



## Informational Handbook for Parents 2022-2023

1722 W. Sixth Street  
Racine, WI 53404  
262-664-6900



**Jefferson Lighthouse is a 2021 National Blue Ribbon Award Winner  
and an authorized IB World School**

# **Table of Contents**

Principal's Message/About Jefferson.....	3
JLS Important Contact Info.....	4
JLS Who, What, Where, and When.....	5
2022-2023 Important Dates.....	6-7
Student Fees.....	8
Lunch Information.....	8
Wellness Policy.....	9
Attendance Information.....	9
Arrival and Dismissal Procedures.....	10-11
Clubs and Activities/Specialists.....	12
PTA Information.....	13
No Bullying Policy .....	14
Our IB Programme .....	15-16
Student Expectations .....	17-18
Parent Expectations .....	19-20



August 8, 2022

Dear Jefferson Lighthouse (JLS) Families,

I would like to welcome all families (new and current) to the 2022-2023 school year! I am delighted to begin my 5th year as Jefferson Lighthouse's principal. Over the last four years, we have consistently provided excellent educational opportunities for our students and remain the top elementary school in the Racine Unified School district.

I know, and I can say with confidence that Jefferson Lighthouse, with our IB-minded mission and focus, will educate and engage your children in new and exciting ways. Our Primary Years Programme (PYP) uses an inquiry-based approach centered around our six transdisciplinary-themed units of inquiry and the IB learner profile (10 traits that we strive to become as an IB community). Instead of overwhelming you with all the wonderful things about our IB programme, I encourage you to become an active participant in our school community. Our PTA meets monthly on the 3rd Tuesday of the month and provides us the opportunity to collaborate as a school community to enhance the learning and opportunities for our students (this includes opportunities to learn much more about our IB programme). Please visit our PTA's website at: <https://www.jlspta.org/> for more information. If you can't wait, you can read more about IB on page 15 and 16.

Our mission at Jefferson is to prepare our students to be "internationally-minded learners who inquire, collaborate, and take action." I would love nothing more than to strive to accomplish this mission together, as a school community. I look forward to an excellent school year. If you ever have questions or need clarification about anything, please feel free to contact me at 664-6904 or [jeremy.benishek@rusd.org](mailto:jeremy.benishek@rusd.org).

Sincerely,

Jeremy Benishek, PhD

## Important Phone Numbers Jefferson Lighthouse Elementary

1722 West Sixth Street  
Racine, WI 53404

### Directing Principal

Jeremy Benishek, PhD  
664-6904

[jeremy.benishek@rusd.org](mailto:jeremy.benishek@rusd.org)

Jefferson Main Office.....	664-6900
Jefferson Main Office.....	664-6901
Jefferson Fax.....	664-6910
Attendance Line.....	664-6905
Tiffany Garza (Social Worker).....	664-6908
Health Room.....	664-6909
Associate Principal.....	664-6943
Principal.....	664-6904

Please visit our school website for valuable information. It is updated with our school's current events. In addition, you will find contact information for additional staff, class websites, and blog sites. **We will continue to use Classdojo as our school communication method (you will receive instructions for your child's teacher(s)).**

<https://rusd.org/schools/jefferson-lighthouse-elementary>

## ***JLS who, what, when and where 2022-2023***

<b><u>Kindergarten</u></b> 116 Jennifer Zandt 120 Lauren Guzikowski 123 Amanda Weber  LMC, Art, Music, Spanish: 1:35-2:20 PSPE: 3 times a week Lunch: 11:30-11:55 Recess: 11:55-12:20	<b><u>First Grade</u></b> 124 Brooke Wilson 125 Barb Laska 126 Ann Hooper  LMC, Art, Music, Spanish: 2:25-3:10 PSPE: 3 times a week Lunch: 12:00-12:25 Recess: 12:25-12:50	<b><u>Second Grade</u></b> 204 Deborah Ross 203 Olivia Cerfus 206 Rian Vickery  LMC, Art, Music, Spanish: 3:15-4:00 PSPE: 3 times a week Lunch: 11:30-11:55 Recess: 11:55-12:20
<b><u>Third Grade</u></b> 301 Jackie Wurster 303 Andrea Felle 305 Andrew Schaefer  LMC, Art, Music, Spanish: 11:00-11:45 PSPE: 3 times a week Lunch: 12:30-12:55 Recess: 12:55-1:20	<b><u>Fourth Grade</u></b> 215 TBD 216 Kim Fisher 218 Barb Kelly  LMC, Art, Music, Spanish: 9:20-10:05 PSPE: 3 times a week Lunch: 12:00-12:25 Recess: 12:25-12:50	<b><u>Fifth Grade</u></b> 209 Richard LaPlante 210 James Moes 212 Nicole Kraus  LMC, Art, Music, Spanish: 10:10-10:55 PSPE: 3 times a week Lunch: 12:30-12:55 Recess: 12:55-1:20

***\*Note: The best time to contact your child's teacher is usually during specialist time.  
To email any staff member use this format: firstname.lastname@rusd.org***

### ***School day schedule***

Playground supervision ..... 8:55  
School starts ..... 9:05  
School dismissal ..... 4:11  
Bus/pick-up supervision ends..... 4:26

### ***School Personnel***

**Principal:** Dr. Jeremy Benishek  
**AP/IB Coordinator:** Colleen Strain  
**Secretary:** Delia Coca  
**Clerk:** Lisa Arndt  
**Art:** Julia VanOudenhoven  
**Library Media Specialist:** Ellie Liebsch  
**Music:** Katelyn Boche  
**PSPE:** Matt Walworth and Rocky Collum  
**Spanish:** Voloria Jackson  
**Instrumental Music, Band:** Regan Schmidt  
**Suzuki Strings:** Ryan Anderson  
**Special Ed:** David Oliver & TBD

**Educational Assistants:** Matthew Story, Amber Nurmi, Sylvia Gilliam, and Tashondus Howard  
**Social Worker:** Tiffany Garza  
**Guidance Counselor:** Pamela DeGroot  
**Speech Clinician:** Margaret Liguori  
**Psychologist:** Amy Waters  
**ESL:** Stacey Kaprelian  
**Engineers:** Bryan Chobanian, Anton Chanlynn, and Phylis Boone  
**Food Service:** Jennifer Echols  
**School Nurses:** Marguerite MacDonald (RN) and Sarah Sanfillipo (LPN)  
**Instructional Coach:** Wynonna Peterson

## **Important Dates**

### **2022**

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date(s)</b>
Open House	8/31/22
First Day of School	9/1/22
No School (Labor Day)	9/5/22
Fall MAP Testing	9/12-9/30/22
International Day of Peace	9/21/22
No School (Prof. Learning)	9/23/22
Picture Day	9/29/22
No School (Prof. Learning)	10/14/22
Fall Book Fair (PTA)	10/17-10/21/22
Heritage Day	TBD (Oct)
Picture Retakes	TBD (Oct)
Fall Family Event/IB Parent Session	TBD (Oct)
No School (Fall Conferences)	11/3-11/4/22
World Kindness Day	11/13/22
No School (Thanksgiving Recess)	11/23-11/25/22
ACCESS Testing Window	12/1/22-1/20/23
No School (Prof. Learning)	12/9/22
Holiday Shop (PTA)	12/13-12/16
No School (Winter Break + Prof. Learning)	12/23/22-1/3/23

### Important Dates Continued 2023

School Resumes	1/4/23
No School (MLK Jr.)	1/16/23
End of 1st Semester	1/20/23
Winter MAP Testing Window	1/23-2/10/23
Global School Play Day	2/1/23
No School (Prof. Learning)	2/17/23
No School (Winter Break Day)	2/20/23
Kids Heart Challenge	TBD (Feb)
International Fest	TBD (Feb)
PTA Coin Drop Fundraiser	3/6-3/10/23
No School (Spring Conferences)	3/2-3/3/23
No School (Prof. Learning)	3/16-3/17/23
Forward Testing Window	3/20-4/28/23
5th Grade Exhibition	3/30/23
No School (Spring Break)	4/7-4/14/23
Yearbook Order Deadline	4/24/23
Spring MAP Testing Window	4/24-5/11/23
Start of A-Z Countdown	5/1/23
Spring BOGO Book Fair	5/8-5/11/23
Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week (PTA)	5/8-5/12/23
No School (Prof. Learning)	5/12/23
No School (Memorial Day)	5/29/23
JLS Carnival (PTA)	TBD (May)
5th Grade Ceremony	TBD (May)
Field Day	TBD (May)
Last Day of School	6/8/23

## **2022-2023 Student Fees Information**

### **Elementary K-5:**

Materials and Supplies fees have been reinstated for the 2022-2023 school year and are now due! Fees are \$22 for students in 4K and \$40 for students in grades KG-5. Your student's balance can be viewed on the Parent Portal under Fees on the left-hand side.

Payments can be made to the main office via cash or check. Please include your child's name and ID# with all payments. Online payments can be made via credit card or eCheck at <https://racine.revtrak.net>. No processing fees apply!

All RUSD schools are participating in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Program. We are no longer required to collect the Free and Reduced Price Meal Application in order for your child to receive a breakfast and a lunch meal at no charge. However, in order to determine if your household is eligible for additional benefits such as waiving Materials and Supply (4K-5), Instrument Rental and Extended Learning Fees you may complete the 22-23 Alternate Household Income Form and Sharing Information with Other Programs Form.

These forms can be completed online at <https://rusd.org/income-application-sharing-information-forms>.

Your student may not be able to participate in future school events if all fines and fees are not paid and/or waived.

Please contact the main office with questions.

## **Lunch Information**

### **Nutrislice**

Racine Unified School District and Aramark are excited to introduce Nutrislice, an online platform and mobile app that allows you to view your school's lunch menus, learn nutritional values and rate your food!

You can view lunch menus at [rusd.nutrislice.com](https://rusd.nutrislice.com) or download the Nutrislice app to your mobile device on Google Play or the App Store.

Please note: After December 2019, RUSD will no longer provide PDF lunch menus. All lunch menu information will be available on Nutrislice.

**Breakfast and lunch is free for all students.**

## **Attendance**

### **Reporting an Absence**

Please call the Attendance line 262-664-6905. It is available 24 hours a day everyday. When phoning in an absence please give the following information:

- Student's name and grade
- Reason for the absence and duration (if known)
- Identity of the person calling

When possible, please notify the office in advance of an anticipated absence or tardy, and follow up with a written note when the student returns to school. If a student is not called into the office they are **TRUANT**.

Wisconsin Statutes allows excused school absences of up to 10 days per school year. Absences over 10 days will be marked as unexcused. Absences beyond the 10 days must be requested in writing to the principal and will be considered on an individual basis.

### **Tardy**

Students are considered tardy if they arrive later than 9:05 am regardless of the reason. All tardy students must check in at the office and bring a tardy pass to their teacher. If you know in advance that your child will be tardy, please call the attendance line. If your child needs to order a lunch, we need that information before 10 am. It is important for your child to be on time everyday and in attendance all day to help ensure that they have the opportunity to obtain the most from their education. When students arrive late and leave early it is disruptive to the rest of the class.

## **Arrival and Dismissal**

### **Start Time and Dismissal Time**

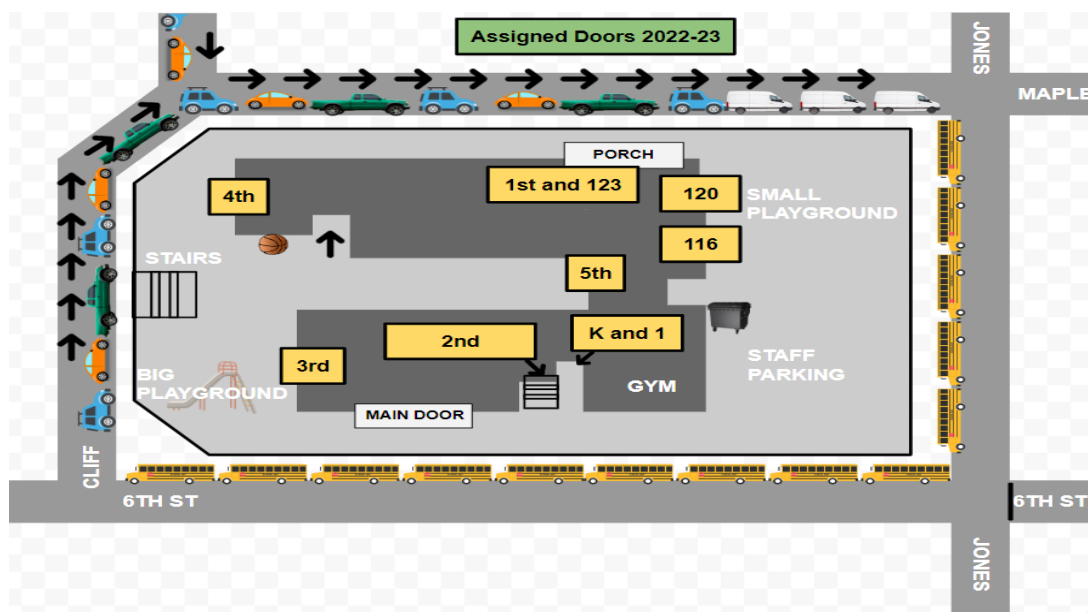
Playground/hallway supervision begins at **8:55 am**. Please **DO NOT** drop your child off before 8:55 am. Students are not allowed in the building early and there is no outside supervision before 8:55am. School dismisses at **4:11 pm**. Please be prompt when picking up your child. If you are late picking up your child you must come in the office and sign them out.

**Any time the dismissal plan for your child changes** please send a note with your child, or contact your child's teacher via Classdojo. If a student is a bus rider, they will be put on the bus. Please give 2-3 days notice whenever possible as last minute changes are disruptive to the class and can be confusing for the student. While we try to accommodate all requests, advanced notice is preferred.

### ***School day schedule***

Playground supervision .....	8:55
School starts .....	9:05
School dismissal .....	4:11
Bus/pick-up supervision ends.....	4:26

## Drop Off/Pick Up



Note that the key and yellow grade markers denote the recommended entrance and exit door for grade levels/room numbers. We will, however, be flexible depending on where students are dropped off.

## Buses

Drop off and pick up on Jones St. and 6th St.

## AM Drop-Off

Drop off will take place on Cliff St. by the stairs and Maple St. @ the Porch.

## PM Pick-up

Pick up will take place on Maple St. @ the Porch

## Important Drop-off/Pick-up Notes:

- **\*DO NOT** park your car. **You must stay in your vehicle.**
- Children are **NOT ALLOWED** to cross over to the driving lane, they must wait until you are next to the curb. This is for their safety.
- **Please pull forward** as far as possible, do not wait in front of the steps or doors. Staff will be there to guide you, please pay attention to them.
- **For questions, please contact Dr. Benishek or Mrs. Strain.**

Traffic around the school can be challenging due to the many cars in a small area. When someone does not follow the safety rules it can delay traffic on all four sides of the building. **The safety of the children is our main priority.**

## **Clubs and Activities**

Jefferson has fabulous opportunities for your student to participate in extracurricular activities.

Below is a list of the current clubs and activities available. More information will be communicated regarding these clubs/activities when available.

Girl Scouts  
Battle of the Books  
Young Rembrandts  
Suzuki Strings  
Band

Boy Scouts  
IB Ambassadors  
Student Council  
Peer Mediation

## **Specialists**

Students at Jefferson Lighthouse are fortunate to participate in Personal Social and Physical Education (PSPE), Art, Music, Spanish, and Library/Media Center weekly. The specialist teachers collaborate with the classroom teachers to create a curriculum that enhances the current IB Transdisciplinary Theme being taught. The specialists are critical to the development and growth of our school community.

## **Wellness Policy**

On Dec. 14, 2009, the Racine Unified School District Board of Education approved an updated Wellness Policy to bring RUSD into compliance with federal guidelines that apply to all school districts participating in federally subsidized child nutrition programs such as the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program. The Wellness Policy includes goals for nutrition education, physical activity and nutrition guidelines with an overall objective of promoting student health and reducing childhood obesity. The RUSD Wellness Policy updates were developed and reviewed by a 15-member Wellness Committee that included parents, teachers, principals, school administrators, food service representatives, a Board of Education member and public health officials. The full policy can be viewed on the RUSD website at: <https://rusd.org/sites/default/files/5151.23.pdf>

## **PTA Information**

### **A Note From Our PTA**

Welcome to the Jefferson Lighthouse School community - students, parents, teachers and others who have an interest in our school. Our PTA serves as an umbrella organization, coordinating many activities that serve our students and our school.

JLS has an active, involved, and dedicated PTA. You do not have to be a PTA member to take part in school activities or PTA events, but PTA membership is an easy, affordable way to support the school.

### **2022-23 PTA Board**

Renee Luchinske, President  
Pamela Nerad, Vice President

Brianna Meyer, Secretary  
Laura Meier, Treasurer

### **Meetings**

Monthly on the third Tuesday of each month. Typically held in the library and media center and virtually.

### **Volunteering**

We need all the help we can get! To be notified of volunteer opportunities, email [jlspta@gmail.com](mailto:jlspta@gmail.com) and watch signups on the Facebook page or via Class Dojo! In order to volunteer, please fill out the WINGS application here:

<https://www.in4orm.us/rusd/main/personalInfo.action>

### **Events**

- Book fair (fall and spring)
- Grade level events\*
- Family events
- Teacher & staff appreciation
- JLS Carnival
- and more!

### **Fundraising**

- PTA membership
- Dine and donate events at restaurants
- Holiday Shop onsite at school
- Coin Drop
- Amazon Smile
- and more!

\*The PTA sponsors and guides, but needs parent/family volunteers from each grade to plan/run the grade level events. They're super fun and the kids love them!

## **NO Bullying Policy**

At JLS, we do not accept bullying as a "normal" part of growing up. Bullying at school is not a new situation. Most adults remember school bullies from their days in school. Recent research suggests that over 20% of all children have been bullied and that bullying occurs most often during late elementary years and middle school years.

Bullying is different from childhood "horseplay" or real fighting. Bullying situations happen when a student is traumatized by negative actions on the part of one or more students. Bullying can be physical, verbal, or even nonverbal. When bullying happens there is an imbalance of power and the student who is being bullied has difficulty defending himself/herself.

Bullying behaviors can be stopped at our school when bullying is reported. Teachers and other adult staff members will determine the best way to address the act of bullying. Students are asked to report what they saw or heard. Bullying reports describe what happened, who was bullying, and who was bullied. Interventions work best when everyone in school cooperates by reporting all bullying incidents.

No parent wants to hear that their child is being a bully. Remember, your child's bullying behavior is often a sign of something deeper; i.e., a situation that could have caused him/her to feel afraid or angry.

Bullies need interventions that are seen as opportunities to change behavior. The targets of bullying situations especially deserve a supportive school culture. At JLS, bullies will be given consequences for their behavior. Students who have been bullied will be supported individually and/or at school group meetings to provide ongoing support.

Communication is key. If you believe your child is being bullied, contact Dr. Benishek, Mrs. Strain, or our school social worker, Ms. Garza. Together, we will work to find a solution to the problem.

[jeremy.benishek@rusd.org](mailto:jeremy.benishek@rusd.org)  
[colleen.strain@rusd.org](mailto:colleen.strain@rusd.org)  
[tiffany.garza@rusd.org](mailto:tiffany.garza@rusd.org)



**What is IB?** International Baccalaureate® (IB) is a non-profit educational foundation offering four highly respected programmes of international education that develop the intellectual, personal, emotional and social skills needed to live, learn and work in a rapidly globalizing world. IB is an educational programme managed by the International Baccalaureate (IB) for students in grades Pre-Kindergarten to Twelfth grade. While the programme prepares students for the IB Middle Years Programme (Racine offers Starbuck Middle School), it is not a prerequisite for it. The subject areas of the PYP are language, social studies, mathematics, science, and technology, arts, and personal, social and physical education (PSPE). **Students are required to learn a second language during the programme (we offer Spanish).** Assessment is carried out by teachers according to strategies provided by the IB, and with respect to guidelines to what the students should learn specified in the curriculum model. IB has a set of standards and practices that we have to follow. We incorporate these standards and practices along with Racine Unified School District initiatives as we strive to provide the best learning and teaching opportunities for our students. We have been an authorized IB school since 2012. [Read more about the IB Standards and Practices here.](#)

**What is the PYP?** This is IB at the elementary level. The Primary Years Programme (PYP) is a curriculum framework for young learners aged 3–12 designed by the International Baccalaureate (IB). Our school offers the program from age 5-11 (Kindergarten-5th Grade). Founded on a philosophy that recognizes a child's natural curiosity, creativity and ability to reflect, the PYP generates a stimulating, challenging learning environment to nurture those assets and foster a lifelong love of learning in every child. [Read more about the PYP here.](#)

**What is inquiry-based learning?** IB believes children learn best using the constructivist approach. That is, learners (including staff) strive to make meaning of our lives and the world around us. This is addressed in our programme as structured by our unit planners and teacher's modeling an inquiry mindset with our students. [Watch this to gain an understanding of what inquiry-based learning is.](#)

**Transdisciplinary Themes** The PYP, like all IB programmes, is transdisciplinary, meaning students learn across subject areas while investigating big ideas. Again, this is achieved through the use of our IB unit planners.

In the PYP, students learn about significant concepts through units of inquiry. The six transdisciplinary themes that guide units of inquiry and compose a year of study are: • Who we are • Where we are in place and time • How we express ourselves • How the world works • How we organize ourselves • Sharing the planet. Units of inquiry interweave subject areas such as mathematics, language arts, science and social studies. This approach encourages students to make their own connections between what

they learn in core subject areas and how it relates to the world around them. Click here for our school's curriculum framework. Please contact us if you cannot access it and we can print for you. [Jefferson Lighthouse Programme of Inquiry 2021-2022](#)

**The Learner Profile** The aim of all IB programmes is to develop internationally minded people who, recognizing their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet, help to create a better and more peaceful world. IB learners strive to be balanced, communicators, inquirers, knowledgeable, open-minded, principled, reflective, risk-takers, and thinkers. We continually explore these attributes together as a school community.

**Agency** We strive to encourage our students to have voice, choice and ownership for their own learning. When students have agency, the relationship between the teacher and students becomes a partnership. Students with a strong sense of self-efficacy bring a stronger sense of agency to the learning community. The learning community supports agency and fosters self-efficacy. Self-efficacy is the belief that you are capable of performing a task or managing a situation.

**5th Grade Exhibition** In the final year of the PYP, students take part in the PYP exhibition. The exhibition is an authentic process for students to explore, document and share their understanding of an issue or opportunity of personal significance. The whole learning community shares and celebrates this culminating event in the journey students have experienced through their PYP years.

**How can I learn more about the IB and PYP?**

- Visit the IB website at [www.ibo.org](http://www.ibo.org)
- Attend school meetings and events
- Speak with your school's PYP coordinator
- Speak with your child's PYP classroom teacher



## **Student Expectations**

### **Jefferson Lighthouse School, 2022-2023**

Welcome to Jefferson Lighthouse School. Everyone here – students, teachers, staff, and families – has a common goal. We want you to become a thinker, a learner and a responsible global citizen.

1. Because this is an IB World School, it's different from other schools. Please be open to different ideas and ways of learning. You will learn about the IB Learner Profile and attitudes. Think about how those concepts apply to you. Try to improve in areas where you may not be as strong.
2. Your teachers are here to help guide you as you explore and learn. They may not automatically give you the answers you want, but they will help you learn how to find those answers yourself. Teachers want to help you become the best you can be!
3. Schoolwork is your responsibility. You can ask for help if you really need it, but you should do your work yourself. Do some school work every day, even if you don't have a specific assignment-reading, reviewing, finding answers to questions you have, writing and expressing yourself artistically are all important ways of continuing to learn even when you're not at school. Big projects are an opportunity for you to demonstrate your knowledge, talents and skills. When you are assigned to work as a team with other students, be a good participant.
4. You will probably have more work to do at home than kids who go to other schools. Remember that school should come first. If you try to do too many other things besides school, you and your family may need to make some changes.
5. You will be learning Spanish. Even though you won't have this class every day, this is another subject for which you will be responsible for homework assignments.
6. Grades are just one way of measuring your progress. A grade doesn't indicate what kind of person you are. At this school, it's very important to look at how you are growing as an IB Learner. The skills you are learning will help you to be a strong student in middle school, high school, college and for the rest of your life.
7. You need to learn to be independent, resourceful, and responsible. It's your job to manage your time, keep track of your belongings, and get along with others.

8. We want to see you here! Coming to school every day, on time, means that you don't miss out on all the learning that goes on in your classroom. Don't come to school if you're sick, but make sure you're here the rest of the time.
9. This is YOUR school. Treat everyone who is part of this school with kindness and respect. School property is your property, so treat classrooms, books, equipment, and supplies like they were your own possessions.
10. This school may not be the right school for you. We will do all we can to help you do well, but sometimes, some kids might do better at a different school. We want you to be in the best possible place for you to learn and grow.

Thank you for reading and committing to these guidelines.



## **Parent/Guardian Expectations**

### **Jefferson Lighthouse School, 2022-2023**

Thank you for choosing to become part of the Jefferson Lighthouse learning community. As an IB World School, Jefferson Lighthouse has high standards for its faculty, staff, students and parents. Our mission is to challenge our students to become critical thinkers and compassionate life-long learners who are responsible global citizens.

But, we cannot do this alone. You also play an important role in this process. We ask that you read the following goals and principles, and commit to being an active participant in your student's educational journey.

1. The IB Primary Years Programme at JLS is not always like school as you knew it. Please be open to different ideas and ways of doing things. It's helpful if you become familiar with IB terminology and techniques. We have an abundance of material available to you, and our staff is always happy to answer questions.
2. You are your child's most influential teacher. Your behavior and attitudes are more important than you may realize. Our students are more likely to develop the attributes described in the IB Learner Profile and exhibit the PYP attitudes if they see them modeled at home in addition to school. Making education a priority in your household, exhibiting good character every day, respecting school rules, and other simple steps make a big impression on them.
3. Schoolwork is your student's responsibility. Please be available to provide age-appropriate assistance if your student needs it, but refrain from getting too involved with their work. Big projects are an opportunity for your student to demonstrate their talents and skills. Please limit your involvement to a supporting role.
4. Our school may require more inquiry, actions, activities, and outside effort than most other schools. Please be aware of this and realize that you may need to adjust your student's balance of school and outside activities.
5. There's more than one way to assess student progress and success. In the elementary years, letter grades don't matter as much as they will later. It's perhaps more important to look at how they are developing as IB learners. Students also need to learn how to deal with a grade that may not be as high as they would like.

6. Independence and responsibility need to be developed also. As your student gets older, they should be relying more on themselves than on you or their teachers for things like time management, their belongings, and their academic progress.
7. Your student needs to be in school! IB learning doesn't come from a particular textbook and much of it goes on in the classroom. While we certainly don't want a student coming to school if they're not feeling well, please try to minimize elective absences such as family vacations.
8. Please be respectful of our staff and school structure. If you have a concern related to your student's classroom activities, try to address it with that teacher first. General school-related concerns can be directed to the principal. Matters related to IB can be directed to the IB Coordinator. We ask that you be polite and open-minded regarding the feedback you receive from teachers or staff. We will do our best to ensure open lines of communication (written, phone, and/or electronic) between parents, faculty, students, and administration.
9. Since this is an IB candidate school, your child has the exciting opportunity to learn Spanish. Be aware that this is an additional subject and your child may have homework for this class. Please take the time to talk to your student about the importance of learning another language.
10. Research indicates that students benefit in many ways when their parents are involved with their school. There are many ways to be involved, even if you are working and not available during the school day. Please look for opportunities to be involved in your child's classroom, our school's PTA, or in other all-school endeavors. Participation in parent-teacher conferences is very important.
11. Finally, this school may not be a good fit for every student. While our teachers and staff will do their best to help every student succeed, sometimes the best thing for a student may be a different learning environment. Like you, we want your student to be in a setting where they will be able to learn, grow, and succeed.

Thank you for taking the time to read and commit to these matters. When you sign below, you are indicating that you, along with your student, will do your best to be an active, involved participant in our learning community.