

JFK Weekly Newsletter

Friday, September 22, 2023. Sara Raabe, JFK Principal

Drop Off

The main lobby doors open at 7:30 a.m. each day. JFK students who arrive before 8:00 a.m. should go straight to the cafeteria through the main lobby doors. Adults are welcome to wait with their student(s) in the cafeteria if they want. The doors to JFK open at 8:00 a.m., and at that time students are welcome to walk to their classroom by themselves or with an adult. Students and families cannot access JFK before 8:00 a.m. unless they have a specific reason, such as an already scheduled meeting.

Students who arrive late need to get a tardy slip before they can go to class. Adults cannot walk late students to class as it is disruptive for the students who are in class learning. If your student needs help getting to the classroom, a JFK staff member would be happy to walk them.

Communication

At JFK we work very hard to protect student's privacy and integrity. We have systems in place to be both proactive and reactive to ensure that student's needs are met throughout the day. These systems are one of the ways we create feelings of belonging and understanding in our school community.

As a school community, we help our students understand that everyone has different needs, and that may look different for each student. Sometimes, students may be having a rough minute, hour, or day. When someone is struggling, we use empathy, supportive practices, and language to help everyone feel safe and cared for in our community.

It is also important to keep in mind that we are talking about children, who are growing and learning every day. Their developmental needs are not the same as adults, and it is important that all the adults in our students' lives model empathy, appropriate reactions, and inquisitive and problem-solving communication, especially when topics are difficult. Please remember this before posting on social media, calling a friend, or talking to someone in the community.

I encourage you to have conversations with your students at home that are inquiry-based. Here are some ideas to start those conversations:

- How was your day?

- What did you do that was kind today?
- What are 3 things you learned today?
- Who did you play with at recess?

If you hear something concerning in your student's answers, ask some more questions:

- How did you feel?
- How do you think the other student was feeling?
- Do you need anything from me to help you feel okay?
- Did you talk to an adult at school?

If, after talking to your student and asking more clarifying questions, you still have questions you should contact your student's teacher first. You can call, email, or message them on Class Dojo. Remember, your student is talking to you about their perspective and often there is more to the situation than what you are being told. This is developmentally normal. It does not mean your student is being sneaky or lying, it means they are telling you what they know and they may not know the full picture.

If you still have questions or concerns after talking to the classroom teacher, please reach out to me. I may direct you to our Behavior Coach or a School Counselor, and I will do my best to answer your questions and concerns.

Each of us is a role model for our students. We are all responsible for supporting them and making sure we model collaborative, appropriate problem-solving.

“What Every Parent Needs to Know About Learning to Read” workshop

Learning to read is a complex process that does not come easily for many children. This workshop will provide you with a basic understanding of how the human brain learns to read. We invite parents and caregivers interested in learning more about reading development to join us for this hour-long workshop. You will leave with a better understanding of what to expect as your child learns to read, signs of early reading trouble, and how to support them when they struggle.

Presenters:

- Abby Roy, M.A., NCSP, CAGS, A/OGA, is a nationally certified school psychologist with more than ten years of professional experience working with students from preschool to college. She has worked in public schools as a psychologist and autism and behavior consultant and is currently an evaluator at the Stern Center for Language and Learning in Williston, Vermont. She has expertise in providing individualized, diagnostic assessments and instructional recommendations based on the science of reading. Abby is passionate about bringing structured literacy to classrooms everywhere and believes that all individuals have the right to read.

- Nicole Chick, M.S.Ed, CAS Remedial Reading, began her teaching career in 2005 as a first grade teacher. Nicole is a Literacy Specialist with her certificate of advanced study in Remedial Reading and Reading Consultancy. During her tenure as a public educator she has also taught at the university level and has supervised and mentored student teachers. She has now stepped away from the classroom and has founded Early Literacy Labs, a private literacy instruction and consulting company located in Waitsfield, VT and is an adjunct professor at Norwich University. One of her passions is advocating for dyslexia awareness. This workshop may be recorded and saved on our website and YouTube channel.

Website: <https://www.vermontfamilynetwork.org/what-we-do/resources/webinars/>

YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/vtfamilynetwork>

[Register here for the "What Every Parent Needs to Know About Learning to Read" workshop.](#)

Cold and Flu Season

With the changing fall weather, students are beginning to experience fall colds. Students who have fevers of 100.4 degrees or higher and/or are actively vomiting will be sent home. We ask families to keep students home if they are sick using the same guidelines - fevers of 100.4 degrees or higher and/or actively vomiting. Students need to be symptom-free for 24 hours without the use of any over-the-counter medications before they can come back to school.

Calendar

Monday, September 25, 2023

No afterschool Activities (Yom Kippur)

Wednesday, October 4, 2023

27th annual National Walk & Roll to School Day

Thursday, October 19th & Friday, October 20th

11:00 am Early Release for all students

No PK

MHS Parent Teacher Conferences



Tuesday, October 24, 2023



No School (Dussehra)



JFK Elementary

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