

JFK Weekly Newsletter

Friday, October 6, 2023. Sara Raabe, JFK Principal

Walk to School

A huge thank you to all the students and families who joined us for our Walk to School this past Wednesday. It was wonderful to walk to school together, and to be led in by the WMHS band!

Family Morning Meeting

Every classroom will invite families to join their student's class for a Morning Meeting. Some classes have already had their fall family Morning Meeting, some are scheduled, and some are still in the planning stage.

Morning Meeting is a particular and deliberate way that all JFK classes begin their day. All classroom members—grown-ups and students—gather in a circle, greet each other, and listen and respond to each other. Morning Meeting is made up of four parts: greeting, sharing, group activity, and morning message. The components intentionally provide opportunities for students to practice the skills of greeting, listening and responding, group problem-solving, and noticing and anticipating.

If you do not know when your student's family Morning Meeting is, please reach out to their classroom teacher.

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.

Calendar

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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