership with Jefferson Parish Schools, are expanding an initiative designed to connect students and families with nutritious food and additional resources throughout the school year.

The partnership first launched a school-based food pantry at Lincoln School for the Arts during the 2024–2025 school year, bringing resources directly to students and families through their school community. Building on that effort, the partners kicked off the 2026–2027 school year by opening the Eagle Energy Hub at G.T. Woods Elementary School.

The Eagle Energy Hub provides G.T. Woods students and families with access to nutritious food and other resources throughout the school year. Located on campus, the pantry gives families another source of support within a place they already know and trust while helping students come to school ready to learn.

Resources like these can help bridge gaps and remove barriers that may affect a student's ability to fully engage in school. When families have access to support for basic needs and overall well-being, students are better positioned to focus on learning and experience academic success.

These efforts can also strengthen the connection between schools and families. By bringing resources directly into school communities, campuses can create additional opportunities to build trust, foster relationships and support families as partners in their child's education.

"We are excited to see this partnership continue to grow and bring important resources directly to our schools," said Dr. James Gray, Superintendent of Jefferson Parish Schools. "When schools and community partners work together, we can create additional support that helps students feel cared for, supported and ready to learn."



As the initiative continues, the American Heart Association, Atmos Energy and Jefferson Parish Schools have already begun identifying additional campuses where this type of support could benefit students and families. The goal is to continue building on the initiative and expand school-based food resources to communities throughout the district as needs are identified.

The pantries are one example of how community partnerships can make a difference beyond the classroom. From providing food and family resources to supporting student wellness and success, these partnerships help bring additional resources into schools and strengthen the support available to students and families throughout Jefferson Parish.

For JP Schools, partnerships like these are an important part of creating school communities where students have what they need to learn, grow and succeed. |



A TRADITION IN MOTION

CELEBRATING 19 YEARS OF THE DANCE CHALLENGE

For 19 years, Jefferson Parish Schools has brought students, families, educators, and the community together through one of its most anticipated arts traditions: Martin Marino's Dance Challenge.

On April 22, 2026, more than 400 fifth-grade students representing 19 Jefferson Parish elementary schools took the stage at the Pontchartrain Center in Kenner for an evening celebrating dance, creativity, teamwork, and school pride.

Held in partnership with Martin Marino, the annual Dance Challenge is the only public school dance competition of its kind in Louisiana, giving elementary students a unique opportunity to learn, perform, and compete alongside their peers.

Learning to Dance, Learning to Shine

In preparation for the competition, professional dance instructors worked with students during their physical education classes, introducing them to the fundamentals of ballroom dance. Students learned and performed four styles: salsa, waltz, tango, and swing.

For many students, the experience extends well beyond learning dance steps. Weeks of practice teach students how to work as a team, stay committed to a goal, perform in front of an audience, and encourage their classmates along the way.

The Dance Challenge also gives students an opportunity to discover talents and interests they may not otherwise have the chance to explore. By bringing dance into the school experience, the program provides another way for students to build confidence, express their creativity, and experience the arts as part of a well-rounded education.

A Celebration of School Spirit

The energy of the Dance Challenge reaches far beyond the dance floor.

Families, teachers, school staff, and community members fill the Pontchartrain Center to cheer on students and celebrate their accomplishments. Each school brings its own personality and school spirit to the competition, creating an evening filled with excitement, encouragement, and pride.

After weeks of preparation, students get to see their hard work come to life on a professional stage. For many, it is an experience that builds confidence, strengthens friendships, and creates memories that last long after the final dance.

A Tradition That Continues to Grow

After nearly two decades, Martin Marino's Dance Challenge remains an important tradition within Jefferson Parish Schools.

What began as an opportunity to introduce students to ballroom dance has grown into an annual celebration of arts education, student achievement, teamwork, and community. Its continued success reflects the value of giving students opportunities to explore their creativity, discover new interests, and experience learning beyond the traditional classroom.

For 19 years, generations of JP Schools students have stepped onto the dance floor ready to learn, perform, and represent their schools. Along the way, they have gained confidence, learned the value of preparation and teamwork, and created memories that extend far beyond the competition. |

19 years. 19 schools. More than 400 students.
One unforgettable celebration of dance, creativity, and school pride.



From Early Childhood to Kindergarten

Building Strong Transitions for Jefferson Parish Children

A child's first day of kindergarten is an exciting milestone, but the journey begins years earlier.

From infancy through Pre-K, each early learning experience builds on the last, creating a strong foundation for lifelong learning and success. Across Jefferson Parish, Jefferson Parish Schools and its community partners are working together to ensure that children experience a smooth and successful transition from early childhood programs into Pre-K and kindergarten.

Through the Jefferson Early Childhood Collaborative, Jefferson Parish Schools partners with early care and education providers throughout the parish to support children from birth through age four to help families navigate their early learning options.



“Early childhood is so important because the years from birth to five are the most critical years in a child's life; that's where their brain has the most development.”

— Kendra Sims, Director of Spring Ridge Academy

The collaborative's goal is to ensure that all children enter kindergarten healthy, supported, and ready for success

This work extends beyond school campuses. The Jefferson Early Childhood Collaborative includes a network of childcare centers, Head Start programs, Early Head Start providers, publicly funded early learning centers, and community-based programs that serve families across Jefferson Parish. Together, these partners help create a coordinated pathway that supports children's development from their earliest years through their transition into elementary school.

Research consistently shows that high-quality early learning experiences play an important role in preparing children for future academic success. During these formative years, children develop



foundational skills in language, literacy, problem-solving, social interaction, and self-regulation. These skills help children adapt to classroom routines, build relationships, and develop confidence as learners.

Jefferson Parish Schools' Early Childhood Program is designed to build upon these foundations. The district's Pre-K programs provide full-day learning opportunities, low student-to-teacher ratios, nutritious meals, transportation options within attendance zones, and services for students with disabilities. Families also have access to Dual Language programs at select campuses, where children can begin developing skills in both Spanish and English as early as Pre-K. Through a two-way immersion model, students build bilingual and biliterate skills while gaining valuable cultural awareness and academic advantages that can benefit them throughout their educational journey. The program is designed to promote bilingualism, biliteracy, academic achievement, and cross-cultural understanding while preparing students for success in an increasingly diverse world.

A key component of this work is ensuring that transitions are intentional. Many early learning programs

within the collaborative incorporate activities and supports that help children become familiar with school routines, classroom expectations, and social-emotional skills before entering kindergarten. Transition meetings and collaboration between early childhood providers and schools help ensure children and families feel prepared for this important next step.

Families remain at the center of the process. The Jefferson Early Childhood Collaborative helps parents make informed decisions about early care and education while encouraging active family involvement in children's learning and development. By connecting families to programs, resources, and support services, the collaborative helps strengthen the partnership between home and school from the very beginning.

The impact of these efforts extends well beyond a child's first year of school. Strong early learning experiences and successful transitions help establish the academic, social, and emotional foundations that support learning throughout a child's educational journey.

As Jefferson Parish continues investing in its youngest learners, the district's partnerships with childcare providers, early learning centers, educators, and families are helping create a stronger start for every child and a stronger future for the entire community. |

BUILT TO COMPETE

CREATING MORE OPPORTUNITIES
FOR STUDENT-ATHLETES



Athletics is an important part of the student experience at Jefferson Parish Schools, giving students opportunities to compete, build confidence, represent their schools and develop skills that can serve them well beyond graduation.

Athletics and academics work together to support the development of the whole student. Through competition, students learn discipline, accountability, teamwork, leadership, perseverance and sportsmanship while building pride in their school communities.

As athletic programs continue to grow, JP Schools is expanding opportunities for students while finding new ways to celebrate the athletes, coaches, alumni and families who make those programs possible.

More Ways to Compete

JP Schools students compete in a wide range of sports, including football, volleyball, basketball, baseball, softball, soccer, swimming, tennis, track and field, cross country, golf, wrestling and more.

The district continues to add opportunities for students to participate. Girls flag football is now offered at six high schools, giving more female student-athletes the chance to compete and represent their schools.

Each season, JP Schools teams compete against programs throughout Louisiana, with student-athletes advancing to post-season play and competing for district and state championships.

For some student-athletes, competition continues after graduation. Each year, JP Schools athletes earn opportunities to play at the collegiate level, including athletic scholarships that allow them to continue their sport while pursuing a college degree.



Helping Student-Athletes Succeed

Success in athletics requires preparation, support and access to the right resources. JP Schools continues to invest in programs and partnerships that help student-athletes perform safely and successfully throughout the season.

Through partnerships with the New Orleans Saints and Ochsner Health, athletes and coaches have access to resources focused on sports performance, injury prevention, recovery and wellness.

Coaches also reinforce the importance of academics, responsibility, leadership and sportsmanship. Student-athletes are expected to represent their schools well, both in competition and in the classroom.



From Student-Athletes to Alumni

For many graduates, athletics remains an important part of their connection to their former school.

Former student-athletes often share a strong sense of pride in the teams, coaches and traditions that were part of their own school experience. JP Schools is creating more opportunities to recognize alumni accomplishments and welcome former athletes back to support the programs they once represented.

Alumni can stay involved in many ways, from mentoring current students and sharing their experiences to supporting athletic programs and celebrating student-athletes at games and events.

That involvement gives current students a chance to learn from those who came before them while giving alumni a reason to remain part of their school community.



Inside The District Playbook

The District Playbook, JP Schools' athletics podcast, gives viewers and listeners an inside look at the people behind athletics throughout the district. Coaches, student-athletes, athletic directors, alumni and special guests share conversations about competition, leadership, perseverance, school pride and memorable moments from their athletic journeys.

The podcast is available through the JP Schools YouTube channel, JP Schools TV and district social media platforms, giving families, alumni and community members another way to follow athletics and stay connected to schools throughout Jefferson Parish.

The District Playbook also gives JP Schools another way to celebrate accomplishments while highlighting the people and stories that make athletics an important part of the school experience.





The Impact of Athletics

Wins, championships and memorable performances will always be part of athletics, but the impact reaches much further.

For students, athletics provides opportunities to build relationships, overcome challenges, work toward shared goals and experience the responsibility that comes with representing a team and a school. For coaches and educators, it offers another way to recognize students' strengths and support their growth. For families and alumni, athletics provides a shared source of pride and another way to stay connected to their school communities.

As JP Schools athletics continues to grow, the district remains focused on providing students with opportunities to compete, lead, learn and represent their schools with pride.

As JP Schools athletics continues to grow, the district remains focused on providing students with opportunities to compete, lead, learn and represent their schools with pride. For many students, those experiences become an important part of their time in school and help prepare them for what comes next. |



JP Schools School Directory

A.C. Alexander Elementary School.....PreK-8
600 West Esplanade Ave. Kenner, LA 70065
504-469-7326

Airline Park Academy for Advanced StudiesPreK-5
6201 Camphor St. Metairie, LA 70003
504-888-0969

John James Audubon Elementary School.....PreK-8
200 West Loyola Dr. Kenner, LA 70065
504-466-0525

Bonella A. St. Ville School (Opening January 2027)PreK-8
2200 Lapalco Blvd. Harvey, LA 70058**
504-366-1708

Alice Birney Elementary School.....PreK-5
4829 Hastings St. Metairie, LA 70006
504-885-1054

Bissonet Plaza Elementary School.....PreK-8
6818 Kawanee Ave. Metairie, LA 70003
504-887-0470

Bonnabel Magnet Academy High School.....9-12th
2801 Bruin Dr. Kenner, LA 70065
504-443-4565

Geraldine Boudreaux Elementary SchoolPreK-8
950 Behrman Hwy. Terrytown, LA 70056
504-393-8732

Bunche-Washington STEM School.....PreK-8
8103 Macon St. Metairie 70003 (New 26-27)
504-737-3132

Bridgedale Elementary SchoolPreK-5
808 Zinnia St. Metairie, LA 70001
504-888-6807

Chateau Estates Elementary SchoolPreK-8
4121 Medoc Dr. Kenner, LA 70065
504-464-5662

Cherbonnier/Rillieux Elementary SchoolPreK-8
700 Dandelion Dr. Waggaman, LA 70094
504-431-9740

Clancy/Maggiore Elementary School for the Arts.....PreK-5
2100 Maine St. Kenner, LA 70062
504-469-3664

Congetta Trippe Janet Elementary SchoolPreK-8
2500 Bent Tree Ln. Marrero, LA 70072
504-340-0487

Douglass Community School.....K-8
1400 Huey P. Long Ave. Gretna, LA 70053
504-371-4651

Dr. John Ochsner Discovery Health Sciences AcademyPreK-4
1108 Shrewsbury Rd. Jefferson, LA 70121
(504) 233-4720

East Jefferson High School.....9-12th
400 Phlox St. Metairie, LA 70001
504-888-7171

Ella C. Pittman Elementary School.....PreK-5
3800 Thirteenth St. Harvey, LA 70058
504-340-4937

Allen Ellender School.....PreK-8
4501 East Ames Blvd. Marrero, LA 70072
504-341-9469

Emmett Gilbert School of Excellence at Ford.....PreK-8
435 South Jamie Blvd. Avondale, LA 70094
504-436-2474

Estelle Elementary SchoolPreK-8
2800 Barataria Blvd. Marrero, LA 70072
504-347-3727

Fisher Middle/High School6-12th
2590 Barataria Blvd. Marrero, LA 70072
504-689-3665

G.T. Woods Elementary School.....PreK-8
1037 31st St. Kenner, LA 70065
504-466-6252

Grand Isle High SchoolPreK-12
149 Ludwig Ln. Grand Isle, LA 70358
985-787-2577

Green Park Elementary SchoolPreK-5
1409 North Upland St. Metairie, LA 70003
504-466-0205

Greenlawn Terrace Elementary School.....PreK-5
1500 38th St. Kenner, LA 70065
504-468-1016

Gretna No. 2 Academy for Advanced StudiesPreK-5
701 Amelia St. Gretna, LA 70053
504-366-3582

Harahan Elementary School.....PreK-8
6723 Jefferson Hwy. Harahan, LA 70123
504-737-3918

William Hart Elementary School.....PreK-5
2001 Hancock St. Gretna, LA 70053
504-366-4346

Haynes Academy for Advanced Studies.....6-12th
4301 Grace King Pl. Metairie, LA 70002
504-888-7334

Hazel Park/Hilda Knoff School.....PreK-8
8809 Jefferson Hwy. River Ridge, LA 70123
504-737-6163

Isaac G. Joseph at Stella Worley School.....PreK-8
801 Spartan Dr. Westwego, LA 70094
504-348-4964

J.C. Ellis Elementary School.....PreK-8
801 Brockenbraugh Ct. Metairie, LA 70005
504-833-7254

JCFA.....8-12th
475 Manhattan Blvd. Harvey, LA 70058
504-410-3121

Jefferson Elementary SchoolPreK-8
3900 Jefferson Hwy. Jefferson, LA 70121
504-828-2706

Jefferson RISE Charter School6-8th
501 Lapalco Blvd. Gretna, LA 70056
504-410-5905

Jefferson Virtual High School.....9-12th
375 Vinet Ave. Jefferson, LA 70121
504-484-4000

John Ehret High School9-12th
4300 Patriot St. Marrero, LA 70072
504-340-7651

John Q. Adams Middle School6-8th
5525 Henican Pl. Metairie, LA 70003
504-887-5240

Joseph A. Cuillier Sr. Career Center9-12th
1429-B Ames Blvd. Marrero, LA 70072
504-340-6963

Joseph C. Moscona ElementaryPreK-8
219 Severn Ave. Metairie, LA 70001
504-837-5370

Judge Lionel R. Collins Elementary SchoolPreK-5
500 Pine St. Marrero, LA 70072
504-347-0254

Harold Keller Elementary SchoolPreK-5
5301 Irving St. Metairie, LA 70003
504-887-3836

Kenner Discovery Health Sciences AcademyPreK-12
2504 Maine Ave. Kenner, LA 70062
504-233-4720

L.H. Marrero Middle School6-8th
4100 Seventh St. Marrero, LA 70072
504-341-5842

L.W. Higgins High School9-12th
7201 Lapalco Blvd. Marrero, LA 70072
504-341-2273

Laureate Academy Charter SchoolPreK-3
3400 6th St. Harvey, LA 70058
504-503-0170

Leo E. Kerner Jr. Elementary SchoolPreK-5
4924 City Park Dr. Lafitte, LA 70067
504-689-4136

Lincoln Elementary School for the ArtsPreK-8
1429 Ames Blvd. Marrero, LA 70072
504-340-8489

Livaudais Middle School6-8th
925 Lamar Ave. Terrytown, LA 70056
504-393-7544

Marie B. Riviere Elementary SchoolPreK-5
1564 Lake Ave. Metairie, LA 70005
504-835-8439

McDonogh 26 SchoolPreK-5
1200 Jefferson St. Gretna, LA 70053
504-362-9929

J.D. Meisler Middle School6-8th
3700 Cleary Ave. Metairie, LA 70002
504-888-5832

Metairie Academy for Advanced StudiesPreK-5
201 Metairie Rd. Metairie, LA 70005
504-833-5539

Patrick F. Taylor Science & Technology Academy6-12th
701 Churchill Pkwy. Avondale, LA 70094
504-838-2249

Phoebe Hearst SchoolPreK-5
5208 Wabash St. Metairie, LA 70001
504-887-8814

Ray St. Pierre Academy for Advanced StudiesPreK-5
537 Avenue D Westwego, LA 70094
504-347-4739

Riverdale High School9-12th
240 Riverdale Dr. Jefferson, LA 70121
504-833-7288

Rudolph Matas Elementary SchoolPreK-8
1201 Elise St. Metairie, LA 70003
504-733-6200

Ruppel Academie FrancaisePreK-8
815 Huey P. Long Ave. Gretna, LA 70053
504-349-7768

W.G. Schneckenburger Elementary SchoolPreK-5
26 Earnest St. Kenner, LA 70065
504-443-1236

Shirley Johnson/Gretna Park Elementary SchoolPreK-5
1130 Gretna Blvd. Gretna, LA 70053
504-366-1660

Paul J. Solis Elementary SchoolPreK-5
2850 Mt. Laurel Dr. Gretna, LA 70056
504-392-7867

Strehle Community School8-12th
178 Millie Dr. Avondale, LA 70094
504-436-1920

T.H. Harris Middle School6-8th
911 Elise Ave. Metairie, LA 70003
504-733-0867

Terrytown Elementary SchoolPreK-5
550 East Forest Lawn Dr. Terrytown, LA 70056
504-376-8928

Thomas Jefferson Academy for Advanced Studies9-12th
910 Gretna Blvd. Gretna, LA 70053
504-363-4300

Tom Benson Elementary SchoolPreK-8
3315 Maine Ave. Kenner, LA 70065
504-443-1361

Truman SchoolPreK-8
5417 Ehret Rd. Marrero, LA 70072
504-341-0961

West Jefferson High School9-12th
2200 Eighth St. Harvey, LA 70058
504-368-6055

Woodland West Elementary SchoolPreK-8
2143 Mars St. Harvey, LA 70058
504-366-5308

Woodmere ElementaryPreK-8
3191 Alex Kornman Blvd. Harvey, LA 70058
504-348-2410

Young Audiences Charter SchoolK-7
1407 Virgil Street Gretna, LA 70056
504-304-6332



Dr. James Gray
Superintendent

MEET THE EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM

LEADING JP SCHOOLS FORWARD



Dr. Ajit "AJ" Pethe
Chief of Schools

Dr. LaDinah Carter
Chief of District Affairs

Sarah Caruso
Chief Financial Officer

Mary K. Garton
Chief of Staff



Dr. Patrick Jenkins
Chief Operations Officer

Donna W. Joseph
Chief Human Resources
Officer

Matt McCluer
Chief Legal Counsel

Laura Roussel
Chief Academic Officer

One Team. One Vision. One Commitment to **Every** Student



Jefferson Parish Schools
501 Manhattan Boulevard
Harvey, LA 70058

