The Jefferson Journal
Mid-November Edition
November 18, 2020

STANDARD BASED PROGRESS REPORTS,

IReady & TEAMs

As we quickly approach the end of the first trimester, I want to begin by thanking all of you for your patience and perseverance as we navigate this extraordinary school year. Never have we been challenged to flex and shift so many of our traditional practices, including our day to day delivery of instruction, assessment protocols, reporting and overall school operations. You have been our faithful partners in this journey. I know it has been demanding and stressful, and there have been days you (and we) have had to step away to regroup… but you have always come back to the table, sat next to your child and partnered with us to teach your child. Our <u>sincere</u> appreciation – we could not accomplish this monumental job without you!

As we wrap up our autumn Parent Teacher Conferences today you will all have learned how we will report your student's progress on mastering the standards they are taught in ELA (English Language Arts) and Math, along with other important content areas and learner goals. As a reminder, with the <u>traditional grading system</u> many elements are combined to determine a student's grade – test scores, quizzes, completed homework, classroom participation, coming to school on time, extra credit – with the average of the quarter's work converted into a percentage that correlates with a specific letter grade. <u>Standards-Based Reporting</u> separates those elements. While we believe all elements should be addressed, now parents will be able to specifically see if their child needs support with an academic concept and can differentiate between academic concepts by prioritizing the most recent, consistent level of performance. The advantages of Standard Based Reporting include:

For Students:
- Learning targets are clearly defined and aligned with state standards.
- Students are offered multiple learning opportunities and various ways through which to demonstrate proficiency
- Students can participate in monitoring their own progress toward the achievement of specified targets
- Specific feedback on progress helps build self-esteem, pride, and motivation for students

For Parents
- Progress Reports will provide meaningful feedback on each child's strengths and areas the child needs support
- Parents are aware of exactly what their child knows, is able to do, and next steps for progress
- Parents are empowered to increase their child's confidence and help their student set goals

For Teacher
- Teachers know exactly where students stand in their progress toward learning targets and what support needs to be provided
- Teachers have aligned expectations and standards district-wide
- Assessment results help teachers determine when students need extra help and when they need more challenging work

You will receive your child's Standard Based Progress Report electronically via email on December 4th. Trimester reporting is considered best practice when using Standard Based Reporting and aligns with benchmarking and progress monitoring cycles.

Benchmarking and progress monitoring has never been as important as it is this year. Teaching and learning in a COVID-19 environment is challenging, at best. Benchmarking and progress monitoring students provide us important information around what standards/concepts in ELA (English Language Arts) and Math your child has mastered, as well as what areas they need more support in. This insight is critical in a year that began with students out of the traditional classroom the 5 months prior, moving into either a blended or digital environment. We do not have the same concentrated time to teach and reteach as we have had in a traditional school year, and we don't have a moment to spare as we strive to ensure your child is ready for the 2021-2022 school year.

iReady is an online program for reading and/or mathematics that will help your student's teacher determine your student's needs, personalize their learning, and monitor progress throughout the school year.

➢   iReady allows your teacher(s) to meet your student exactly where they are and provides data to increase your student's learning gains. iReady consists of two parts: Diagnostic and Personalized Instruction.
➢   The iReady Diagnostic is an adaptive assessment that adjusts its questions to suit your student's needs. Each item a student sees is individualized based on their answer to the previous question. For example, a series of correct answers will result in slightly harder questions, while a series of incorrect answers will yield slightly easier questions.
➢   iReady Personalized Instruction (Pathway) provides students with lessons based on their individual skill level and needs, so your student can learn at a pace that is just right for them. These lessons are fun and interactive to keep your student engaged as they learn.

We know there have been some challenges for some students during the initial iReady assessments this year and we are working hard to address them. We are learning how to do a better job guiding our students through this assessment. We believe the data produced will help us better meet individual student needs, providing an overarching assessment of the students' strengths, as well as needs, so we can better differentiate each student's instruction. We are committed to doing our best work for our students, and this assessment tool will provide us valuable information as we work to ensure our students continue to achieve academically.

Lastly, I would like to take a moment to ask for your help in monitoring your child's use of TEAMs. We want our students to stay connected to their teachers, classmates, and school community! TEAMs is an essential tool for us to extend educational services in a blended/remote environment. It does, however, offer some challenges with regards to ensuring students use the chat and TEAMs meetings functions appropriately. Unfortunately, there are times that students send unkind and hurtful chat messages. In our district we feel that rather than limiting a student's use of these functions our goal is to teach students to use the tools appropriately, as technology will be a constant in their lives. Teachers do not see all the chats that go on between students, nor are they notified if a student creates TEAM meetings. I would encourage you to take time to sit down with your child to discuss your expectations of their online use and monitor their use of these functions. We appreciate your support!

I would like to wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving on behalf of all of us at Jefferson! Thank you, again, for the thoughtfulness you have shown to ensure our Jefferson family stays healthy and safe!

Stay well,

Lona Carter, Principal

lcarter1@helenaschools.org

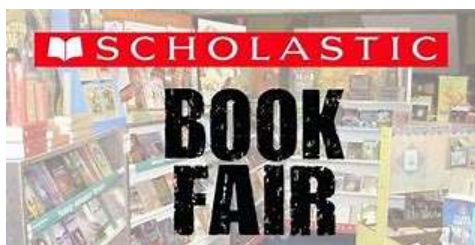This week's Meal Links! (Important details in the attached memo!)

DLMD Week 11/18 to 11/24
DLMD Standing order link
DLMD Cancellation Link
Winter Break Meals - this is the special one.

IMPORTANT!

Flyer ONLY Book Fair!

Your students brought home the **Scholastic Book Fair Flyer** the week of November 9th.
The Scholastic Book Fair ends November 24! In-person students need to return their flyer with check. For DLI students the flyer and directions to purchase books in on Mrs. Sielbach's Clever Page.

ONLY the books advertised in that flyer are available for purchase. It is a new way to get books for your children while maintaining social distance! Please let me know if the books will be gifts and I will package them appropriately. You can send back the flyer with items circled and a check made out to Jefferson and I will send the books home. Questions: ssielbach@helenaschools.org . Thank you! Mrs. Sielbach

JEFFERSON PARENT COUNCIL (JPC) NEWS!

Jefferson Parent Council invites you to join for our next JPC meeting from 5:30 – 7:00 pm this coming **Thursday, January 14**[th]!
We post a link before every meeting at https://jeffersonjpc.org/ .
Everyone is welcome to attend!

Read A Thon

The Read A Thon was a HUGE success! Thank you, Jefferson Community, for so generously supporting the Read A Thon. All donations will go to the Jefferson library. Total minutes read to date: 12,643. Total donations received to date: $6,030.00. The Jefferson Library will receive $4,522.50. The other 25% goes to the Read A Thon company. Readers have until 11/20/20 to spend their Rat Bucks in the Prize Store.

Jefferson Webstore

The Mustang webstore is open until 11/22/20. Check it out to order Mustang gear by clicking on this link! [Jefferson Elementary School Store 2020](#)

Original Works

Online orders must be placed no later than 11/23/20. Visit originalworks.com/gallerylogin

Enter school code Jbro

To find your child's artwork, click the Teacher search box.

Select your child's teacher from the drop-down menu and click Search.

Scroll through the artwork to find your child's masterpiece.

Order by clicking the image of the product you want to order.

Contact Tina Laidlaw with any questions at laidlawtina@gmail.com

Cash Drive

The Jefferson Parent Council's annual Cash Drive is still accepting donations. This year, the focus is on teacher and staff appreciation. JPC will use your donations to express our gratitude to the teachers and staff of Jefferson Elementary who are putting in a lot of extra time to teach multiple classes and online. Please consider making a donation online at [Donate](#)

Donate

The Jefferson Elementary Parent Council raises money to enhance learning opportunities at the school. The JPC is…